



# The Renegade Rip

Vol. 90 • No. 1

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018

## Bakersfield organizes first Women's March downtown to protest for equality and rights

By Paige Atkison  
Reporter

Thousands of people gathered in downtown Bakersfield on Saturday, Jan. 20, to march in favor of women's rights.

Saturday's event was organized by the Kern County chapter of the Women's March, a national string of protests sparked by the 2017 inauguration of President Donald Trump.

The march was brought to Kern County by Bakersfield residents, Kimberly Kirchmer and Jessica Nix.

"I was inspired to participate in part by Kimberly Kirchmer," said co-executive director Nix. "She organized buses to bring women from Bakersfield to Los Angeles during the march last year."

Kirchmer and Nix worked tirelessly to organize the event in Bakersfield, but they did not expect

more than 2,000 attendees.

To their surprise, over 5,000 participants arrived to march.

"We were overwhelmed by the community's support for this event across the board. From elected officials, to former officials, to the city and police department, to the locals and volunteers, we were overwhelmed with love and support," said Nix.

The event began with speakers addressing the crowd as patrons listened and visited vendors.

While the speaker addressed a myriad of issues from women's rights to immigration reform, the recurring theme was civic engagement.

"The main purpose is to get people civically involved," said Nix. "What we want to ask people to do is to take a pledge to vote. Statistics say that if you pledge to vote, you're infinitely more likely to actually vote."

The marchers took to the streets at noon, wielding banners, singing, and chanting. As the attendees marched through downtown, nearby cars honked their horns in support.

Marcher Lynn Runyan, 70, said she was marching to leave a better world for her grandchildren. Runyan sat quietly, holding her sign and listening to the speakers address the crowd.

"I'm here because I'm so concerned about the world my grandchildren will grow up in. With the way things are going, there needs to be a change," said Runyan.

City Councilmember Andrea Gonzales of Ward 2, marched alongside with the crowd of men and women as they made their way through downtown Bakersfield and returned to Central Park.

"I'm here as a supporter," said Gonzales. "A supporter of women, of their rights and their dignity."



MIRANDA DEFOOR / THE RIP

Participants of women's march hold signs to protest for equality that was held on Jan. 20 in the downtown area.

## ShotSpotter technology installation comes to Bakersfield

By Melissa Puryear  
Managing Editor

Bakersfield City Council approved a plan on Jan. 10 to install ShotSpotter Technology (SST), a gunfire sensor detection system that alerts police of live gunfire within less than a minute. The technology will be installed in 70 areas throughout Wards 1 and 2 in Bakersfield. The SST technology is meant to address gun crime and gang violence as it happens, and may help reduce this type of crime in some of the most vulnerable and hardest hit areas in Bakersfield. The goal is to make these neighborhoods much safer for the families that live there, by eliminating firearm discharge, and arrest and prosecute criminals who do it.

Bakersfield's SST two-year pilot program will be funded by the Department of Justice (DOJ) through a \$430,000 government grant, known as Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) and the Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program.

SST sensors will be strategically placed in designated "hotspot" areas that are deemed high-risk areas for gun violence. Approximately 20 sensors will be installed 20-30 feet in the air, on top of utility poles, light poles, and buildings, in a three-square mile radius from Brundage to California Avenue, Chester to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and through Old Town Kern to Bernard. Each waterproof sensor houses a microphone, GPS, memory and cell ability, which transmits gunshot data, to a processing center in Newark, CA, where the sounds are evaluated by experts.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SST, INC. / THE RIP

Representatives tend to monitors and ShotSpotter alerts at the Incident Review Center in Newark.

Once data is confirmed as live gunfire, officers are alerted via an app on their handheld cellular phones and patrol vehicle's dashboard console systems.

Responding officers are provided with a GPS coordinate that deciphers both location and address, which is represented by a red dot on the map, showing the layout of the neighborhood. This allows an almost pinpoint

accuracy, within a proximity of 10 feet from where the shooter's position is.

The system will also provide situational data, such as types of weapons fired, how many shooters, which way the shooter or shooters are traveling, and allows officers to be tactically prepared before they arrive at the scene. The system can increase officer safety and assist in the apprehension and arrest of the shooter(s) within minutes of a shooting.

City Council member Willie Rivera, who presides over Ward 1, where some of the most active and dangerous hotspots have been identified, said the SST gives officers the ability to respond in a timely manner, and to be aware of what they might encounter at the scene. He said, unlike in the case with 911 calls, where gunshots

are reported, but where there is a higher likelihood of many unknowns about a shooter scenario, such where the shots occurred, can take valuable time away from officers, who may be looking in the wrong area for the shooter(s). This delay gives the shooter the advantage. They can harm someone else or escape arrest, according to Rivera. Additionally, 911 calls may not be able to provide the vital information needed to make on-the-spot decisions that are key to enhancing the greatest approach to apprehension of the shooter(s). "So, this [SST] removes the human element of trying to determine where something occurred," said Rivera.

With approximately 8,415-gun related incidences that occurred in California over the past two years, almost half of those incidences resulted in someone dying, and approximately 456 were children, according to Gun Violence Archive's statistics, which collects crime data from law enforcement and government sources, additionally, "Firearms have consistently been the most common weapon used in homicides," in California, according to the DOJ annual crime report.

Rivera isn't just a city council member; he is also Chair of the Safe Neighborhoods Committee and has worked with Council members Chris Parlier of Ward 7, and Andrae Gonzales of Ward 2, for nearly two years, to get SST installed in Bakersfield. Rivera said, "It was Parlier who really championed it [the push for SST] over that time and staff did a great job in being creative enough to find funding for it," said Rivera, who didn't want to take all of the credit.

Two BC students and a vendor on BC campus supported the technology, although one had privacy concerns and the other two had concerns about how criminals who might try to get around the technology and still commit their crimes. Marisol Santiago, 47, co-owner of Pita Paradise, a vendor on campus, likes the idea of immediate response to the scene. Conversely, she was concerned that microphones could listen in on more than just gunshots, even though she supports this kind of technology, she has her reservations. Nevertheless, she said that she "wants what's best for the community" and knowing what happened and who did the shooting would be helpful to solving gun crimes.

Karrington Jones, 18, a BC student and BC College cadet said, individuals may be deterred from shooting in an area they know is under surveillance, however, they may resort to an "undercover" method to accomplish this type of crime. He also said that with this technology it makes it easier to solve more crimes. Taking the pros and cons into consideration, Jones said, "It's an idea that might work, but you just have to test it and see."

Another BC student, Christian Gutierrez, 34, is also a military veteran, and agrees with Karrington about criminals resolving themselves to other means to carry out their crime and said it was important not to disclose the exact locations of the sensors. Gutierrez said, "We will have to see how the technology works," and feels that government funding will give the city that ability to make an

Please see ShotSpotter, Page 7

## BC Southwest parking lot provides students more parking for \$10 per semester

By Issy Barrientos  
Reporter

Every morning cars encircle the Bakersfield College campus in desperate search for a parking spot. Seconds become minutes, and minutes become the third time someone has been late to class. This is the daily experience of students attending BC's main campus.

BC's latest initiative to provide parking was providing students \$10 parking permits.

Students who purchase these permits can park in one of 500 parking spots located in the far southwest corner near Haley Street. Before the addition of the lot, students parked in the residential neighborhood, causing

great distress to the homeowners and their families.

Alysa Vasquez, a returning student, is aware of the \$10 parking but decided not to buy one of the permits. She bought a \$30 permit in order to park closer to the school in spots overlooking the stadium and under the solar panels.

In order to walk less one must pay extra. Her thoughts on the location of the \$10 permit is that, "It's a little more convenient even if there is a distance."

Janmar Cervantes, on the other hand, is a first semester student who was not aware of \$10 parking. Even after being told about the cheaper parking permit he, said he would only buy a permit if there were more park-

ing spots.

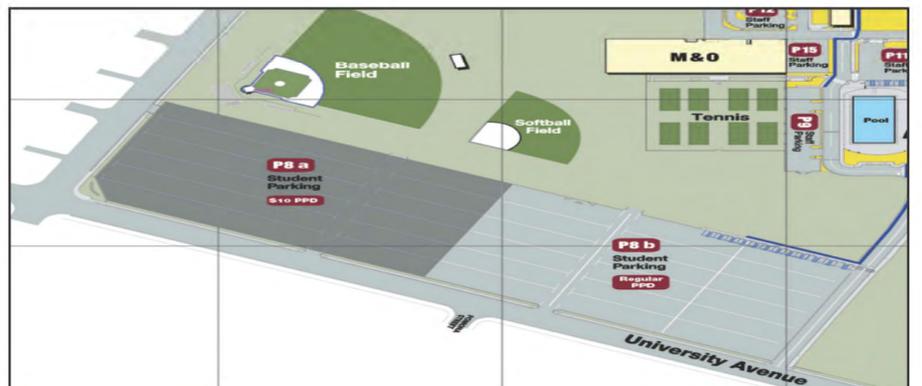
Vasquez echoed this sentiment. She added that, "there is nothing really you can do about it," because there is no more room to add parking spots.

Lydia Contreras, another returning student, said that, "the price of regular parking should stay the same."

The price should change to something in between \$20-25. "I understand why they are doing it," said Cervantes, "because the school needs the money." He is not against a discount on parking if the person is either disabled or has special needs.

As recently as fall 2017 the permit cost \$30 to park in the same area.

The Office of Public Safety was unable to give a statement after repeated attempts.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

A diagram of Bakersfield College Southwest Parking lot where \$10 parking has been made available.

## Californians are now required to obtain new IDs that comply with the REAL Act minimum security standards

By Fitzgerald Graves Sr.  
Reporter

Californians are now able to apply for a REAL ID, which is a driver's license with extra security measures that became available on Jan. 22.

The Federal government has mandated that anyone taking a commercial flight will need to present the federally compliant license starting Oct. 1, 2020.

Those who do not upgrade their license will need a passport or other federal ID.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) website reads as follows, "the REAL ID Act establishes minimum security standards for license issuance and production and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for certain purposes driver's licenses and identification cards from states not meeting the Act's minimum standards."

Act P.L. 109-13, passed in 2005, was initiated in an effort to promote the safety and security of American citizens after 9/11.

California driver licenses that are in good standing will be accepted until the Oct. 1, 2020 deadline along with a passport, birth certificate, or other Real ID compliant documents.

Some reports indicate that the REAL ID is mandatory. However, Marty Greenstein, a Public Relations representative for California DMV, said that "the REAL ID is not mandatory for all, but for those citizens that frequent federal facilities. They will have to come into compliance with the REAL ID statute."

Greenstein also explained that the federal government is not informing people to acquire this new form of

identification.

Greenstein added that any source currently stating that all citizens are mandated to comply should be vetted or confirmed as legitimate prior to adhering to the information provided by them.

Kim Garcia, the local DMV Office Manager, stated that she and other employees were unable or unauthorized to speak to the media about the REAL ID Act and instead referred The Rip to the DMV's Public Relations office in Sacramento. "They will help you out," Garcia said.

