



# The Renegade Rip

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Bakersfield College

Thursday, September 6, 2018

## BC rapist convicted of all charges

By Paige Atkison  
*Editor-in-Chief*

After a year of court proceedings, the assailant who perpetrated a sexual assault in the Fine Arts restroom at BC's main campus in Spring of 2017 has been convicted.

Brandon Robinson, 21, was convicted of the 15 felony charges he faced on Aug. 14. The charges range from sexual battery, sexual assault, threatening with intent to

terrorize, and robbery in the second degree.

The charges brought against Robinson included three separate cases of sexual assaults on women- the youngest of which was a 15-year-old girl.

Robinson kidnaped and assaulted the 15-year-old while she was walking to school. Following the attack, he held her at gunpoint and solicited her for money. While robbing the victim, Robinson stated that he "didn't

know what he was doing," according to court documents. He asked her if she believed in God and then stated that he did and made regular attempts to attend church services on Sundays. After the robbery, Robinson asked the victim if she was angry with him.

During the jury trial, Robinson was convicted on four charges specific to sexual assaults committed against a minor.

Robinson's final

attack before his arrest was committed against a 19-year-old Bakersfield College student while she was at BC's main campus. During the woman's restroom break before a final exam, Robinson followed into the Fine Arts building where he physically and sexually assaulted her. Robinson turned off the bathroom lights to conceal his identity before threatening to kill the victim if she screamed. BC campus

security arrived during the assault and apprehended Robinson, who promptly hid in one of the stalls.

Robinson remained adamant that he was innocent and that supernatural forces may have forced him to commit acts of violence (an excuse he repeated to press and law enforcement). However, Robinson admitted to committing many of the acts described in the charges according to court documents.

During an investigator follow-up in May, Robinson confessed to having "taken advantage" of the first victim in detail- including that he had spoken to the victim about religion. Despite the discrepancies in his testimony, Robinson plead not guilty to all 15 charges.

As a result of his plea, his case went to trial in early July 2018. Robinson's sentencing hearing is set for Sept. 26, and he faces up to life in prison.

## BC continues parking lot constructions

By Rosa Salazar  
*Reporter*

Bakersfield College's parking lot renovations will be completed by the end of October of this year, according to Tamara Baker, the community relations of faculties, maintenance and operations.

Kern County residents voted to pass Measure J, a \$504 million bond to renovate the Bakersfield College campus in November 2016. The money has been used for parking lot renovations as well as building construction.

"We have finished three of the four phases or renovation; the very last phase is going to be P8 which is the student parking lot on University next to the football fields. That will close September 4th along with two other staff parking lots and that'll be closed till the end of October, and once that is completed we will have all new parking lots and we will be finished with that project," she said.

Parking lot P8 located on University Ave will be closed from Sep. 4 2018 through Oct. 28 2018 all day.

Parking lot 16 which is located behind the baseball fields near Haley Street and University Ave will be free for the 2018-2019 academic school year.

BC student Kayla Sanchez parks by the solar panels.

"It's honestly a struggle," she said, "I just feel like there's not enough parking."

Sanchez suggested paying for priority parking and adding more parking spaces for people.



JANELL GORE / THE RIP

**Dozens of vehicles park along Mount Vernon Ave. in pedestrian and reserved parking spaces.**

"Sucks you pay for a parking [pass] and not find any parking and still be late," she said.

BC student Chris Brantley has not had any problems parking on campus; additionally, he doesn't mind paying for a parking pass. Brantley said the money from the parking passes should be used for upkeep and maintenance of the lots.

He said there should be security making sure people's cars are safe and also, "make sure it's

nice paved...no potholes and to keep it clean." Brantley commented about paying for parking lot passes.

"If you're paying for it, then let's have some good parking lots; safe parking lots," he said.

BC student Stephanie Magallon has talked about her experience parking on campus. She describes her experience as "stressful because there's too many cars...not enough parking." Magallon

Please see **CONTINUED**, Page 9

## Kern County's Hispanic Business Conference features staff from BC

By Rosa Salazar  
Reporter

The 24th annual Kern County Hispanic Business Conference (KCHCC) and Exposition took place at the Bakersfield Marriott at the Convention Center Aug. 30 from 1-7p.m.

The KCHCC is a non-profit organization that focuses as a Hispanic business resource.

According to Jay Tamsi, the President CEO of the KCHCC, the organization promotes and enhances business opportunities for their members.

Tamsi said the majority of its members are Hispanic, but anyone is welcome to become a member regardless of ethnicity.

"Sixty percent of our membership is Hispanic, 40 percent is non Hispanic," he said. "You do not have to be Hispanic to be in our chamber...so regardless of ethnicity, [you're] welcome to join our chamber, you're welcome to partake in our chamber, you're welcome to come to any of the events to make sure that this is the chamber that fits your needs," he said.

The sponsors included Wells Fargo, Dignity Health, Kaiser Permanente, Chevron and Comprehensive Blood and Cancer Center.

One of the nine business workshops was named "Branding Yourself and Your Business." The workshop was presented by Tamara Baker, who works in community relations for Bakersfield College.

The workshop covered topics such as branding, creating brand strategy, and seven components for comprehensive brand strategy. One of the pieces of advice that Baker gave was, "Make your brand human."

Another workshop titled "Women Empowerment" was moderated by Olivia Garcia, a history professor at Bakersfield College. The workshop had women in the business field that shared their

struggles and experiences. One of the women who spoke was Gabriela Mello, Vice President of community relations for Wells Fargo Bank. Mello gave some advice for women.

"Keep learning, keep stretching yourself. Don't be

afraid to make mistakes. That's totally fine. Just be you. And be proud of you. No excuses. Because we try to reinvent ourselves and that's totally fine, but the true you is the best one to put forward, so just be real...talk to each other, make sure that you're kind, that you keep learning because this journey is not gonna end," she said.

One of the speakers at the convention was Pepe Serna, a Hollywood actor. He has been in movies and TV shows including, "Lowriders," "Scarface," and "Downsizing." Serna presented an improv workshop where people participated in many activities such as stretching, speaking in front of a group, and singing.

Serna offered some advice to people that want to get ahead.

"One of the things that I was saying in my show was if you wanna know how to get to where you're going is ask somebody who's on their way back...ask somebody who's successful," he said. "And they'll tell you. They'll tell you all about it. People love to talk about their success, and how to build, how to make it happen."

One of the expositions at the convention was the North of the River Chamber. It was represented by Cathy Wolfe, the executive director and office manager. According to Wolfe, the North of the River Chamber "has a lot of businesses that join it, so it's a chamber of commerce and one of the big things that we do is we have about four or five fundraisers throughout the year that raise funds for our scholarships that we give to Frontier, Liberty, Centennial and North High."

Wolfe hopes to grow its memberships by December.

She said, "We are having a membership drive September through December and we hope by the end of December to grow the 200 members."



