Inside

By Kieth Kaczewski 
Reporter

The Ripka Project, a national honor society for students with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, recently received an increased national membership in the KCCD Community Collegeativ

"I believe there was a booth in Phi Theta Kappa," Guilliams said, "but I looked at it and thought, I was just looking for a shirt to wear, and it looked good, so I bought it, and then I thought, I could do better than this." said.

Phi Theta Kappa, a national honor society for students with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, recently received an increased national membership in the KCCD Community College Administration (KCCD), the national honor society for students with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.

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"I've always been on the outside looking in, all my life, I was too young for the black power movement, and now I'm the only one that's 'hardcore,'" said Merritt Holloway, BC student.

Merritt Holloway poses wearing a shirt of his own making. Holloway makes all of his own clothes. He is also a carpenter, a welder and plays the piano.

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Jerry's Pizza celebrates 20th anniversary

By Nicholas Spalding
Reporter

A Bakersfield staple celebrated two decades of excellence Sunday with an event sponsored by the Downtown Business Association. Jerry's Pizza turned 20 years old on April 3.

The man of the evening was owner Jerry Baranowski, who smiled as he moved through the crowd clapping hands with all his patrons.

"The event is beautiful. I'm overwhelmed by the situation. It's not just for me. They, people, they deserve this, I really appreciate them," said Baranowski.

Baranowski went on to thank his customers in a speech.

"We need to first say thanks to them, and then celebrate why they like to come. They are not new fans, they are regular customers, everybody who was here today was at least here in the past, many are quite regular," he said.

Baranowski also took time to thank his employees.

"It's been that special, whether they worked here for one day or several years," said Baranowski.

In 20 years, Jerry's Pizza has had over 600 employees. In attendance for the celebration was councilman Larry Hall.

He was there to present Baranowski with a special award for his 20 years of service downtown.

"It's a two-moos success and we're very proud of what Jerry has done," said Hall.

Hall also commented on Baranowski's speech.

"The enthusiasm that he showed in his presentation shows that he loves what he does," he said.

Hall took time to recognize the service that Jerry's Pizza has done for you.

"I think it has given the youth of Bakersfield a visible alternative for all types of music when you consider the many concerts that Jerry has conducted at his residence. That gives the kids and the youth an opportunity to look at things that maybe only Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"He's made that possible for our kids. He's always had a good, kind, commitment to downtown Bakersfield, maintaining his presence and being a part of all the good things occurring downtown and making sure that his business fits into our community. I'm very proud of Jerry and his 20 years of service," said Hall.

Concert-goers in Bakersfield have long known Jerry's Pizza as one of the most popular venues in the city. "We like all kinds of bands from all over and many bands from outside come here too. it definitely has given a good start for many young talents," Hall said.

After migrating to the United States from Poland over 20 years ago, Baranowski had to do that he would and up where he is today.

"Most of things that have happened in my life have been spontaneous. I like to plan the serious things, but in all this music, it was very unexpected," he said.

Mr. Baranowski's speech received a standing ovation from the crowd.

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Studio offers clinic in master songwriting

By Bennous Fields

Reporter

The first of a series of Master Songwriting Clinics that offers aspiring songwriters an opportunity to expand their musical knowledge through instruction by world-class artists. The first clinic was held March 11, with a packed house during the songwriting session and a sold-out concert the night before. Rick Stevens, manager of American Sound Recording Studios, said that these clinics are not genre specific and offer knowledge for all skill levels.

"They learn from the best songwriters in the business," said Stevens. "They're either Grammy Award-winning songwriters or major hit-maker songwriters that are doing these clinics." Among the master songwriters who attended the last clinic was three-time Grammy and Emmy award-winning artist Steve Dorff, who has composed music for Kenny Rogers, George Strait and Eddie Rabbitt, as well as a number of television and movie soundtracks. Also at the clinic was Randy Sharp, whose music has been recorded by Linda Ronstadt, Emmy Lou Harris, The Dixie Chicks, Reba McEntire and many others. The music produced by Grammy-award winner Don Was, was also there to share her talent.

"The idea is to give songwriters and artists an opportunity to advance their career in songwriting and artistry," said Stevens, who runs a recording studio as well. "It's offered as an opportunity for artists to work with great songwriters to develop their skills and further their education on software like song structure, songs in moves and commercials, the importance of publishing and the representational aspect of a musician's career, such as producing demos.

"The songwriting process is not as easy as people think that it is," said Stevens. "I can see people could sit down and think they could write a song but writing great songs is a rare skill. It's a real talent and it doesn't just come to anyone."