Garcia was unable to provide additional information about the Act. However, some individuals who were at the Department of Motor Vehicles argued that they were unaware of the REAL ID Act. They also did not know that there was a deadline to apply.

Homeland Security provided a list of all states that are now required to implement the REAL ID Act. Some of the states listed include Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Pennsylvania, and Washington. As of January, California is not required to require REAL IDs.

The REAL ID is not mandatory, and it is not clear whether that will change in the future. Nonetheless, individuals who might need it should be aware of the requirements in case they need to update their licenses in the future.

Those individuals who want to learn more about this recent change in legislature can visit the Department of Motor Vehicle's website at [www.ca.gov/dmv](http://www.ca.gov/dmv). The Department of Homeland Security also discusses the REAL ID Act in more detail on their website.



FITZGERALD GRAVES SR / THE RIP

People wait in line at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to fill out their application for a new license that complies with the Real ID Act. The deadline to obtain a new license is Oct. 1, 2020.



## FILE FOR BCSGA ELECTIONS TODAY



### Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018 8:00 a.m. | BCSGA Elections Website

## FILE ONLINE

**Requirements to file:**

- 1) Attend ONE Candidate Workshop
- 2) File by Feb. 23
- 3) 6.0 units & Minimum 2.0 GPA



**FILING CLOSES**  
Friday, Feb. 23, 2018 | Noon  
[www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/bcsgaelections/file](http://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/bcsgaelections/file)

**BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE**  
Student Life

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE  
(661) 395-4614  
STUDENTLIFE@BAKERSFIELDCOLLEGE.EDU  
BAKERSFIELDCOLLEGE.EDU/STUDENTLIFE

**BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE**  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
STUDENT SERVICES AT WORK

Like us on Facebook | Follow us on Twitter | Follow us on Instagram | Subscribe to YouTube

## Students react to CSUB teacher's arrest

By Jenny Brito  
Web & Social Media Editor

Theodore Ishida, CSUB Psychology Professor, was arrested on Dec. 8 and charged with possession of child pornography. Students who had previously taken courses with the professor have expressed shock and confusion.

CSUB released a statement on the day of the arrest. The university said that it was cooperating with authorities and that Ishida was placed on paid leave. The professor, who had worked at CSUB for the last 30 years, was barred from campus until further notice.

The Psychology Department has remained quiet about the case. However, Psychology students shared their opinions on the issue.

Marlene Shanon is a junior at CSUB and is majoring in Psychology. She took several classes with the professor including a course on death and dying. She recalls a particular day when Ishida brought his mother to class to talk about dementia.

"He told us about his mother's illness and how it was leading to her death, and he even cried in class," Shanon said. She added that it is difficult to understand why somebody who seemed so caring would commit those crimes, but she hopes that justice is served.

Other students shared similar stories, and most of their reactions to the news were in complete shock. On the other hand, a few said that Ishida's behavior had always been eccentric and his views on mental illness were a bit unorthodox.

Angela Gleich, a senior at CSUB, said that she took abnormal psychology with Ishida and saw him during office hours when she needed help with her research papers. He often challenged her and others to look at things from a different perspective.

"He would challenge me to think about how other people find pleasure in things that society would consider abnormal," she said.

Gleich assumed that he was trying to encourage critical thinking, but perhaps he was talking about himself,

she wondered.

Ishida was the victim of a robbery on August 2016. Personal items including his computer were stolen. Weeks later, Ishida was contacted by an individual who claimed to have discovered inappropriate material on the computer. He demanded that Ishida pay \$50,000 in exchange for his silence.

According to court records, Ishida contacted the police to report that he was being extorted.

The Bakersfield Police Department conducted an investigation and were able to retrieve the computer. It was later reported that the computer contained images of minors performing or simulating sexual acts.

Court records show that his laptop had approximately 600 images depicting child pornography, bestiality, and rape. It is alleged that the professor downloaded the images from his office computer and then sent them to his laptop.

He was arrested and his bail set at \$10,000. His preliminary hearing is scheduled on Feb. 27, 2018.

## New bill tries to combat Valley fever

By Miranda Defoor  
Reporter

Rudy Salas (D-Calif.) proposed a legislative package on Jan. 8 to combat Valley fever.

The four proposed assembly bills focused on different areas of Valley fever awareness, treatment and correct diagnosis.

Valley fever is common in Kern County and it is almost impossible to avoid exposure to the disease-causing fungus in the area.

There is no vaccine, despite Valley fever being potentially fatal. According to the Centers for Disease Control there have been an average of 200 Valley fever related deaths a year since 1997.

Valley fever is a lung infection caused by a fungus in soil, according to the CDC.

Most cases in the United States are

from California and Arizona.

Valley fever symptoms include coughing, shortness of breath, rash, fever, and many more. Cases can range in severity. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses, so it is often misdiagnosed.

Bakersfield resident Cheyenne Wagner experienced the trouble of Valley fever misdiagnosis when her mother became sick.

"They misdiagnosed her twice to the point that she nearly died," Wagner said.

Her mother was diagnosed Jan. 2016 but had a relapse in Sept. 2016 due to a flu shot.

Wagner's mother was hospitalized twice before doctors knew what was wrong with her, though according to Wagner, her mother knew she had Valley fever.

"Doctors just assumed it was the flu," Wagner said, "They need to be

aware of the signs and symptoms because Valley fever can kill."

The different bills proposed in Salas's package include things like annual reporting deadlines, lab testing diagnosis, protecting construction workers at risk, and helping doctors better recognize and diagnose the disease.

Assembly Bill 1787 will require the Department of Public Health to report all confirmed Valley fever cases by March 1, each year, starting in March 2019.

Assembly Bill 1788 will allow the DPH to use lab tests to confirm Valley fever cases. Assembly Bill 1789 creates more health and safety standards with the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Last, Assembly Bill 1790 requires doctors to have continuing education about Valley fever diagnosis and treatment.

## Gabriel Thompson joins BC students to discuss his book "America's Social Arsonist"

By Jenny Brito  
Web & Social Media Editor

Renegades and members of the community gathered at the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities to welcome award-winning journalist and author of "America's Social Arsonist" Gabriel Thompson.

The evening began with a glimpse into Thompson's life and achievements. Originally from Oakland, he has written feature articles for the New York Times and reviewed books for the San Francisco Chronicle. He has published five books to date, with an emphasis on immigration, labor, and organizing.

When asked about the reasons why he decided to write about those particular topics, Thompson described how despite not knowing much about farm work, he found himself working in migrant camps.

It was at that time that he became more aware of the struggles of mi-

grant workers. Eventually, he became a labor organizer.

His work exposed him to stories of leaders of the civil rights and labor movement including Dolores Huerta.

He was also exposed to the work of Fred Ross, who, Thompson said, "was a legend for a small number of people while others had never heard of him."

"America's Social Arsonist" tells the story of Fred Ross. Ross was one of the most influential community organizers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and he inspired the work of prominent figures including Cesar Chavez.

Thompson shared how Ross was one of the first people to introduce Chavez to social change. He wanted his help to create a community for Latinos who were victims of violence and police brutality.

At first, Chavez was so reluctant that he would hide whenever Ross knocked on his door. Eventually, Ross' determination got the attention

and support of Chavez.

Together, they began to advocate for the rights of migrant workers. They worked together from 1952 to 1962 when Chavez founded the United Farm Workers.

According to Thompson, Ross' knowledge and training contributed to the success of Chavez's future projects.

"You can't understand how Cesar Chavez ends up on the cover of Time Magazine in 1968 if you don't also know that Fred Ross in 1952 was knocking on his door and refusing to take no for an answer."

The author added that Ross' influence continues through today's leaders who work for immigrant rights, human rights, environmental justice, and more. "Any organizer who has conducted a voter registration and turnout campaign, held a house meeting to recruit grassroots activists, or launched a boycott owes a debt of gratitude to Ross," he concluded.



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

Thompson talks about Fred Ross, a main character in his book.

## The difference is clear

**Mental Health:** For mental wellness and awareness

By Christina Benavides  
Copy Editor

The relationship between sadness and depression can be blurry to some people.

You might not see a difference because sadness is a symptom of depression, but there is one. Being sad is a feeling most people naturally have. It is a feeling we are used to. When a person is sad but not depressed that typically means they are not sad for an extensive amount of time. In my opinion, if you feel sad longer than you think is healthy, then you might want to talk to friends or family about how you are feeling. If this makes you uncomfortable, you can seek a professional that has expertise in mental health.

I also want to mention, that I am not excluding anyone who has Bipolar disorder or seasonal depression. I know the feeling of sadness is much different for individuals who have these mental health issues. I am solely speaking about the difference between being sad and depressed as a result to depression, whether someone falls under a subtype of depression or not.

The main difference is when you are depressed, it is unhealthy. There is a chemical imbalance going on, and you have no control over when you feel this way or how long. Please do not tell people you are depressed because you failed your math exam. This is insulting to individuals who have depression. It is not cool to be "depressed" and definitely is not a term you should throw around jokingly.

Everything can make you sad when you are depressed. It is much more intense. You do not need something traumatic to happen in your life to be depressed. It hits you out of nowhere. You could be having an amazing time on vacation, and suddenly you are hit with an overwhelming amount of sadness with no explanation. Even people who seemingly are happy can be dealing with depression. It is not a visible mental illness all the time.

There is a problem with people thinking that being sad and being depressed is the same thing. When you assume someone is just sad then this decreases their chances of seeking help for a serious mental illness they may have, according to *Psychology Today*. They explain this is a consequence due to the confusion between sadness and depression. Another consequence of this action would result by telling a person who has a mental illness that they need to just, "Get over it" as if it is that easy.

You should never assume someone is not depressed because you believe they are not based on your experiences with sadness. The individual dealing with a mental illness would know more about their mental state than anyone else.

What we need is for everyone to accept is that depression is a serious mental illness. I speak on behalf of my own experiences dealing with depression. I have had friends and acquaintances tell me that I can choose to be happy. Saying things like this does not make the person dealing with depression feel better. If anything, we feel misunderstood and alone.

When you're dealing with depression it feels like no one else could possibly understand what is going on in your head. It is not a choice. If it were, then most would choose to be happy. The distress depression leaves on us is a continuous strain that we wish we did not have. Seeking professional help is the best solution for anyone dealing with a mental illness. If you believe no one truly understands how you feel, a mental health professional would know the most, aside from yourself.



Christina Benavides

## Bakersfield residents enjoy a day filled with pizza and beer at festival

By Diana Coronado  
Reporter

For some there is no better combination than a few cold beers paired with some pizza. The Pizza and Beer Festival was held on Jan. 20 in Bakersfield at the Kern County Museum where many people gathered to try out local restaurants offerings.

The event featured some of the most popular pizza restaurants in town. Pizza was paired with new beer flavors that aren't typically or easily found at local restaurants. Guests were able to enjoy music, play games with friends, all while enjoying slices of pizza and all-you-can-drink beer.