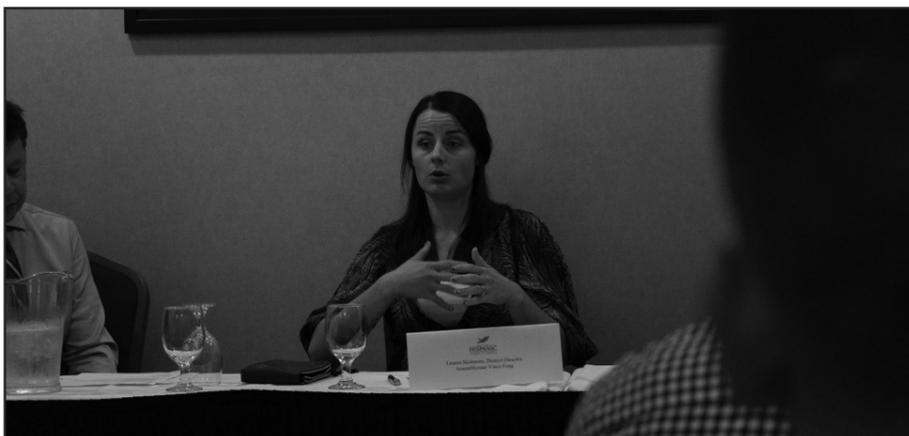
FRANCO CASTELO / THE RIP

**Dr. Sandeep Walia, Ophthalmologist Dignity Health - Mercy Memorial Hospitals and Jay Tamsi, CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (KCHCC) pose for a picture.**



FRANCO CASTELO / THE RIP

**Raji Brar, Owner/Operator Countryside Market and Restaurant, Norma Rojas Mora, Director of communication and Community Relations for Bakersfield College and Gabriela Mello, Vice President of Community Relations and Corporate Responsible Wells Fargo, talk about what they do and how they got there.**



FRANCO CASTELO / THE RIP

**Lauren Skidmore, District Director, talks about millennials and their impact on the community.**

## Homelessness can affect the BC student body

By Laura Lanfray  
Reporter

With homelessness on the rise across Kern County, Bakersfield College assists students in need in the form of donations and access to facilities.

According to research done by the Kern County Homeless Collaborative, as of January 2018, there are 885 homeless people within the county. The majority of them live in the City of Bakersfield itself. Fewer homeless people live throughout the smaller towns in Kern County, such as McFarland and the Kern River Valley area.

Another study, a report based on a nationwide survey dedicated solely toward surveying college students found that in 2015 food insecurity in the homes of two-year college students was about 13.3 percent, a drop from 21.2 percent from 2008-14.

However, going to school is still an option despite financial or residential

instability.

Bakersfield College Director of Student Life, Nicky Damania, reminds students of the availability of community resources for students. Damania strives to make it clear that if a student feels like they are struggling, they can and should turn to someone for help.

"Make sure you're seeking the help you might need," he reminds.

The resources around the community range from local shelters, student employment at BC, and even include the school's very own Renegade Pantry. The Pantry is a program that has been running since 2009 that provides qualifying students with food, clothing, and access to facilities for hygiene purposes.

For those who wish to support the program in some way, the Pantry accepts year-round donations and volunteers. The full list of helpful resources can be found online or through the Office of Student Life.

## Dem Whitney Weddell set to run for Kern County District 2 Supervisor

By Todd Banker  
Reporter

Kern County will hold elections on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. On the ballot is Whitney Weddell (D). Weddell is running to be the next Kern County District 2 Supervisor.

On Saturday, Aug. 25 Weddell and her team canvassed the area of Coral Keys Park to inform the local residents of her campaign and give them an opportunity to meet Weddell and ask questions. Weddell, a life-long Democrat, will be the only Democrat out of the three other candidates.

Weddell has been involved in politics for 35 years working as a community advocate.

She has traveled extensively across Kern County since January speaking and answering questions concerning her race for the Kern County District 2 Supervisor spot.

Weddell commented on one of the things that fueled her passion during the 2018 campaign, which is lack of manpower in some areas of Kern County due to the current fiscal crisis.

An absence of authority can cause problems for people living in rural communities in Kern County. Lack of manpower is a problem which not only poses a threat to the community but to the officers that protect it.

Some of the problems Weddell brings to light are the closures to some of the sheriff sub-stations such as in Boron, which leaves the community with no law enforcement protection.

In one case, Weddell argued that a deputy was apprehending a shoplifter in a rural area.

The incident turned violent, and the officer was fighting for a half hour with the suspect. There was no officer back-up in the vicinity. According to Weddell, Other forms of community neglect come from the lack of code compliance in South Taft, Rosemond, Mojave and other rural areas in Kern County.

According to Weddell, the lack of code compliance affects the community because buildings that should be condemned are left empty, untouched and unsafe.

“In some cases, for

eleven years,” Weddell said. Weddell is concerned because these problems are harming the community.

Community home-owners in the area of neglected buildings are burdened because of this situation. Imagine living next door to a dilapidated structure, Weddell implied.

As a community advocate, she has been fighting to keep the Kern County Library from being privatized.

Weddell was born in Sacramento and was raised in Bakersfield and attended Bakersfield College in the mid-1980's. She graduated from California State University, Bakersfield in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in history.

Weddell is currently teaching economics and government at Nueva High School in Lamont.

Weddell is a strong LGBT advocate and supporter and was a chair for the Bakersfield LGBTQ for 14 years.

According to Weddell, she was inspired to run for office due to the National political situation.

“Be the change you want to see in the community”, said Weddell.



ISSY BARRIENTOS / THE RIP

A young girl being filmed while she makes a bookmark.



ISSY BARRIENTOS / THE RIP

Volunteers for candidate Weddell helping to register new voters.



ISSY BARRIENTOS / THE RIP

Volunteers enjoying food after notifying people about the barbeque.



ISSY BARRIENTOS / THE RIP

Two volunteers set off to tell neighbors about the barbeque.

## Kern County offers L'Oreal tax incentive to move production to Tejon Ranch Commerce

By Miranda Defoor  
Web & Social Media Editor

Kern County has begun a partnership with L'Oreal through a \$2.3 million incentive program.

The Kern County Board of Supervisors approved the incentive package on Aug. 17,

2018. This deal comes as part of an economic plan called Advance Kern 2017.

District 2 Supervisor Zack Scrivner said in a statement, “This new business venture is a result of the County's Advance Kern initiative that helps businesses and our local govern-

ment come to the best possible agreement for tax incentives and guaranteed job creation.”

Advance Kern 2017 is part of an effort to improve Kern County by growing current businesses as well as attracting new ones.

The program has been offering compa-

nies a rebate on new jobs with wages that will help employees avoid replying on public assistance. These sustainable wages will be applicable for the 155 jobs created after L'Oreal begins business to Kern County.

L'Oreal is the first business to take advan-

tage of this incentive program and have an incentive program approved.

SalonCentric, L'Oreal's professional salon distribution will move from Valencia to Tejon Ranch Commerce Center in Tejon Ranch is also anticipated to create 45 more jobs in sup-

portive services which are expected to make \$8 million annually in sales through the local economy.

“I am pleased L'Oreal decided to set up shop in Kern County. The jobs created will help diversify our economy and add to our growth,” Scrivner said.

## Student Involvement Festival gathers crowd

By Miranda Defoor  
Web & Social Media Editor

Bakersfield College kept up with annual tradition with the Fall 2018 Student Involvement Festival on Aug. 29. Each fall semester greets new groups of diverse students that make up the community of BC and in order to help keep students active and engaged, BC hosts such events with food trucks, vendors, and games for new and returning students.

Vendors were offered booths and tables that lined sidewalks on campus during the event. BC student organizations and clubs participated, as well as the Bakersfield Police Department, Wells Fargo, Omni Family Health, and Bike Bakersfield. Some booths, like Wells Fargo and Student Life, had wheels to spin for prizes.

Prizes, food, and free items seemed to entice students most. One BC

student, Lara Phillips, said it was “nice to see the community together,” but her favorite part was “free stuff.”

Friends and BC students TJ Williams, Isaiah Martin, and Ryan Nelson were all scoping out different clubs at the Student Involvement Festival.

BC students like Nelson, who is in his first semester, had a chance to see the event for the first time. Nelson said he was glad to see the different clubs represented. “This keeps students involved,” Nelson stated before mentioning there was a club he wanted to join.

