



The Renegade Rip

Vol. 90 • No. 2

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018

Tastries same-sex wedding cake case holds rally



PAIGE ATKISON / THE RIP

Eileen Rodriguez-Del Rio, the lesbian woman denied services by Cathy Miller for a wedding cake, holds a sign in protest at the Prayer Rally outside the Kern County Superior Court in Bakersfield.

By Paige Atkison
Reporter

Hundreds gathered in front of the Kern County Superior Court to pray and voice their support for local bakery owner, Cathy Miller, before her hearing Friday, Feb. 2.

Miller, owner of Tastries Bakery, faces a civil suit from the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing after she refused to make a wedding cake for same-sex couple Mireya and Eileen Rodriguez Del-Rio.

The suit alleges that Miller's refusal to bake a cake for the couple violates the Unruh Civil Rights Act, which protects consumers against discrimination on the basis of identity, such as sex, race, color, and sexual orientation.

Multiple community members spoke at the rally, including several pastors and Miller's legal team.

Miller's supporters distributed Tastries cookies with "Thank You" written on them while the speakers addressed the crowd.

Miller's pastor, Roger Spradlin of Valley Baptist, exhorted the crowd and encouraged them to break into groups and pray for the judge to rule in her favor.

"This isn't about discrimination,

it's about freedom of religion," said Dan Piedra, executive director of the California Family Council, the firm defending Miller.

"We want her to be able to exercise her constitutional rights."

Councilwoman Jacquie Sullivan echoed this sentiment as she addressed the crowd. "I represent all of Bakersfield," said Sullivan.

"Discrimination is something none of us like and none of us tolerate. But there's no question that the first amendment of the constitution is what we're dealing with. This is a God-given right- freedom of religion."

As Miller's supporters sang hymns and gathered for prayer, protestors held their own invocations.

"We pray that [Miller] will see that all people are worthy of love," said Audrey Chavez, local LGBT leader and founder of the Bakersfield AIDS Project.

Among the protestors were the same-sex couple denied services by Miller. Both Mireya and Eileen Rodriguez Del-Rio attended the rally in protest, carrying pro-LGBT signs.

"For us, it's not about religion or free speech. Miller didn't mention either of those when we met. It's about equal protection under the law," said Eileen Rodriguez Del-Rio. "The

speakers keep mentioning that it isn't about hate, but it feels like it is," she continued. "They even tried to keep us out of the event."

Miller denies that her actions are motivated by hate.

"We are not here because of cakes or sexual orientation. That's not what this is about," said Miller.

"Those are just the catalysts that have brought us together to face the real issue. The issue comes down to first amendment freedom and religious rights."

Miller's statements were met with whoops and cheers from the crowd, as well as sighs of frustration from the protestors.

"I cannot be a part of something that goes against my conscience, which is based on my spiritual beliefs," said Miller.

"And bigotry!" interjected a protester.

"Where's unconditional love?" shouted another protester.

Miller concluded her statement by encouraging the crowd to pray once more.

Kern County Superior Court Judge David Lampe ruled in favor of Miller on Feb. 5, allowing Miller to refuse to make wedding cakes for same-sex couples until the case comes to trial. The next hearing will be held in June.

BC faculty given presentation on Measure J Master Plan

By Christina Benavides
Copy Editor

Faculty gathered for a general presentation of the Campus Wide Facilities Master Plan and Measure J update in the Levan Center at Bakersfield College on February 5.

Our campus is expected to see a transformation by 2024 from receiving a \$502 million bond through Measure J.

There were several speakers including Bakersfield College President Sonya Christian.

Christian shared an example of students who can't get into classes such as biology or chemistry, and then must try each semester to get into the classes they need.

"They don't have to wait anymore, we are their community college, and it's up to us to have more classroom space and laboratory space," Christian said.

She also explained that now with the community's confidence in the plans for Measure J, they can now say that changes will endure within the next five to six years.

Christian mentioned there will be changes in the AG footprint, the laboratory spaces, the animal science laboratory, horticulture, gymnasium and memorial stadium.

That is only some of the many changes coming.

She also mentioned that remodeling the gymnasium was going to be impossible, but AECOM/Parsons, their consultant group, has come up with an alternative to address the needs for classrooms and kinesiology and athletics.

The gymnasium will be demolished, and a new building will expectedly surface in the summer of 2022.

Among the changes for this master plan is the Veterans Resource Center. This building is already in the architectural phase, and plans to open in the summer of 2019, according to Christian.

We will have a new welcome center, Administration, Bookstore and Conference Center building by 2024.

Trustee Bill Thomas, who led the effort for Measure J, added that the community was desperately excited to vote yes on Measure J because the only higher education was Bakersfield College.

He mentions that people would have to go elsewhere for additional education.

Thomas mentioned that AECOM/Parsons has assisted us in making a 25-year project into a 7-year project.

Adding, AECOM/Parsons has done much bigger projects than this

one and are efficiently skilled in what they do.

Thomas mentions that they have saved us 10 years of time we could have spent on the plan.

"It's been an enormously, heartfelt job for these people, but more importantly for the community," Thomas said as he commended AECOM/Parsons and the rest of the team at Bakersfield College for all their hard work on the master plan.

Scott Preston, a consultant for AECOM also spoke about their partnership with Parsons.

"Really the beauty of the partnership with AECOM and Parsons is the fact that we are looking at a master's plan, and an update to a master plan, but we are bringing reality to it at the same time, which is not an easy thing to do," Preston said about the hard work the partnership has brought to the master plan.

He adds that the pride that BC has, and the community has is real, powerful, and heartfelt.

The master plan for 2024 is a combination of new buildings and renovated buildings, according to Scott Preston.

These dates are key dates for the approval of the plan. While it is not a new master plan, it is an update of the one from about five years ago.



KARLA GUTIERREZ / THE RIP

BC administrators, faculty, staff and members of AECOM civil engineering firm look at the visual presentation the plans improve the Bakersfield College campus by 2024.

Distinguished speaker at BC talks about MLK Jr.

By Issy Barrientos
Reporter

The Office of Student Life welcomed Dr. Michael Eric Dyson on Feb. 8 to speak at the indoor theater. Dyson's speech is part of the Distinguished Speaker Series, an initiative began by Director of Student Life Nicky Damania, and SGA President Dezi von Manos to invite speakers that left an impact on American society.

Dyson is a professor from Georgetown University, and has authored many books. His speech that night was open to the public and students. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the 21st century was the talking point.

Dyson started the night by praising the Bakersfield College Chamber Signers, as they performed before him, and asking if they could sign

again so he could post their performance on "Facebook, Instagram... Tinder." With that comment he established the tone for the rest of the night. His wit and references created a solemn, but rarely quiet room. He had references for the younger members of the audience and the older ones too. He would sing and rap and have the audience continue the rest of the song.

King was a public figure that spent his life fighting for equal rights for everyone. "He wanted people to be equal to each other," said Dyson. Just as King fought for equality, Dyson expressed concern about minorities being attacked by the public and the current presidential administration.

Dyson recounted a story of how someone told him that he was going

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The Padre hosts musical duel with veteran pianists

By Melissa Puryear
Managing Editor

Rome Da Luce, 33, of Los Angeles and Michael Tuten, 34, of Las Vegas, are two dueling pianists with The California Dueling Piano's road show that came to Bakersfield.

Both teamed up to go head-to-head with an entertaining play-off to a crowd that had gathered to hear them at The Prospect Lounge in The Padre Hotel on Feb. 2.

Da Luce began his career at the age of 20, worked in a Milwaukee piano bar and was inspired by the shows he saw performed there. It's how he became a dueling pianist.

Tuten has been a musician for 30 years and part of dueling pianos for 13 years. He said he wanted to do something that he was crazy about. Music performances like dueling pianos fulfills that for him.

Both pianists' first evening was a part of a three-day series of performances lined up for Bakersfield. This is their third time in Bakers-

field, with each visit they perform a series of shows at The Padre.

At the top of the show the lounge was lively and nearly every seat was taken for the three-hour performance.

The Padre staff had created mood lighting and staging for two white grand pianos that were the center of focus. There were menu options ranging from calamari, sliders, and truffle fries, to artichoke dip and hummus.

Guests began arriving as early as an hour prior to the show and filled out song requests. Each song had a \$5 tag to it, but was upped to \$20 per request, with the kickback of being in a raffle drawing for a three-night's stay in a lavish Padre suite or a dinner gift certificate valued at \$50 in the Padre's Belvedere.

Although the show was a few minutes behind schedule due to technical difficulties, the crowd didn't seem to mind as staff was

Please see **PIANISTS**, Page 7



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Dueling pianists, Rome Da Luce and Michael Tuten from California Dueling Pianos, play the crowd's favorite classic hits at The Padre's Prospect Lounge.

Colleges may be granted millions for education

Issy Barrientos
Reporter

The 2018-19 state budget proposed by Governor Jerry Brown emphasizes higher education.

The proposal is set to grant colleges and universities millions of dollars' worth of funding, and to establish an online community college. According to the proposal, the California Community College system will receive "rewards" if they are able to meet certain criteria by guaranteeing a certain number of students graduate, students graduate within three years and the amount of students that graduate with associate's degrees.

The main objective is to have stu-

dents graduate. In order to graduate one must first attend college which can be a challenge for some students and their families.

The proposal states that the budget maintain the Cal Grant award at \$9,084 for attending nonprofit institutions such as community colleges. Audrey Dow, senior vice President of the Los Angeles branch of College Campaign, said that the enrollment of community colleges is tied with the economy.

Campaign for College Opportunity is an organization that advocates for Californians to have access to higher education, as their website states. The better the economy does, the more students will enroll in community

college.

The proposal states that community colleges will receive additional funding for low-income students. Dow continued to say that it is wrong for students to take too long to graduate. Packed classrooms where students have to sit on the floor are a side effect of a school that cannot graduate students fast enough. "I think it is a pretty great proposal. There are pros and cons as there are with many laws," said former Bakersfield College student Ethan Jannine. One con that Jannine sees with the proposal is that the student becomes just a number for the school in order to acquire that additional funding.

While student success is a plus,

it shouldn't come at the expense of giving individuals what they need.

The University of California (UC) system and the California State University (CSU) system will both receive an increase to their base resources by \$92.1 million according to the state budget proposal. California will have its first online community college through the proposal.

The new endeavor will be funded with \$120 million, and \$46 million to waive the cost of tuition for first-time and full-time residential students. The college will be funded through the state's general fund and state income tax.

At this time no new taxes are

scheduled to help pay for this. Jannine, a libertarian, likes the inclusion of the online community college. He sees it as a way for people to go to work and go to school. "During break knockout some work," he said.

While Jannine is out training as a paramedic he will definitely take advantage of the online community college. Bowen Sanders, a democratic socialist, is also in favor of the online school. "Online college is cheaper," said Sanders because it does not "have the overhead of a physical college." A college on the internet doesn't need to pay electricity, food, and for the space to educate students. Sanders also knows that students have a "stag-

gering amount of student debt."

There is \$46 million to help toward waiving fees.

Sanders said, "To hold their feet to the fire for a second time would be irresponsible of us as the most prosperous state in the union and we should feel responsible to do better for the citizens of California."

This captures the spirit of the proposal and help students, but the amount of funding is subject to change.

The budget's funding is based on taxes done in April with a new proposal in May to be signed in June. It is also currently unknown if the revenue from legalized cannabis sales will contribute to funding the proposal.

BC hosts four-day financial aid awareness campaign

By Fitzgerald Graves Sr.
Reporter

Bakersfield College hosted a four-day-long financial aid awareness campaign from Feb. 5-Feb. 8. This is the Fifth Annual BC Financial Aid Awareness Month Kick-off. The financial aid staff members convened at the Renegade Cross-Roads area for the resource fair, with tables, booths, and vendors.

