

Menifee holds first Music & Arts Festival

By Jennifer Vargas

The sunny weather came just in time for the first Music & Arts Festival at MSJC's Menifee campus, put on through the City of Menifee on March 30. The event attracted visitors from neighboring cities as well as from the local community.

The parking lot became a giant concert venue filled with live music on multiple stages, vendors, food trucks, art displays, and crafts.

The festival was a family friendly event, with face painting and a children's play area.

Event goer and MSJC student James Parker enjoyed the event.

"Entrance of the LRC was filled with great sculptures and paintings that exhibited the gorgeous creativity of various artists," Parker said. "There were tables on the campus from different clubs that allowed visitors to show their artistic side and informed them of historical figures who



Thompson Square during performance at Arts and Music Festival.

were inspirational. The parking lot had food truck vendors, games, music and a ton of people who were well behaved. I had a blast."

The event attracted local radio stations, along

with country radio station K-Frog 95.1. At their booth was the opportunity to win prizes and talk with on-air radio personality Kelli Green. You can hear her every weekday morn-

ing on The Wake-Up Call with Kelli and Anthony.

The Music & Arts Festival had a little something for everyone, complete with a casino table for all the card sharks out

there. There was a beer garden to purchase alcohol to help all the country loving folks feel like they were at an authentic festival experience. It was Menifee's own version of Stagecoach.

The MSJC Dance, Choir, ASL, Jazz Ensemble, Gypsy Jazz and Jazz Combo all had opportunities to perform and show the community the talent that MSJC and its students have to offer.

Marilyn Warner had the opportunity to attend the festival, which she heard about through a friend. She was excited to be seeing the headliners and Grammy-nominated duo Thompson Square. She had volunteered at a Child Fund booth years ago at one of their concerts with Luke Bryan and was able to sponsor a child in another country.

"The festival was great," she said. "After all these years, it was a thrill for me to talk with Shawna and Keifer [Thompson Square] about Child Fund and the fact that our sponsor kids are from the same program. I have always wanted to personally thank them."

Photo by Jennifer Vargas

Continued on page 11

Vandals don't stop Beyond the Binary event



Students, faculty, and staff come to support event.

Photo by Shelby Walker

By Shelby Walker

On March 27, Professor Anjeanette Oberg's PSYC-104 class put on the Beyond the Binary Community Forum. The event was de-

signed to support members of the LGBTQ+ community and educate non-members.

"The Beyond the Binary event was part of our Psych of Gender Course, which is

based on experiential and project-based learning," said Oberg. "The students conduct this workshop to demonstrate what they are learning as a means of ed-

ucating and empowering the campus community."

"With education comes responsibility, and we have a duty to share our knowledge in order to advocate for an inclusive and equitable community that supports the rights of all students."

However, the day before the event it was brought to light that there was vandalism done to some of the posters for the event. The MSJC administration, faculty, staff, and Riverside County Sheriff's Department took immediate action to ensure the safety of the students came first.

Security presence was increased at the event and MSJC President Dr. Roger Schultz addressed all of the students and staff via mass email before the start of the event.

"Mt. San Jacinto College officials have recently been notified about the vandalism of a poster announc-

ing an LGBTQ+ event on our Menifee Valley Campus. The extent of the vandalism is indicative of hatred. This type of behavior is intolerable," said Shultz.

"MSJC administration, faculty and staff fully support our students and are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all, including members of the LGBTQ+ and other marginalized communities. Let's be very clear: Mt. San Jacinto College will not tolerate this and we will pursue the perpetrator(s) and prosecute the individual(s) to the full extent of the law. MSJC has a proud culture of inclusivity and we embrace all backgrounds."

Schultz asked everyone to stand united and join him for the event that night. The event had a large turnout of people

Food 4 Thought pop-up pantry

By Jesus Alcalá

Food 4 Thought offers free food for students. To receive food, a student must sign in with their name, school identification number, phone number, and signature. They may then pick up one piece of each type of food, filling their bag with groceries.

Food 4 Thought is scheduled to run on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., twice a month. The distribution occurs on both the San Jacinto and Menifee campus at the same time and day. Both distributions are near the libraries on each campus.