Lines began to form as soon as the event began. The lines remained long ones throughout the event, as people were waiting for pizza and beer to be served. Milan's Market Woodfire Pizza may have been the most favored, based upon how long the lines were. The Pesto pizza was one of the most popular pizzas.

Julia Santarcangelo, 49, said, "I personally prefer my pizza freshly

made so the fact it was cooked to order made it that much better."

The Hanger 24 Banana beer was the most popular choice of beer according to everyone that was interviewed and recommended it was a beer to try. Several people commented on how delicious and smooth the flavor of the beer was. Jaime Guerra, who was one of the vendors working the event for Hanger 24, said, "Banana beer seems to be very popular, it was most of the guests' favorite beer out of all."

BC student Bobbie Lomeli, commented on how Julian's Cherry beer was delicious with its sweet and unique taste.

Although the event seemed to be an overall success, there were a few people who had some concerns about what it lacked. David Santarcangelo, 55, said, "It was a little disappointing. They needed to be a little more organized. Everything was sort of all over the place."

There were several other people who stated they really enjoyed the event and had a great time.



FATIMA LOPEZ / THE RIP

Friends enjoying a fun game of Cornhole and a cold beer at The Pizza and Beer Festival that was held on Jan 20. The event took place at the Kern County Museum in Bakersfield, California.

## Shafter Enrollment

By Melissa Puryear  
Managing Editor

The Shafter Learning Center held a secondary express enrollment date for those who wanted to enroll in college at BC on Jan. 9, for the Spring semester.

This was the second express enrollment date offered for the community. This past November Bakersfield College partnered with the Shafter Learning Center to offer an initial one-stop enrollment date in the rural community.

Due to the program's success in November, a second date was created to give those who were unable to attend the initial enrollment date, one more opportunity to enroll before spring semester was underway.

The primary thrust of the program itself, in offering college courses in Shafter, is that those underserved and underprepared, who are living in the rural areas of Kern County should have an opportunity to get an education too, according to Ashley Ward, the Program Manager, Outreach and School Relations for Bakersfield College.

Measure J which is helping to re-design and update college campuses like BC within Kern County, has now made getting an education more attainable to those residents who can't

make it to the main campus.

Already, the community of Arvin has benefited from education outreach and now for the communities of Shafter, Wasco and McFarland, the program will make finishing general education coursework toward a degree program or transfer program, a reasonable feat, according Ward. November's response gave Ward and the staff at the Shafter Learning Center an idea of Shafter's desire for a college education. Ward said that the event was a "huge success."

"We had over 60 potential students that attended and left registered for classes for Spring 2018."

Ward also said that their goal was to enroll as many students in Shafter as they could before school began.

The students completed all of the steps in the enrollment process at the center during the last enrollment opportunity date and were able to leave with a class schedule on the same day.

Students who enrolled had various majors in mind, or the goal of enrolling in general education classes and getting those out of the way.

Most of the classes that are being offered in Shafter are primarily general education courses, according to Ward.

"Community college is open to

Please see Enrollment, Page 7

## The Kern Family Justice Center aims to help victims

By Hector Martinez  
Reporter

The Kern Family Justice Center has now opened here in Bakersfield, and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are their priority. The goals of the workers at the FJC is to help families overcome the domestic violence abuses that they've suffered.

These goals have remained since the opening of the first Family Justice Center in San Diego, California; since then the centers have multiplied all over the United States with an estimate of over 130 Family Justice Centers. California has around 17 of these centers.

The Family Justice Center will provide many resources to their clients. Some of those resources include advocacy, counseling, legal assistance, child support service, among others.

Some of FJCs partners are the Alliance Against Family Violence & Sexual Assault, Bakersfield Police Department, among others. The Executive Director of the FJC, Kristin Barnard said, "I am the Executive Director of the Family Justice Center.

Some of my duties include supervising staff and the community partners housed at Family Justice Center, overseeing client management and client services, and training and educating the public about our services." She also said that the center will be free of cost for their clients because the FJC has a great number of partner agencies that give those resources to them.

"Most of the Family Justice Center staffing and costs are covered by a grant, as well as the District Attorney's Office," said Barnard.

She also explained that victims of domestic violence and sexual assault can obtain counseling services and others at the facility.

There are cities where the crime rates such as burglary or other crimes are really high, but in Bakersfield, domestic violence and sexual assault are both really high criminal rates explained the FJC Executive Director.

"Yes, domestic violence and sexual assault are prevalent in Bakersfield... just like every city has crimes of burglary, theft, etc, in Bakersfield, we see crimes of sexual assault and domestic

violence," stated Barnard. According to Barnard, the goal of the center remains the same as the one that opened at San Diego, California in 2002 in addition to another goal that the FJC pursues. Barnard said, "Our goal here in Kern County is to seek donations so that we can expand and provide even more services. If anyone is interested in making a donation or volunteering at our FJC, they can visit our website."

"I hope that by opening the Family Justice Center here in Kern County, we can help victims to come forward and seek help. At the Family Justice Center, victims can come to one location to seek multiple services from several different agencies instead of having to go all over town," she concluded.

Since the opening of the FJC, the staff has seen many victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, but they are hoping that many more victims can go and get counseling and many other services that they need. With these resourceful services, the city can help make it easier for women to take those first steps.

## Waiting for counselors takes hours

By Darlene L. Williams  
Reporter

Spring semester at Bakersfield College is in full force as nearly 32,000 enrolled students make their way around campus to their various classes. Over 600 students are veterans or dependents of veterans.

With so many students on campus, the wait to confer with a counselor can be arduous. However, the veterans on campus have a student to advisor system in place, which working for some, while others find the wait to see their counselors, exhausting.

"We have a specific path that has to be followed in order to graduate with maximum efficiency, explained student, Jeremy Bethell, who is a veteran. We can see any counselor we'd like to; however, approval for the classes must be approved by the Veteran's Advisor, Armando Trujillo."

There are several steps that Bakersfield College and veterans must take in order to be in compliance with the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs. It is imperative that a Comprehensive Student Educational Plan (CSEP) is

followed precisely to ensure payment to the veterans and their dependents.

"There's a lot of money involved. We make sure that we are in compliance with the VA and the students are on track," Veteran's Education Advisor, Armando Trujillo, stated. Making the college experience as stress free as possible is the goal of BC Veteran's Department."

For others, the transitions required for students to connect with a counselor, does not operate so smoothly.

"It's been good scheduling an appointment with my counselor, but financial aid is a "hot mess," Anthony Rodriguez said. "I've had no problems getting in to see my counselor, Julian. It's been really mellow; it goes fast no complaints. Registration days are super long, but that's to be expected," BC student, Jared Gibson said.

Alex Lopez, another BC student, said, "I haven't been in to see a counselor. I only called for an appointment; it's a long time before I can get in. The lines are so long, it's not worth it. We've got lives here; it's just not worth the time."

Sabrina Pola, another BC student

said, "I haven't gone into the counseling offices this semester, but in the past, when I went in to try to schedule an appointment, it was so many people there I decided that it wasn't worth it. I ended up figuring things out on my own, along with my sister who'd already graduated college," she said.

On the other hand, the ratio of counselors to students is roughly 24 counselors to 32,000 students. Bernadette Martinez, Office Supervisor explained that with the new system, Guided Pathways, in place the long waits to see a counselor may be a thing of the past, or at least not as demanding for the student or counselor.

Julian West, Education Advisor, optimistically spoke in favor of the GP project.

"We're shifting to something new. A student can still see whoever he/she wants to, but Guided Pathways is based off your major."

Meta-major counselors, assist students who are taking courses that span diverse degree programs, but also have analogous content. They counsel with all students majoring

in related fields such as health sciences, rad tech, nursing students. They should see a counselor or advisor related to that specific major," he explained.

Affinity Groups, which are groups on campus that have similar interests and are focused on common objectives, such as: EOPS, Dreamers, African American Students or any other group can still go see a Meta-major counselor.

Students however, don't know what Affinity group or Meta-Major group they belong to. According to West.

"This is the message we're trying to get out, students should know who their teams are. It just makes things easier," West said.

It seems that the veterans on campus have a handle on the whole process of students connecting with counselors.

"Because it's the the beginning of the school year, the time for veterans to see a counselor is normally within seven days, but towards the middle of the school year it's not so busy," explained Christopher Yerena, a student



DARLENE L. WILLIAMS / THE RIP

Veterans use the computers to register for classes online.

worker and veteran.

"Veterans can call in to make an appointment or if they have simple questions most of their concerns can be handled at the desk," he said.

"As far as meeting with my counselors, they are pretty transparent," said David Arredano, a veteran.

Ruben Lira, another veteran, said, "I don't have any problems, usually I'm a walk-in. Recently, I had questions regarding changing majors, I had no problems he saw me within a couple of days, keeping me in the loop of things to continue receiving my veteran benefits."



PAIGE ATKISON / THE RIP

Parents and caregivers of children with special needs listen to the keynote speaker. "Specially Yours," is hosted annually by the Kern County Consortium SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area).

## Parents gather for SELPA Conference

By Paige Atkison  
Reporter

The parents and guardians of special needs children gathered together at Hodel's Country Dining for a conference early Friday morning on Jan. 26.

The conference entitled "Specially Yours," is the second annual conference hosted by the Kern County Consortium SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area).

The conference featured food, drinks, vendors, and a keynote speaker.

The conference focused on providing desperately needed resources for parents of children with special needs.

"We want to bring parents into the equation as far as having access to trainings and different tools to use in the home," said event coordinator Lee Knopts-Martin.

"Organizations and schools are given access to those trainings, but that's not always available for parents

themselves."

The keynote speaker, Amanda Nicolson Adams addressed precisely these issues in her speech today. "My main focus is social skills training and equipping parents to aid them from preschool all the way through their lifespan," said Adams.

"Another topic is addressing the most common behavioral issues special needs children have, from tantrums to trouble sleeping and sleeping."

Shannon Wilson, the mother of a child with special needs, has struggled to find the specific care she needs for her family.

"My son does okay in his classes, but it's much more difficult when he's home," said Wilson.

"My mom helps me take care of him, but mostly I've cared for him alone. We tried behavioral [therapy] at the Kern Regional Center, but it didn't address the issues we were having at home."

Similarly, Carla Burch, a mother of a 6-year-old with down syndrome,

has found success in finding resources through the school district, but is still looking for resources that will help her at home. She believes the conference will help her find comradery with the other parents and lead to new resources.

Adams offered a message of hope for parents frustrated with searching for ways to help their families.

"Keep looking," said Adams. "It's too important to give up."

"I think the resources are coming, Adams continued. "There are never enough resources, but they're coming. The resources in Fresno have developed significantly over the past ten years.

It is the same here [in Bakersfield.] I'm trying to find the gaps in services. Afterschool care is generally hard to find, but it gets worse as the children age.

After early intervention ends it can be a difficult resource for people to find. "I know there are other people like me who are trying to fill these gaps."