The resource fair provided an opportunity for departments associated with financial aid to be more visible to the student body and share information about the various services that each one can offer. Students visiting the booth, were informed about the steps needed to complete the process for applying for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), while being encouraged to play games for prizes, sign-up for info, get a free slice of pizza and drink, and listen to popular music until a financial aid staffer could answer any questions that the students might have.

Students learned of other ways to finance their way through college outside of grants or loans.

BC student, Steven Lozada said, "I realize that there is a lot more to financial aid other than EOP&S and FASFA. I learned about BOG, work-

study and that you can combine financial aid resources and strategies to pay for school. I feel [the fair] was really a good job to give a more comprehensive approach to financial aid."

Another student, Madison Doeple said, "I learned about Job Speaker and EOP&S. I believe it gave visibility to the financial aid, because there is a whole week dedicated to it."

The four steps required to qualify for financial aid listed on the flyers handed out by financial workers at the event instructed students to first fill out and submit a completed FASFA online (fafsa.gov) using college code 001118.

Then wait for a response from Bakersfield College financial aid office confirming that the application was completed correctly or if further information is needed. After a student receives an award letter they should visit their Inside BC portal to review the finalized Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) knowing that funds will not be released until all eligibility requirements are met.

Once these steps have been completed students should expect to receive a check by mail, or may have funds deposited directly to the student's personal bank account. It is important to note that March 2 is a deadline for FASFA submission for

those students who qualify for Cal-Grants and priority registration.

Financial Aid staff member, Vanessa Hernandez, provided information about past and up-coming workshops for assistance with completing FASFA & Dream Act applications. The remaining workshop days are Feb. 15, Feb. 20-21, and March 1-2.

Hernandez said, "Students will have much easier access to completing a FASFA, because iPhones and tablets are more compatible with the FASFA website and the IRS verification process is more comprehensible as well as easier to acquire needed information for verification."

Some of the things students want to keep in mind are, that with the maximum grant funding of 600% it is expected that a student will have acquired a bachelor's degree and that if a student has not, scholarships and loans will be their only options."

The Financial Aid Awareness Week kicks-off a month long ambitious effort to provide the knowledge and necessary tools for new and returning students.

This information contributes to student's making informed decisions when goal setting and fine tuning their Student Education Plan (SEP) or Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) to align with their financial



FITZGERALD GRAVES SR. / THE RIP

Bakersfield College students gather at the Financial Aid Booths to learn more about financial aid benefits.

needs per semester. The urgency and importance to fill-out a FASFA and/or Dream ACT is emphasized in this year Financial Aid Awareness Month theme "racing."

It all starts with a visit to a Finan-

cial Aid booth, a walk up the stairs or a ride on the elevator to the Financial Aid Office located in the East entrance of the Student Services (SS) building on the second floor.

Office hours are Monday-Thurs-

day 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Students can call the BC Financial Aid office at (661) 395-4428 if they have any further questions about developing a financial aid strategy.

Downtown revitalization under way

By Melissa Puryear
Managing Editor

Bakersfield City Council and the Bakersfield Police Department are working together to revitalize downtown with grant funding that has been approved for 2018. Council member Andrae Gonzales and Bakersfield Police Department's Chief Lyle Martin held a press conference on Feb. 9 at Mill Creek Park, to discuss the plans to implement police officers on bikes.

Three officers from BPD's Impact Unit will be assigned during 2018 to provide downtown patrol on bikes and present a sense of safety for those who will be supporting downtown businesses.

These officers will work with the community and business owners in an effort to promote downtown Bakersfield as a business and community-friendly hub. The main objective of both the Bakersfield City Council and Bakersfield Police Department is for locals and out-of-towners who come to the downtown to consider it to be a safe and enjoyable place. In fact, they count on visitors to think of downtown when they want to find

something to eat, want to shop, or want to find new businesses to support.

BPD's Chief Lyle Martin said, "We want to make downtown a destination, not some place people just think about. We want people coming downtown. We're going to make things safe. The officers here are very approachable and we want to make this a community effort. Whether it's law enforcement, businesses, and the parks and recreation development, all of us. We need community oriented government. You're government is working for you tirelessly."

Chief Martin said that homelessness is a problem downtown, however, they are focused on providing homeless individuals with the resources and services they need.

Council member Andrae Gonzales said, "We want to see more people on foot walking from place, to place by improving the police presence we're able to do that. We're able to really encourage a lot more people to visit downtown and to roam around."

Some people may be skeptical about increased officer presence, but Gonzales said that this program is really to "build relationships ... with business owners, to engage visitors of the downtown area, to engage lots of

people who will work downtown, so that they can again create that sense of safety and security."

He addressed concerns over the homelessness that is seen in public spaces and said that officers will be working to connect the homeless with resources that are available in order to address these issues.

This effort is "part of a longer term effort," according to Gonzales.

The grant funding will fund three officers during the next year, however, he said that he will continue to pursue additional grant funding for this initiative. Gonzales stated that there are lots of areas that they would like to see grow, east of Chester for example, "is really coming alive."

This revitalization will be driven by people who support the product and services that businesses can offer. He also said that this will promote job growth as well. Regarding projections for growth, Gonzales said there hasn't been any academic study, however "... we know anecdotally, where we can assume that by encouraging folks to come downtown by spending real dollars in businesses that those businesses will thrive and in turn be able to hire more employees."

Gonzales said that they want a "collective mix" of businesses because



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Chief Lyle Martin of BPD addresses press at Mill Creek Park about downtown efforts.

it "creates an interesting and vibrant downtown ..."

He also said that this diversity will collect a broader range of consumer-ship. The revitalization project will include Union Avenue to Oak and Golden State to California Avenue. Old Towne Kern is considered to be a part of the downtown area to some people, according to Gonzales, and this is certainly an area that he would like to see revitalized in the future.

In fact, Gonzales said that this area is a part of his ward and he is currently exploring ways to work with business owners that are in that area.

Lindy Poteete, one of the BPD officers that will be patrolling the downtown area who is also a part of the "Impact Unit" that will be riding around in the downtown area on a bike said, "providing them [people] with a sense of safety and well-being by us patrolling the area and being a

little more personal by being on the bike, is a great thing for the downtown area."

Poteete encourages the community to reach out to the officers if they see them. "If you have something you want to talk to us about just ask questions, we'll try to provide you with the information you need."

Officers are approachable and are present to make a difference in the downtown area, according to Poteete.

\$5 million in HUD funding toward renewal projects for the Kern County Homeless Collaborative

By Miranda Defoor
Reporter

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be giving \$2 billion in funding to the United States. Out of the \$2 billion in funds \$5 million will be received locally. This HUD funding will go toward renewal projects for the Kern County Homeless Collaborative (KCHC), the local continuum of care. The KCHC is made up of several Kern County organizations

with different specialties and resources for the community. United Way of Kern partners with the KCHC to coordinate the HUD application and submission each year. All the organizations within the local COC apply for a renewal of a specific amount for their ongoing projects. These funds go directly toward the organizations. UW Kern does not keep the federal funds although their members pay fees and they accept donations.

"This funding alone does not solve

homelessness," Jessica Janssen, Homelessness Projects Manager said.

The majority of the HUD funding goes toward permanent housing and housing vouchers. The rest goes toward supportive services and case management.

The housing vouchers, which are funded through this money, are how community members can gain access to housing. The first priority of UW Kern and the KCHC is to provide immediate housing and meet the basic

needs of those who are experiencing homelessness. Shelters are emergency and temporary housing, according to Janssen. The goal is to establish stability and work with landlords who will rent to those who have been formerly homeless.

They currently do not have complexes or housing specifically for previously homeless community members, but they do have scattered site housing which are apartments or houses mixed in with low income

housing. The Bakersfield Homeless Center supports at risk families and community members with shelter, meals, and resources like transitional housing, counseling, healthcare, and job placement. The California Veterans Assistance Foundation also provides transitional housing as well as permanent housing for veterans and their families if they are experiencing homelessness.

The Mission at Kern County offers overnight shelter for men aged

18 and over, and provides transitional housing for those who go through a one year recovery program. Through these coordinated access points they can be referred through a quick referral tool to gain access to The Homeless Center for families, The Mission for those who are single, and the Veterans Assistance for veterans.

"It's easy to lump people, but these are individuals," Janssen said, "We need to remember that these are our neighbors and our community."

Bak-Anime convention comes to Bakersfield

By Alexandra Apatiga
Editor-in-Chief

Bakersfield welcomed the 10th Annual Bak-Anime convention for a two-day weekend event at the Kern County Fairgrounds, Feb. 3 and 4, bringing together artists, local vendors, gamers, cosplayers, celebrity guest panelists, and all things anime.

The convention, which centers around Japanese animation, held various Q&A panels, guest signings, fan meet-ups, and cosplay contests throughout the day for anime enthusiasts to enjoy. Attendees were treated to dozens of selling vendors and artists with wares ranging from food to clothing, collectible merchandise, comic books, manga and artwork.

Among the many booths, local shops like Silverwolf Comics and the Gaming Spot sold gaming and anime

themed merchandise to convention goers. Other dealers like Yay 4 Anime displayed Japanese themed candy and treats, Animebooks.com, an online service which sells Japanese novelties and art products, had books and manga for sale.

One of the many exhibitors at Bak-Anime, Artwork by Christopher Cayco, had hand drawn artwork by Fresno resident Christopher Cayco on display for purchase. A freelance illustrator, Cayco draws both original art and fan art of anime and games like Overwatch, League of Legends and Pokémon. His partner and girlfriend, Brenda Williams, explained that she and Cayco had been returning dealers to Bak-Anime for the last four years.

"It's very easy to come down to Bakersfield from Fresno," said Williams, "But what really has us com-

ing back is the support of local artists and the atmosphere."

According to Williams Bak-Anime is much more fan focused than most conventions she has been to. The man behind Bak-Anime, Steve Wyatt, says that pleasing the fans was exactly the goal from the very first convention. "As a promoter, it's my job to give the fans what they want, so when people in town began asking me for an anime themed convention, I delivered" explained Wyatt.

With over 40 year of experience hosting conventions, and the support of local organizations and fans, Wyatt held the first Bak-Anime nine years ago at the DoubleTree Hotel. "It's only grown since then," said Wyatt, "But as long as I have the support of local stores and the residents, I'll keep Bak-Anime as affordable and local as possible."



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Contestants for the Cosplay Contest for adults at Bak-Anime posing for photographs shortly before the winners are announced

My friend the sociopath

Mental Health: For mental wellness and awareness

By Christina Benavides
Copy Editor

Some of us are whole hearted, and we are willing to accept almost anyone. Especially because those of us dealing with mental illness already feel cast off as abnormal. At least we sometimes feel that way, due to society's standards. Over two years ago, I met a person who changed my life, but for the worse. It was the first time I had ever met someone like them. They expressed to me that they were a "sociopath", and this was a new term for me. I remember them telling me that they felt alone. I shared the same feeling, so without a doubt, I was there for them.

I have many regrets about the time I spent on this friend. I did not notice how toxic they were for me, but I am hoping to warn people who might have someone like this in their life or write this as a reference if they do run into a person like this. I'm



Christina Benavides

not a mental health professional, and anything I do or say is either backed up with research or clearly stated as my opinion from personal experience.

According to Psychology Today, sociopathy is a behavior pattern derived from anti-social personality disorder. The cause of this disorder is unknown, but both environmental and genetic factors are involved. I personally call these individuals sociopathic or sociopaths, if they have this behavior pattern.

One of the main issues I have with the sociopath is their lack of remorse for others. The friend I knew who claimed to be a sociopath was able to hurt me emotionally without shedding a tear. They were heartless and cold. They would manipulate me, and make me feel like his wrongs were my fault. You could imagine how horribly this would affect someone's mental health. You might think that maybe this person lied to me about their mental health, however their mental state was very clear at the time. This person was not mentally healthy. I remember them talking about their homicidal thoughts, and the thoughts they had about homicide. They would graphically talk about this with me.