Although there is enough food for approximately 100 to 150 students on each campus, Special Programs Assistant II Suzanne Ortega advises that students line up

Continued on page 11

Continued on page 2

Lake Elsinore 'Superbloom'

By Shelby Walker

With spring now in full effect and the heavy rains done, Lake Elsinore is one of the cities experiencing the superbloom of the California poppy. Officials say this year's extraordinary bloom is due in part to drought conditions killing off invasive grasses that can impede the wildflowers, and the wet winter primed the plants for a spectacular bloom.

The bloom has even been captured from space. On March 13, NASA's Landsat 8 satellite was able to capture images of the superbloom from space

Lake Elsinore officials say this is the largest display of poppies the city has ever had. The flowers are bringing crowds from all over the state to see this possibly once in a lifetime natural phenomenon, which has gone vi-

ral all over social media. Although the city is happy to be having such a boom in tourism, it has also caused problems the city never could have foreseen.

Lake Elsinore's mayor Steve Manos says "the city never could have prepared for the mass numbers of visitors, as we have never had a bloom this large. In 2017

Continued on page 10



Lake Elsinore, CA 'superbloom'

Photo by Christopher Soto

Meet SGA Officers

Meet the officers that bridge the gap between the administrators and students of MSJC.

Page 2

Coach Mozga

Hear how the Mozga family transformed the MSJC Women's basketball program.

Page 3

President's Spotlight

Schultz's explains how far MSJC has come and what he hopes for the future of MSJC.

Page 7

Food 4 Thought cont.

From page 1

as soon as possible, as most of the food is given out within the first hour.

Ortega oversees the distribution on the San Jacinto campus, keeping volunteers on task and on schedule. Brittany Mondragon, Paula Mova, and Jose Rivera-Hernandez oversee the Menifee campus distribution. Various faculty members, student athletes, CalWORKs staff, and First Year Experience mentors assist with distributing the food.

When asked why Ortega runs distribution, she responded, "I like to give back to the students. I wanted to help those in need. I like seeing the faces of those that I helped."

Ortega also said, "There were bumps along the way, but now Food 4 Thought is running really well. Administration, faculty, and staff are really supportive."

Weather can be a challenge. A distribution scheduled for Feb. 14 was postponed until Feb. 19 due to rain. The event also started at 1 p.m., instead of the usual 11 a.m., due to scheduling conflicts.

First Year Experience Mentor Mya Correa was asked why she helps. Cor-

rea responded, "You never know when you will need help, so it's important to help when you can."

Correa has struggled financially, and said, "I know it can be embarrassing to get help, but don't be afraid to get help when you need it."

Ortega said that the easiest way to help is to arrive on-site at 10:00am to help set up the distribution.

One student commented, "I think it's a good idea to give students food so they don't have to worry about it. I think it's good to give to the student body. I can tell it helps people."

At the Feb. 19 distribution, students were offered cereal, popcorn, pasta shells, salsa, seasoning, soups, vegetables, and tuna. After an hour and a half, most of the food was distributed, except for cans of green beans and cans of tuna.

Food 4 Thought purchases roughly 4 pallets of food for each campus, providing about 100 students with a bag of groceries on each campus.

One student said, "This really helps me out. I divorced recently. I'm in my last semester. I'm surviving on \$600 a month. This is really helpful for me. Thank you so much."

All the food is purchased from Feeding America, using funds from a state grant. According to its website, Feeding America can provide affordable food thanks to donations, volunteers, and a food-saving system. Feeding America works with farmers and businesses to collect food that would have normally gone to landfill.

The website also describes the food-saving system. Sometimes, food has an odd appearance or has incorrect packaging. Such food is perfectly edible but not suitable for retail. Instead of throwing the food away, businesses can donate the food to Feeding America, which then distributes food to food banks and pantries.

Food 4 Thought was founded in November 2017 by Lisa Campbell, Maya Cardenas, Dolores Smith, and Pamela Wright.

In previous semesters, there were fewer events as Food 4 Thought was just starting. Ortega remarked that there was unprecedented demand for food, so the administrators have ramped up the number of events.

Food 4 Thought is currently set for twice a month. According to Ortega, that is



Photo Courtesy of MSJC Information

Students getting food from pop-up pantry.

not enough to meet the demands of the student body. The administrators seek to increase the frequency to once a week for upcoming semesters. In the future, administrators want Food 4 Thought to be a permanent facility on campus where students can grab groceries on a walk-in basis.

