BC suffers loss of two students

Vigil in honor of student

By Mohamed Bafakih
Contributing Editor

Whether it was what he did for Bakersfield or what he meant to the community of Delano, the loss of 19-year-old former Bakersfield College student Ali Sakr shook the surrounding area.

Sakr died after colliding with a semi, which set his car on fire near Seventh Standard Road and Cheney Avenue on Feb. 6, as he was returning home to Delano after refereeing a junior high basketball tournament at Liberty High School.

The success through basketball allowed him to still be involved with the game, and while refereeing gave him an extra chance to give back to the game, it was just part of his selflessness of giving back. Sakr always had a heart to give back.

“HE [Sakr] was a great kid, it’s a shame,” Bakersfield College head basketball coach Rich Hughes said in regard to the passing of Sakr.

Hughes briefly coached Sakr during preseason practice of the 2015 basketball season after Sakr’s stellar prep career at Robert F. Kennedy High School in Delano.

“in fact he was officiating JV games during the high school season ... how many 19 year olds do that?” Hughes said.

“He was mature for his age, and he was a very good player and was a very good player at Kennedy. It’s just sad to see.”

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Veteran’s parents mourn

By Marcus Centre

Bakersfield College suffered a loss on Feb. 4 when a student, Timothy L. Legget Jr., 25, took his own life.

He was a U.S. Army veteran who was in the military for four years, eight months.

Legget’s mother Sharown Summers spoke to The Rip about her son the week after he died.

“there have been a handful of occasions where I knew that this could be the last time conversation, but I felt confident that he was going to continue on,” Summers said. “the North Carolina trip, when he came home, I thought that was when he was going to hurt himself, and I would never see my son again.”

Legget was a first semester student at BC. He was discharged from the Army in September 2015 and came home from North Carolina in October.

Legget’s stepfather of 12 years Christopher Summers and Sharown explained that Legget was a happy guy by the past.

“Tim was fun loving and helpful to everybody. He just always had a smile on his face. When he was young, we called him catfish because his mouth was so big from his big smile,” said Sharown.

“Christopher explained that his stepson loved to play sports, including football and basketball at Highland High School. He also said that he loved to dance.

“He loved to dance. If music was on, he would just randomly dance,” said Christopher.

Christopher explained that during the first month and a half since Legget was home, he was more involved with everyone. He went on to say that it was around Thanksgiving when Legget really relaxed.

“He was just in his room. He would come out though, and tell me ‘Hi’ every day. Sometimes we would have a little conversation, and sometimes he would just go. He just normally was not there. He just changed,” said Sharown.

BC Veterans Club president Benjamin Lindquist explained that Legget was very quiet and

Please see VETERAN, Page 5

Smoking policy possible

By Crystal Valder
Assistant Editor

Smoking on campus has been a topic of discussion at Bakersfield College for years. By the end of March 2016, it is possible that BC will officially be tobacco free.

Last year, the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees made every college within the district the right to decide whether or not students would be allowed to smoke on campus.

BC has since been chosen to be tobacco free. A procedure has been developed as well to get rid of the implementation of the rule.

The procedure will be sent to the District Coordinating Council for implementation by the end of February. Policy approved or negatve will occur in March.

“We’re not saying to people that they can’t smoke. What we’re saying is if anyone of campus goes to the wrong areas to go smoking, we want people to go off campus,” said nursing department director Tony Gaffney.

Gaffney said if people smoke off campus, he would not have a problem with that. The only issue would be if students did not stop smoking when they were on campus.

“We’re saying to people that they can’t smoke on campus. We’re not saying to people that they can’t smoke off campus,” said Gaffney.

“We’re not saying to people that they can’t smoke. What we’re saying is do it off campus,” said Crystal.

By Crystal Valder
Assistant Editor
In recent years, the world has witnessed one of the largest human rights crises since World War II. The ongoing refugee crisis has become an epidemic, involving 60 million refugees on the move from countries all over the world.