## Renegade Struggles: Naythan Bryant

We all have a struggle, and every person has a different story. Each issue of The Rip will feature a student overcoming certain struggles to gain an education and better their life.

By Naythan Bryant  
Reporter

"Nodular Lymphocyte Predominant Hodgkin's Lymphoma." The words came out of the surgeon's mouth, and I immediately went into a haze. I remember not being able to process anything in the moment, too shocked and confused to say anything. I heard my mother and father asking questions, but the words were drowned out by my own thoughts.

Cancer? How could that be? I was only 16 years old and had been a healthy kid my entire life.

"Nodular Lymphocyte Predominant Hodgkin's Lymphoma." This time the words rang and echoed through my ears as the surgeon repeated the diagnoses. I thought to myself, "Cancer. I have cancer."

The weeks that followed were filled with uncertainty as multiple tests were run to determine the stage and progression of the cancer.

The first big sigh of relief came with the news that we had caught the disease at its earliest stage and that I would be receiving outpatient treatment locally.

After developing a treatment plan, my mindset shifted dramatically. My sadness quickly turned to anger, and the word "cancer" was no longer something that scared me. It infuriated me. I knew there was only one

thing to do and that was to fight.

The first round of chemotherapy was an eye-opening experience to say the least. Being younger and more athletic than most cancer patients, I handled the medicine well and was able to control the side-effects. However with each round of chemo came more side effects with increasing intensity.

It was a difficult process, but one that I knew I would get through with the love and support of my family and friends. I never thought, however, that the love and support would be accompanied by thousands of pictures.

The day that I ran into Kevin Charette at Comprehensive Blood and Cancer Center is the day that changed my experience with cancer forever. Charette was my baseball coach in 2010, four years before my diagnoses. It was great to catch up with an old friend and I appreciated him for stopping by to see how I was doing.

While we were visiting, we met with another friend of Charette's, David Marcus, who was also going through treatment for cancer at the time. At the end of the day we decided to take a picture with our thumbs up to show we were making the best of a tough situation.

Later that night, Charette showed the picture he had taken with the three of us to his partner Cody Brutlag, who immediately recognized the potential

the picture had in inspiring others battling cancer. It was at that moment that he thought, "What if we collect thumbs-up pictures from around the world and create a campaign called Thumbs-Up Cancer Down?" Charette then posted the picture online and asked others to do the same.

When the first pictures came rolling in from family and friends, my spirit was immediately lifted. I don't think any of us understood what would come next.

A few pictures turned into hundreds and those hundreds soon turned to thousands as pictures came pouring in from all over the world. Congressmen, professional athletes, artists, and more all found time to submit a picture to support someone they had never met. I was overwhelmed with appreciation and gratitude and still am to this day.

Today, Thumbs Up Cancer Down is an official non-profit organization dedicated to offering support to those battling cancer and I could not be more proud of the work they have done. As for me, I am lucky enough to call myself a survivor and have been cancer-free for over two years. Cancer is scary, sure. But I am reminded of a quote by Stuart Scott that always stuck with me during my treatment. "You beat cancer by how you live, why you live, and in the manner in which you live."



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Naythan Bryant smiles and poses for the camera after talking about his life and past struggles.

## Student clubs represent during BC's 2018 Spring Involvement Festival



ISSY BARRIENTOS / THE RIP

Representatives from the school and community were on hand to provide information about BC student club registration.

By Issy Barrientos  
Reporter

As part of Welcome Week the Spring Involvement Festival, on Jan. 23, featured representatives from clubs and the community. The representatives who set up booths in the fireside room brought gifts such as candy, pens, and information on what their group is about.

One club that planted itself outside was the Agriculture Club. "Some of us work in the community," Elka Desjarian, vice president of AG club said. They do it, "purely voluntarily." Aside from working in the community the club have speakers that come and talk about agriculture. Aliya Khan, the AG Club ICC representative said that, "anybody that isn't involved in agriculture is welcomed." The first

half-hour of their meetings are dedicated to socializing. The meetings take place on the first and third Tuesdays in the Agriculture Unit at 4 p.m.

The Office of Student Life was also present. BCSGA President Dezi Von Manos endorsed the festival as something that, "is definitely needed spring or fall so that way students are aware what is offered both on campus and the community." Christopher Cruz, the director of the festival, said that "we want people who have a heart to represent the college."

Local business Chain Cohn Stiles sent Jorge Barrientos to talk about the partnership that the law firm and Bakersfield College have. The perks of their relationship include free legal consultation, and discounted rates. "We get a few calls a month from students and staff," said Barrientos, who added, "if anything does happen to you, we are here to help."

Not only were the free goodies there, and brochures about the perks, but also to bring awareness about Walk MADD. MADD is Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and the walk is to raise money for the victims of driving accidents.



ISSY BARRIENTOS / THE RIP

Director Christopher Cruz, Senator Mustafa Barraj, and President Dezi von Manos pose for a photo.

Others included the Anime Club, who recently started to watch anime together, Kern Federal Credit Union who wants to help the 'struggling

student', and Beatrice Toy and Brooks Onley who are utilizing the information that they received from the business.

## Escape into the world of professional wrestling

**Professional Wrestling Culture:** From a fan's perspective

By Karla Gutierrez  
Photo Editor

Mostly everyone has gone through tough times and has had something bring a bit of light into their life; an escape if you will. Whether it is watching YouTube videos or listening to music or even knitting a sweater, there is something that makes a person's life a bit more positive. For me, that escape was professional wrestling and it has been that way for over a decade of my life.



Karla Gutierrez

I went through a lot of depressing moments throughout my junior high experience. I can confidently write that if I did not know about wrestling at that time, when I had all those bad experiences, I would not be in this world.

Anyone can make fun of this and say what they want, but this was my escape at the time and it still is. Being a pro wrestling fan is a blessing in disguise because I have met many people with the same passion that I have for the wrestling business, and it has been an escape for them as it has for me.

For instance, when I went to an event at Long Beach, CA last summer, I got to meet and talk to a lot of people about pro wrestling. That became the type of environment that I felt comfortable in. Going to an event or meeting a pro wrestler is something I am very grateful for because not a lot of people get to meet people they see on television or who are their inspiration. When going to live wrestling events and meet and greets, it gives me a lot to look forward to because it is motivating to see that these wrestlers enjoy what they do.

For example, last semester was probably one of the toughest semesters for me so far and I was really stressed out. I just needed some time to think and relax. Coincidentally around that time a wrestler, Matt Jackson, tweeted on a Sunday night, "IF the cast of #BTE [Being The Elite, a YouTube series] were to show up at a Hot Topic in Southern California tomorrow afternoon, would you come by to say hi?" I thought to myself about what my schedule was going to be for Monday and I only had a test that morning, so I decided to go.

I got to meet all of the cast/wrestlers and have conversations with them. This turned out well for them because it ended up trending in the wrestling community. I will never be ashamed of being a pro wrestling fan. The reason I write this is because there are a lot of fans, especially female fans, who hide their inner fan within themselves. I understand that because I get like that sometimes. Professional wrestling is known to be a "male sport," but being a fan of this business is what makes me unique in my own way. In addition, I have my story to tell on why wrestling made me fall in love with the business. When I say to a person that I like watching pro wrestling, I can feel their attitude become a bit judgmental.

That's okay though because wrestling is a way I usually find my true friends anyway, so it is win-win for me.

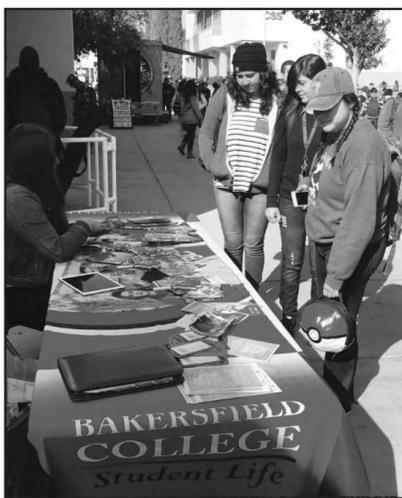
My point is that no matter what you are into whether it is playing video games, watching anime, being a part of a sport, writing music, etc. There's no reason to be ashamed of it because that is what makes you unique. Furthermore, some of the things I mentioned can be an escape to a lot of people and be a reason to look forward to another day.

## Welcome Week 2018 at BC



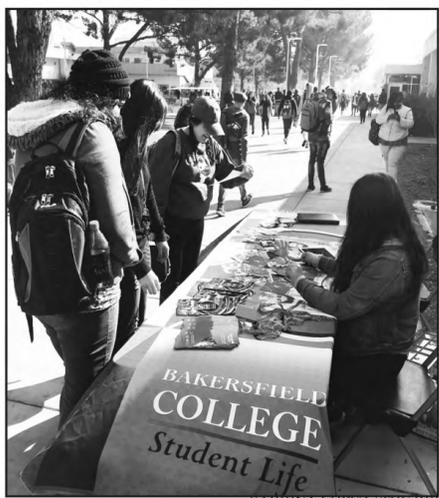
SABRINA LOPEZ / THE RIP

Students line up to grab some grub in between class breaks during BC's Spring Welcome Week.



SABRINA LOPEZ / THE RIP

Students stop by the Student Life table to ask for information and other materials.



SABRINA LOPEZ / THE RIP

Student Life advisor Nallely Sanchez hands out information to students who want to get involved

## Comedian Steve Hofstetter entertains



SABRINA LOPEZ / THE RIP

Steven Hofstetter signs books for those who attended event.

By Sabrina Lopez  
Reporter

Laughter filled Bakersfield College's Indoor Theater room on Jan. 23 as featured comedians Steve Hofstetter and Wyatt Gray who took the stage to perform.

Capping off the Welcome Week, students and staff enjoyed a free night of entertainment. The event was hosted by Bakersfield College's office of student life and was open to the public. The hour- and-a-half show took place in BC's own indoor theater at 7p.m.

Steve Hofstetter, the headliner of the night, is a well-known comedian who not only tours the country but has performed in places as far as Japan. Hofstetter is also well known from YouTube, with over 75 million views from his videos and 250,000 people subscribed to his channel alone.

Wyatt Gray has gained his own notoriety from being a contestant on Americas Got Talent 12th season, this past year. AGT featured Gray in its third episode of the season as one of the not so great moments. Gray, though, had no trouble poking fun at his performance, that he later posted on his Reddit account and com-

mented saying, "Sometimes in stand-up things just don't go your way. I only hope that my national embarrassment brought you all a little bit of cringe joy."

The comedians together were a great combination and had the auditorium in hoots from the beginning to the end of the show. After the show BC student Grace Landin said she, "enjoyed the stories and could relate to comedians' trouble with the law."

Before closing his set Hofstetter also spoke of the scholarship fund he created to support up and coming comics. He revealed how his father who passed away brought on the inspiration for creating a scholarship and said, "the way it works is, we raise money and sell a bunch of shirts and then find an up and coming comic...and then give them enough money to quit their day job and devote their time to the art."