Executive Assistant Selena Paez-Mendez is one of those seeking a permanent, sustainable solution. When

not distributing, Paez-Mendez works as an assistant to Vice President of Student Services John Colson and the Food 4 Thought founders, planning meetings and touring other pantries to gather information on creating a sustainable program.

Food 4 Thought has helped many students, and nearly every student said at least one "thank you" at the distribution. One student said, "The

Food 4 Thought program has immensely helped my family on many different occasions. As a student who goes to school full-time, works, and has children, there have been many times where we didn't have food in our house. Food 4 Thought has been a program to help tie us over with food until payday. It is great to see it happening every two weeks now rather than once a month."

MSJC's student leadership soars to new heights



Photo Courtesy of SGA

2019 SGA Officers
By Pablo Ramos

MSJC provides students with a wide variety of options to help them prepare for the future, while also allowing them to get involved in student life.

One of these extra cur-

riculum activities is the Student Government Association, also known as SGA. The SGA is the school's student government that represents enrolled students' wants and needs.

The SGA allows students to contribute to their school

by letting them step into leadership roles. There is a wide variety of positions that the SGA offers, from president to commission of finance, and senator of college activities, as well as others. The members are dedicated to being the voic-

es of the students and help set a bridge between administration and students.

With 12 elected positions, the SGA helps the college by participating in issues as well as concerns that impact student events and environment. Each position plays a pivotal role in being the voice of the students. SGA has aspiring students who are honing their skills and learning from what they have experienced from being in the student government.

President of the SGA Aaron Perez manages meetings and makes sure everything runs smoothly. Perez joined the SGA as a senator and was elected as a senator. Taking things up a notch Perez decided to run for president and won the position.

The reason he joined the SGA was to learn the ins and outs.

"Student government is a great way to understanding the things that go on behind the scenes and I think it's very fascinating to me [and] being able to get closer and closer to conversing with faculty

and the deans that we see every third Thursday out of the month," Perez said.

With the president is the vice president which is run by Justine Gonzales who is at the Menifee campus and Adrian is at the San Jacinto campus. As the leaders of the interclub council or ICC, their roles revolve around relaying messages from clubs to SGA.

Alongside Perez, other members from the SGA have their own reasons they joined.

Commissioner of College Activities Delisa Williams gave her insight as to why she joined. She grew up with a close friend named Abbie and her older brother was the school's football superstar. Unfortunately, in 2016 he passed away in a car accident and to commemorate him, they made a scholarship in his name.

Williams wanted to earn this scholarship and to obtain it she had to participate in a college activity. For her, it was either track or SGA, and since the school doesn't have a track team, the SGA was her go-to option. Student Trustee Shayla

Lopez brings the perspective of the students whenever addressing an issue or concern. She joined to continue establishing relationships with her community. Back in high school she was a part of ASB so for her, this territory is familiar and something she enjoys doing.

Like Lopez, the SGA's Senator of Financial Affairs Natalie Lavis joined due to her involvement with school activities.

On the other hand, Maria Buchanan who is the Commissioner of Financial Affairs, had someone recommend them the SGA.

With this recommendation alone, Buchanan said "[Casey] was a really big influencer for me to start. She's the only reason why I started SGA in the first place."

The Senator of Financial Affairs ran by Miguel Zacarias and Natalie Lavis is a position that helps commissioners with the budget and monitors to see if they are spending their money in an efficient way.

Continued on page 11

MVC Criminal Justice Club fingerprinting workshop

By Rita Douangpanha

Meeting every other Thursday in Room 969 from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m., the Menifee Criminal Justice Club is open to all MSJC students. The club activities include guest speakers, visits to local justice and law enforcement departments, and hands-on student activities.

In a recent club meeting, students were given a lesson in forensic science and received a lesson in fingerprint collecting and analysis. The fingerprint lab was run by Club Advisor, Professor Farrar. Students were shown a video on different types of prints (patent, plastic, and latent), given materials for extracting prints, and taught how to document the prints.

Using the powder technique, students dusted plastic cups for their prints. Next, they took photographs of the prints before applying a tape to extract them. Being careful to not disrupt the dust adhering



Photo Courtesy of MVC Criminal Justice Club

MVC Criminal Justice Club poses for photo after workshop.

to the tape, students then slowly lifted the prints from the cups and placed the printed prints onto a fingerprint slip for documenting.