Williams, is in his third semester and still enjoyed the Student Involvement Festival. Williams said, “[they’re] showing resources and giving food,” to students. Williams was seemingly enthusiastic about the different benefits offered.



MIRANDA DEFOOR / THE RIP

**A Bakersfield College student club booth displays the Renegade photo opportunity for both new and returning at the annual Student Involvement Festival.**

## Students get free supplies

By Taylor Jensen  
Reporter

The fall semester is in full swing and students of Bakersfield College are in full need of supplies for their new classes. The School Supply Giveaway that took place at the crossroads on Aug. 21 gave students the chance to win free supplies at just the spin of a wheel.

The students had to spin a miniature wheel and whatever slot the needle landed on, they automatically won that prize that was in the slot. The prizes consisted of BC pens, pencils, binders, lanyards, magnets, folders, and much more.

Beth Hilbe, the Director of Student Activities, ran the booth and gave away the prizes along with BCGSA members Johnny Maddon and Joanna Elizondo.

“They need to see that

we are here for them and that we are actively thinking about them. It’s also just good to see smiling faces and giving away free things. It helps boost [moral],” Hilbe said when asked what she hopes students take away from the giveaway other than free school supplies.

Smiling faces were definitely present throughout the giveaway. Students seemed to be flattered whenever they won the big prizes such as a simple backpack. Some were even in line talking with their friends about how much they wanted to win the backpacks.

The “Win Big” slot awarded the winner three prizes that were set out on the table. Whenever a student won the three prizes, people in line would cheer and clap for them. Originally, “Win Big” meant that they won a backpack

from CC-1 that was full of mysterious goodies; however, they ran out of them quickly because students were dead-set on that prize.

The optimism made for a lively atmosphere. It was like Hilbe was a carney at the fair watching people play a game who were in hopes to win the big prize hanging above their heads.

“I hope to get a lanyard and feel the school spirit,” Victoria Cortez, a student, said after being asked what she hopes to experience as she waited to spin the wheel.

The game continued on throughout the afternoon and numerous prizes were given away to lucky students. The line never seemed to die down as students kept walking up to play.

Although, it was hard for them to miss the

booth as they walked by because Hilbe would shout at the students for them to come join the fun.

“Come spin away and win three beautiful prizes off our table,” Hilbe said.

Johnny Maddon utilized his humor to add to the already optimistic atmosphere. He would always make students laugh when he asked them if they wanted their hands stamped with the “amazing” stamp, as he would put it. Making a simple stamp such a big deal caused everyone to smile despite the heat of the afternoon.

“We will have multiple events like this throughout the semester so be on the lookout,” Hilbe said.

## Renegade Events

### Campus Events

**Sept. 10:** Transfer Day 2018 at the Campus Center and Renegade Crossroads from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Sept. 12:** Gadfly Café-Education: It’s Past, Present and Purpose at the Levan Center from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Sept. 13:** Distinguished Speaker: Jim St. Germain at the Levan Center from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**Sept. 18:** Fall 2018 Orientation at the Welcome Center from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Sept. 20:** From Dream to Discovery: Inside NASA Planetarium Show at the William M. Thomas Planetarium, Math 112, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Sept. 24:** Dough Wimbash, bassist of Living Color at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater) from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Oct. 04:** Supervolcanoes Planetarium Show from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the William M. Thomas Planetarium, Math-Science 112

**Oct. 09:** Distinguished Speaker Sonia Nazario at the Levan Center from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Oct. 10:** Gadfly Café-Bias: Explicit, Implicit, and Injurious at the Levan Center from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Oct. 11:** Distinguished Speaker Christian Sommers Ph.D. at the Levan Center from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Levan Center and a Livecast to Delano, and at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater) from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Oct. 11:** Inmate Education Panel-One Book, One Bakersfield at the Levan Center from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Oct. 16:** Fall 2018 Orientation at the Welcome Center from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Partial Levinson Hall will be closed all day from the construction of July 23 to Oct. 19.

**Oct. 24:** Distinguished Speaker Dashka Slater at the Levan Center from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Levan Center and a Livecast to Delano, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Levan Center.

**Nov. 01:** Dynamic Earth Planetarium Show at the William M. Thomas Planetarium, Math Science 112 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Nov. 08:** Distinguished Speaker Oz Sanchez at the Levan Center from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Levan Center with a Livecast to Delano, and 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Edward Simonsen Performing Arts Center (Indoor Theater)

**Nov. 13:** Fall 2018 Orientation at the Welcome Center from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Nov. 14:** Gadfly Café-Suicide: In Pain, Protest and Honor at the Levan Center from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Nov. 15:** Black Holes Planetarium Show at the William M. Thomas Planetarium, Math-Science 112 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



TAYLOR JENSEN / THE RIP

**Schools supplies are set on the BCGSA table as prizes for students.**

## Bakersfield College's Welcome Week invites band to perform for new students

By Haley Duval  
Reporter

As incoming and returning students at Bakersfield College start the fall semester, they are welcome back with multiple campus events. Each year Welcome Week give a chance to connect with other fellow Renegades and the Bakersfield College community. Throughout the week students were welcome to attend any of the events, such as the School Supply Give-away, where students of the Office of Student Life and Bakersfield College Student Government Association (BCSGA) gave away school supplies to help students start the year, Movie Day, where students watched the 2018 comedy movie "Tag" in the BCSGA executive Boardroom, the BC Renegades Football Scrimmage vs. Antelope Valley, *Epic Proportions - Live Bands on Campus*, and Karaoke Knights.

The Epic Proportions Tour: touring since 2011 for high schools, colleges, and military bases all across the US, made its way back to Bakersfield College for this fall tour. Live performances from Gabe Kubanda, People Who Could Fly, and special guest DJ Tefller, happen in Phoenix, Arizona, and throughout California before coming to put on a show for BC on Aug. 22.

BC student, Evelyn Jimenez, 20, thought their performance was what BC students needed, especially during breaks between classes. "When we're going to class, for... 3 hours, your energy gets down. But coming here, your energy is back up, so it's amazing," Jimenez also said, she wishes more students could listen to them perform. Rebecca Adaliz Maldonado, 17, was walking out of the bookstore thinking about how bad of a day she was having when

she heard loud music playing from the campus center. Maldonado was taken by surprise to see live bands performing. Having a love for music, she confessed Kubanda's voice and acoustic guitar made her day and made her glad that BC allowed these groups to play.

BCSGA hosted BC Welcome Week's Karaoke Knights, Aug. 27. Students gathered and in on a fun game of karaoke in the fireside room. Students with all voices and music styles came to perform their favorite songs, and to jam to in front of a room full of supportive BC's students.

A student at Bakersfield College, sang *Heads Carolina* by Tails California, *Summer Nights* from the musical Grease, and *Crazy* by Willie Nelson, claims music is her outlet and feels free whenever she sings. She's glad she came to the event and learned new types of music, she said "Oh

I had a blast! It was so much fun hearing different genres of music and different voices. I listen to a lot of country but heard some songs today that I will want to look up and definitely listen to again."

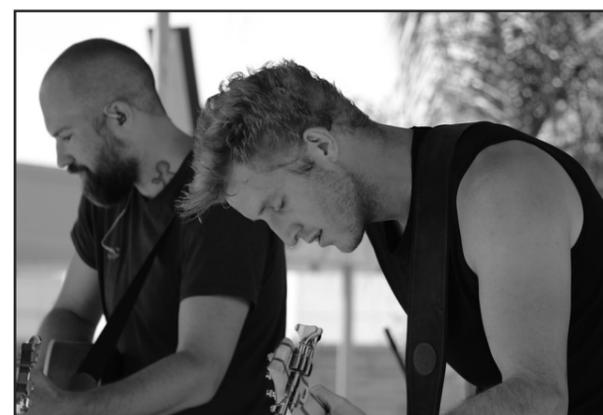
Elizabeth Sampson, a Senator for BC's student government, enjoyed being part of the event and sang few songs herself, "Holding On to a Hero", and "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun". She share that the event, "... is really encouraging and a whole lot of fun. It doesn't really matter if you're good at singing, because... they happen to own it. They were like 'I just want to come up here and sing'. It's so good everyone is so encouraging."