On Feb. 5 the Leon Center at Bakersfield College hosted a discussion titled “Refugees in our Backyard,” which allowed for voices from a national, global, and local standpoint.

UC Davis Law professor Holly Cooper, along with two of her students, gave a presentation focused on various aspects of refugee crises, including demographics, geography, policies, policy-making, and the privatization of detention centers.

Cooper shared an experience: she had with her first assignment in 1999 as an immigration lawyer. She was assigned with the Afghanistan-Mexico border, and her first task was to work with unaccompanied minors from all over the world who were detained in a local jail.

She reflected that those children, whom she had named as “the lost,” were unaware of what was occurring around them, and she has been determined to bring attention to this situation.

Cooper has shared her experience with others while teaching her students at UC Davis, helping to navigate literature and understanding the details of the crisis.

Baronio ran her section of the presentation by discussing the three main crises that have occurred in recent history: European (now), Central American (ongoing), and Middle Eastern (ongoing).

Cooper discussed the demographic and numerical aspect of the crisis. She noted that the United Nations, the top 10 countries of origin for refugees, are due to cartel violence in recent years.

Baronio characterized the top 10 countries of origin for refugees, which are Mexico, Central American, and European.

Cooper shared the fact that refugees who come into California are typified from Mexico and Central America because traveling through land is easier than traveling oceans.

According to her presentation, Honduras is the most violent country in the world, El Salvador is second, and Guatemala is third. Mexico has recently been making it’s way to the top due to cartel violence in recent years.

In 2014, 60,000 unaccompanied minors came to the US, and 80,000 were sent back to their countries.

The Art Council’s annual First Friday, the top 10 countries of origin for refugees are due to cartel violence in recent years.

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Bak-Anime attracts a crowd of thousands

Larry Gabriel, 26, of Woodland Hills, dressed as Beckett-Jack, exclaims with pleasure at the entrance of the hotel lobby.

The entire cast of costumed gamers gather for a photo at the Cosplay Monster Stage.

“I blog to keep me alive,” he said.

“So that’s it. I know these kids. I’ve been these kids. I’ve had these kids. And I was a kid, these were the guys with the balaclavas on their backs. And why? Because they aren’t in the mainstream kind of things that other kids are. Now they come in here, they are surrounded by thousands of other kids who are doing exactly the same thing in that way. In those halls, they are accepted as who they are, not how they costume, not how you project your costume. You don’t have to spend $1,000 on a costume. These kids aren’t about that, these kids are here to have fun.”

The event featured Lauren Small’s Kung-Fu. Steve Wyatt, 51, of Bakersfield, is the man behind Bak-Anime. He has been hosting conventions ever since in the hopes of actually making some money out of it for the money or the fun or the joy of the people doing it.

“Yeah, it costs tens of thousands of dollars to throw all these things. I didn’t make money. I barely broke even,” he said. “I moved back from (the Bay Area) because I made my living in comics so, you know, I’ll learn to be broke, but to learn Bak-Anime I could afford a nice house in the back part of place.”

Wyatt decided to start hosting Bak-Anime because those things are “nothing going on at the time for fine fine fans here in Bakersfield. I just got on a microphone and say ‘hey, we are going to do a convention’ and the same time we sell out… everybody wants to be there. We are both going to do a convention because I know those kids have fun, and let’s do this together!”

“Tm not a top costume, but I don’t see myself as a top costume,” Comic Book Guy From The The Simpsons Contestant Erick Main, 40, was an emphasis on his life, so what’s the big deal? We were going and explained why he thinks the contest is so important at a public contest.

“Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders,” best known for his work as the voice of “Ghostface” in the Scary Movie films, who demonstrated many of his favorite voices, including Dave Dorek.

At the convention, former BC student Erick Main, 40, was in the lobby. ‘When I got out there, nothing going on at the time for fine fine fans here in Bakersfield. I just got on a microphone and say ‘hey, we are going to do a convention’ and the same time we sell out… everybody wants to be there. We are both going to do a convention because I know those kids have fun, and let’s do this together!”