SABRINA LOPEZ / THE RIP

Steven Hofstetter takes the stage at Bakersfield College in the Indoor Theater. He performed at Bakersfield College as part of Spring 2018's Welcome Week.

## Harold Pierce talks to students about "toxic stress"

By Alexis Pedroza  
Reporter

With a couple more minutes before the clock struck 1 p.m. Bakersfield College students were arriving and filling out the empty seats in Professor Baron's Social Justice and Health Class on Jan. 25.

The small class of approximately 11 students gathered in their classroom located inside BC's Library on the first floor next to the computer lab.

Upon Professor Baron's arrival class instruction was able to commence, and she introduced guest speaker Harold Pierce from the Bakersfield Californian.

The purpose of this was to help her Social Justice and Health class un-

derstand the topic of "toxic stress" in order to better help them in their class project that students are currently working on.

Pierce, having participated in the University of Southern California's Center for Health Journalism, as a part of his fellowship has written and researched about toxic stress and the effects it has on students.

So what is toxic stress?

Toxic stress is the prolonged stress that occurs specifically in childhood, which can result in negative effects in adulthood.

For example, this type of stress may occur due to child neglect and abusive relationships between parents and their children; thus resulting in mental or even physical damage to the child that is carried in their life-

time.

Pierce pointed out that this is a highlighted problem here in Kern County and many ask why that might be. "At the root of all this, when we talk about toxic stress and childhood trauma we're really digging down to poverty," Pierce said.

He added that poverty plays a huge factor in those who are more likely to suffer from toxic stress. Medical research can show the average life expectancy of people based on their area code or where they live.

This information is especially helpful to these students as they prepare to do the Hackathon project involving their own community here in Bakersfield.

"It's a three-day competition that takes place in April," Professor Baron

explained, "People are put into teams and compete to create solutions for problems in their communities."

Although it is not mandatory that her students participate in the actual competition, Baron hopes that presenting her student's data from their project at the Hackathon will help them better understand the purpose of the Social Justice and Health class here at BC.

Student Lauren Pritchard showed great enthusiasm to start collecting data for her project. "I always wanted to choose Lamont," Pritchard said, after being asked which location she was doing her data collect on. The students will begin gathering information on the locations and neighborhoods they've chosen next week.

Afterwards, Harold Pierce ex-



FITZGERALD GRAVES / THE RIP

Bakersfield Californian reporter Harold Pierce (top left) talks to Professor Sarah Baron's (top right) Social Justice and Health Class on Jan. 25

plained why he was glad to stop by Professor Baron's class to speak.

"Hopefully we can get folks out there who can try to create some change in their communities," Pierce said. He had already teamed up with Professor Baron in the past to help students and said he is glad to support local community colleges.

Album Review

## BTS latest album does not disappoint

By Karla Gutierrez  
Photo Editor

BTS, also known as Bangtan Boys or Beyond the Scene, has been growing worldwide with their top hits such as, "DNA" and "Mic Drop," and their flashy choreography which does not go unnoticed. I can't forget that they also have their huge "BTS A.R.M.Y" (fans) backing them up. They recently released a new album late last year called, "Love Yourself: Her," which features two hidden tracks if a person orders the physical copy. The physical copy also comes with a poster, a photo album, and two collector cards

BTS is a Korean boy group that contains seven members. They all have different role in the group. For instance, Jimin is one of the four main singers and dancers. Another example is Suga, who is one of three rappers and is one of the composers of the group. Most of the members incorporate their own style into composing.

I listened to this album three times as soon as I received it in the mail. The first time I listened to it was to get the sense of what the songs were going to sound like since I do not speak Korean. After that, I listened to the album while reading the English translation of the lyrics, which then got me more intrigued into the songs. The last time, I actually did some research of what the lyrics meant to the boy band members.

RM, who is the leader and rapper

of the group, talked with Billboard where he mentioned that the order of how the songs are aligned has a story to it. For example, he said that they included their BBMA (Billboard Music Award) speech before their song "Mic Drop" because they knew that in that moment, they revolutionized K-Pop and have made it worldwide known artists. They don't need to prove anything to anyone from that point forward. What I did like about this album is that they talk about their own insecurities and the serious events that are occurring in society today.

One example is the song "GoGo" which details how the younger generation spends their life without care and live wasteful lives. RM referred to the lyrics this way: it was similar to someone who spent \$30 to try to win items in a claw crane machine and later realizes that they spent it all on that machine without any regrets. That is where the phrase "YOLO" comes in the song. One of the hidden tracks, "Sea," essentially is a reflection of how they used to be looked down upon by the big world of K-Pop and how people did not believe that they would make it until they finally proved that they are worthy of being successful. At the same time, they did not feel satisfied because even if they were receiving rewards and getting publicity, they felt like they should be setting the bar even higher.

They recently finished their WINGS World Tour this past December where they traveled to four differ-



KARLA GUTIERREZ / THE RIP

Love Yourself: Her physical copy comes with a poster and photo album with two hidden tracks

ent continents. They came to North America where they performed at Chicago, Anaheim, and Newark, with only five concerts around the United States and sold out all of them. They are currently touring in Korea for this new album and are making an appearance at the iHeartRadio Music Awards at Los Angeles in March.

I would recommend this album to people, even if they do not speak Korean or like K-Pop because their

songs, throughout the album, always change and have deep meanings. For instance, the album starts with a slow song, "Intro: Serendipity", and then it transitions into "DNA" which is a swell song. Even though BTS's fan base is all teenagers, their music would be enjoyed by all age groups.



## Renegade Events

### News

Bakersfield College is now smoke-free, and people are no longer allowed to smoke tobacco on campus.

### Campus Events

- Feb. 01- Mar. 8:** Panorama Invitational 2018 at Wylie amd May Louise Jones Gallery (inside library) from 4-7 p.m.
- Feb. 02:** A Night of Magic with Ron Saylor at Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater) from 7-9 p.m.
- Feb. 05:** Financial Aid Awareness Month Kick-off at the Renegade Crossroads from 9:30-12:30 p.m.
- Feb. 06:** Spring Orientation at Forum 101 at 5-7 p.m.
- Feb. 06:** Agriculture Club Meeting at the Agriculture classroom - Renegade Park starting at 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 08:** Tears We Cannot Stop: Open Discussion Forum at the Fireside Room from 10-11 a.m.
- Feb. 08:** Tears We Cannot Stop: African American Initiatives Presentation at the Fireside Room from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Feb. 08:** Tears We Cannot Stop: Open Discussion Forum at the Fireside Room from 2-3 p.m.
- Feb. 08:** Distinguished Speaker Series: Michael Eric Dyson at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater) from 7-8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 09:** 2018 Pathway to Success Conference at the Indoor Theater from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Feb. 12:** HBCU Caravan at the Campus Center and Renegade Crossroads at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Feb. 15:** Black Holes Planetarium show at the Planetarium: Math-Science 112 from 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 16:** Lincoln Day Holiday (No School)
- Feb. 19:** Washington Day Holiday
- Feb. 20:** Spring Orientation at Forum 101 from 5-7 p.m.
- Feb. 20:** Agriculture Club Meeting at the Agriculture classroom - Renegade Park starting at 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 22:** Supervolcanoes Planetarium show at the Planetarium: Math-Science 112 at 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 22:** The Hot L Baltimore at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater) at 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Feb. 23:** Kern County Foster Youth Empowering Success Conference at the Fireside Room: Cafeteria and Forums from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Feb. 23:** The Hot L Baltimore at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater) at 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Feb. 24:** The Hot L Baltimore - Matinee at the at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater) at 2-4 p.m.
- Feb. 24:** Sterling Silver Dinner 2018
- Mar. 01 - Sept. 30:** Partial Closure: CSS Building
- Mar. 03:** 2nd Annual Bakersfield College STEM &Pre-Health Conference in the Indoor Theater from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Mar. 06:** Spring Orientation at Forum 101 from 5-7 p.m.
- Mar. 08:** Reimaging Equality: Inclusive Communities in Post-Obama America at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts (Indoor Theater) from 6-8 p.m.
- Mar. 15:** From Dream to Discovery: Inside NASA at the Planetarium: Math-Science 112 from 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- Mar. 16:** Spring Serendade: BS Concert Band and Orchestra at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts (Indoor Theater) from 7-9 p.m.
- Mar. 20:** Spring Orientation at the Forum 101 from 5-7 p.m.

### Off Campus Events

- Feb. 04:** Drinks and A Bike Ride At Imbibe at Imbibe Wine & Spirits from 4-6 p.m.
- Feb. 07:** KCM 2018 Lecture Series - African Americans in Kern County: From Civil War Reconstruction to Doo Wop at the Kern County Museum from 6-8 p.m.
- Feb. 09:** 3rd Annual Bob Marley Birthday Celebration at the Elements Venue from 8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 14:** 1st Annual Valentine's Bash at the Bakersfield Music Hall of Fame from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 24:** Black American History Parade at 21 St. and V St. starting at 10 a.m.
- Mar. 02:** Caroline Cobb Bakersfield House Show from 7-10 p.m.
- Mar. 03:** Wild Child - A Jim Morrison & The Doors Celebration at the Elements Venue
- Mar. 14:** 2018 Kern County Economic Summit at The DoubleTree by Hilton from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- Mar. 16:** Immigration and the Ethics of Sanctuary Polics at CSUB BDC 401D from 3-5 p.m.
- Apr. 11:** 25 in 24 Tour at the Shafter Ford Theatre from 7-9 p.m.
- Apr. 21:** The 3rd Annual Medieval California Festival at the Kern County Fair Grounds

Compiled by Karla Gutierrez  
Photo Editor

Book Review

## "Diary of an Oxygen Thief" expresses dark themes in autobiography

By Christina Benavides  
Copy Editor

When I first picked up "Diary of an Oxygen Thief," I thought it would be a book of poetry. I was surprised when I read the first page and found out that it wasn't. It was far from what I thought it would be about.

It's written anonymously about an Irish man who bluntly writes about how he used to like hurting women. He explains on the first page of the book that he got off on emotionally hurting them, and he compares himself to a serial killer who feels no remorse.

This book is a Dutch memoir that was published in 2006. The dark themes do hit close to home if you have ever experienced someone hurting you the way that this anonymous author explains he did. Although he sounds like a jerk, I admire his honesty. Not everyone would admit to getting women to fall in love with them, and quickly discarding them just to enjoy the pain they have put them through.

I may admire his honesty; however, he did sound whiny throughout the book. He complained about his job and his house when he moved to America.

He also whined about how a beautiful Irish girl he fell in love with treated him poorly. He mentioned that she was playing games with him, but if I recall correctly, he used to play games with women himself. When you read the first few pages, you expect to hear about this heartless sociopathic man. I did not think he was as "dark" as the beginning suggests once I read his



GOOGLE IMAGES

book.

I do like the way he approached his writing. It was very personal. The

way he writes is directly to the audience, and he makes it feel like he is sitting with you having a conversation

about his life. Often, he brings up how he hopes the book will be published. I loved this because it made it sound raw. As if I was reading his diary.