Students then examined prints using a magnifier and analyzed the friction ridges. As prints are unique for every person, students

noted the bifurcation, ridge endings, and crossovers. Under the magnifiers, students were surprised to find their print whorls defined and intricate. With their prints differing from their neighbors, students shared their finds with one another.

Some noted that finding

viable prints was hard, as latent or invisible prints are among the most common prints dealt with. Some students found that after getting their fingers dirty from the dusting powder, their prints more visible (patent prints).

While new forms of fin-

gerprint extraction have been used, dusting remains a viable option as it is cost efficient and effective. Students interested in forensic science are then exposed to its methods to better understand the importance of gathering and handling prints. As students delve

further into the science, fingerprint minutiae are looked at through computer-aided software. Students also view electronic-captures of fingerprints from a database and compare prints to locate persons of interest.

With club members ranging in career paths, the Criminal Justice Club is a great way for students to network in their field. Students interested in law enforcement, social services, the judiciary system, and forensic science make up the majority of membership, but all students are welcome to join and participate in the club's activities.

If interested, students are welcome to drop by Room 969 for club meetings, or to email the Club President, Delaney Fuori, msjccriminaljusticeclub@gmail.com, for more information. Students unable to attend meetings at the Menifee Campus on Thursdays may also join the San Jacinto Campus's club meetings every other Thursday during 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. as well.

Former MSJC athlete goes professional



Photos Courtesy of Roosevelt Adams

Left photo of Adams in 2015 playing for MSJC. Right photo Adams playing for the Philippines professional team.
By Cindy Lopez

Roosevelt Adams is an MSJC student-athlete alumnus who has become a professional basketball player in the Philippines.

Adams' journey provides an insight into life after becoming an MSJC graduate, especially from a local student-athlete perspective. Thus, his journey serves as a model to those interested in pursuing a similar pathway to his.

Coming directly from West Valley High School in Hemet, Adams enrolled in MSJC, where he continued his education. Adams' experience at MSJC was interesting as well as a time of self-exploration. It was a time where Adams focused on figuring out his plans and aspirations for the future.

During Adams' time at MSJC, he played for the men's basketball team. His position was as a forward.

Adams' MSJC experience included a setback in which Adams consid-

ered quitting collegiate basketball. He quit for a time because he felt his position was not as active as his previous experience had been. Adams' role in the team led him to question his interest and participation for the sport.

Through Adams' support system, he regained his motivation and passion for basketball. He returned to playing basketball. He then graduated in 2015 from MSJC.

After MSJC, he was accepted and transferred to The College of Idaho, a private, liberal arts college in Caldwell, Idaho.

From The College of Idaho, Adams received a full-ride scholarship to play for their men's basketball team, where he played as forward/guard and continued his undergraduate education.

Adams' most memorable game was in his senior year at The College of Idaho. In the second round of

the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Tournament, Adams made the game winner. With this, the College of Idaho's basketball team advanced to the Elite Eight. The team went on to eventually become one of the Final Four. The last time The College of Idaho's basketball team achieved this rank was in 1996.

Adams graduated from The College of Idaho in 2018. His proudest accomplishment was receiving his degrees. Adams double-majored in Health and Human Performance with a minor in Psychology.

Adams' experience as a collegiate basketball player for both MSJC and The College of Idaho led Adams to his profession, which was playing basketball at the professional level.

After finishing his education, Adams received an opportunity to play professionally. He went on to represent the Philip-

pines in Dubai, alongside Lamar Odom, a professional basketball player.

Adams currently plays professional basketball in the Philippines. His position is as a guard/forward. Adams' transition abroad was different. This transition marked an appreciation for his life in the United States; he was exposed to the culture and poverty present in the Philippines.

Because of Adams' daily exposure to sports, in particular basketball, his degrees—Health and Human Performance—have helped Adams.

Adams' exposure to the United States and the Philippines gave him the ability to distinguish the different training styles of both countries. The Philippines playing consists of more physical and tempo than the United States' style.

The most challenging aspect of playing professionally, for Adams, was his knee injury. This was

challenging because of the mental and physical effects his injury had on Adams.

The encouragement of Adams' loved ones—family, friends, and fiancée—helped him become who he is today.