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The convention consisted of an analysis of the hip hop moment and the hip hop industry, with a focus on hip hop as a cultural force. The presentation included an overview of hip hop history, the role of hip hop in society, and the impact of hip hop on popular culture.


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Johnny Aguilera gets more information from Alabama A&M University during the HBCU Caravan Tour that took place at Renegade Crossroads. Jorge Cabrera (left) is being assisted by Jason Randoo (right) from Virginia University of Lynchburg.

HBCU Caravan Tour comes to BC

Johnny Aguilera gets more information from Alabama A&M University during the HBCU Caravan Tour that took place at Renegade Crossroads. Jorge Cabrera (left) is being assisted by Jason Randoo (right) from Virginia University of Lynchburg.

By Freddie Ward
Reporter

The FAFSA awareness kick event was held at BC and many Inch college staff members were there to answer questions about financial aid.

The KVC Sticker, also known as the KVC Card, is something that many students recognize as a source of income, but also a reminder of the financial aid process and the importance of being aware of the opportunities that are available to students.

By Freddy Ward
Reporter

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The FAFSA awakens student interest

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The opportunity for playing high school basketball offered to Kevin Williams presented itself to him, but he had to convince his father first. Eventually, after much talk and discussion, his father agreed to allow him to play. The school year was over, and the team was in full swing. Kevin joined the team, and his potential was quickly realized.

VIGIL: BC student passes in accident

Kevin Williams's name is signed in memory of All Sakr during the vigil at Robert E. Kennedy High School on Feb. 12. Sakr held many parties at her vigil, and she remained positive throughout the vigil. She kept her promise to her daughter, who was very close to her at BC over the years.

Sara Lievanos / The Rip

Minimum wage increase will bring robots and money

The opportunity for playing high school basketball offered to Kevin Williams was also a dream come true for him. His potential was quickly realized.

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Olympics: Is the rule change OK?

By Crystal Valdez

Since the beginning of 2016, new policies have been established regarding the participation of transgender athletes in the Olympics. The 2016 Olympic authorities are allowing transgender athletes to compete without gender management tryout. It will also be the first to require that transgender athletes follow specific criteria.

Female to male transgender athletes are not required to show proof of lower testosterone levels after 12 months or longer, while male to female transgender athletes do have to prove that their testosterone levels are below a certain threshold.

Allowing these athletes to compete in the Olympics without gender reassignment surgery has sparked a heated discussion between the participation of male transgender athletes worldwide, which ultimately prompted the International Olympic Committee to make a move in the right direction.

For full details, please refer to the article linked above. It contains a comprehensive analysis of the new policies and how they are expected to change the landscape of transgender sports.

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Deadpool makes a prime movie for viewers to see

By James Macias

The "Deadpool" movie is a very well-crafted movie that is very hard to ignore. It's a fun action-packed movie that is very easy to watch.

The movie is about a man named Deadpool, who is a mercenary who is assigned to take out a terrorist group. However, he is so powerful that they cannot defeat him.

With the first few minutes, the movie is very easy to follow and very entertaining. The movie is very well-crafted and very easy to watch.

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Donald Trump in it just to lose

By Mason J. Backoff

The final word is that the Olympics have changed its rules for transgender athletes. Now transgender athletes do not have to undergo reconstructive surgery and female-to-male transgender athletes can compete in the Olympics without over 12 months of hormone treatment.

However, this has sparked a heated debate among some and some may argue that it is not fair that transgender athletes can compete in the Olympics without following the same rules as heterosexual athletes.

The rule change is a good move for the LGBTQ+ community and it is a step towards creating a more inclusive world.

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Movie Review

By Mark Breslin

Deadpool is a movie about a quick-witted, anti-hero named Wade Wilson, who is a former special forces soldier who has become a mercenary. He is also a mercenary for hire and he takes on his first job.