One thing I did enjoy about the book was his humor. I did think he sounded rather witty, although, he sounded like a jerk who deserved what he got. He explains that he was an alcoholic and believes it a correlation as to why he acted so horribly to women. I disagree. I think him, bringing up he was an alcoholic and going to Alcoholic Anonymous meetings was his way of getting sympathy.

After hearing him graphically talk about the way he would get women to fall for him, then discard them; I immediately could not sympathize with him. I don't think a person like that just magically changes their ways. No amount of AA meetings or years without interacting with women can make me feel like a person of this nature "changed."

Despite my opinions of the author, I felt like the story just dragged on. There were some parts of the story I felt was not necessary, and he seemed to go off track a lot. The story did not seem organized, but I liked his honesty. It sounded truthful when he spoke about the darker themes, and I saw more of the author's character when he spoke vividly about his actions. Overall, I have a hate and love relationship with this book. It is unique, which I can appreciate. I just wish the book did not drag on in some parts the way it did. Read with caution, there are some sexual themes, including darker themes.



## The Renegade Rip

### EDITORIAL BOARD

**Editor-in-Chief**.....Alexandra Apatiga  
**Managing Editor**.....Melissa Puryear  
**Web & Social Media Editor**.....Jenny Brito  
**Photo Editor**.....Karla Gutierrez  
**Copy Editor**.....Christina Benavides

### STAFF

**Reporters/photographers:** Paige Atkison, Issy Barrientos, Naythan Bryant, Diana Coronado, Miranda Defoor, Fitzgerald Graves, Fatima Lopez, Sabrina Lopez, Hector Martinez, Alexis Pedroza, and Darlene Williams

**Adviser**.....Erin Auerbach



First place for newspaper in 2011, third place in 2013, 2014, 2015 for CNPA General Excellence  
Ninth place for newspaper in 2016 for national Best of Show contest by Associated Collegiate Press  
Second place nationally in 2016 for website publication by Associated Collegiate Press  
The Renegade Rip is produced by Bakersfield College journalism classes and is circulated on Wednesdays during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper is published under the auspices of the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees, but sole responsibility for its content rests with student editors. The Rip is a member of the California Newspaper Publishers Association, Associated Collegiate Press, and California Colleges Media Association.

### Write The Rip

Letters should not exceed 300 words, must be accompanied by a signature and the letter writer's identity must be verified. The Rip reserves the right to edit letters, however, writers will be given the opportunity to revise lengthy or unacceptable submissions. If an organization submits a letter as a group, it must be signed by only one person, either the leader of the organization or the letter writer. Anonymous letters will not be published.

### How to reach us

-Address: Bakersfield College,  
1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93305  
-Phone: (661) 395-4324  
-Email: ripmail@bakersfieldcollege.edu  
-Website: therip.com

## SHOTSPOTTER: SST technology meant to address crime and violence as it happens

Continued from Page 1

eyes wide-open decision on whether to continue the technology after the pilot program ends.

According to an article on the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) website regarding SST technology in 2015, Senior Policy Analyst, Jay Stanley, wrote, "Gunshot detection in a city does not implicate any significant privacy interests ... the key question remains whether the technology can record voices." Stanley sat down with their CEO Ralph Clark to discuss his concerns. He writes, "The biggest [concern] may be that audio from live microphones is stored for days. Storage of any data always raises the specter of security vulnerabilities, and we just don't know what uses or abuses of such data may emerge down the road."

Stanley mentioned a court case in which recorded conversations were

detected on the gunshot soundbite from a crime scene, that SST sensors had picked up. The recordings were used to convict a killer, whose victim called out the killer's nickname, as he lay, dying.

However, Clark said that the units are not a "live audio stream." They are designed to be triggered by "gunshot-like noise", and not voices. Once the microphones in the sensors are activated, the unit will continue to record even up to a couple seconds after gunfire ceases, and that's when voices, if present, are picked up, by default, "just after gunshots," while the unit is still recording.

As far as privacy, Stanley wrote that Clark said that all of the data on the sensor unit's memory is recorded over on a continual basis, approximately every couple of days. The data that they do keep, pertains to gunfire recordings that they analyze

and have pulled from the unit.

Stanley's final opinion was of concern. He recommended to "shorten their retention periods ... and for the company to make their source code public.

Stanley wrote, "It is a very sensitive thing to place microphones in public spaces, and while I personally believe what Clark tells me about the focus of his system, and his company's incentives to keep this technology narrowly focused on gunshot detection make sense, that's not enough. The assurances Clark is providing, on the other hand, if they're not rigorously entrenched into law, practice, and expectation, may disappear over time. Clark will not be the only CEO and Shotspotter may not be the only company overseeing such microphones."

He suggested how to address this. He writes that each city that installs

the technology should implement an "auditing mechanism that would work for such technologies, such as having an accounting firm (paid for by the city) doing the kind of review and monitoring that would assure populations of the narrow focus of these microphones."

He concluded, "I am not losing sleep over this technology at this time. But I am concerned over the precedent of allowing our cities to be sprinkled with live microphones that are not subject to transparent operation, and where that will lead over coming years and decades."

Over 90 other cities across the nation have already installed the gunshot sensitive technology, and sister cities in California include to date, East Palo Alto, Fresno, Sacramento, Salinas, San Francisco, Oakland, Redwood City, Richmond, San Diego, San Pablo, and Stockton.

The SST costs between \$65,000 and \$95,000 per square mile, annually. Cities like Sacramento, use capital from the seized assets of criminals, to pay for operational expenses. Because Bakersfield is only in the testing phase and its being covered by a government grant for the next two years, city officials and law enforcement's main focus is to see how the technology works for the city and its residents. Rivera says that the main focus right now is to see how SST can work, and after analyzing the outcome, they will have a better idea on how to move forward.

Cal State will be instrumental in reviewing the technical data from the program to determine its overall effectiveness at the end of the two-year pilot date, according to Rivera.

SST installation and operation are expected to be completed no later than May of this year.

## Five steps to starting the semester right

**Student Success:** *Tips, tricks and practical advice for students*

By Paige Atkinson  
Reporter

The way you start a semester most often sets the tone for your academic success during that term. If you put off planning for the semester until weeks in, your academic success will decline. However, if you use the first weeks of the semester to prepare for the weeks to come, you will finish the course with ease.

So how do you start the semester in a way that leads to success? The five most important things to master before the semester takes off are using a planner, managing your time, breaking large projects into smaller tasks, utilizing your resources, and knowing your limits.

The first and most important skill to have is knowing how to effectively use a planner. As the old adage goes, "Fail to plan; plan to fail." As soon as you receive a syllabus, schedule, or outline, enter the dates in your planner. With each assignment and test recorded in your planner, you won't need to spend each day scrambling to remember what you need to get done.

Once you've got your planner, you can start managing your time. Each person shares the same 24 hours in each day and you must use yours wisely. Set up a daily schedule and determine which portions of each day you need to spend "studying, working, or attending class. The Bakersfield College "Habits of Mind" app has hourly schedules available for to download and print. Use your schedule to chart what you will be doing each day. If you need to move a task or block of study time to another day, you'll be able to look at your schedule sheet and find a more suitable time that won't throw off your whole day.

Together, your planner and time sheet will prepare you for the third skill you will need: breaking large assignments into smaller tasks. We've all tried to complete a time-consuming assignment just before the deadline. This sort of behavior may work in an emergency, but it is a poor habit to develop. Procrastinating on assignments until hours before it is due will cause unnecessary stress and hinder your ability to do your very best work. Breaking large projects and assignments into smaller tasks makes them appear less daunting and more manageable. Take whichever assignment you need to complete and divide the tasks and disperse them throughout the week. Once you've broken your assignment into smaller tasks, evaluate which tasks are of the highest priority, and complete the most pressing tasks first. By the time the deadline rolls around, you'll have completed your assignment.

If you find yourself struggling with any of the skills mentioned above, Bakersfield College offers countless resources for students needing academic assistance. "The Habits of Mind" app can be used to learn to organize your time and schedule assignments effectively. The Tutoring Center offers one free session per week for students and many classes offer additional supplemental instruction.

Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. Ask your professors questions and seek out resources to help you understand the course material better. Your professors are there to help you, so don't be afraid to ask them for help.

Finally, it can be tempting to fill your schedule with as many classes and activities as possible, but it will ultimately lead to failure.

Working overtime, overbooking appointments, and running to each class results in burnout. In order to avoid overwhelming yourself with responsibilities, you have to understand your limits. Know how many hours of sleep you need and how many hours of class you can attend comfortably.

With all these skills in tow, you'll be prepared for a successful semester!



Paige Atkinson

## A Broadway classic, "The Music Man" showing at the Stars Theatre Restaurant

By Melissa Puryear  
Managing Editor

"The Music Man" originally debuted on Broadway on Dec. 19, 1957, it was written by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey.

Bruce Saatoff, the artistic director of the Stars Theatre Restaurant's version of the same production, was performed by a diverse member cast on Jan. 26, at the Chester Avenue location.

The production is a comical, musical comedy, that begins with dirty down deception and ends with a redemptive romantic twist.

A traveling salesman named Gregory, has dubbed himself Harold Hill (played by Bruce Saatoff who is also the artistic director in this Stars Theatre feature) and travels by train from town to town, swindling his way to a decent living. He feeds off of the trust of the unsuspecting townsfolk, by hiding himself behind the false pretense of being a music professor.

Harold Hill sets his eyes on River City Iowa, to sell instruments, uniforms, and promises of music lessons for a boy's band but has no intentions of teaching anything. As always, he plans to catch the next train out of the city once The Wells Fargo wagon makes the delivery of the goods.

The musical has as many twist and turns as there are townspeople, and it works in favor of the show by hooking the audience. Who will do what and what will happen next?

There's Harold Hill who darts from the hotel, to the library, to homes and into the streets stirring up a rumor that the boys will fall into mischief because of the new pool table at the billiard hall. The townspeople become convinced that their young boys will be seduced by the evils of smoking, drinking and promiscuous women. There's the townswomen who are shameless in their gossip about the librarian being a woman of ill repute, because of a library full of books she inherited from a man on his deathbed.

There's also the townsfolk who are up in arms and change their minds about everything they hear or think they know.

Then there's the librarian, Marian Paroo, who has been protecting her heart from falling in love, until Harold Hill came along. She will stop at nothing from seducing and kissing a man she finds contemptible, who's bent on exposing Harold Hill, to ripping out a page in the archives of one of the old books in an effort to protect Hill from arrest. If she's right about him though, she could very well find the "White Knight" she's been avoiding her whole life.

"The Music Man" delivers a two-hour musical that is full of surprises and has an ironic twist-ending. It's a cat and mouse game where the audience has no idea, who will win, or who will lose.

Jim Atkinson, who attended the show said that it was his third time at



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Professor Harold Hill stirs up the townsfolk with a song called "Trouble," so he can pitch his sell for instruments, uniforms and music lessons.

tending a show at the Stars Theatre.