A day in Adams' life consists of playing basketball and maintaining contact with his family. Adams remains in contact with his loved ones, despite the 16-hour time zone difference.

Besides basketball, Adams dedicates his time to other activities such as working out, playing pool, bowling, and watching movies.

His future plans consist of continuing his basketball career as long as possible. To ensure this, Adams focuses on improving his skills, either weaknesses or strengths. In addition, Adams tries to maintain his motivation (in order to reach his future plans).

Adams' motivation comes from improving

himself. Another factor helping Adams maintain his motivation is that he looks forward to one day sharing his journey—coming from the small city of Hemet, CA to living in the Philippines—with adolescents.

"Everything is never given to you [student-athletes] whether it's basketball or grades," Adams says.

"[Student-athletes should] never be satisfied and always work... someone [is] trying to outdo you [student-athletes]," said Adams.

Although Adams discussed the competitive nature of sports, he ultimately provides the advice that student-athletes should keep in mind.

"The only competitor should be the person in the mirror," Adams says, to those pursuing a similar pathway to his.

Mozga family helps Lady Eagles fly

By Eric Rodriguez

A native of Des Moines, Iowa and a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University, MSJC Women's Basketball Head Coach Chris Mozga has turned a struggling program into a consistently successful team.

Before Mozga took over as head coach, the program was lucky to reach the minimum player requirement to participate in The California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA). With the help of his wife and Assistant Coach Fontay, Mozga's sensational coaching has evolved the program to the powerhouse it currently is.

Before arriving at MSJC, Mozga coached men's basketball at the College of the Desert, setting a school record of 26 victories in 2001 and winning the first conference title at the school since 1980.

Obviously, no stranger to winning, Mozga has the most wins as the women's basketball coach in MSJC history.

In 2017-18, Mozga led the team to win their first ever CCCAA state championship. The Eagles set a school single season record and winning 32 games that same year.



Photo Courtesy of MSJC Athletics

Mozga family, Anton, Chris, Krislyn, Fontay, and Jason.

Mozga has achieved many other coaching milestones in his luxurious career. He has earned the honor of being named Conference Coach of the Year seven times and was crowned Coach of the Year once in men's basketball in 2005 and once in women's basketball in 2013.

With a career-winning percentage of around 0.780, Mozga has not let all his achieve-

ments get to his head.

Mozga made it very clear that it wasn't just his display of dominant coaching that helped him achieve greatness. In fact, he humbly went on to thank Dean of Athletics Patrick Springer, his wife and Assistant Coach Fontay, but most importantly his players.

Coming to the conclusion that winning is important but life is not all about shooting hoops, Mozga

builds his program on hard work and dedication. Helping players reach their full potential both on and off the court. Over 90 players have earned scholarships after playing in Mozga's women's basketball program.