The movie is very well-crafted and very easy to watch. It's a fun action-packed movie that is very easy to watch.

With the first few minutes, the movie is very easy to follow and very entertaining. The movie is very well-crafted and very easy to watch.
Syrian refugees should be allowed to stay in the U.S.

By MarcyCotto
Contributing Editor

President Obama has been letting Syrian refugees into the United States, but for now he has been limited to San Diego. Do not see an end in
this.

When the idea of the U.S. has been raised, it is not only a nation that allows for human kindness.

Whatever the people need people to stay because their homeland, but they are also made to be that they are trying to escape just enough to make the process as much as they do, in a nation, some people always

like to say that we help others and that we do things for other people to improve their well-being. But it always is the first step in helping them on our part, in a very literal way of helping them, they all find all of the back of support of those "helpful" ways and all stick against the

process. Personally, I believe that those people are alone. Whether they are literally afraid of the refugees or afraid of change around them, or they are afraid of the people that may need help.

It doesn't seem to be a right of change or to be afraid of the tiny fraction of potentially bad people that can come along with the Syrian refugees, but I believe that people need to overcome their own fear and realize that those people need someone's help.

As if I were a person think, "Why do we have to take them in?" Why can't we just let someone else take them in? Even if everyone thought that way, these innocent people wouldn't be stuck in the terrains of their home.

Because we would not see us as the first country to help people.

UnChoice is that it is not only a good thing, but we can do it to help people, and say that we do as much as we can.

The game of the Denver Broncos narrowly beat the Chargers when Manning moved down the field and delivered a touchdown pass to Demaryius Thomas. The game ended.

Narrowly beat the Chargers when Manning moved down the field and delivered a touchdown pass to Demaryius Thomas. The game ended. After a first-quarter field goal, the Chargers scored on the Broncos offense. They

scored on the Broncos offense. They scored on the Broncos offense. They scored on the Broncos offense. They scored on the Broncos offense.

I had money, and I would put that all my money on the Panthers. In the end, the Chargers couldn't come out to play.

Barkdale, the Chargers fan is frustrated that the Broncos are Super Bowl 50 champs

Chargers fans are frustrated that the Broncos are Super Bowl 50 champs
Firemen outrun the cops in charity game

By Kyle Cortez

Kern County law enforcement and firefighters competed in the annual Guns ‘N Hoses charity event at Rabobank Arena on Feb. 6.

This is the sixth year that the event has been a hockey game. There is also a separate Guns ‘N Hoses boxing fundraiser.

Every year law enforcement and firefighters alternate between who chooses the charity and it was the firefighters turn to pick the charity this year. The firefighters chose the Kern County Firefighters Burn Survivor Trust and the Bakersfield Firefighters Burn Foundation as their charities.

Tickets were $20 for the Guns ‘N Hoses charity event and the tickets also allowed you to attend the Bakersfield Condors game later that night.

The proceeds of the event, which were $3 per ticket sold, went to the Kern County Firefighters Burn Survivor Trust and the Bakersfield Firefighters Burn Foundation.

Kern County Fire Department firefighter Christopher Castaneda commented on some of the important contributions of these charities.

“The Kern County Burn Survivor Trust and the Bakersfield Burn Foundation are two non-profit organizations whose main focus is to help burn survivors and its families during and after rehabilitation. They help pay for food, hotel by burn centers, and rides to and from hospitals,” said Castaneda. “These are very difficult times in people’s lives and the focus is to alleviate any added stress on the family.”

Kern County Fire Department battalion chief Brandon Smith is one of the organizers of the event and he has participated in the last 13 Guns ‘N Hoses events.

“We are able to raise a lot of money for different charities,” said Brandon Smith.

Shafter Police Department deputy chief Brian Smith is also an organizer of the event and he has also been a part of these events for the past 13 years. Smith felt like the game was within reach.