His grandson played Withrope in the musical. He said he had driven from Marietta to be at the performance.

He also said, "I like it. I saw the original movie and I can't wait to see the last scene when they [the boys

in the band who have no music lessons] sound lousy."

Another audience member, Julie Worthing, said, "I think it is very well choreographed and has a wonderful orchestra."

Julie Worthing's daughter-in-law, Sarah Worthing, plays the flute and

piccolo pieces throughout the show.

The Stars Theatre produces several live shows every month and provides dinner and a show for a fee. "The Music Man" performance will continue to show until February 10.

## ENROLLMENT: Partnership between BC and Shafter Learning Center to help students

Continued from Page 3

anyone and everyone we want to have the opportunity to provide that service here in the community. The more gen ed that they can get here and get knocked out, and then maybe go to the Delano campus, it just gives them options," Ward said.

Options, that according to Ward, they might not have had, without this educational partnership between the center and Bakersfield College. The partnership between the Shafter Learning Center and Bakersfield College, "is ever growing," accord-

ing to Ward.

She also shared that the people in the Shafter community want to take advantage of educational opportunities. Due to the desire that she sees, she said she is certain they will continue to expand the program, and that the number of enrollments will continue to grow as they implement the program each semester. Ward said that having this program in their community will encourage residents to pursue their educations.

Amerika Nino-Rodriguez, the

Program Coordinator for the Shafter Learning Center said that they are offering 19 classes in Shafter, with 4 or 5 classes being given at the Learning Center this spring. She said one of the classes are already to capacity with a waiting list. She also said that they were excited to see that there is a demand for the classes they are offering at the center and is encouraged to meet the educational needs of those who are enrolling.

"They are excited about the opportunity to attend college locally.

We have the high school students that are going to walk away with college credit, ready to move on to the next level, once they graduate from high school, and we have parents that are motivated to come back and get their education and potentially grow their career options from there, so it's great to be able to serve such a wide-range of community members here in Shafter."

The overwhelming response from parents of student's grades K-12 is promising, according to Nino-Rodri-

guez. She said that some parents are encouraged to seek their own educational goals now that the program is underway and able to accommodate them more easily.

"At the learning center our slogan is 'have dreams' and we very much believe that education really helps you to achieve those dreams ... it's not only going to have an impact on the individual's life and their families but on the community as a whole," said Nino-Rodriguez.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

A Bakersfield College Advisor works with a Shafter student who is enrolling at Shafter's Second Express Enrollment Date at the Shafter Learning Center.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Students at Shafter's new Shafter Learning Center signing up for the Second Express Enrollment Date

## BC wins 81-84 against Pierce

By Alexandra Apatiga  
Editor-in-Chief

The Bakersfield College Women's Basketball team won Wednesday, Jan. 17, against Los Angeles Pierce College (81-41) during their second home game of the new year, improving their overall season 7-11.

The game saw BC's own Octavia Croney lead the Renegades with 21 points, followed by reserve player Jasmyn Rodriguez with 12 points. Brianna Mendez added another 11

points throughout the game.

The first half of the game BC scored 41 points against LA Pierce and 40 points during the second half. Overall the Renegades made 19 percent of their 3-point throws, 38 percent of their field throws, and out of nearly 70 rebound shots made, 35 percent made it into the hoop.

The BC Women's Basketball team will be playing at home again on Jan. 24 at 5 p.m. against West Los Angeles College in the Gil Bishop Sports Center.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Angie Kroger, BC Renegade player and guard on the basketball team, facing off against a player from Los Angeles Pierce

## Bakersfield wins 77-74 against PC

By Alexandra Apatiga  
Editor-in-Chief

Bakersfield College's Men Basketball team pulled a close victory against Los Angeles Pierce College at the BC home game on Jan. 17. Scoring 77-74, Jamar Hammonds led the way for the Renegades by scoring 24 points. Teammate Jaylunn English scored an additional 22 points.

Bakersfield College took the lead by 10 points during the first half, and were able to maintain a

slight lead just enough for them to win the game during the second half.

Overall the BC Renegades made over half their free throw shot, making 77 percent into the hoop, as well as 46 percent of their field goal shots. Only 29 percent of the 3-point shots made scored. The Men's Basketball team will be playing at home again Jan. 24, their opponent will be West Los Angeles College. The game will begin at 7 p.m. in the Gil Bishop Sports Center.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

BC basketball player Jamar Hammonds scores two points

## BC loses to WLA 86-56

By Alexandra Apatiga  
Editor-in-Chief

The Bakersfield College Women's Basketball team was defeated by West Los Angeles College at home on Jan. 24. West LA beat BC (86-56) staying ahead of the Renegades by at least 10 point during each quarter. Following the game, the BC Women's Basketball team's season now stands at 8-12. The next home basketball game for the women's team will be on Jan. 27 against College of the Canyons. The game will begin at 3 p.m. at the Gil Bishop Sports Center.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

BC basketball player Jasmyn Rodriguez pushes her way through to score a point.

## Bakersfield College men's basketball team loses to West Los Angeles 83-77

By Alexandra Apatiga  
Editor-in-Chief

The Renegade Men's Basketball team lost a home game to West Los Angeles.

The team lost 83-77 at Gil Bishop Sports Stadium on Jan. 24.

This brought BC Basketball team's overall season score to 11 wins and 10 losses.

Losing the game by six points, the BC Renegades scored ahead 35-30 during the first half of the game. By the second half, West LA took the lead 42-53 and won the game.

The next game to be played will be on Jan. 27 at 5 p.m. against the College of the Canyons in the BC Gymnasium.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Tucker Eenigenburg scores.

## FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS MONTH

### Event Kick-Off Monday, February 5th

9:30 a.m. • Renegade Crossroads

Food, Music, and Resource Fair

Financial Aid Office Pit Crew will be available to answer your questions.

## START YOUR ENGINES!

### Workshops

Please register at <https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/workshops/finaid>. All workshops are 60 minutes long and will be held in CSS 151

Tue Feb 6	10:30 a.m.	Cash Course Financial Literacy & Budgeting 101
Mon Feb 12	9:00 a.m.	EOPS/CARE Program and Services
Wed Feb 14	11:00 a.m.	CAL Grant & Full-time Student Success Grant
Thurs Feb 15	10:30 a.m.	YES Program & Services
Wed Feb 21	1:00 p.m.	Financial Aid Updates-What's New?
Tue Feb 27	2:00 p.m.	Academic Progress-What is "Warning" or "Suspension"



## Men's Tennis double match is a victory against Reedley College

By Alexis Pedroza  
Reporter

During the Bakersfield College Men's Tennis double match on Jan. 26, the BC Renegades pulled off an impressive victory against opponents Reedley College Tigers by winning all three of their team's double matches.

The sky was blue with some beautiful clouds and a bright sun that reflected on the players faces, which showed their BC Renegades spirit to

be more determined in winning their games.

The intense tennis match began at 1p.m. with three pairs of games going on simultaneously.

Freshman players Manrico Cabaloza, 18, and Kaleb Johnson, 19, teamed up and won their match game in less than 30 minutes, with a total score of BC 8 and Reedley 1.

The next players to win their games were teammates Alex and Conrad with a score of BC 8 and Reedley 2. After both double matches finished in

victory, the tennis team gathered to watch the last match that was played by teammates Mario Cabaloza and Nayib Rivera. Spectators and teammates cheered them on as they won their match with a score of BC 5 and Reedley 5. Thus making it a total victory for the BC men's tennis team in their double matches.

Manrico Cabaloza, who's playing tennis at BC for the first time, described how to prepare for a game.

"Eat well, and get a lot of sleep," Cabaloza said.

Though he has had much experience after playing for 5 years, he looks forward to being an asset to the team.

Johnson also brings experience to the team with a total of 14 years of playing tennis. Johnson described his teammates as being "real cool" and the importance of teamwork. Among these athletes was Chun Ul, 26, who was BC's number one tennis player last year. Though Ul no longer plays for the team he enjoys coming to the games and supporting them.



ALEXIS PEDROZA / THE RIP

BC tennis player, Conrad Dalton prepares to serve alongside teammate Alec Slykerman in their double match against tigers.



ALEXIS PEDROZA / THE RIP

BC tennis player Alec Slykerman, waits readily for opponent to serve.



ALEXIS PEDROZA / THE RIP

Teammates Alec Slykerman and Conrad Dalton shaking opposing team's hands before double match.



ALEXIS PEDROZA / THE RIP

Kaleb Johnson, 19, makes a very fast move, scoring a point.

## Men's baseball defeats Sequoias 4-2

By Melissa Puryear  
Managing Editor

Bakersfield College baseball defeated College of the Sequoias, 4-2, Jan. 27 with pitcher, Lane Cowan, who earned the win, and relief pitcher, Joey Salinas, who is credited with the save.

Ashanti Ross's hit, scored two runs, with a double play in the 9th inning to end the game.

Sage Voda, a BC baseball player, who is sitting out for the season because of a hip injury, said "Ashanti's hit was huge, and Walker Frayne coming in to pitch and helping Cowan to help seal the win, felt good, especially after last night [referring to their 5-0 loss against Moorpark] ... It's a good feeling to get the feeling of a win."

Sage Voda said he will return next season after his hip has healed.

Emanuel Garcia, a former quarterback for the Renegades, said, "I thought it was a really good game

because the Renegade won 4-2. It showed a lot of character, and for me it's a good feeling because I saw these kids in high school. I saw Joey Salinas at Arvin and Lane Cowan at Centennial."

This game was BC's second game for the season, with one loss and one win.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

During Bakersfield College's win over College of the Sequoias, catcher Kyle Willman is walked after attempted swings.

## Renegade women's tennis team dominates

By Alexandra Apatiga  
Editor-in-Chief

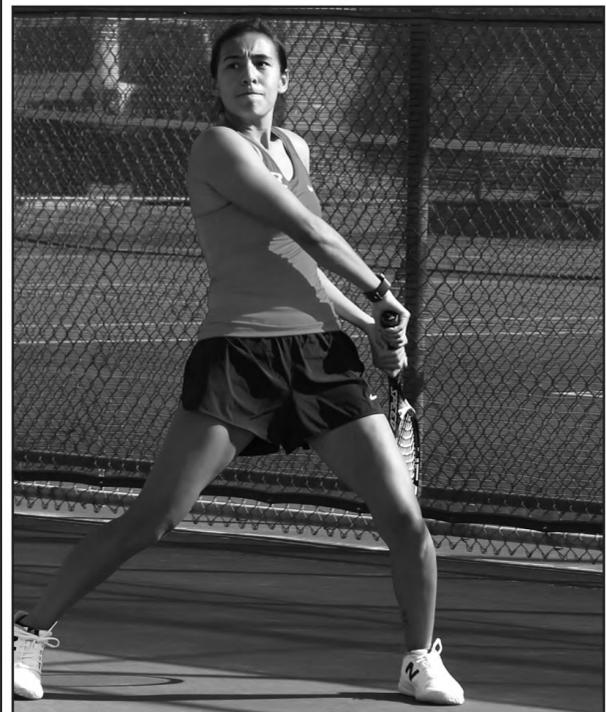
Darstein, Serena Contreras, Sophia Castillo, and Kenzi Williamson all get straight set wins.