Every student at Bakersfield College should be given opportunities to get involved with the community, met new people, and feel welcome at BC. Which was what BC Welcome Week was all about.



HALEY DUVAL / THE RIP

Gabe Kubanda, owner of the Epic Proportions Tour, performs for BC students.



HALEY DUVAL / THE RIP

Kubanda (left) and Leo Simons (right) perform

## The Mentalist makes his frequent visit to perform for Bakersfield College students

By Saad Kazi  
Reporter

Students in BC's cafeteria, between reading syllabi and munching on food, were treated to a short presentation of hypnosis and mind-reading on Aug. 21.

Richard Aimes, along with his wife and stage partner Marielle, are welcomed to campus every semester. Known as The Perceptives, the duo started off their short show with a few basic brain bungling tricks.

Rich began by introducing the question "What's the difference between an illusionist or a magician and a mind-reader or a mentalist?"

To demonstrate, he held up the familiar black-and-white spiral-

ing illusion pattern and spun it in front of the face of volunteer Stephanie. The audience was to focus on the middle of the spinning spiral for ten seconds and then immediately stare at Stephanie's head. Audience members marveled at Stephanie's head as, in their eyes, it expanded in a very phantom-like way. Next, the showman attempted to read minds. Rich asked a student named Pedro to guess any number from one to five, to which he responded the number three. Rich then flipped over an envelope, and the number three, which he had written before even asking Pedro his number, was shown on the back.

"I know what you're thinking," Rich said, addressing possibly the most common observa-

tion. "I had a one in five chance of him guessing the number I wrote." So the show had to be amped up a little.

The next act started with another student, Briana, volunteering to hold a balloon. Inside the balloon was an envelope Rich had written something in pre-show. Rich then gave two different students one book each. One student was to choose a random page number which the other student had to turn his book to and then read the page's first word. The page number was 92, and the word was "akbar." Rich turned his attention then back to Briana and popped the balloon, letting the envelope fly. Inside the envelope was written the word "akbar."

Rich let the approval of the audience keep its momentum. Following the unbelievable, he went a step further and showed off his telekinetic ability. Rich attempted to use only his mind to bend a spoon resting in the palm of his hand. Demonstrating a use of powerful force with his other hand, the mentalist effectively bent the spoon after putting his brain at unease. After doing so, he held up the finished spoon with an unbent spoon to show the result.

Rich continued with audience participants. In his next performance, he allowed two students to blindfold him with duct tape while Marielle handed out a sheet of paper to a random audience member for that



SAAD KAZI / THE RIP

The Mentalist, Richard Aimes, performs at BC

Please see **CONTINUED** Page 10

# Oildale housewives get real

By Katalina Quintanilla  
Reporter

The Gaslight Theater and Melodrama Music Hall held the play “The Real Housewives of Oildale,” from July 13 to Sept. 8.

The hilarious take on the famous “The Real Housewives” franchise was emulated the original shows with added Bakersfield references.

Ryan Seachest, a wealthy television producer, took his housewife idea and brought it to Oildale.

The moment Seachest walked into Nadine Hoffenfeffer’s salon,

he realized that he had four women desperately looking for rejuvenation in their lives.

Seachest had variety when it came to the housewives and their personalities. Nadine Hoffenfeffer was the responsible salon owner catching on to Seachest crazy demands from the women. Total opposite of Hoffenfeffer, was Amber Rae McJunkin a wife that loved the couch more than her own husband but will do anything to be famous. Marlene Keaton was a shy but off-the-wall wife that wanted to gain attention from others by selling her inventions to the viewers. Lastly, there

was Julie McGillicutty, a hopeless romantic still waiting for her husband to return home from grabbing a beer 3 years ago.

The wives had everything they hoped for, both fame and money.

Buster Keaton and Carl McJunkin, the husbands, brought their wives back to reality and made them realized Seachest was using them. They stood up for their wives and ruined Seachest and his evil plan to ruin the housewives.

“I took my 15-year-old daughter a few weeks ago and loved it, so I bought tickets to bring my husband,”

said Bakersfield College student Melissa Brickell. Brickell first saw “The Real Housewives of Oildale” back in 2015 and was excited to see it this time around with new actors.

Producer, Michael Prince, developed the play six years ago. Although it has been some time since the first run,

“The Real Housewives of Oildale” still had relevancy since “The Housewives” franchise is constantly growing.

“The Real Housewives of Oildale” regular performances are Fridays and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.



KATALINA QUINTANILLA / THE RIP

**Amber Rae McJunkin (Ali Dougherty) explains to Ryan Seachest (Shawn Rader) that she is the perfect housewife.**

# Bakersfield College students race through inflatable obstacle course



JANELL GORE / THE RIP

**Taliyah White scoots herself off the obstacle course after sliding down.**

By Miranda Defoor  
Web & Social Media Editor

Bakersfield College’s Office of Student Life hosted a Renegades Rule: Obstacle Course on Aug. 28, on the Student Services Lawn.

Campus Center is home to many student services and activities. Each semester brings new events and fun for students who are looking to be more involved on campus.

The obstacle course event let students showcase their athleticism and enthusiasm during BC’s annual Welcome Week



JANELL GORE / THE RIP

**Sheila Kolodji and Dominique Harrison slide down the obstacle course on Aug. 28.**



First place for newspaper in 2011, third place in 2013, 2014, 2015 for CNPA General Excellence

Ninth place for newspaper in 2017 for national Best of Show contest by Associated Collegiate Press

Eighth place nationally in 2017 for website publication by Associated Collegiate Press

The Renegade Rip is produced by Bakersfield College journalism classes and is circulated on Thursdays 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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Adviser .....Erin Auerbach

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#### How to reach us

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

## Renegade Struggle: How one student conquered addiction

By Katalina Quintanilla  
Reporter

Veronica Stevens, 33, is a second year student studying psychology at Bakersfield College. Education was at the bottom of her list most of her life. When she was 9 years old her parents divorced and forced her to grow up faster than a normal child.

Stevens's mother was a single parent trying to raise a 9-year-old girl and her two siblings while working a 60 hour job. That resulted Stevens being alone most of time-giving her freedom. At age 11, Stevens began to ditch school, run away from home, become sexually active, and started to do drugs. School was not in the books for her and she had straight F's at the end of the school year.

When she was 13 years old, Stevens was sent to her grandparents to provide adult supervision and discipline. Her transition went well

and she improved her grades. After 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Stevens decided to drop out of high school and started to use drugs. With her mother working long hours, Stevens had no one to discipline or support her.

When she turned 18 she got pregnant and attempted to turn her life around. While pregnant, Stevens went back to get her GED diploma and passed. She was sober for a year and half after she had her son.

Stevens started to use again but was using somewhat "productively." She received assistance from the government that provided her a job. She was able to get an apartment of her own. During her relapse, Stevens's son was taken away from her at the age of 22. Not only was she childless, she also lost her apartment. She was now homeless.