The night before each clinic, there will be a concert featuring all of the master songwriters and their work. During the clinic, there will be a critique session where musicans are encouraged to bring in original recordings for feedback by the instructors.

Apart from the Master Songwriting Clinic, Stevens is also working on a reality TV show titled, "America, Is It a Hit?" through his own project called ViViT Entertainment Group. The concept is that songwriters are split up into three different groups (pop, rock and country) and will compete on weekly episodes where viewers can vote for their favorite artists, much like "American Idol." A panel of judges will decide the fate of each artist that performs.

The concert is $20 and the clinic is $50, which includes lunch at the studio's in-house Hot & Smokin' BBQ.

Although the date for the next clinic is still pending, Stevens and the studio expect it to be the last week of June. More information can be found at soundstudios.com or call 864-1701.

Rick Stevens demonstrates how participants in the clinic can make demo recordings.

By Hannah Breeland

Bakersfield College prepares for Garden Fest

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Bakersfield College's annual Garden Fest is back for its seventh year on April 21. The festival is free and open to the public and food and beverages will be provided by the BC Culinary Arts program.

The Renegade Ranch trailer and Agsin Park landscape where the event is put on by BC's agricultrue and horticulture majors for more than tripled in size.

An orchid blooms in one of Bakersfield College's greenhouses in preparation for the Garden Fest.

Levan Center presents classics in new light

By Raban Perez

The Norman Levan Center for the Humanities continued its Reading the Classics series on April 12 by presenting works of Shakespeare along with The King James Version of the Bible. Jack Hernandez, director of the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities, who put the event together, decided to put these two together because "last year was the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's translation, which was done in 1611."

"We wanted to give students the opportunity to know Shakespeare's works as well." Hernandez explained that they would sit around and have a critique session together. "We'd find out what the students thought was good and what we need to do with the language." Hernandez explained that reading Shakespeare's works was an exercise in language appreciation of the language of the time and what the people were trying to do with the language.

"The language is not as easy as people think that it is," said Stevens. "I can see people could sit down and think they could write a song but writing great songs is a rare skill. It's a real talent and it doesn't just come to anyone."

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Art show presents work by students

By Jon Nelson  Features Editor

The Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery, located in the Grace Van Dyke Blake Library, is hosting its annual exhibit of student art. The Bakersfield College Art Student Exhibit brings together a 23-year-old fine art collection, a lot of Beatles, Leon bridges got me hooked on blues."

"There's a lot of cool stuff," said Greene. "There's a lot of classic blues songs, some classic rock songs and try to mix some original material as well. We try to keep it upbeat. If it's the type of piece where people want to dance, we try to keep that up, keep that vibe going. We do tons of Chicago and Texas blues," he said.

Although Greene has played with acts like Alan Parsons around the world, Greene still enjoys playing close, intimate venues like Pyrenees Cafe.

"I love it. It's immediately, especially if people are in dancing and having a good time," he said. "It's a different atmosphere than playing a big concert. We want, when I'm on my hand, I'm doing pretty much whatever I want. The atmosphere isn't really the same. We'll jam on things and improv more. It's more intimate than it is creating on the spot. My hope is that what I'm doing is exciting to dancers and that they enjoy dancing through these moments. It's a communal feeling." Although Greene never played in Bakersfield, he does have some memories of the area.

"My grandmother lived in Visalia when I was growing up. Whenever I'd visit my grandmother I'd always drop by through Bakersfield."

Greene laughed as he recalled a particular fond memory. "I remember when I was a little kid there was this sign out in front of Bakersfield that said, 'Jet, just stay, play, Bakersfield.' When I saw it I thought I just might go closer to Grandma's house."

It's Greene's hometown playing in Bakersfield and he is looking forward to playing there. "I'm excited. I know a lot of my regional bands from L.A. have gone through there and have had a good time. I'm sure I'll have some people with me there. I'm really looking forward to it. It's momentous for me."

On his most recent album, "Through the Rain," Greene is exploring new territory, but he says that the music is different in a way that other musicians in the blues genre may not be. "It's the same thing. The music is a little bit different, but the atmosphere is different in a way that's not necessarily a blues genre."

"Through the Rain," Greene's songs take on a darker tone than his previous work. "I think it's easier for me to be more original today because coming up with things that maybe aren't blues songs may be things that are more introspective, or things that aren't so different from what I've experimented or watched other people experience, so the new mood I'm looking to reflect that, an approach to being an alpha party mood music."

Overall, Greene finds music to be an outlet. "I've always enjoyed expressing myself through music. I don't have a huge vocabulary, I'm not a poet. The things that are inside of me aren't always come out the best using words, they come out the best playing guitar."