The Bakersfield College's women's tennis team dominated their first two games of the 2018 season, with a 9-0 win over Reedley College on Jan. 26 and an 8-1 victory over Fresno City College on Jan. 27.

BC's matches against Reedley on Friday saw BC tennis players Paige

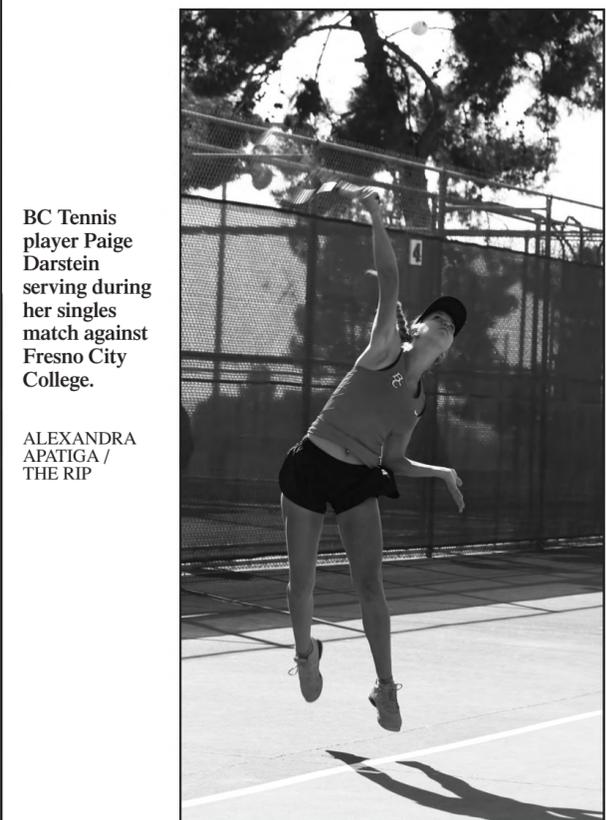
Saturday games against Fresno was just as successful, winning all three of double matches and five of their six singles.

The Bakersfield College women's tennis team (2-0) will be playing at home again on Feb. 6 against Victor Valley College.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Kaylee Sanchez prepping her swing to hit and return the ball during her singles match against Fresno City College. The game took place on Jan. 26. This was one of the first two games they won of the 2018 season.



BC Tennis player Paige Darstein serving during her singles match against Fresno City College.

ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

During BC's double match against Fresno City College, doubles team Kaylee Sanchez and Paige Darstien stand ready for their match to begin.

# A visit to Maine would turn out to be more than an adventure

By Melissa Puryear  
Managing Editor

There's a backstory to my adventure story that dates back to childhood. I've always wanted to go to Maine for as long as I can remember. As a child I began collecting little lighthouse figurines, and I fell in love with movies that were filmed in Maine. Little did I know, that Maine and lighthouses had more in common than I could know at the time, and that one day I would get a chance to finally go. The dream began to take form as I got a bit older. A high school teacher put a workshop together and told us to create a vision board that we could keep. He instructed us to glue photos onto the boards of how we saw our futures. I recall one of the things he said about putting our intentions out there by creating something that we could visualize. By doing that we could make it materialize. At the time I was full of faith and really took everything he said to heart. From that workshop I would make Maine a "go to" destination on my list of things I had to do, if the opportunity ever presented itself.

Over the years, I doubted I would ever have the time though and Maine kind of settled there in the back of my mind, but was never too far from being a wish that I really wanted to come true. So, when a friend of mine had asked seven years ago if there was one place I had never visited that I had really wanted to go, I enthusiastically replied, "Maine!"

This winter, he surprised me. He invited me to Maine for holiday and had booked a full paid trip, airfare, lodging and transportation when we arrived. He said he had been wanting to take me to Maine since the day I had shared the story of my childhood wish. Two days before New Year's Eve last month, I boarded that plane to Bangor, and we headed off to discover this place that had always seemed to summon me.

I think all of the ventures we take in life, they are created first in an emotional setting, against an ideal, and we slowly develop our own storyline around that ideal. The reality though can be much different than what we expect. That's how I felt at the moment when Maine came into view from my tiny window in the airplane.

As we began our decent towards the landing strip at Bangor, I was straining to peer out the window, to see if it was anything like what I had envisioned it to be. Well, not exactly. From the air, it was snow and more snow. I was very familiar with snow, having lived in towns, and cities where clouds grinded snow all winter. The hard part is mastering the snow shovel, in low temperatures with numb fingers, in a bid to dig

ones' way out of their driveway, for one hour, just to get to work. I kind of winced at that memory and associated it with what we were about to encounter.

What surprised me about Bangor, as we began to descend, was the streets seemed to be empty. Where were the people? Where was the traffic? Chimneys were chugging with smoke, so I knew there was lots of life there, but it felt strangely odd to see little evidence of the typical mid-morning hustle. I'm not so sure how I felt about that at the moment. It seemed my ideal was melting away faster than a popsicle in an Arizona heatwave.

I was not to be disappointed for long. The fascinating thing about Maine is its incredible landscape can mesmerize you once you get on the ground. Even though the trees were covered in snow, they were stately. It was a humbling reminder, that our lives are so short in comparison to that of the white pine, spruce or fir, growing in the wild. They adapt to this immense pressure of cold for long winter months and still maintain all of their needles. Maine boasted of literally hundreds of thousands of these trees, all flocked with winter snow, and some with long shards of frozen icy glass, that glistened as if they were diamonds, when the sun hit them just right.

As we wended through the mini villages and towns towards Bar Harbor Maine, where our lodge was located, I was literally awestruck. It was like going back in time. The houses were beautiful. The churches were those kinds of churches you see on greeting cards at Christmastime. This was a place I can imagine painters like Thomas Kincaid taking a hiatus to.

Once we arrived at the lodge, I did a general online reconnaissance (a fancy french word meaning "survey") of the area. I had no idea that Maine even consisted of islands, but we were on one of the 3,166 coastal islands that surround the mainland. We were on Mt. Desert Island (pronounced dessert) by the locals, and I was looking forward to exploring the island.

I brushed up a little bit on the island geography and events that would be happening in less than 24 hours. We had arrived just in time for New Year's Eve and I wanted to bring it in, blowing on a paper tube horn, spinning a noise maker, and toasting champagne in a plastic flute, with partygoers.

I found that the Legion Hall was celebrating New Year's Eve. The tickets were \$50 per couple. I secretly purchased the tickets and selling tickets and purchased two, which we would end up attending. We met several people who we would end up hanging out with during our vacation



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Frozen waters begin to thaw in one of the fishing harbors on Mt. Desert Island.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Melissa Puryear stands in National Acadia Park.

in Maine.

The first day we found the port in Tremont, where the fish and lobster boats are tied up. My instinct told me that the port was closed for business due to winter. I stepped out of the rental car into the freezing wind, which seemed to rip through every layer of clothing I had on. The frigid air that coasts off of the Atlantic is bone-chilling. I switched to insulated snow boots, but the wool coat was no match for the high winds. I had a crocheted cap on, but I think that the crochet holes should have been much smaller, either that, or I should have worn the typical winter beanie I was used to.

We were temporarily tempted from our Maine destination over the border, to Quebec City. We both felt that neither of us would probably get the chance to go to Quebec in the future, and because we were so close, we might as well take the long road trip. There were challenges along the way. My friend failed to fill our seven-gallon gas tank for the long country roads route we were taking to get to the Canadian border.

In those lost places and spaces in the hills, towns could be sparse, with houses and farms spaced by great distances. One town we drove through had a gas station but it had been boarded up years ago and there was absence of cars and people.

Our hopes quickly sank that time, and quite a few other times, when towns came into view. To complicate matters, the majority of the drive lacked any reliable cellular coverage.

We were literally off the grid. There was this panicked feeling in the pit of my stomach. What if we ran out of gas and were stuck out in the middle of nowhere in 15-degree weather for the night? No one even



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

The Atlantic Ocean crashes into the shores at the seawall near Wonderland, on Mt. Desert Island.

knew we were heading to Canada. I was frustrated for the apparent lack of forethought and right when my nerves were at their worst, without announcement, a gas station appeared at the end of the road.

We eventually arrived in Quebec City. It was incredibly cold, so cold we made our way into a restaurant in one of the castles that had been renovated into a beautiful hotel.

Our plan was to stay for the day and head back later in the evening, but those plans had changed because we were so tired from the drive.

We found an Airbnb residence for rent listed as a "castle" 15 minutes away from the city and checked in. There was no heat and that night I was extremely cold and couldn't wait

to head back to Maine. The following morning, we changed plans and decided to stay for the day. However, our day was cut short by news of the "bomb cyclone," Grayson, that was headed our way. I was really worried in blizzard conditions that could create a complete white out. We might get in a wreck, get lost, or end up in a ditch. Due to poor cellular coverage and roaming, we got lost. At one point we were forced to use a paper map, because many of the French Canadians don't speak English in the suburb towns and could not communicate to us on how to get back to the border.

I didn't have a pen, so I took my Kylie J. lipstick and traced almost six hours of winding and splitting roads which was very difficult to read as it got dark. We eventually made it back safely.

The temperatures plummeted when Grayson hit our area. The air seemed to almost freeze once I exhaled.

I didn't want to miss whatever Grayson looked like, so as the storm blew through the island, I was standing outside on the balcony watching the swaying trees bending haphazardly at times.

It was really a great experience to see how powerful nature can be from a place of safety. We waited out the storm, and finally went to the road

to see that the trucks, with salt and plows, had rolled through. It was safe to explore the island.

We found Bass Harbor Head Light, a lighthouse that dates back to 1858. We would discover that of the 70 plus lighthouses along Maine's coast and on the island's edges, each has its own distinct color and light pattern, which tells mariners what lighthouse they are near.

One of my most memorable moments had more to do with the horror film "Hush," that we watched late one night.

I don't ordinarily watch scary movies. My imagination is too big. After the movie I was so afraid that I went to check all of the windows and doors on all three floors.

To my horror, I found two windows unsecured on the first floor, and the front door wide open. Somehow, we hadn't shut it hard enough and the wind had forced it open. I had to check under the beds, in the closets and in the showers for intruders.

In the end Maine will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Maine was in many ways nothing I could have expected, and everything I thought I'd end up loving and more. I recommend if you've wanted to visit some far off place do it. You have only one life to live so live for now.



JESSE PATINO / THE RIP

Melissa Puryear takes photos of nearby islands on the Atlantic.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

A Tremont resident takes a walk at dusk after Grayson hit.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Melissa Puryear stands in the National Acadia Park on first day in Maine