“We started off slow. The firefighters took the first period. I think we definitely dominated the second period. I think the third period was kind of a draw until the end,” said Brian Smith. “We pulled within one, but then we pulled the goalie and they scored two empty-net goals. I feel like it was really a one-goal game, till the very end when we pulled the goalie it probably would’ve finished a one-goal game. But we played a tough game out there.”

The firefighters were looking to defend their title from last year, which they did. The Hoses went on to beat the Guns, 6-3.

Matt Alvarez, a deputy with the Kern County Sheriff’s Office and an assistant coach for the Bakersfield College football team, believes that this is a worthwhile event.

“I enjoy the camaraderie with this team and we also have a strong bond when we see each other in the performance of our duties. It’s also a great way to give back to our community, holding a charity function such as this game,” said Alvarez.
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Thursday, February 18, 2016

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SPORTS

Then on Feb. 19, BC played Cuesta and lost 10-0.

Above right: Bakersfield College’s Harley Lopez (12) waits for the ball as Fullerton’s Joey Bernardof.

Above: Bakersfield College’s Harley Lopez (12) waits for the ball as Fullerton’s Joey Bernardof.

BC softball struggling to find ways to win

By Felicity Tomisaka

The Bakersfield College softball team had won three straight games before losing back-to-back games to Fullerton College on Feb. 12 and Feb. 13.

The Renegades lost to Fullerton College on Feb. 12 by a score of 4-2. Fullerton’s pitcher Duane Horiuchi pitched eight innings while giving up two runs, but only two were earned.

“I thought Horiuchi competed extremely well and I thought that he commanded three pitches,” said Batterfield. “I think it was a well played game,” said head coach Tim Painet.

BC was able to get eight hits but only scored two runs. “The opposing pitcher has a lot to do with what happens with our offense and I thought that he did an outstanding job,” said Painet. “I commanded both sides of the plate with his fastball. We hit a lot of bad hard at people and I feel like it was a well played game on both sides. The Renegades went on to add two more runs in the seventh. “This ball game came down to one inning. "They put six straight hits together in one inning, and they didn’t do that to us. "We just didn’t produce enough runs offensively, and the one inning got away from us on the record line. “BC pitcher LAura Andrews had only given up one run on three hits through five innings before allowing four runs on six hits in the sixth inning. "I thought he was really good until that inning and kind of opened up on him. I thought he was really good through five innings. He did a good job with his strike. That inning everything flattened out and we were able to put the ball on the baseball. “Painet made some adjustments to the batting order, but the Renegades only scored two runs for the second straight game.

They produced the most actual outcome; we got two runs. We just looking for a way to maximize some offense. We shuffled some guys around which isn’t too far off. It was just a bit too for what we were doing. I think there were a few things where we could be a little more productive today through those guys moved around in the lineup. A bit, but obviously it wasn’t work, "said Painet.

This was BC’s last home game for almost a month. So the Renegades next home game is on March 10-11 at LA Mission College and that’s going to help prepare them for conference play. "The Renegades are going to try to prepare us to go into a season where our trend is a bit more difficult. Everything we’re doing is going to help us prepare for conference and see how we’re going to handle the next game," said Painet.

Below: Madame West slaps down a hard liner to the left fielder from College of the Sequoias on Feb. 9.

By Kyle Cortez

The Bakersfield College baseball team had six straight hits to start the game against Fullerton College. Harker was called out on the play after sliding into third base.

Above right: Bakersfield College’s Harley Lopez (12) waits for the ball as Fullerton’s Joey Bernardof.