This sociopath also manipulated many women, that I personally did get to talk to at the time. They would get these girls to fall in love with them just to discard them. Then they would return and the cycle was endless. This person even openly admitted to using women countless of times.

Some of these types of people do not normally have good intentions when they meet you. From my experience, it was traumatizing, and it took me so long to get over my interaction with a sociopath. It feels like they are playing a character because they behave exactly the way they need to in order to reel you in. They become this "perfect" person for you. According to Health Guidance, sociopaths have a limited capacity to love, and have the ability to use others around them for personal gain. Adding, the reason they do discard you is because they are simply bored. When I cut off ties with a sociopath, it felt like I lost someone who was close to me. That was the case for me, however in their eyes, it was just a game. I remember them telling me that. They never forgot to remind me that I was, "Just another piece in their game." My experience with the sociopath was a lesson learned. It was never my fault, and it is not your fault. I do want to warn anyone who does meet someone like this to be aware of their actions. If a person cares about you, they would never hurt you. Stay safe and always aware.

BC welcomes Bakersfield Adult School students to sample classes

By Miranda Defoor
Reporter

Bakersfield College partnered with the Bakersfield Adult School this semester to offer more classes to Bakersfield Adult School students. There will be a variety of different classes that will be offered at the Job Spot. Some of those classes will be English for multilingual students, English as a second language, citizenship classes, as well as a business class and a late start EMLS class, according to Jessica Flores, who is an academic liaison at the Job Spot.

The Job Spot is located in South

Bakersfield and will offer classes and resources to the community. Job Spot opened last semester with help from an Adult Education Block Grant, also called AEBG.

A BC adviser is on site at the Job Spot to help adult school students with assessments, an education plan, and enrollment in classes offered on BC's main campus and at the Job Spot. "Having a BC adviser helps ease the transition for a GED student who doesn't know what options there are," Flores said.

Flores helps the students at the Job Spot by providing reading and writing support, along with other academic support. The help from Flores

means students have all the resources available to them in one location, instead of having to go to BC's main campus. She described the Job Spot as a one-stop-shop for students if they needed tutoring or assistance, though the resources are open to anyone in the community. Some of those resources include resume development, GED and citizenship courses. Flores said, "Anyone can bring in a resume to be edited or have an email created."

From Flores' experience, many people taking the GED or citizenship classes may be older and may not have access to a computer in their home. This means that students may need help with computers, technol-

ogy, and navigating the internet.

Flores also said the Job Spot will be holding workshops throughout the semester that are open to anyone in the community, including BC and Adult School students.

The workshops will include topics like how to create a resume, developing interview skills for employment, and managing a professional social media presence. The dates are not yet set for the workshops.

There has been an increase in class size at the Job Spot since last semester, according to Flores. The class sizes have almost doubled. Even though they have increased, they remain somewhat smaller and allow students

to get one-on-one time with their instructors. Other perks to the Job Spot classes include the brand-new computers, classrooms at the new facility, and a program called Sample a Class.

Sample a Class allows those in the community to visit the BC main campus to take a tour and sit in on a class. The tour and in-class experience is offered to help prospective BC students feel more comfortable and prepared for their enrollment. "Adult students going to college may feel out of place," Flores said, "but they are able to see other students just like them when they visit campus. They can see it's never too late to start that journey."

Harry Potter celebrates 20 years

By Christina Benavides
Copy Editor

Hundreds of Bakersfield locals gathered at Barnes and Noble for the 20th anniversary of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer Stone," the first book in the widely known series.

This was one of the first events out of three that will be occurring this year, and a variety of ages were seen enjoying the magical experience with their families and loved ones.

Fans were dressed as their favorite characters and were seen in the colors that corresponded to their house.

As the event began at 6p.m., fans were able to enter a raffle to win a Harry Potter poster. Soon after, fans stood in line for the Sorting Ceremony. Anyone who has at least seen the

first movie can envision what this was like for fans, as they crossed their fingers hoping to get into one of the four Hogwarts houses they favored.

There were fun trivia activities for fans after they were sorted, and competition was fierce for the teams. Children had their own activity table for crafts and coloring.

The love and dedication Harry Potter fans had was shown through their creativity and determination during these activities.

In the sea of wizards and witches, there were two friends who have been huge fans of the Harry Potter series for years. Julianna Mullen and Fatma Ali explained the love they have for the book series.

"I started it when I was in elementary when I first moved here, and I

didn't really have a lot of friends, so I got my first friends through Harry Potter," Mullen said.

"They are also easy to read and enjoy, even for people who don't really like reading, and they are relatable," Ali said.

Mullen expressed that she was a Hufflepuff and Ali also mentioned she was apart of the Gryffindor house. Ali explained that she loves meeting fans from the same house, along with fans from other houses.

Mullen added that it was nice to see a lot of kids attending the event because the Harry Potter series came out when she was a kid and it's nice to see the tradition still going.

She mentions that the books are brilliantly written and it's like escapism with magic and wonder.



PAIGE ATKISON / THE RIP

Mayra Lopez and Neil Zuazo dressed as Harry Potter characters.

The event was held until 9p.m. and fans did not hesitate to stay the entire event. Be on the lookout for future

Harry Potter events, there are two more expected to happen this year at Barnes and Noble.

Japanese speakers talk about their lives in the internment camps during WWII

By Hector Martinez
Reporter

Two Japanese speakers addressed a crowd at CSUB on Jan. 30 to deliver a speech about how their lives were changed during World War II in the Japanese internment camps. Before the speakers began their speeches, a movie was played.

The film was about the story of Ralph Lazo; a Mexican American teenager who voluntarily went inside an internment camp so he could be with his friends. The film lasted a little over 30 minutes.

The first Japanese speaker, Mary Higashi, spoke to the audience about her family's life story and she shared with the audience how she felt during the Japanese internment camps. She gave a PowerPoint presentation in order to explain what her life was like.

"My father came to America in 1914. He came on a student visa when he was 17 years old at the request of his father who came to America in 1908. They lived in Bakersfield," said Higashi. When she was born she attended schools in Bakersfield including Kern County Junior High School which is now called Bakersfield High School. She also attended Bakersfield College. During her presentation she also shared about the experience her father endured, who was taken to the internment camp by the FBI.

"My father was taken by the FBI and he was gone for a year and this picture was taken after his return," ex-

plained Higashi.

Higashi told the audience that when Pearl Harbor was attacked she, like many other children, was at church. Later on the day she was told that Japan had attacked America and felt scared of what would happen to her parents.

Before the attack on Pearl Harbor took place Higashi's father wanted to become a U.S citizen, but citizenship was not available to him until the 1950's. In the 1950's he became the first Japanese person to become a citizen in Bakersfield.

Higashi also talked about a man that she met in the camp where she was and that he courted her for about three years, but she had told him that she was not sure if she could marry him because his father could be sent back to Japan.

Eventually, they were on May 1945 inside the internment camp. Higashi was able to forgive the government for its part in sending Japanese people to internment camps.

"I forgave the government and was able to live with myself. I have lived a happy life. If I had that hostility in me [I] would not have been able to; I feel I have been blessed because of my attitude," she said.

The Junior College (which is now Bakersfield College) gave an opportunity to the Japanese people who had been in an internment camps to graduate from a college.

Among those who graduated Junior College was Higashi. She was a

sophomore and was about to graduate from Kern County High School (now Bakersfield High School) in 10 days when she was taken to the camps along with her family.

"When the evacuation happened I was so disappointed that I didn't get to participate in the actual ceremony," she stated remembering when she was taken to the internment camps.

After Higashi's interview concluded the second Japanese speaker began to tell his story by letting the audience know of some important information that can improve someone's life.

Dr. Isao Fujimoto talked about the different methods that have helped people live their lives to their fullest potential.

"I want to talk about resilience because there is a saying in Japanese that if you fall seven times but on the eight-time you stand up and stay up, and that is a picture of resilience," said Fujimoto.

The second topic he mentioned was about community and he feels they are essential because you get the help from other people to get things done in life.

"Community means people working together to get together and get the job done," he said, "I believe that community and resilience are very important terms to keep on moving."

After stating in what way community and resilience helps a person, he said that having spiritual bearings can help others understand the pain in someone's life.



HECTOR MARTINEZ / THE RIP

Dr. Fujimoto talks to a group of local middle schoolers and answers their questions about his experience living in an internment camp.

"My mom grew up in Buddhism; she told me a little bit about the foundation and she told me about the Four Noble Truths," said Fujimoto, and he added "the Four Noble Truths say suffering is part of life we need to understand the cause of pain and suffering."

Jose Tonorio, a CSUB student, said that he felt really happy that he had the opportunity to go to this event where he was able to learn more about the internment camps.

"Some new information I heard was when they were transporting the Japanese people on the trains, and they did not know where they were going," said Tonorio.

He also learned that Japanese people had the opportunity to fight during the war because a draft took place almost right after the concentration

camps were introduced.

He also enjoyed the speeches that Fujimoto Higashi gave at the event.

"I really liked what Dr. Fujimoto said 'if you get knocked down seven times you stand up on the eight and you stay up.'"

Alanna James, a Bakersfield College student, also attended the event as well and was astonished by what she saw.

"The photos that Higashi shared were phenomenal. I liked how she was able to share all about her family and we were able to witness it as well," James said.

What really surprised her most was the sideshow were Fujimoto and Higashi managed to deliver informative speeches. She concluded by saying that she would gladly attend future events at CSUB.

Ron Saylor hosts a benefit performance at BC

By Karla Gutierrez
Photo Editor

The night began with music and ended with magic on Feb. 2. A Night of Magic with Ron Saylor was a benefit performance for the Bakersfield College Chamber Singers.

The proceeds will go toward the choir's upcoming tour in Australia where they will be singing at the Sydney Opera House.

Bakersfield College Chamber Singer's choral conductor, Dr. Jennifer Garrett, began the event and mentioned that she had met Ron Saylor.

She told him that they had raised about \$75,000 and still needed \$50,000 more. Saylor lent a hand and wanted to do a show for them.

Dr. Garrett stated that the BC Chamber singers were one out of nine performing choirs to be accepted at a conference at San Jose.

They sang three musical pieces that will be sung at the conference. One of the pieces performed was written by local composer, Dr. Ron Keen.

The audience appeared to be in a state of awe, as the three pieces concluded.



KARLA GUTIERREZ / THE RIP

Ron Saylor and the BC Chamber Singers pose for a photo after the benefit performance on Feb. 2 in the Indoor Theatre at BC.

Ron Saylor started off his show full of magic by inviting an audience member to join him on the stage.

He gave this audience member, Alison, the book of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" where she had to pick a page in the book and he had to recite it without looking. They were back to back while this trick was being performed. When they were

back to back and the trick was in the works, he slid out a copy of the book and would be specific on what he was citing.

The part that amazed the audience was not only was he showing that he had the book in this young girl's face, but he had revealed that the book was blank.

His third illusion featured his assis-

tant Katie, was placed inside a locked box. Saylor placed a saw in between the waist area and started to move the upper half of the box to the side without touching the box. The top part started to slide through and she was cut in half.

Then he showed the audience that she was in half by opening the front door of this box. They posed and he

moved the box again to its original state and Katie came out. The audience seemed to really enjoy that magic trick.

Ron Saylor is also known for his mentalist tricks, two of them which shown on the Indoor Theatre stage.

One of them needed three audience members. Saylor's job was to predict what came to the participants' minds

and write it down on a whiteboard.

One of the members was a little boy, David, who was given the choice of 52 cards out of a deck, had to choose at random, and then kept the card in mind.

The other audience member, Korbyn, was asked by Saylor to think of his favorite person and then Saylor wrote down his prediction. Saylor asked him to reveal his answer, which was Ariana Grande.