"After I lost my son, I didn't care about anything else," said Stevens. She had an opportunity to regain custody but she

had no stability and she couldn't pass a drug test. Stevens's mother had full custody of her son and chose not to adopt him to give Stevens a chance to get him back. In 2011, Stevens went You Turn for Christ, a Christian sober living located in Tennessee. She was there for a year.

When she returned home she got a job and maintained sobriety for 6 months. After the 6 months, she fell back to her drug use and started at ground zero again. "I lived all over town, scattered around," Stevens mentioned.

Her breaking point was when she was living on Beardsley Avenue on the riverbed. She called that her home for nearly 2 years. Stevens said, "The only thing that was consistent in my life was me calling my son every day."

Stevens became religious and saved her from the crime and dangerous live style many were living around her.

"On Beardsley, people

carry guns and knives. I carried my bible," said Stevens.

She had to adapt to the people that were around her. If there were drugs around, she was there. She is surprised that she is still alive today. Her breaking point was when she realized that she was tired of living the life she created. She believed God had better things in store for her.

October 1, 2015 was her first day of being sober. It took her a year and half to motivate herself to do better things in life and stray away from missing the drugs. Stevens is living in Second Chances Women's Home while figuring her life out.

While living in the women's home, Stevens met her then husband. She married in 2016 at the age of 31. Her husband supported her through everything and kept her motivated. Unfortunately, Stevens husband relapsed and she left him for her greater good. Stevens is now

nearly 3 years sober and a 4.0 honor student at Bakersfield College.

Her goal is to obtain a psychology degree and help incarcerated

minors do better in life. Asked what she would tell her young self today she said that she's important and what she does matters.



KATALINA QUINTANILLA / THE RIP

Veronica Stevens poses for the camera while at Bakersfield College.

## Art museum presents summer concert



CASSIDY EISEN / THE RIP

A crowd gathers around Sugar Candy Mountain as they perform during the Art After Dark Summer Concert at the Bakersfield Museum of Art.

By Cassidy Eisen  
Reporter

The Bakersfield Museum of Art (BMoA) hosted its monthly Art After Dark event Thursday, Aug. 30 in the Sculpture Garden. Museum members were granted early access to the event at 6:30 p.m. Doors opened thirty minutes later for general admission and the concert began the following hour.

Rachel Magnus, BMoA Curator, explained purpose of the event.

She said that from February to October this year, BMoA offers this monthly "after-hours art experience" to bring guests of all ages together to eat, drink, mingle and appreciate the art located throughout the venue.

During the event, guests were encouraged to go inside the museum to view the exhibit "Charles Arnoldi: Forms, A 50 Year Survey," which is a collection of artworks done throughout five decades of artist Charles Arnoldi's career.

Food trucks from all over the city came to cater the crowd of over 250, offering wood-fired Italian street food from Milan's Market, vegan soul-food from We Be Grubbin', and tropical cocktails from Tiki-Ko.

"It's my third time here, and I love coming," said attendee Denise Aleman. "I love the food since it's usually things I've never tried before. I got the Sloppy Josephine from We Be Grubbin', and it's so good that I made my husband get another

one."

Special to this month's event, Sugar Candy Mountain performed at this year's summer concert in the BMoA Sculpture Garden's. The band performed songs from their old album "666" and new ones off of their recently released album "Do Right."

Many guests arrived early to the event and came prepared with blankets and lawn chairs to get a close spot on the grass to see the show.

At the end of the set, the band brought people to their feet when they performed an encore of "Windows," their most popular song.

At the end of the event, Magnus expressed her gratitude and excitement to see plenty of new faces at

the event.

She also promoted upcoming BMoA events and programs.

Next month, the museum is pairing with California State University, Bakersfield, and their English department to showcase poems inspired about pieces displayed in the exhibition spaces.

In October, BMoA will also be hosting its annual Surrealist Masquerade in the Sculpture Garden on Oct. 27 from 7-9 p.m.

"The Garden will be transformed into a Surrealist, trippy, creepy experience," said Magnus.

"Last year we had a lot of enthusiasm with the costumes and the inspiration that people found in what we had on display and also the Surrealist artists of the past."

## Beale Library hosts a discussion on city's Chinese genealogies

By Hector Martinez  
Features Editor

The Kern County Genealogical Society gave a presentation at the Beale Memorial Library, about the genealogy of Chinese people in Bakersfield, called "City of Two Chinatowns" on Aug. 21.

Mary Carroll, vice president of the Kern County Genealogical Society explained, that the event was to talk more about the lives of Chinese people from many centuries ago. She also explained that Gregory Kimm, a pastor at St. Joseph Parish at Cupertino California since 2005, "is also a genealogist with more than 45 years of experience."

Kimm began by saying that he was happy to show the audience some of the lives of the Chinese people here in Bakersfield.

"The presentation has a genealogical focus and I will primarily be talking about my family throughout the whole presentation," said Kimm.

Kimm explained that he has been able to preserve his paternal grandfather's genealogy and his paternal grandmother's genealogy as well.

"My grandfather's genealogy goes back to the 7th century B.C."

Kimm's first few PowerPoint slides were about Chinese calligraphy, and he explained how some documents of

his had been preserved for many years.

After that, the next slides were about his maternal grandparents.

"My maternal grandparents were not from the same Chinatown. My grandfather came from what was known as New Chinatown and my grandmother was raised in what was known as Old Chinatown, here in Bakersfield," explained Kimm.

Kimm also said that his grandmother was the first Chinese Christian in Bakersfield in 1907.

Kathy Walker president of the Kern County Genealogical Society explained that she was happy to have witnessed such an incredible event. She also ex-

plained that the person who came up with the whole event was Lynda Finch, who is in charge of the publicity for the KCGS.

"She began counting and enumerating all the different Chinese censuses, and she somehow came in contact with father Kimm, so he could explain to the audience more on Chinese genealogy," said Walker.

She also said that the KCGS usually has monthly programs just like the one that had occurred that day.

Walker informed that this program was one of the biggest ones because it is a topic that had not really been fully explored in a really long time.

## Go Pokémon go

Video Games: All things gaming  
By Ruben Lira  
Reporter

Two years have passed since the release of the mobile app game Pokémon Go from Niantic Labs.

Almost everyone was playing the game when the game first released. Constant crowds would pepper the parks and streets searching far and wide for the Pokémon to add to their collection.

Players would even stay up as late as 4 in the morning, hunting digital creatures, level up their character, evolve Pokémon, or collect the candy each Pokémon gives.

Since the game's release some of the in-game mechanics have changed and in doing so the fad of the game has significantly dropped.

Some of the changes in the game have altered how and where to find a certain Pokémon, where the player is, and how gym battles are played. Niantic added weather effects that can alter the way the Pokémon spawn or how they fight.

As changes are introduced they add features that some say have been a lot better as well as features promised when the game was first released. The game has added raid battles that will show randomly at gyms for a specific time that requires a certain number of players to fight, defeat, and maybe capture. The raids also may include legendary Pokémon that change every few months.

Trading is another fun feature allows any two players to trade specific Pokémon which can benefit both players. If one player has one that the other does not then they can trade and based on their level of friendship in the game.

They can also trade for stardust which is used to power-up the Pokémon and make them stronger.

The game has

daily missions which allow players to complete tasks to receive items in the game or catch a certain Pokémon.



Ruben Lira

If a player completes one a day they can encounter a rare Pokémon.

There are also mythical quests that allow players three tasks to complete.

The quest which has 8 tiers that give items, experience, and leads to catching mythical creatures (which are for Mew and Celebi).

Of course, there are still some issues players face that can leave them angry and wishing to leave the game.

One major issue players face is called 'spoofing' which is when a player uses an app that will say that the player is in a location they are nowhere near.