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Season, working on my technique and consistency. It's early in the season, and Coach Houston Courtney thinks I might have a shot at a scholarship this year. I would never be where I am today, however, if not for BC. "I would never be where I am today, however, if not for BC," he said. "Thank you, guys."
By Mohamed Bafakih  
Contributing Editor

As the regular season comes to a close, the Western State Conference South Division basketball title is in the hands of the Bakersfield Renegades. The second half of conference play has tested BC, however, in many ways, but as the state’s No. 17 team gears up for the playoffs, it put them in better predicaments to finish out games. The stretch of grind-it-out games began on Feb. 6, when the state’s second-leading scorer Michael Monissey and L.A. Valley visited BC and looked to avoid a season sweep. A see-saw battle throughout regulation, the Renegades went into the half down for the first time at home this season, 33-31. Both teams continued to trade baskets in the second half, and all the stretch both teams made big shots which eventually sent the game into overtime. In the overtime period, BC did what it does best at home and remained undefeated in the Gil Bishop Sports Center, beating the Monarchs 76-71. Four players finished in double figures, led by Jameik Riviere’s 28 points, eight rebounds, six assists and four steals. “We’ve showing we can finish out games, which is important now and once we get to the playoffs,” head coach Rich Hughes said. The Renegades are 2-0 in overtime games played this season. Following L.A. Valley, Glendale came into town on Feb. 10. Glendale was the only team to knock off BC in conference play prior to Antelope Valley on Feb. 13. “They’re a very well-coached team,” Hughes said in regard to Glendale. Similar to the L.A. Valley game, the Vaqueros took a two-point lead at half as they led 31-29. Things would open up for the Renegades in the second half however, and a little defensive zone slowed the Vaqueros down. BC outscored Glendale 40-26 in the second half en route to its seventh straight win with a 69-57 win. Sophomore Deandre Dickson led the way with 21 points and 10 rebounds while Riviere, after just four points in the first half, finished with 14 points. “We only got three games left, so we got to play hard and win conference,” Riviere said. The seven-game win streak snapped on Feb. 13 as the Renegades dropped a heartbreaker to Antelope Valley. BC (21-5 overall, 10-2 WSC-South) held a lead by as many as 10 points in the first half, but the Ma-rauders (21-6, 7-5) clawed back, desperately needing a win to keep their playoff hopes alive. BC led at the break 35-29 and even controlled a 58-51 lead with just over five minutes left in the game, but the Ma- raiders responded with a 14-2 run late in the game.

Coach Rich Hughes disagrees with a referee’s call during the game against L.A. Valley.

Dickson finished with yet another double-double, 20 points and 14 rebounds, but was physically beat up as AVC tried to deny him any moment he touched the ball. BC shot just 38.5 percent from the floor (25-for-65) and 3-of-16 from beyond the arc.

The Renegades close out the regular season at Santa Monica on Feb. 20 at 5 p.m.

Bakersfield College’s Share Christie goes up and under for the layup but gets fouled by the Glendale defender. BC pulled away in the second half and beat the Vaqueros 69-57 on Feb. 18. BC plays its final regular season game on Saturday before the playoffs begin.

BC’s James Pendleton demonstrates his vertical leap by laying it in after breaking away from the pack in a close matchup against L.A. Valley. BC came out with the win 76-71 win in overtime.
A day in the life of Bakersfield College tennis player Samuel Ramirez. Photos by Joe Bergman

Sammy Ramirez is the Bakersfield College tennis team’s No. 1 and is also half of the No. 1 doubles team with Austin Lee. Ramirez has played tennis since he was 5 years-old and is the youngest of four siblings to play tennis at BC.

He hopes to continue with his education at UC Davis, where he would like to study psychology. In addition to tennis, he enjoys playing basketball and going fishing.

Above: Sammy Ramirez talks pre-match strategies with his coach Nick Jacobs.

Sammy enjoys spending his free time playing “Magic: League of Legends.” His favorite television show is “Dragon Ball Z,” and he enjoys listening to “anything but raggae.” Sammy’s favorite food is pizza.

Sammy does not have any pre-game rituals. If he could possess any super-hero powers, he would like to have the ability to “mind control.”

Sammy went on to lose his match versus Charlie Stephens of Imperial Valley College 4-6, 6-4, 3-6.