He asked the third participant, Barbara, to think of her favorite place to visit and repeated the process.

Saylor went back to the boy and told him that he's going to predict what card he had by drawing it on the whiteboard.

One by one he guessed every single person's favorite thing, which got a huge reaction.

At the end of the event, the BC Chamber singers posed with Ron Saylor for a picture.

After Saylor and his assistant signed autographs they took pictures with the audience members who were in line.

At the close of the show audience members shared how they had really enjoyed with Saylor's performance.

Kern River Blues Society hosts a blues jam with musicians at Kernville Saloon

By Melissa Puryear
Managing Editor

The deep bass of electric guitars, coupled with the boom of drums, and the hum of a couple of harmonicas belted out Classic Old Bluesy hits like B.B. King's "Sweet Little Angel" from a band of mixed musicians at The Kernville Saloon on Feb. 3 in Wofford Heights.

Every first Saturday of the month independent musicians and music lovers from Kern County, known as the Kern River Blues Society, gets together at The Kernville Saloon for a blues jam session.

They also practice every third Saturday, at the Rocket Shop Café in Bakersfield on Union Ave.

The organic sounds of this blues band are pooled with decades of talent, a passion for the blues and a

mixture of ages, that draws locals and out-of-towners together for an afternoon. Each song lasted for around six minutes.

Bud Malone, 80, a local resident of Old Kernville sat at the bar and watched jazz musicians play their electric guitar strings.

He said that he knew one of the harmonica players and attends the blues session to "get a couple of drinks and relax."

Bob Townley, 62, one of the musicians, drove in from Bakersfield to play. He said that he takes the short road trip each month to play his electric guitar. Townley said that he has been a musician for almost 50 years. "It's just a hobby. I'm semi-pro," said Townley.

Townley also said, "It [the blues sessions] helps. The more playing I do, the better it gets. Music has been such a huge part of my life, I can't

imagine being without it. My tastes have evolved over the years, from Beatles to jazz, to classical country, progressive rock. Progressive rock was mostly popular in the 70s, groups like, Yes, Genesis and Todd Rundgren. One of his hits is Hello it's me." Townley played "Hello It's Me," impromptu to give an indication of what this classic sounded like.

Christine Delgado 53, a realtor for Century 21 in Lake Isabella, said that she attends the sessions because "It's amazing to hear musicians who don't play together and come together and make amazing music."

It's a constant rotation of local musicians and from other places. It's what I love about coming here. We love these musicians. I've been enjoying this saloon for more than twenty years and it's like family ... a small-town feeling."

Rochelle Richards 61, who is a



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Bob Townley, who travels from Bakersfield each month, plays electric guitar onstage with other blues musicians at the Kernville Saloon for a blues jams session as part of the Kern River Blues Society.

local and friends of Delgado, said, "I came to listen to the music. It's

nostalgic. I love the blues. It makes me happy. Mustang Sally was my fa-

vorite song that the musicians played tonight."

Renegade Struggles: Jourdan Moro

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 Christina Benavides
Copy Editor

Full-time Bakersfield College student Jourdan Moro, 19, found joy in playing for the Renegade Volleyball Women's team, and excelling in her academics despite the obstacles she has faced.

Moro has been playing volleyball since she was in 6th grade. She describes volleyball as a sport she can escape in when she's feeling stressed. Moro adds that with her friends being on the team, it also provides her comfort.

Not only has she found comfort in this sport, but has found comfort and happiness at church. Moro mentioned that she has a good relationship with God, and carries this with her in all aspects of her life.

She adds that this relationship pushes her every day to be a better person and to do everything to the best of her ability, including helping other people with anything they need. Not only does her relationship with God affect her positively, but her parents are supportive of her.

One night changed Moro's perspective on life. This was on Oct. 1, 2017, in Las Vegas at the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival. That's when a gunman opened fire from

his Mandalay Bay hotel room, killing 58 people in the crowd. Moro explained the terrifying experience she had and how overwhelming the situation was for her and her loved ones.

"It started off as people kind of ducking because no one knew what was going on, and everyone was kind of hunched down crying and covering each other, and I remember I was crying and praying because I was trying to call my parents," Moro said as she described her perspective of the event. Adding that everyone was frantic, but she did end up finding her parents safe after a while.

"The stage split two sides of the arena, and my parents were separated from me and my friends, so it was really terrifying not knowing where they were," Moro said.

Moro mentioned that some people at the concert thought others were overreacting or didn't believe anything bad would happen.

"Our whole hotel floor was under investigation, so we couldn't go back in our hotel room for a long time," Moro added.

She also shared that she had to stay two extra days in Vegas after the shooting because she was staying on the same hotel floor the gunman was on. Overall, Moro and her loved ones did end up safe.

She explained that when she returned to BC after the traumatic event,

her professors were very understanding. During the time, Moro was very stressed about missing school work. Although she struggled with school during that hard time she has managed to excel in her college courses, and she is proud of how far she has come.

Moro also mentioned that she uses this experience as motivation to not let others dictate how her life is going to turn out. Adding, she has been more mindful of how she treats other people. She believes that she appreciates her life much more since the event. Moro shared how important it is to treat others with respect because you never know what they are going through.

She mentions her experience as an example, no one knew what was going on in her life, just like we don't with other people around us.

Moro mentioned that she attended a support group at her church with other people who were at the festival during the shooting.

She adds that a trauma specialist attended, and people were encouraged to share their stories if they wanted to. Nonetheless, Moro has grown as a person from her experience, and she pushes herself through tough times.

"I feel like for my own benefit, I kind of mentally made that choice to push through it no matter what," Moro said.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

BC Renegade Volleyball player, Jourdan Moro, 19, smiles while she poses for a picture after sharing her struggle story in which she recounts how she survived the Las Vegas mass shooting.

Dr. Dyson talks racism and sexism at BC

By Alexis Pedroza
Reporter

Bakersfield College hosted distinguished speaker Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, who spoke to students in an open forum on Feb. 8. As a part of Black History Month the BC African-American Initiatives group here on campus teamed up with library department chair Kirk Russell in order to put together this cultural event, which took place in the fireside room at 11:15 a.m.

Many students and faculty were there to discuss Dyson's new book "Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America" which tackles the issues of racism and continuous inequality in American Society today.

It addresses the growing intolerance with minorities, which according to Dyson is a topic that most Americans aren't willing to talk about.

Dyson quickly broke the ice with a couple of jokes and cultural references, which included rapping lyrics from Tupac Shakur and even quoting Cardi B. The students enjoyed his ability to keep up with the modern

trends and the faculty related to his references from past iconic shows like "The Jetsons."

"We're living in interesting times, the very notion of a safe space is under attack right now especially here in California," Dyson said. He referred to the Dreamers who are under the DACA Act and how they are facing hardship under this current presidential administration. He then made a transition to his book and the feedback he receives from readers, which come from both fans and people who strongly disagree with his viewpoint.

Later, students were able to ask questions regarding the book and his experiences in education.

He mentioned that he did not start his college education until he was 20 years old and worked his way up to top universities such as Princeton where he was a graduate student. He also talked about his experiences as a professor and how it enabled him to grow as an intellectual and author.

The discussion came to an end, but was later followed up by another one at 2 p.m. This time around Dr. Dyson geared the open forum towards xenophobia (the fear of foreigners) and its

current state. "I wish there was less xenophobia," Dyson said.

He mentioned the importance of people coming together in order to create a better future for our children as well as a fair one.

Continuing on the discussion Dyson brought of the issue of offensive word usage in today's society by saying, "Everyone should have common sense."

He also presented a humorous example of it by reminding the audience that they wouldn't talk to their mother the same way they talk to their friends.

"You'll know that is not the woman to be tested, everybody knows when they can and can't apply words," Dyson said.

As the forum ended host Kirk Russell thanked Dr. Dyson for his visit to Bakersfield College and so did the audience. Afterwards, there was a book signing and fans of Dyson's books had the chance to get an autograph. His final Presentation took place at BC's indoor theater at 7 p.m., where he spoke about the civil rights movement throughout the years.



ALEXIS PEDROZA/THE RIP

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson discussing his experience as an author and talking about his new book "Tears We Cannot Stop"

Women!!!

Professional Wrestling Culture: From a fan's perspective

By Karla Gutierrez
Photo Editor

Women have been attempting to find their place in the world, from the right to vote to obtaining equality. In professional wrestling, however, women have always been looked down upon. They were looked at as sex symbols, instead of being considered for their athletic ability. Two decades ago, it was a rarity to see women wrestlers respected by the wrestling community as a whole. Some of these women included Chyna, Lita, Luna Vachon, Bull Nakano, etc. stood out because of how unique they looked and how strong they were.

In the past female wrestlers were only given three minutes to perform in front of an audience, in comparison to male wrestlers. People would label those three minutes as a "bathroom break." They were never given the time to tell a story until the Trish Stratus vs. Lita storyline occurred.

Trish Stratus and Lita were complete opposites from each other. Trish Stratus was the "eye candy" and the beautiful blonde that most people adored. Lita was the badass and daredevil, which captured the audience's attention. The audience noticed their fire and aggression which lead them to the main event Monday Night Raw. That was the first time that women were the main event for Raw, which was a huge milestone. The main event card has always been for the guys so for the women to finally get their spot as the most important match for the first time ever, gives me goosebumps writing about it.

The aftermath for this match received a great response, but the company didn't seem to have faith in the women; therefore, they went back to being the "bathroom break" for the show. Trish and Lita had retired when the women went on to be called "Divas" in 2008. The championship title went from being gold with red reading "WWE Women's Champion" to a silver and pink butterfly reading "WWE Diva's Champion."

I was saddened that the company didn't look at them as women wrestlers or superstars, as WWE likes to call them. No matter how many times they tried to prove that they were worthy, the women didn't get the chance to show what they were truly capable of.

Around the same time, the developmental system, NXT, that is currently run by Triple H, allowed women wrestlers to wrestle more than 15-minute matches in a NXT event, in comparison to the time given in WWE.

There's many factors of how the "Women's Evolution" started, but I felt like it was sparked by AJ Lee, former Divas Champion and retired wrestler. Then Triple H ignited it with NXT. I can't forget to mention the hashtag that trended for three days, #GiveDivasAChance, that started because the women had a 30-second match, which the audience felt was insulting and they spoke out about it. Triple H gave wrestlers Sasha Banks and Bayley a match with no time limit at one of their pay-per-views called "NXT Takeover: Brooklyn." This match was the most talked about than any other matches on the card. This match was considered "Match of the Year" in 2015.

In 2016, something finally clicked for WWE and women wrestler were finally given an equal status as male wrestlers, by being referred to as "Superstars." With this introduction, they brought back the WWE Women's Championship with a different look. From that point forward, the women have been creating history; two of them being this year.

The women have been breaking barriers and have been setting the bar. The only thing they need is to main event the biggest show in wrestling, WrestleMania, wrestling's version of the Super Bowl. I know in my heart that they will accomplish that.



Karla Gutierrez

The Panorama Invitational showcases Kern County high school students' artwork at BC

By Hector Martinez
Reporter

The Panorama Invitational will be exhibiting the artwork of Kern County high school students at Bakersfield College's Wylie and Mary Louise Jones Gallery, and is open from Feb. 1 to March 8 to anyone who would like to see the students' displays.

The art show provided the audience members a table with food, in order for them to eat a snack while seeing the high school students' artwork. There were several paintings and a few ceramic sculptures displayed inside the Bakersfield College's gallery.

Jeff Huston and Ronnie Wrest, who are both art professors at BC, were in charge of the art show. Huston mentioned that a total of 73 art pieces were being shown. He also said that they do not choose the student's artwork because the high school teachers are the ones that are supposed to select the drawings or art pieces they want to show.