The reason the player would do so is to take a gym from a player who went out of their way to leave their home and spend the time to own said gym. The spoofer, as they are called, is doing this from the comfort of their home.

Another reason to spoof is to join a raid to get legendary Pokémon, catch Pokémon from home, and even get the regional Pokémon not available to the US.

There is some relief as Niantic Labs feels if a player is cheating it will ban the player from the game.

For the player to play again would mean to start all over and play according to the rules.

Pokémon Go is still fun to play and has its own rewards for those who are trying to be masters.

If you played before or have not played I suggest you see if you like the changes and give it another try. So, get on out and "catch em all."

## The Empty Space presents play "Dancing in Lughnasa"

By Charr Davenport  
Reporter

The Empty Space Theater opened its production of "Dancing in Lughnasa" on Aug. 24 to a nearly full house. The play, directed by Mendy McMasters, runs until Sep 8 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

"Dancing in Lughnasa," originally written by Brian Friel, is set in Ireland during 1936. It is told through the eyes of Michael (played by Brian Purcell), a young boy who is oblivious to the drama surrounding his family.

The play mostly follows his unmarried mother and four aunts as they deal with financial hardship, relationship issues, religious questioning, a dying brother, a broken radio named Marconi, and Michael's own unreliable traveling father all around the eve of the

Lughnasa Festival.

"Dancing in Lughnasa" opens with Michael recalling when he was a 7-year-old boy and had met his father and his Uncle Jack for the first time. The following scene is of his mother and aunts (known as

takes hold of the house when Michael's father Gerry (played by Eric Tolley) returns to try and win back his mother Chris (played by Cristina Goyeneche). We soon learn that his Gerry had given the family a bad name years before.

poverty.

The family starts relying more on Michael's aunts Agnes (played by DeNae' Iona Brown) and Rose (played by Katelyn Evans), who make mittens and sells them to the village people while Kate, Chris, and Maggie (played by Kamala Boeck) take care of the house, Michael, and Uncle Jack. Unfortunately, a mitten factory opens up, ending their small business venture and destroying the family's source of income once again.

The play continues this theme of crushing the family's hopes after things start to get better each time and end with an adult Michael revealing his family's fates, all somewhat unfortunate.

"Dancing in Lughnasa" may not be appropriate for some viewers, as it has some adult themes and swearing. Tickets are available online on Eventbrite.

***"The play continues this theme of crushing the family's hopes after things start to get better each time"***

the Mundy Sisters) doing household chores while discussing their own problems, including that their brother Jack (played by Jared Cantrell) has malaria and is most likely dying.

Extreme tension soon

Not long after, Michael's aunt Kate (played by Sheila McClure) loses her job as a Catholic school teacher due to the Catholic Church hearing that her brother is no longer Catholic, plunging the family into

## Ariana Grande's new "Sweetener" album is a sweet treat for fans

By Rosa Salazar  
Reporter

Ariana Grande's fourth album, titled "Sweetener", was released Aug. 17, 2018.

"Sweetener" is a pleasant treat that subtly tastes sensual, flirty, dreamy, and radiates positivity.

The 47-minute album contains 15 tracks including the two catchy singles, "God is a Woman" and "No Tears Left to Cry", both dropped earlier this year.

This album is highly recommended to pop lovers and new 'Arianators.'

The first track "Raindrops (an angel cried)" is an acapella type song. The simple lyrics, "When raindrops fell, down from the sky / The day you left me / an angel cried / Oh, she cried, an angel cried / She cried," fill the 38 seconds of the tune. It's a very bland song and easily forgettable.

"Blazed" featuring Pharrell Williams had the potential to be the perfect pop song. It has a beat you want to get up to dance to. Grande sings the chorus by dragging the words, "Once I have you / I will never let you / never let you...", ever so beautifully. The only downside is when Williams sings "shorty you could get blazed," even though it has the title, it is cringy and unnecessary.

The third song "The Light Is

Coming" featuring Nicki Minaj is skip worthy for many reasons. Minaj's rap is lazy, using incoherent lyrics like "Respect bad gyal when mi done speak." What?

The real tragedy is Grande's part, where she sings "The light is coming to give back everything the darkness stole." Just ugh.

"Breathin'" is hands down the best track on the album. The song is about feeling overwhelmed with the lyrics "Feel my

Furthermore, the song is about the singer's anxiety following a bombing after one of her concerts in Manchester last year.

Another great track is "Say Goodnight and Go." It's a flirty song about after dark hours that make you wish you had someone to cuddle. Take "Lately, all I want is you on top of me / You know where your hands should be / So baby, won't you come show me?" Talk about romantic.

But the best part is when Grande sings high pitched, "One of these days / You'll miss your train and come stay with me / (It's always say goodnight n go) / We'll have drinks and talk about things / And any excuse to stay awake with you..."

"Sweetener" is another uplifting song. It's probably the most repetitive song, with the same piano chords throughout the whole song. Not to mention the annoying "And then you get it / get it / get it / get it (ayy) / Hit it / hit it / hit it / hit it (ayy) / Flip it / flip it / flip it / You make me say oh, oh (sheesh, sheesh) / Twist it / twist it / twist it / twist it / Mix it and mix it and mix it and mix it / Kiss it / kiss it / kiss it / You make me say oh / oh (sheesh, sheesh)." And it repeats not twice but four times! Sheesh!

The last, and one of the better tracks on the album, is "Get Well Soon." It serves a gentle reminder that "you gotta take care of your body." It's a song that lifts your spirits and lets you know you're not alone. Like that sober friend you should listen to.

★★★★☆



GOOGLE IMAGES

Ariana Grande's "Sweetener" album artwork.

blood runnin' / swear the sky's fallin' / How do I know if this shit's fabricated? / Time goes by and I can't control my mind..."

In the chorus, Grande provides an enlightenment, singing "Just keep breathin' and breathin' and breathin' and breathin'." It's a song you don't want to end.

## WWE NXT

World Wrestling Entertainment: *NXT*  
By Taylor Jensen  
Reporter

NXT, a brand of WWE, started in 2010 as a reality show in a way on cable television and was WWE's developmental system. The one-hour show showcased ridiculous obstacle courses, mediocre promos from up and coming superstars, and wrestling matches that weren't very entertaining. With that said, it wasn't taken seriously at all.

Fans saw NXT as boring and a joke and I couldn't agree with them more. Back in 2010 and 2011, I saw firsthand what NXT was like live when it was televised at the Rabobank Arena. During the show, people would leave for a bathroom break or go get something to eat. Perhaps, people used that time before the main show, Smackdown, aired because NXT wasn't important.

Little did people know, NXT was about to become the most popular wrestling show in the world.

In 2012, WWE legend, Triple H, took control of NXT and brought it to Full Sail University in Orlando, Florida. Since then, NXT has produced its own championships, pay-per-views, home and live shows, and of course, its own superstars. Triple H has signed some of the most amazing talent from around the world and they have all made their own impact on the business. Easily, if it wasn't for Triple H's hard work and the superstars' dedication, WWE probably wouldn't be where it is today.

Finn Balor, Roman Reigns, Shinsuke Nakamura, Sasha Banks, Charlotte, just to name a few, all thrived in NXT and many went on to win world titles and main event WrestleMania's. Roman Reigns and Sasha Banks are some of the top merchandise sellers in the company as of right now.

The newer stars that are still there such as Velveteen Dream (my favorite), Aleister Black, and Shayna Baszler, are all eventually going to be the top stars on the main roster. At least I hope because they all keep me entertained

and hooked to the product.