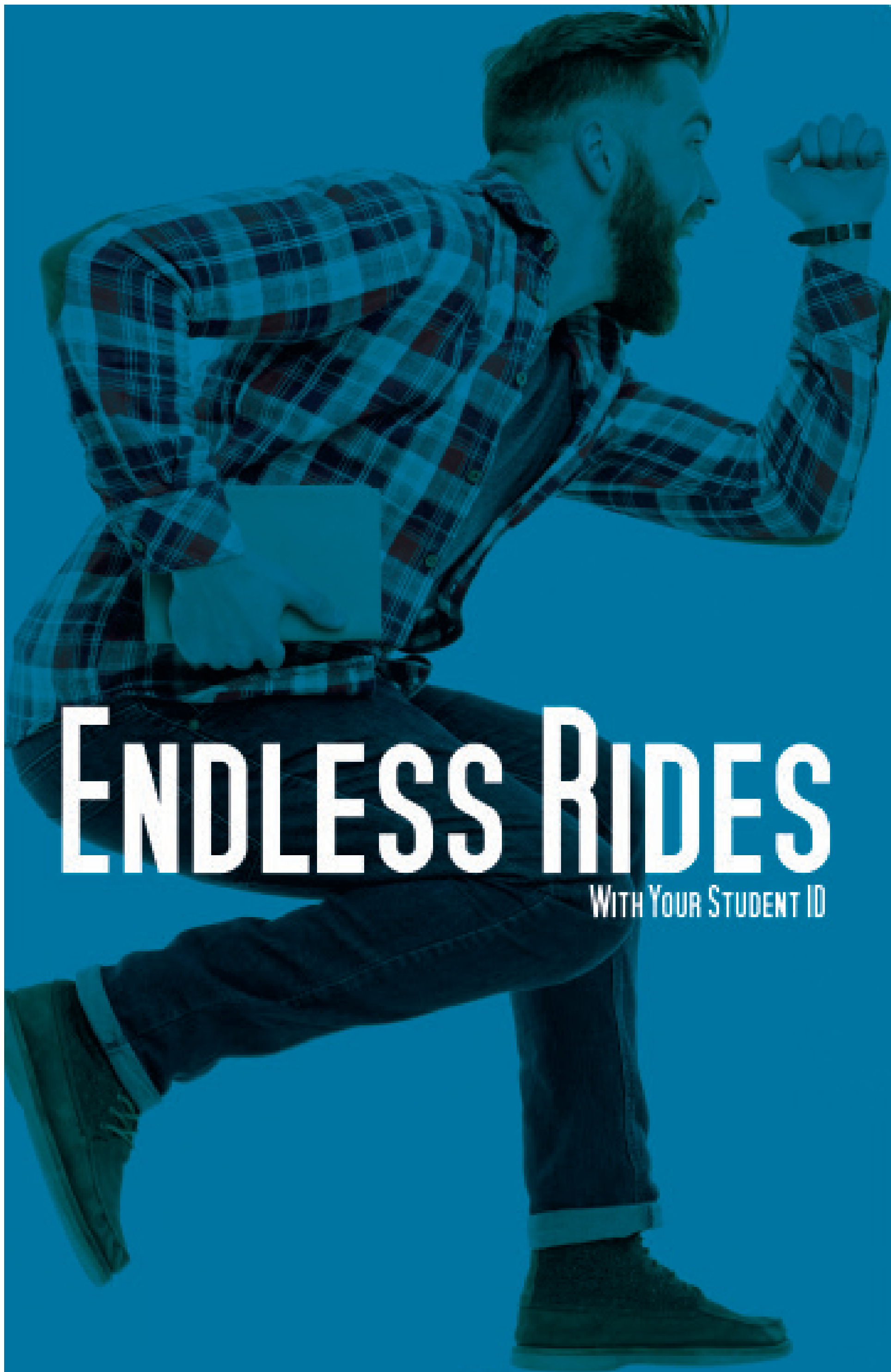
His year to year goal is to have at least six of his players earn scholarships and with his non-stop encouragement. Mozga wishes to help his players reach their wildest dreams.

Showing no signs of slowing down, success on the court fuels this prestigious coach but nothing compares to the love and support he receives from his loving family. He is a father of three children, Jason, Anto, and Krislyn.

Mozga's eldest son Jason helps coach football at MSJC. Alongside with Football Head Coach Casey Mazzotta, Jason has followed in his

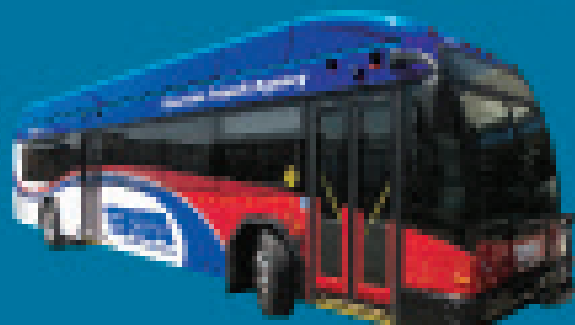
father footsteps and has found himself as coach.

Jason has already graduated college and at only 25 years of age has already achieved so much. With a family of coaches, nothing but more success is destined for this Mozga family legacy.



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Heard embraces her beauty through art

By Melissa Castro

Chelsea Heard is among many MSJC students exhibiting their talents. Heard is a children's book author whose love for art and drawing has led her to creating her own works as she pursues her art degree.

"I first started becoming serious about art when I was in the 5th grade," Heard said. "I never thought I was good, nor did I even consider it a talent until I started getting compliments from students in my class. As a child, I was always drawing. I didn't ask it to happen; it just did and so I kept at it."

She wrote and illustrated her book "Curls", and derived from her own life experiences, incorporating it into the plot of her book. The process of creating "Curls" wasn't clear to her at first. She assumed that this would be a simple project.