"However, as a curator, we reserve the right not to show a piece of art if it does not meet with the division statement of the gallery, but that has never happened."

Huston pointed out that an art show

is meant for the students, and that is why they trust and work with the faculty members of each high school. He later continued to explain that the Panorama Invitational is meant to express the artwork of the students.

There were a few people who went to the art show to see drawings of high school students that they knew, and that was the case for Natalia Perez, a Bakersfield Museum of Art worker. She said that there is a program for high school students at the museum of art and that was the reason why she went to the Panorama Invitational.

"We have a high school program at the museum for high school students and some of them are exhibiting... so far I have just seen two of our student's art pieces," said Perez.

Laurie Flohr was going for the first time to the Panorama Invitational, and what led her to go was her daughter's artwork exhibition. She explained that she was happy to see her daughters artwork because she witnessed how much time and effort she has dedicated to all of her classes, but most importantly to her art drawings.

"The title of it is 'The Eyes of the Artist.' I did not get to see it until today, but when I saw it I felt really



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Inside the Wylie and Mary Louise Jones Gallery at BC, student Joseph Lara examines the artwork on display.

happy to see my daughter's drawing." Nestor Ocampo, 19, is a BC student who also attended the first day of the artwork gallery.

He initially indicated that he attended because his professor told the class that the Panorama Invitational was going to be an extra credit assignment. After being in the art show



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Various pieces of artwork created by Kern County high school students on display at Bakersfield College's Wylie and Mary Louise Jones Gallery for the Panorama Invitational.

for a while Ocampo said that there was a drawing that caught his attention. "Temptation" clearly this can relate to me or anyone really where you are choosing whether to study for an exam or not. For example, sometimes I have to choose between playing video games or studying and there is how temptation works with

me," concluded Ocampo.

The Panorama Invitational will be open from Monday to Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. After the Panorama Invitational Professor Huston indicated that there will be an artwork show from BC students, the opening day is yet to be announced.

Local high school students given first hand look at agriculture through Bakersfield College's Agriculture Exploration Day



FATIMA LOPEZ / THE RIP

Agriculture major, Leticia Medina, shares her student story to the group of students that attended Ag Career Day at BC.

By Alexandra Apatiga
By Editor-in-Chief

Kern County High School students were given the opportunity to learn about the many professions offered through agriculture at the Agriculture Career Exploration Day event at Bakersfield College Feb. 9.

The event which was sponsored by BC along with the Kern High School District and the Kern County Farm Bureau, invited students to participate in numerous presentations and dem-

onstrations highlighting BC's Agriculture Department. Guest speakers, BC faculty and students, and industry professionals emphasized the many career paths students can take under the agriculture industry.

Areas of focus that were touched on during the career exploration day included mechanized agriculture, plant science, agribusiness or agriculture production, animal science, safety, and regional sales.

Aliyah Khan, a junior at BC and the ICC representative for the AG Club,

noted the importance of high school students understanding the many career paths students can follow.

"A lot of people see agriculture as just someone plowing a field or feeding livestock in a cowboy hat and boots," shared Khan, "but in reality, agriculture is a very broad umbrella with all sorts of areas of work and study."

According to Khan the BC Agriculture Department is working to show students through outreach programs the different areas of agriculture.

Schools such as Foothill, Bakersfield, and Cesar E. Chavez High

School attended the all-day event, with high school students being introduced to the various degrees at BC.

Alma Ramirez, a high school sophomore and Arvin High School student, attended the many presentations held during the Agriculture Career Exploration Day.

"It's a great way for us to know all the different industries we can go into through agriculture" said Ramirez.

Ramirez shared that in her AG

program, they mainly focus on caring for livestock and making flower arrangements, something that reflects only a fraction of the agriculture industry.

"If you keep getting involved, you meet new people and those that you can make connections with," said Ramirez on the importance of networking, a skill which she explained was crucial within the agriculture industry.



FATIMA LOPEZ / THE RIP

Mike Riel from Grimmway Farms speaks about his journey as an agriculture student and how he succeeded in his field being a BC alumnus.



FATIMA LOPEZ / THE RIP

Renegades from the BC Agriculture club help set up some refreshments for the high school students that attended Ag Career Day on Friday, Feb. 9.

Movie Review

"The Post" delivers realistic portrayal of those who protected free speech

By Melissa Puryear
Managing Editor

Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks star side-by-side in "The Post," a nearly two-hour film packed full of drama and suspense, by director, producer, and screenwriter Steven Spielberg, who is well-known for adapting true stories to film.

Spielberg's film focuses on how leaked government documents during the Nixon administration prompt an attempted cover-up of the truth. Through a series of demands and court injunctions brought against the New York Times and the Washington Post, both newspapers are under fire and refuse to comply with government requests to cease printing the classified documents' contents, which had been shared by an informant.

The film, which is based upon a true story about Katharine Graham, publisher of the Washington Post newspaper, is played by Streep. Challenging the conventional wisdom of the time, she took a calculated risk to protect free speech, during an era rife with sexism, internal conflicts, power, and government secrecy. Hanks plays a supporting role as Graham's executive editor, Ben Bradlee, who stands firmly with Graham in her decisions and at some points in the film, forces her to make a choice. The future of free press stems back to this crucial moment in history, where the viewer is left to wonder what the truth costs when the world is watching.

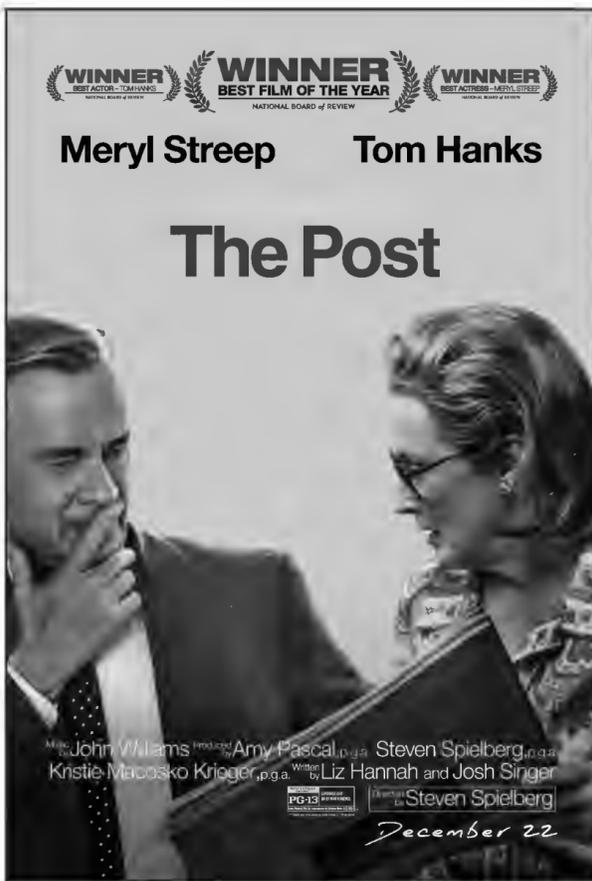
The film has a strong believability factor about it: That's because the actors that Spielberg chose to perform in these huge roles worked amazingly well together, merging their onscreen characters with a congruent depiction of people that these events portrayed. Not only that, but Spielberg who is keen enough to know just how

to exploit the viewer senses, does eerily so, with scenes, props, locations, speech, mannerisms and behaviors that remain analogous to the 1970s era, from which the story was fashioned. The ability to do that, permits the viewer to be taken back to a time when only experiencing it, can give an idea of what a radical shift in the perception of government rights and powers has occurred, and what speaking up can accomplish. Without the defiance of the corrupted power, first amendment rights for journalists and all people are in jeopardy.

The high-paced tempo of scenes, packed with continual suspense, kept the viewer postponed in their assessment of what may or may not take place, especially for those generations who were either too young or didn't exist during a time when a big slice of controversial history was being served up.

The key scenes which set a fiery tempo in motion: the hotel scene when the Pentagon Papers were handed over, when the reporters were busily reading thousands of pages so that they might glean the truth to beat a print deadline, Grahams house packed with a team of lawyers and respected council who attempted to dissuade her from going to print, the accusation of treason and the threat of prison, the Washington Post printers who stood by the phone waiting for their signal to roll with the press, and when the reporters gathered around the television to hear the verdict which would decide the fates of the New York Times, Washington Post and free speech for the country.

My final analysis is that while the film briefly felt just a bit confusing at the beginning, because there were many scenes packed within the first 20 minutes which made it a bit of a challenge to know who was doing what and why; nonetheless, it was



GOOGLE IMAGES

a very enlightening film about how politics, paper and people change the course of history. The consistency of pace, storytelling, and drama moved effortlessly from scene-to-scene. Spielberg's task as a director is to tell a story that draws the audience in as

though it is their own personal experience, and this film accomplishes that. It's as close to realism as one can get, without having been present.

For movie times, check local listings.

★★★★★

Book Review

"The Weird Sisters" was heartfelt, thought-provoking and just a bit odd

By Sabrina Lopez
Reporter

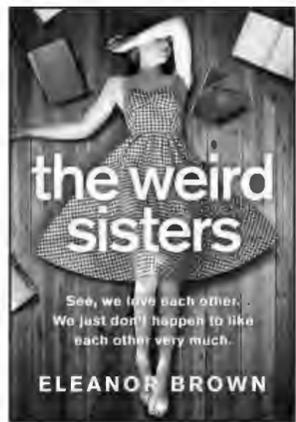
In 2014, my aunt gave me a book called, "The Weird Sisters" by Eleanor Brown.

At first glance the book doesn't really grab your attention, nothing stands out about it and if you judge a book by its cover (like most people do), then this one would most definitely be left on the shelf to collect dust.

Although it says, "New York Times Bestseller," above the book's title, I was still skeptical that this claim was genuine, as it seems to me that every other book has that stamped on it.

At the time in 2014, I was living in a new town and a new home that had neither cable nor Wi-Fi and under these circumstances reading the dictionary would've sufficed, but thankfully I had "THE WEIRD SISTERS" and NOT the dictionary.

The reference weird sisters come from Shakespeare's play Macbeth, and the word weird for Shakespeare meant something closer to "fate." The



GOOGLE IMAGES

story centers around the three main characters, those being the weird sisters: Rosalind (Rose, the oldest), Bianca (Bean, the middle), and Cordelia (Cordy, the youngest).

The father of the weird sisters, a Shakespearean scholar who speaks mostly in verse throughout the book,

named each of his three daughters after one of Shakespeare's famous heroines.

But it is when the sisters return to their childhood home, supposedly to care for their mother who was diagnosed with cancer.

But in truth: one is running from her problems, another is compelled to return after her life is left in shambles due to her poor choices.

This book was everything to me from start to finish, engaging, thought-provoking, and with well-drawn out characters.

What I liked most is how the author Brown entwined so much of Shakespeare's original words so effortlessly, before this book "To be, or not to be," was the extent of my Shakespeare vernacular.

In general, this belated coming of age story will resonate with readers because it ultimately is a story about identity.

And though there is no exact age given, we can presume that these sisters are in their twenty-somethings teetering on thirty- somethings.

The perfect age to ponder and at the same time regret: who we are, and whether we can change, and how, no matter what path we take, life has a way of bringing us back full circle to the truth, whatever that may be. Personally there were some uncomfortable moments for myself, like seeing what I like least about myself written on a page or two.

Overall I truly enjoyed this book and over the years, I still feel myself being drawn back to the story of the three weird sisters.

If you have sisters like me, you will treasure this book and like me, most likely will be comparing yourself and others to "The Three Weird Sisters," to confirm which one you are.

A forewarning for anyone wanting to pick up the book, it does deal with adult themes and language.