That admiration of NXT from WWE fans has grown throughout the past five years and



Taylor Jensen

many consider NXT to be better than the main shows of WWE. Each of the weekly shows is action-packed and straight to the point. When a Takeover is weeks away, the weekly NXT shows are off the chart with drama, action, and harsh words that are straight from the heart. They make it feel that way!

Takeover's have even been held in London before. Some random shows have been held at the Download festivals in London for the past few years. They are obviously held in cities across the United States and when they are, it's like nothing else exists in that city because of the extreme popularity.

Just last month, a Takeover took place in Brooklyn, New York called NXT Takeover: Brooklyn 4. It was a sold-out show and it showcased 5-star matches that had everyone jumping out of their seats and chanting "this is awesome!" These shows constantly remind me of exactly why I love professional wrestling so much. Due to the outstanding product, there's no doubt that the company will be in good hands when Vince McMahon steps down and Triple H "takes over" the entire WWE.

Someday, I will work for NXT by writing or producing because it is my ultimate passion in life. Also, I would love to work with Triple H, my favorite wrestler of all time and the mastermind behind what is NXT.

"This. Is. N.X.T!" -Triple H to a massive Brooklyn crowd in 2015, at the beginning of NXT Takeover.

## BlacKkKlansmen has a surprising lightness

By Bryana Lozoya  
Reporter

"BlacKkKlansman" is a great movie and worth the money.

The film is based off Ron Stallworth's memoir, with the same title, about his time as an investigator which details his infiltration of the local Ku Klux Klan chapter in Colorado along with some undercover work in the Black Panthers.

This movie not only highlights the true story of Ron Stallworth (played by

John David Washington), a black former police investigator for Colorado Springs Police Department, but also highlights issues of racism and hate crimes faced in his time and ones still happening today.

There are many fantastic things about the movie, such as their music choice, which featured songs like "Mary Don't You Weep" by Prince and "Oh Happy Day" by Edwin Hawkins.

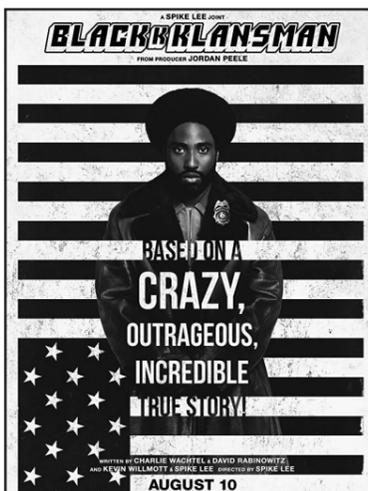
The casting was well done with notable actors such as

Adam Driver, Michael Buscemi, and Alec Baldwin.

There was never a dull moment in the film—it will keep you on the edge of your seat the entire time.

However, based on stereotype and race, some actors acted in a cliché manner that ended up annoying and distasteful. One that was notable was a character who acted like the stereotypical uneducated racist hillbilly.

Please see CONTINUED, Page 10



GOOGLE IMAGES

BlacKkKlansman movie poster features star.

## PARKING: BC continues remodel of campus parking

Continued from Page 1

thinks a first come first serve option is a good idea.

“I think it should be free because well some students that have parking passes can’t find parking space. That or first come first serve,” she said.

Besides parking lot renovations, the funds from Measure J will be used for building enhancements and overall campus upgrade.

“We’re working on right now the Veterans Resource center and the campus center which

will also be known as the abc building,” said Baker. “We’re also in the beginning stages for the gym of athletics facility as it will be referred to and we also are in the middle of putting together the science and engineering program.”

Baker offered some advice for students parking of campus.

“I think looking ahead at your schedule. I think it’s always a good idea to get to campus, probably leave your home at least an hour early that way you’ll know you have plenty of time.”

## MENTALIST: Hypnotist visits BC

Continued from Page 5

audience member to draw a picture on. Rich had to then guess the drawing, which could have been of anything.

“I am going to describe what is on this picture by using what is known as ultrasonic vision,” Rich claimed. The kind of animal that was drawn was hard to make out, but Rich was still somehow able to guess it. “This looks to me sort of like either a lion or a teddy bear.” A roar of applause ensued.

Though the crowd’s reactions were mostly positive throughout the show, some held on to the concept of the performance being just one

big mind game.

“He repeats things, he tells you to believe things using your subconscious,” said one student, Francis, who has attended the show in the past.

Though Rich still “seems to be enjoying what he does,” added another audience member, Matthew.

Rich enjoyed his time with students. Amid his acts, he told jokes and even taught the audience how to use hypnosis to relax.

The Perceptives are expected to return to BC next semester.

## KkKlansman: surprises with humor

Continued from Page 9

The background actors were dressed too similarly to the point that they all blend together and bring the assumption that one race all act or think the same, but perhaps that was director Spike Lee’s intention as an emphasis for the movie to highlight the racism and conflict between black and white people.

This movie has plenty of good things to offer viewers. The way Spike Lee directed the film was seamless with their use of background noise, music, fade-ins and fade-outs, and locations for filming. To put it simply, it was pleasing to the eye and easy to follow along as a movie viewer.

The quality of the acting and choice of music played throughout the movie was amazing. The way Lee integrated the two together evoke feelings ranging from anger and despair to hope and joy at the appropriate moments.

“BlacKkKlansman” is a film that will definitely make viewers feel deeply. Each main actor embodied their character accurately and in such a compelling way that one could almost forget they’re watching a movie.

One surprising factor in the film was the humor presented. The trailer portrayed the film as suspenseful and serious, but that wasn’t the case. The humorous moments came at appropriate times and was not overdone.

The ending to the “BlacKkKlansman” is

unique in of itself and was quite intense. Lee, presumably, added the things he did to spark outrage and debate.

It was an “in your face” scene that makes moviegoers leave the theater reminded of the darker periods of modern American history in the hopes of inspiring change and outrage at those moments.



GOOGLE IMAGES

An advertisement for BlacKkKlansman

## Let’s talk about sex

**Sexual Wellness:** *Sex and your health*

By Bryana Lozoya  
Reporter

Talking about sex and sexual wellness is something that should be spoken more openly about in Kern County—between families, friends, schools, and healthcare professionals. There is still a hefty amount of discomfort and stigma when it comes to openly discuss sex and all that it entails. Because of that, it plays a role in negatively impacting our community.

This kind of conversation should be started at home and continued at some point in schools, with a person’s doctor and beyond.

Without this kind of conversation in the forefront, we get more people practicing sex unsafely, more people unaware about proper sexual wellness, and more people believing myths and misconceptions about sexual health and passing them along to others.

I am sure that many people are already aware that Kern County ranks high for certain STDs, but for those who don’t, we rank #3 for Chlamydia and #4 for Gonorrhea in California for 2017 according to the California Department of Public Health. That is higher than what was reported in 2016.

There are lots of reasons for these high rates but if we get rid of the stigma around talking about sex and how to take care of our sexual health, then more people would feel comfortable with being proactive about their sexual health without worrying about judgment or retribution.

For some, talking about sex is taboo and the motto is abstinence-only, having this kind of mindset is

not helpful to anyone. Yes, being abstinent is the best way to avoid



Bryana Lozoya

unwanted pregnancies and STDs but leaving a person’s knowledge about properly taking care of their sexual health with just practicing abstinence is reckless and foolish. It leaves people at risk for practicing unsafe sex and picking up misconceptions about sexual wellness, STDs, and pregnancy.

Talking about sex and everything that comes with it should not be taboo at all. Having a community that is able to discuss these kinds of things openly and comfortably is beneficial for our county’s overall wellness.

Being able to have a community that is comfortable with this topic opens opportunities to creating and implementing better education, and advertisement on sexual wellness—whether it is for schools across grade levels or through other mediums such as billboards or community outreaches presented across Kern County.

Having the conversation about sexual wellness in our community can present us with a well-rounded knowledge about how to be safe while knowing the risks and consequences when engaging in sexual activities. Not only that, we can build better relationships with one another while also learning about different sexualities.

# BC's scrimmage against Antelope Valley



HALEY DUVAL / THE RIP

**Abdiel Richards (far right), LJ Early (middle), Jeremiah Johnson (far left), at BC Renegades Football Scrimmage vs. Antelope Valley.**

By Cameron Johnson  
*Reporter*

The Renegade Football team got their first taste of the 2018 season on Aug. 22 when they scrimmaged Antelope Valley at Memorial Stadium. The scrimmage format only saw first string players on the field for two series at most, but key players made the most of their first time lining up against an opponent.

Sophomore running back, Elisha Ortiz, had impressive carries for gains and showed signs of picking up where he left off after last year's breakout season. Freshman, Shane Jones, proved he is fully healed from a torn ACL that prevented him from playing his senior year at Bakersfield High.

Several positions are still being solidified as the last week of practice before the season opener rolls on, but no competition is more intriguing than the quarterback one.

Braden Wingle and

Josh Medina shared reps behind center against Antelope Valley, but head coach Jeff Chudy isn't interested in playing games when it comes to the final decision.

"This competition is just like any other position on the team, and the upcoming week of practice will tell who's ready," said Chudy.

The Renegades were ranked #14 nationally by the 2018 College Football America JuCo Preseason Top 30.

To some programs it may seem like a lot of pressure to live up to the hype, but Coach Chudy is confident his team has handled the recognition gracefully.

"It's nice to get the media attention and to have our players experience being recognized like that. But when it comes time to play, there is no correlation," said Chudy. Chudy stressed the importance of values like toughness, unselfishness, and humility.

"I believe our guys understand the hard work

it takes to be successful but a ranking like that won't win games for us."

Key sophomore names like nationally ranked punter Carson Olivas and First Team All-Conference member Cameron Roberson also are poised to have repeat productive seasons. Coach Chudy had high praise for his returners, saying they took it upon themselves to convey high standards that the program expects.

"Real time game experience is invaluable, and our returners have stressed that we have high expectations from every player." Coach Chudy believes strongly in the community aspect of his program, and stressed the importance to recruit local players.

"It's easy for a city to get behind players who are from the area. It's called a community college for a reason."

The Renegades open their season on the road against Mt. San Antonio on Saturday Sept. 1 at 6 p.m.



HALEY DUVAL / THE RIP

**BC Renegades Football Scrimmage against Antelope Valley.**



HALEY DUVAL / THE RIP

**Shane Jonas (right) and Jalen Simpkins (left) celebrate a play from teammates**

## Women's golf begins

By Cameron Johnson  
*Reporter*

The Renegade Women's golf team opened their season on Aug. 26 and 27 in Ventura at the South Coast Classic hosted by Santa Barbara Community College.

The two-day tournament format saw the team playing at Olivas Links Golf Course on Sunday and Buenaventura Golf Course for the final round on

Monday.

Sophomore Allie Crawley shot a 78 on Sunday followed by a 76 on Monday to lead the team with a tournament total of 154.

Sidney Crawley carded the second lowest team score of 164.

The two sisters are prepared to lead the team this season as they are the lone returning players.

Freshman players Breann Bonkosky, Eliz-

abeth Nakagawa, and Ramanda Lara round up the 2018 team and look to post solid scores throughout the season.

The Renegades return to action Monday Sept. 10 as they take on Santa Barbara Community College at Santa Barbara Golf Club.

ONLINE  
RECAPS AT  
[www.therip.com](http://www.therip.com)

## First win for soccer

By Franco Castelo  
*Reporter*

The Bakersfield College Men's Soccer team had their first game on Friday, August 24 in LA Harbor. Considering the game was just a scrimmage, the game went well and ended up in a tie. Both teams worked really hard and made excellent plays from the defensive side to the offensive side. For some of the Renegades, it was their first collegiate game with others they haven't played

with but we had many players step up in crucial moments and won individual battles. The Renegades have a strong defensive but also played a well-balanced team and that is well coached.

Jose Lara, a midfielder, said the team had many opportunities to do more but had a good start as far as getting a feel to the game and playing as a team. Lara scored the point to tie the game and was assisted by Alejandro Guzman. "The team played solid and

moved the ball well around the field", Lara said. Coach Vayron Martinez, the Men's Soccer Coach, said the team played with a lot of enthusiasm and has a positive outlook into the future. "However, there's still a lot of work to be done and we will continue to train hard and improve in every aspect of the game", Coach Martinez said. Although the game was a tie, The Renegades responded well and will continue to fight hard throughout this season.

**"Real time game experience is invaluable, and our returners have stressed that we have high expectations from every player."**

- Coach Chudy

## Op-ED: Over saturating songs on albums will lessen the quality

By Cameron Johnson  
*Reporter*

Music has always been a primary source for me to zone out on long drives, zone in while working out, or most importantly to express how I'm feeling in a particular moment. With that being said I've come a long way since buying explicit songs on my family's shared iTunes account without my parents' permission. As a college student it is invaluable to have the ability to access practically every song ever recorded on streaming services like Spotify, Apple Music, and Tidal, to which I've had subscriptions to all three.

I am certainly not an expert music reviewer, but over the years I have developed the ability to appreciate music that has been noticeably labored over with obvious artistic value. At the same time, I frequently find myself listening to "slaps" with mesmerizing beats. I consider my favorite type of music to be hip-hop and several of the relevant artists in the genre are known to dabble in both well thought out and formulaic songs alike.

An album's themes and messages are usually telltale signs of whether you're listening to an artist's inner thoughts or a compilation of songs made for

a night-club. But being as invested in music as I am, I've noticed a recent trend in the length of albums and it directly reflects in the content of the album.

Artists have begun to over saturate their albums with lengthy tracklists and the quality of these bodies of work have taken deadly hits. Artist Swae Lee of rap group Rae Sremmurd explained that their three-sided compilation album that runs 27 songs long titled "SR3MM", "Swaeccation", and "Jxmtro" is an artistic venture that is groundbreaking in nature. In reality, artists are loading up their albums for one reason: streams.

In 2012, Billboard began counting what they call "on demand streams" from services like Spotify, Apple Music, and Tidal towards the Hot 100 for songs and Top 200 for album sales. Artists have quickly learned that the more songs they put on an album, the more streams they get, which ultimately leads to more money. According to Billboard, 1500 streams of a song equates to one album sale. Drake's latest album "Scorpion" had 25 songs with a run time of an hour and thirty minutes. But how many of the songs actually have replay value? Only the ones that top the charts. Drake's hit single "God's Plan" has

991,940,870 streams on Spotify. And that number will only continue to grow.

The bottom line is artists are crowding their albums with unnecessary songs while the popular songs actually do the heavy lifting. The quality of the music on albums like "Culture 2" from Migos is being sacrificed for the sake of the album topping the chart, and that's just wrong.

Kanye West broke the formula this summer when he worked on four albums at just seven songs each. The quality of these albums is better than those of larger quantities, but they undoubtedly will require more repeat listens to top the charts.

At the end of the day, most people will listen to their favorite songs from new albums without considering how it will benefit the artist, and that's the way it is supposed to be. However, someone like me who overanalyzes these things, I hate to see the decline in quality albums. It's not every day we get albums like Blonde from Frank Ocean or DAMN from Kendrick Lamar. What's most important is people are discovering new music more than ever before. One's taste in music is meant to be stretched and tested. You never know what that next trip to Spotify will bring.

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