★★★★☆

Renegade Events

News

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

Campus Events

- Feb. 12:** HBCU Caravan at the Campus Center and Renegade Crossroads at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Feb. 13:** Grand Opening of Fine Dining Service at the Renegade Room with reservation times at 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 14:** Gadfly Cafe discusses "War: Causes, Consequences, and Costs" at the Norman Levan Center from 12:30 to 1:30 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 Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater) at 2-4 p.m.
- Feb. 24:** Sterling Silver Dinner 2018
- Feb. 28:** Rhetorical Precise Workshop at CCS-151 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- 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. 03:** The Greatest Show in Bakersfield: Chamber Singers Broadway Dinner at Fireside Room and Cafeteria from 5-7 p.m.
- Mar. 06:** Spring Orientation at Forum 101 from 5-7 p.m.
- Mar. 06:** Tejon Tribe: Past and Present at BC Fireside Room from 3-4 p.m.
- Mar. 08:** Reimagining Equality: Inclusive Communities in Post-Obama America at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts (Indoor Theater) from 6-8 p.m.
- Mar. 14:** Gadfly Cafe discusses "Truth: Objective, Invented, Esteemed?" at the Norman Levan Center from 12:30 to 1:30 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 Serenade: 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.
- Apr. 13:** Arte a la Fresco at Noche de Cultura hosted by BC M.E.Ch.A at the Outdoor Theatre

Off Campus Events

- Feb. 14:** 1st Annual Valentine's Bash at the Bakersfield Music Hall of Fame from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 22:** Kern County Career Expo at Rabobank Arena and Convention Center from 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 24:** Black American History Parade at 21 St. and V St. starting at 10 a.m.
- Mar. 01:** Cinema Macabre: What Ever Happened to Baby Jane starting at 5 pm.
- Mar. 01:** Read Across America in the Ballroom at Four Points by Sheraton Bakersfield from 8-10 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



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.

The Renegade Rip

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All of Us Journey seeks to collect and research genetic links for longevity

By Melissa Puryear
Managing Editor

Bakersfield was the 6th city on the tour calendar this year for The All of Us Journey, an interactive mobile unit on wheels, which houses demonstration segments about Precision Medicine (PM).

The "Journey" is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and was locally hosted by The National Alliance for Hispanic Health at Maya Cinemas, on Jan. 25. The educational exhibit gave the public an opportunity to learn more by witnessing some of the cutting-edge research that PM has accomplished.

This is designed to be the largest collaborative research effort with hopes of surpassing one million participants during the tour.

According to Diane Beltran, Senior Program Director, the All of Us Journey began in August of 2017 and has visited 17 states and 33 different markets.

Participant's information could inform researchers about the optimal route to prevention and cure of injury and disease.

Furthermore, "Researchers will have access to an unprecedented

amount of data that can lead to medical breakthroughs. By studying patterns in the data, researchers can begin to identify why people respond to treatments differently," according to NIH's website. NIH's goal is to educate and promote a better, smarter, more intuitive health paradigm based upon the Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI) which, according to Oscar Trinidad, a representative for NIH, who attended the Bakersfield event, the Obama Administration introduced.

Trinidad said that the tour is intended for educational purposes and to gather medical information from those who wish to participate in the research program. He said the cohort study will remain ongoing and there is no fee to participate in the study.

PM involves the study of the influences of environment, diet and the genetics of a person, and how that can have an effect on a person's health. Armed with this information, researchers can develop ways to help doctors create an individualized care plan based on the needs of each person.

From stem cell science that can encourage regenerative tissue in a compromised heart, and a person's



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Francisca Huizar, An All of Us representative shows how to operate the Exploration Wall of Common Factors, a questionnaire that finds common patterns amongst people.

own immune cells eradicating cancer and other various diseases, the use of research and care combined together, can mean enhanced, prolonged, and healthier lives.

Trinidad said, "In the broad spectrum of healthcare, it's not really ap-

plied, [PM] and what we're trying to do is collect a bunch of data from a million people, is our goal. This cohort study will be an on-going one where each participant will remain with the study, so that data can be collected over a sustained period of time.

Currently the program is in Phase 1, in which an educational team travels for the first year across America, in order to educate the public about the All of Us Journey and benefits of PM."

The mobile unit which will travel across America during 2018, will allow participants who attend the event to fill out a questionnaire.

They will be taken on a hands-on, visually-aided tour and presentation of the mobile unit. The unit features a short film which informs attendees about the benefits of participating in the program.

At the end of the tour, the public will get an opportunity to create an account where they will be able to complete their registration for the cohort study. This event didn't require participants to provide any DNA, according to Trinidad.

Once the participant completes their questionnaire at the event, they will get a follow-up call from the nearest local center that will schedule a date and time in which the participant's body will be measured, a swab of the mouth will be done, and a blood and urine sample will be taken, according to Trinidad.

Trinidad said that the turnout for Bakersfield was promising.

PIANISTS: The Padre invites musicians to host a dueling piano spectacle for local Bakersfield audience

Continued from Page 1

By Melissa Puryear
Managing Editor

on hand to serve a vast selection of beer, food, wine, and mixed drinks.

Valerie Guzman, 28, of Bakersfield, who is a bride-to-be and will tie the knot with her fiancé Arlen Littlefield, didn't mind the delay. That's because it was her bachelorette celebration, and it was also her first time attending a dueling piano performance. Guzman said, "I'm very excited because classic music is my favorite."

Guzman admitted she didn't know what to expect. She said she was open to the idea of being pulled on-stage and embarrassed by a ballad if it came down to that, "As long as it's a love song that I like."

Once the show was underway, the lounge vibed with borrowed classics like Earth, Wind & Fire's "September," Elton John's "Bennie and the Jets," Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive," Eagles "Hotel California," and Bill Withers "Ain't No Sunshine When She's Gone."

Both Da Luce and Tuten performed 80s Top-Billboard pop culture hits like "Careless Whisper" by Wham!, "Purple Rain" by Prince, and "Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey.

They changed some classic lyrics to reflect some not-so-proper verbiage, but made sure that the listening audience was on board so they wouldn't find themselves offending their listeners.

They also performed some newer hits like Outkast's "Roses," and at one point the Las Vegas pianist said, "A great crowd deserves a great song," and both singers performed "Living on a Prayer," by Bon Jovi, while the crowd filled in the missing lyrics when prompted by one of the pianist's lifted hands.

Sounds from the grand pianos and sound system spilled out into the halls of the hotel.

Tuten said, "If you requested a song like Tootsie Roll, I'm probably not going to know it."

But then as if to prove he could, he performed the hit "Baby Got Back," by Sir Mix A lot. He stopped within the first line, and said, "wait, wait, wait, we're missing one thing, you know ... the butts on stage ... butts on stage."

The audience chanted "butts on stage," with Tuten, while he pounded the keys on the piano to match the tempo of the audiences' demands for healthy butts. Three women from the VIP section rushed to the stage and

entertained the crowd.

At one point in the show, Tuten identified members in the crowd that he wanted to sing to. Valerie Guzman, the bride-to-be, was spotted in her wedding veil, and was pulled out of the audience to join Tuten on his piano bench. It wasn't the song choice that was the point of interest as much as it was the lyrics. They were tailored to make the audience laugh and to make Guzman embarrassed.

The crowd laughed, sang, and acted especially amused by Guzman's facial reactions to the lyrics. Guzman couldn't contain her surprise. By the end of the slightly dirty comedy-based serenade, she was blushing from it's very private and intimately adult-rated content.

The same scenario followed for Julie's Zweigle, 49, who was attending the show with friends for her birthday. Da Luce invited Zweigle onstage and had crafted an equally embarrassing song about Zweigle and her husband's romantic relationship.

The crowd had been warned at the start of the show, "Don't laugh at us sister, this is how we make our living, said Tuten"

But laughter is what the dueling pianists had delivered at the end of the night.

DISTINGUISHED: Dr. Dyson talks to BC as part of African-American Heritage Month

Continued from Page 1

By Issy Barrientos
Reporter

to hell because he said that God created gay people. His rebuttal was that if God created everything then how could gay be people be imperfect. "Don't be going to church and having God cosign your bigotry," said Dyson.

Dyson reflected back on then-presidential candidate Donald J. Trump's attack on the Hispanic, but more specifically Mexican community, by calling them rapists during his campaign. "You're going across the country calling Mexicans rapists. You're the one trying to grab something."

"King was seen as the enemy of the state," said Dyson. He was attacked by the police; just as black people still are. He said that, "We not dogging the police, we are just saying to stop killing us unjustifiably."

Executive Assistant to the Chancellor's Office and Board of Trustees, Danielle Hillard went to the event because she heard about Dyson's visit through his political analyst. Hillard agrees with a lot of what he says, but disagrees with him on the book "Holler If You Hear Me," a book about Tupac. Hillard said, "Thorough analysis, but there could have been more."

Members of the public, Danneyl and Maggy Kelly attended the event because they heard about it on the news. Danneyl Kelly has been following Dyson for the past decade and agrees with him a lot too, "If a lot is the value we are assigning it."

President von Manos at the end of the night reflected on the event, "It was definitely an enhancement on cultural awareness, and it was beneficial overall for the students to be exposed to distinguished speakers."



Paige Atkison

For example, I create my weekly schedule without including extra time for emergencies. If I need to run to the doctor's office or take time to rest, there's no time allotted for it in my schedule. This pattern, when repeated, leads to missed assignments and constant stress. The simplest way to avoid burning out is to account for the possibility of your condition worsening sometime during the semester.

The simplest way to assess how difficult a course may be and whether or not it will work with your health is by talking to your professors.

Opening up about illness can be difficult, especially if you believe your illness should remain private or if you believe it will cause your professor to view you differently.

I struggle deeply with opening up to my professors about my health. Though I know my professors likely won't treat me poorly due to my illnesses, the possibility frightens me. Despite my fears, each professor I've had has treated me with kindness and worked with me to manage my coursework.

Speaking openly and honestly with professors is the first step in creating your academic safety net. An academic safety net is simply a system of actions you can take to ensure that your grade will be safe if you have a medical emergency. Should you need to miss a class that you planned to attend or you cannot turn in an assignment due to your health condition, it is important to make sure your grade is high enough to minimize the damage.

The least appealing way to ensure your grade remains high is to work ahead. While completing assignments far before the due date can be boring, it ensures that your assignments will always be completed on time, even if you become ill.

Similarly, completing all extra credit assignments offered can protect your grade in the case of an emergency. When completing group assignments, set up a back-up plan in case you become ill and cannot participate during class time. I've found that the best time for solidifying my safety net by working ahead is during the weekend.

I spend my weekends working ahead and doing additional studying, which provides more time for me to rest during the school week.

Finding time to rest and take care of your body can be demanding, but it is of the utmost importance. Spending time resting and tending to my medical needs allows me to reduce stress and prevents my flares from worsening.

Though it feels tedious to dedicate large swaths of time to self-care, caring for your body is in turn caring for your academic success. You must care for your health if you intend to succeed.

CSUB hosts an interactive mock trial for audience

By Diana Coronado
Reporter

California State University Bakersfield students, community members, and faculty gathered together on Feb. 6 to watch a performance of "Defamation Experience," which explores the way they interact with regard to issues of race, religion, gender and class.

Todd Logan, author of the play, wrote about the importance of the topic of racial discrimination and how it is still an issue to this day.

The "Defamation Experience" gave the audience a chance to participate and input their opinion on an important topic with three components of the play. It's about a lawsuit touching base on race, religion, gender and class with an unexpected twist: the audience is the jury. A discussion followed after the show.

The play begins in a courtroom in which the case between Regina Wade (Risha Tenae) and Arthur Golden (Brian Rabinowitz) is taking place. Wade is suing Golden for falsely accusing her of stealing his watch. She feels he did such thing because of the

color of her skin, and she is asking for 500k in return because this issue has caused her financial harm. The case has been going on for three years.

Wade is an advertising executive who had a meeting set up with wealthy businessman Golden to discuss future business plans. During their meeting, Golden has to step out for a phone call. When he returns, they finish their meeting. Wade thought it went well, and she never thought she would receive a call from Golden accusing her of stealing his watch.

Another racial overtone is how Wade was represented by a white while an African American attorney represented Golden.

The legal issue at hand is whether or not Golden falsely accused Wade of stealing his watch and defamed her, causing financial harm. Both representatives give their sides of the case and now the time has come for the "jury," the audience, to decide on the outcome of this trial.

At this point the audience had made their decision in the favor of the plaintiff Wade.

"85 percent of the wins are in favor of Wade's throughout all the times we

have done this play," says Gina Taliaferro, who plays Lorraine Jordan, a witness in the trial.

As the show ended, it was followed with a post-show discussion that allowed the audience to give their thoughts and opinions of the outcome of the play.

Audience members pointed out that the majority of minorities were in favor of Wade and most of the white audience voted for Golden.

CSUB criminal justice students expressed how pleased they were with the performance and audience participation.

"The fact that it opened up our eyes towards the end was very helpful, I took her side at the end, overall it was a great experience," said Nicole Mirkazemi.

Another audience member, Nekeydra Barreto, said, "The number of people who showed up was surprisingly well [sic], from students to community members who were just interested in the play came. I was very happy with the outcome."

For more information on the "Defamation Experience" and their tour, go to <http://defamationtheplay.com>.



ISSY BARRIENTOS / THE RIP

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson addressing the audience during his Distinguished Speakers panel at the Indoor Theater BC.



FATIMA LOPEZ / THE RIP

Witness Lorraine Jordan (Gina Taliaferro) being questioned.

Managing your education and illness

Student Success: Tips, tricks and practical advice for students

Paige Atkison
Reporter

As someone who is living with several chronic illnesses, I can personally attest to how difficult it can be to manage schoolwork and health. Juggling medications, medical appointments, and surgeries is daunting enough by itself. When added to the pressures of college, physical illnesses can seem insurmountable. But despite how frustrating it can be to balance your health and education, it can be done.

The most often overlooked component of planning for your semester is accounting for your health. When selecting courses and building your schedule, it is imperative that you take your health into account. I am personally guilty of this.

Each semester I sign up for courses and undertake multiple responsibilities without considering how my physical illnesses will affect my ability to complete my tasks. I convince

myself that I'm healthier and that I won't need to take my illnesses into account, despite knowing that I'm setting myself up for failure.

For example, I create my weekly schedule without including extra time for emergencies. If I need to run to the doctor's office or take time to rest, there's no time allotted for it in my schedule. This pattern, when repeated, leads to missed assignments and constant stress. The simplest way to avoid burning out is to account for the possibility of your condition worsening sometime during the semester.

The simplest way to assess how difficult a course may be and whether or not it will work with your health is by talking to your professors.

Opening up about illness can be difficult, especially if you believe your illness should remain private or if you believe it will cause your professor to view you differently.

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Speaking openly and honestly with professors is the first step in creating your academic safety net. An academic safety net is simply a system of actions you can take to ensure that your grade will be safe if you have a medical emergency. Should you need to miss a class that you planned to attend or you cannot turn in an assignment due to your health condition, it is important to make sure your grade is high enough to minimize the damage.

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Similarly, completing all extra credit assignments offered can protect your grade in the case of an emergency. When completing group assignments, set up a back-up plan in case you become ill and cannot participate during class time. I've found that the best time for solidifying my safety net by working ahead is during the weekend.

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Though it feels tedious to dedicate large swaths of time to self-care, caring for your body is in turn caring for your academic success. You must care for your health if you intend to succeed.

Bakersfield College and El Camino Baseball teams play a three-game series head to head

By Naythan Bryant
Reporter

The Bakersfield College baseball team went head to head with El Camino College on Feb. 9 in game one of a three game series at Gerry Collis Field

BC lost the opening game 14-4 after El Camino were able to jump ahead of the Renegades early in the game.

Big hits from El Caminos Diego Alarco and Joseph Borges set the Warriors up to score five runs in the first inning alone.

Warriors pitcher Kenneth Haus is credited with the victory after walking two batters and striking out four, allowing four runs total.

Five different El Camino players scored on the night, with both Mathew Beserra and Jose Ruiz Jr. earning three RBIs each. For the Renegades, starting pitcher Chris Diaz was credited with the loss.

Diaz walked five batters and allowed seven runs, four earned. BC's Luke Lewis, Zach Williams, and Trey Harmon each registered an RBI, but the momentum gained was too little, too late.

Game two of the series took place the following day and was won 9-3 by El Camino. This time the game started slowly as the first two innings went scoreless until the Warriors Spencer Long broke the game wide open in the top of the third.

Long registered two RBIs and three runs scored while Jordan Folgers brought in two RBIs with one run

scored. The Renegades had trouble finding the ball against El Caminos Daniel Alvarez, who pitched an incredible game. Alvarez allowed only four hits and struck out eight batters on the night to pick up his first victory.

El Caminos offense tacked on their last four runs late in the ninth inning with the help of Joseph Borges triple deep into right field.

The final game of the series, played on February 10th, was won by Bakersfield College 5-4. The game was the closest of the series and went eleven innings before being decided.

The Warriors looked to sweep the Renegades when taking the early lead thanks to hits from Matthew Beserra and Taishi Nakawake.

El Camino led 4-0 at the bottom of the third after Jose Ruiz Jr's triple to right field brought in runner Spencer Palm. The Renegades fired back with an RBI from Jacob Sanchez and smart baserunning by Brycin Hernandez, bringing the score to 4-2 at the top of the sixth inning.

The Gades kept their momentum going with hits from Tim Billingsley and Trey Harmon to tie the game.

In the bottom of the eleventh, BC player Ryan Darbee singled to first and advanced to second after Hernandez grounded out to first.

Isaac Ramos batted in Darbee with a single to complete the Renegades comeback, winning the game 5-4.

BC advances to 5-5 in the season as they prepare for their next game at Moorpark College on Feb. 13 at 2 p.m.



NAYTHAN BRYANT / THE RIP

Bakersfield College pitcher, Taylor Burns, throws a strike in game two against El Camino College during the three game series at BC.



NAYTHAN BRYANT / THE RIP

Bakersfield College pitcher, Taylor Burns, throws a strike in game two against El Camino College at Gerry Collis Field.



NAYTHAN BRYANT / THE RIP

BC pitcher Lane Cowan warming up with catcher Zach Williams.



COURTESY OF GOGADES.COM / THE RIP

Renegade Basketball player, Jaylunn English runs after the ball.

BC Men's Basketball Team takes care of business against Santa Monica College, 81-53, at Gil Bishop Sports Center

By Sabrina Lopez
Reporter

The Renegades Men's Basketball team beat Santa Monica College 81-53, at Gil Bishop Sports Center on Feb. 7, improving their overall record for this season to 13-11.

Jaylunn English was the leading scorer with 29 points and Henry

Galinto led the team in rebounding finishing with 11.

The Renegades had three players scoring in double figures, and dominated on the glass with 42 rebounds.

The Gades are now 4-2 in conference play and with only two games left in the conference they are looking to finish strong.



NAYTHAN BRYANT / THE RIP

Renegade pitcher, Taylor Burns, on the mound against El Camino.

The Philadelphia Eagles fly against the Patriots

By **Naythan Bryant**
Reporter

Super Bowl LII was played on Feb. 4 between the Philadelphia Eagles and the New England Patriots. The sport's biggest game left nearly 100 million viewers in shock when the Eagles successfully defeated the NFL's best team in recent years by a score of 41-33. The competition was filled with incredible plays, intense emotion, and a nail-biting finish that propelled a young Eagles team to bring home their first Lombardi trophy to the city of Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Eagles quarterback, Nick Foles, started firing passes early in the game and was not afraid to show his confidence. Foles, a University of Arizona graduate, found himself starting for the Eagles after their original quarterback, Carson Wentz, suffered a torn ACL and was ruled out during the regular season. Football fans reacted to Wentz's injury by ruling the Eagles out of any chance at a Super Bowl appearance. Attitudes towards the young QB

changed when Foles led the Eagles to a 38-7 victory in the NFC Championship game against the team with the top ranked defense in the NFL, the Minnesota Vikings. As if that wasn't enough, Foles now had to go head to head with what many football fans consider the best player of all time, Patriots QB Tom Brady.

The Eagles were the first to score when kicker Jake Elliott completed a 25-yard field goal. The Patriots quickly fired back by advancing down the field with passes to James White and Rob Gronkowski. The Patriots opening drive ended with a field goal of their own, tying the game 3-3.

With a little over three minutes left in the first quarter, Eagles running back LeGarrette Blount completed a 36-yard carry up the middle of the field that would set up the team for their first touchdown of the game. The next play, Foles delivered an incredible pass to wide receiver Alshon Jeffery who propelled himself over Patriots cornerback Eric Rowe to make the catch.

While the Patriots were able to

fight their way back to the Eagles 10 yard line, they could not answer with a touchdown of their own and even missed a 26-yard field goal attempt, a rare mistake for the veteran players.

The next Eagles touchdown came with a remarkable run through the middle of the Patriots defense by Blount, who sped past three opposing players as he was tackled into the end zone. The Patriots, however, were once again held back by the Eagles defense and were forced to attempt another field goal, this time by twice the distance. The 45-yard field goal was scored by Stephen Gotkowski, bringing the score to 15-6. In the next scoring drive, the Eagles momentum began to build as running back Jay Ajayi completed a 26-yard run for a first down. After, Foles launched a deep pass to Jeffery in an attempt to get within yards of scoring another touchdown. The pass, however, bobbed off the hands of the Eagles receiver right into Patriots safety Duron Harmon. The interception was the only one of the night but would result in the Patriots scoring their

first touchdown off a 26-yard run by White, who continued to dominate the field throughout the game.

With less than one minute left in the first half of Super Bowl LII, Foles found himself on the Patriots 2-yard line with a scoring opportunity on fourth-and-goal. What happened next will be remembered as one of the great moments of Super Bowl history. The ball was snapped to running back Corey Clement, who then flipped the ball to tight end Trey Burton on a reverse. During the reverse, Foles made his way into open space and was left completely open by the Patriots defense. The distraction was successful as Burton lobbed a touchdown pass to Foles, who became the first player to ever throw and catch a touchdown in a Super Bowl.

The beginning of the second half started with similar offensive drives as Gronkowski and Clement were able to score, bringing the game to 29-19. Brady continued to pass his way down the field as the Patriots energy increased. Towards the end of the third quarter, Brady launched

a touchdown pass deep into the hands of wide receiver Chris Hogan. While the Eagles were eager to respond, the Patriots defense held them back and forced an attempt at a 46-yard field goal, which was scored by Elliot.

Brady and the Patriots, sensing a comeback, battled their way once again down to the Eagles 10-yard line. On second-and-goal, Brady found Gronkowski in the end zone to give the Patriots their first lead of the entire night. A Patriots comeback seemed inevitable. There were less than five minutes left in the game, but the Eagles still had hope in QB Nick Foles.

On third-and-seven, Foles fired a pass to tight end Zach Ertz, who then dove over an opposing player to score a touchdown. The score was 38-33 with only two minutes to play. With the Eagles failing to complete a two-point conversion, the game was Brady's for the taking. It was now or never for the Patriots. At the Patriots own 30-yard line, Brady dropped back into the pocket, looking for an option to fire the ball to. Brady found

his target, cocked his arm back, and began to throw right when Eagles defensive end Brandon Graham broke through the offensive line and dove towards the quarterback. Garahams fingertips were able to push the ball out of Brady's hand, forcing the first fumble of the night in what would be considered the game winning play of Super Bowl LII.

The seemingly impossible had been done, and the Patriots were taken down. Super Bowl LII left viewers with not only an incredible game, but a game filled with stories.

There's the story of the returning quarterback who just years earlier was talked out of retirement by his brother and now stood tall as the Super Bowl MVP.

There's the story of how Brady had one of his best Bowl performances ever, throwing for over 500-yards, and was still outplayed by the passionate Eagles side. Whatever story you took away from Super Bowl Sunday 2018, the battle will undoubtedly go down as one of the best Super Bowls of all time.

Bakersfield College conquers College of the Canyons 8-9

By **Jenny Brito**
Web & Social Media Editor

Bakersfield College's softball team defeated College of the Canyons 8-9 on Feb. 6 at the Dean and Adah Gay Sports Complex.

BC was two points ahead during the first innings, but things got more complicated during the fourth inning. As the inning came to a close, the Renegades team was far behind with a 7-3 score in favor of College of the Canyons. However, the women's team did not let that bring them down, and they were able to score four runs in the 6th inning to take the lead. College of the Canyons, on the other hand, remained scoreless the rest of the game.

The softball team was led by Alexis Solis, outfielder, who scored one home run and three runs batted in. Other key players included Naizemarie Ubay with two walks and two runs batted in (RBI), Jordan Jimenez with three RBI, and Yesenia Saldana with two runs.

The team was expected to be back in action on Feb. 8 for a game against West Los Angeles College. However, the game had to be postponed. The next game will be on Feb. 10 against Sacramento City at Cuesta.



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

Sophomore **Jordynn Jimenez**, infielder, at bat during the fourth inning



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

Sophomore **Aryka Chavez**, infielder, at bat during the third inning.



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

Kylee Fahy, pitcher, delivers a pitch during the third inning.



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

Sophomore **Jordynn Jimenez**, infielder, at bat during the fourth inning.

BC Women's Tennis Team overpowers Victor Valley

By **Diana Coronado**
Reporter

Another Victorious Win by the Women's Tennis Team. The Bakersfield College women's

tennis successfully defeated Victor Valley College on Feb. 6 with a score of 6-0 in the singles and 8-0 in the doubles. BC players Paige Darstein, Riley Tucker, Brittany Aguilar, Kaylee Defrees, Arianna Acevedo won

against their opponents, and Serena Contreras won by default.

The Bakersfield College women's tennis team will be playing at home once again on March 8 against Glendale Community College.



DIANA CORONADO / THE RIP

Brittany Aguilar giving one of her many winning serves.



DIANA CORONADO / THE RIP

Brittany Aguilar and Arianna Acevedo getting ready to dominate Victor Valley.

Renegade Men's Tennis Team defeats Glendale Community College during conference match

By **Alexandra Apatiga**
Editor-in-Chief

The Bakersfield College's men's tennis team won their conference match against Glendale Community College Thursday, Feb. 8 with a 5-4 victory at BC.

Among the matches, BC freshman Kaleb Johnson proved to be a valuable asset during his matches.

With 3-4 wins this season so far, the next home game will be against Santa Barbara City College on Feb. 20 at 2 p.m.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

As one of Glendale's tennis players returns the ball near the edge of the tennis court to Kaleb Johnson, Johnson is able to reach and hit the ball.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

BC tennis player **Kaleb Johnson** returning the ball during his match against a Glendale Community College tennis player.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Tennis player **Manrico Cabaloza** as he returns the ball across the court during his match against Glendale's men tennis team.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Bakersfield College tennis player **Nayib Rivera** serving during his match against Glendale Community College.

Fulfilling my dream of visiting Brazilian landmarks including Christ the Redeemer and Copacabana beach

By Jenny Brito
Web & Social Media Editor

Ever since I watched the movie “The Bucket List,” I have worked on making my own list. So far, it has two pages worth of ideas and things that I want to do before I die. I must admit that some of those things are kind of impossible to achieve; for example, flying in my private jet will be a bit difficult considering that I am a broke college student. Still, a girl can dream. Most of my bucket list, however, consists of things that are achievable. One of those was traveling to Brazil, which I did on Dec. 12.

I have always been fascinated by Brazilian culture. I grew up in Venezuela, which is right next to Brazil. Brazilians always travelled to Venezuela, and Venezuelans loved going to Brazil as well. Although we speak different languages, both countries have always had a strong relationship.

Some of my best friends are Brazilian, my boyfriend is Brazilian, and I have gotten to know their culture through them too. What attracted me the most was their friendliness and unique sense of humor. Also, they always speak wonders about their home country, which made me want to see it even more.

So, when I was faced with the idea of traveling to Brazil, I did not think twice. I purchased my ticket and waited anxiously until the day arrived. I had everything ready: sandals because they are the norm there, shorts and t-shirts because of the hot weather, and cash to enjoy the myriad of drink and food choices offered in the country.

One of the first things I noticed after arriving was that the weather was going to be much warmer than expected. I had sweat dripping down my face, and it was not even noon. I headed to the hotel where I was greeted by some of the nicest people I have met.

They gave me the keys to a my room and offered me a caipirinha, a liquor made from sugarcane juice that turns into alcohol over a period of time, on the house. That is when I knew that the trip would be more fun than I thought. I headed to my room, caipirinha in hand, and got ready to head out.

I spent the first evening at a shopping mall nearby. This was not any mall, it was one of the most colorful places in Rio de Janeiro. It had an area called “Rua do Rio,” which translates to “Street of Rio.” Rua do Rio is the number one destination for those who like to party or have drinks with friends on the weekends. I had never seen so many bars and nightclubs at the same place; to be honest, it was a bit overwhelming.

I finally found the perfect place. It was a small bar, with comfortable couches, and Bossa Nova playing in the background. I ordered a local beer because caipirinhas are not a light drink and I did not want to be hungover on the first day of my trip. I had a couple of beers that night and mostly people-watched. A couple of people offered to join me. I thought they had other intentions, but they merely wanted to get to know me and seemed very interested in learning about American culture. You see,

as soon as you speak English, everybody’s faces turn around, which I thought was pretty cool.

The next day was all about beaches. Rio is well known for its beautiful beaches, and I wanted to experience it all. I visited several, but Ipanema and Copacabana were my favorite.

Ipanema has that calm and tranquil vibe that many of us look for when traveling. Copacabana, on the other hand, gives out a more Brazilian fun vibe. It also offers many more options. You can people-watch, eat, drink, sun bathe, swim, ride a bike, or join a game of beach volleyball.

I spent a great deal of time just walking around and taking pictures. There were hundreds of people; so, if you are looking for a cozy place, Copacabana is not it. Still, it is worth to see it at least once. I stepped on the Portuguese-style pavement that is often shown in pictures of the area, and I saw some of the art made by locals. I also purchased a couple of pairs of “Havaianas.” Havaianas is a Brazilian brand of flip-flop sandals known for their quality and variety. They are very popular during the summer.

Something that caught my attention was the different sand sculptures locals spend hours making. One of the sculptures was surrounded by the Brazilian flag and Brazilian women wearing bikinis, made out of sand. Another had a Christ the Redeemer, an icon representative of the country, and a sign that said “Welcome to Rio 2018.”

One of the people who was working on the Christ’s sculpture, Manoel, told me that he has had to re-do it several times, but he doesn’t mind because he knows tourists love seeing his work. He said he enjoyed seeing people take pictures of his work and showing them the talent that the country has to offer.

Before leaving Copacabana, I had to try some of the food. There were so many restaurants that I had trouble deciding. Eventually, I chose the place that looked the most authentic. I am glad I did. The servers could not speak English, so I put my Portuguese skills to the test. I have been trying to learn the language for a couple of years now, and I was glad to see that I could communicate and order a meal at least.

They suggested that I order something called feijoada and a chopp. Chopp is the name they give to draft beer, and feijoada was a stew. To be honest, the feijoada threw me off a bit. I was expecting seafood since it was the beach, but I got something very different instead.

The dish is a stew made of black beans and different cuts of pork. All I could smell was pork, and it made me a bit sick. However, they were so excited to see me try their food that I had to give it a try.

I cannot say that I would order this again, but it is definitely a good choice for meat lovers. I left Copa feeling bloated and considered becoming a vegetarian for a while.

Another place that I knew I had to visit was the Maracana Stadium, which is the second largest stadium in South America. The Maracana has received soccer teams from all over the world for friendly matches and FIFA world cup games.



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

Christ the Redeemer, depicted in the photo, is an icon of Brazil. The massive statue is the second largest in the world.



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

Jenny Brito takes a picture outside of the “Nova America,” a shopping mall known for its night clubs, bars, and restaurants.

The stadium itself is a work of art, and if you pay for the tour, they let you take pictures on the field and visit their museum. The museum is the dream of any soccer fan; it has photos of historic matches, soccer jerseys worn by famous players, and all the country’s championship cups. To me, the most fantastic part of the tour was seeing Pele’s famous No. 10 jersey. Pele is the most famous and renowned soccer player in the world, winning three World Cups.

A trip to Brazil would not be complete without a visit to the Sugar Loaf Mountain and Christ the Redeemer, or Cristo Redentor. I needed at least a whole day to visit the place because of the traffic and long lines. I arrived early and still had to wait about two hours to get to the Christ. To reach the statue at the top of the Corcovado mountain, we had to take a train. It was incredibly crowded, and it took hours to get to the top. However, the wait was worth it.

I was in awe when we made it to the top, and I got to see the Cristo up close. It was once the largest Jesus Christ statue in the world, standing at 98 feet in height, but was surpassed by Western Poland’s statue of “Christ the King” at 118 feet in height in 2011, so I should have expected to be wowed. Still, there are no words to describe what it feels like to be there.

The Christ is magnificent. It makes you feel calm and peaceful, and it reminds you of the welcoming nature of Brazil. His open arms are considered by many a symbol of inclusion, and I agree. Seeing such a diverse crowd gathered around the monument was inspirational.

The food was, as always, really good. It was still early in the day, so I got a drink and some pastries. I bought something called a “Coxinha.” It is a popular food in Brazil consisting of shredded beef, chicken, or cheese covered in dough. It has a



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

People stop by and take pictures of one of the many art murals in Rio de Janeiro. Most of the murals are located in the city’s downtown and they are painted by local artists.

shape that resembles a chicken leg, and it is deep fried. It was incredibly tasty.

I also had the popular “Pao de Queijo,” which is a tiny Brazilian cheese bread, and a cup of coffee. The coffee was bold but good. After all that food, I decided to spend the rest of the day there. Seeing the sunset fall over Rio was something that I will never forget.

Pao de Acucar, known as the Sugarloaf Mountain, was one of the last places I visited. To get there, we had to ride a cable car that took us from the ground station to the mountain’s summit. The cable car offers 360-degree views of the city, which was im-

pressive. I was able to see Rio from approximately 700 feet above the ground.

I was shocked at the city’s beauty and diversity. On the one side, you could see what I assumed were some of the wealthiest neighborhoods. On the other, you could see Rio’s favelas; favelas are the impoverished areas of Rio. By the way, if you ever visit, they offer tours of the favelas. I was tempted because it sounded like an eye-opening experience. However, I was worried about my safety.

At the top, I was able to take more pictures of the city while I relaxed in one of the restaurants. I had a simple hot dog that evening. Well, simple by

Brazilian standards. It had peppers, onions, tomatoes, cheese, eggs, bacon bits, shoestring potatoes, and even ground beef on top. It was incredible, and American hotdogs should be ashamed of themselves.

There are no words to properly describe the experience of traveling to Brazil. The people, the food, the beaches, and other landmarks make it one of the best countries I have ever seen.

Two weeks were not enough to experience the whole city of Rio, and the trip left me wanting more. This was an experience worth repeating, so the name Brazil will remain in my Bucket List until I visit again.



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

A local jogs while others spend time in the beach at Copacabana, one of Brazil’s most popular beaches.



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

Local artist sells tapestries with images representing Brazil and Rio de Janeiro at Copacabana beach.