Heard explained that she "didn't know that it was going to be a book to begin with. At first it was just my Concentration for my AP Studio 2D class in High School!"

After about a year, she finished "Curls". During the time she spent making it, she was inspired by several of her own favorite childhood books, such as "Fancy Nancy", "Junie B. Jones" and Charles Schultz' "Charlie Brown".

"Curls", according to Heard, is about the "significance of self-love". She says that "it is stemmed from my personal experi-



Heard's illustration of her book Curls.

ences with my curly crazy hair as a kid and maybe even a little bit now!"

The book revolves around the story of Mackenzie Madison, as readers are seeing a glimpse in the life of the main character getting ready for school.

Heard explains that much of the story is about little Mackenzie learning that she doesn't have to change her curls.

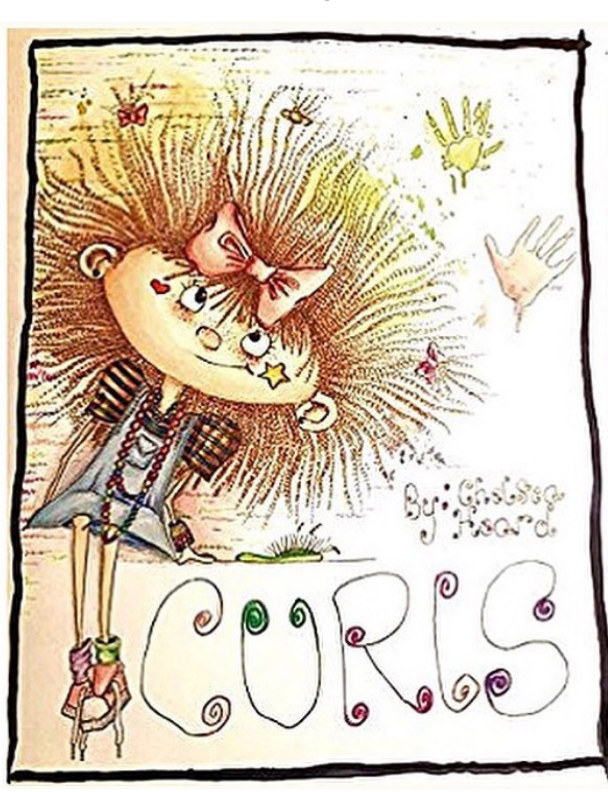
"When her hair becomes a hindrance for her, she tries to change it," Heard said. "Later she realizes that her hair is beautiful just the way it is. This teaches children about loving their quirks and flaws. It reassures children and adults that it is OK to be different and that conforming to society isn't

needed in order to fit in.

"I hope that the "Curls" Series inspires children to love themselves, and love others. With the first book being about hair, I felt that bad hair days were something many of us had experienced at some point in our life. But it's all about loving imperfections."

When asked about inspiration for her character, Heard said, "Mackenzie came from within me, and she serves as my alter ego, cartoon persona as a child."

Heard's advice for fellow writers is, "To not overthink it. Keeping that sense of imagination and whimsicality in a book is what makes it special. Don't be afraid to experiment with different styles,



Photos courtesy of Chelsea Heard

because that source of curiosity can help you create a style of your own. Find out what and who inspires you.

"Remember that it doesn't have to be perfect. The little imperfections are what make it fun and enjoyable."

Heard also has advice to her fellow artists.

"To those of you who hide behind your sketchbooks and artwork, continue to express yourself! Never lose your sense of imagination, for it is the greatest currency known to mankind. It is valuable and beautiful when molded and sculpted into whatever you want it to be."

She also credits art with being a source of comfort and security, as it has

given her a voice through the works she creates.

"Art has taught me to be fearless, to be unpredictable and to be OK with my quirky side. Art has and continues to influence me every day to stay curious, to break boundaries and start a pathway for new artists to come. I plan to continue to create fearlessly and passionately with all that God has instilled in me."

Her plans are to keep going on the path that "Curls" has set her on.

"There will be more children's books coming soon that are in the works," said Heard.

"Curls" is the first book in a series she is working on. She would also like to see her art being featured

in the MSJC Art Gallery in the future. As of now, she is focused on expanding her current genre of books and says that she's "curious to see where this series takes me" but is "always open to branching out in different genres".

Heard is focused on making illustrations and art. Heard stated that she has hopes to "continue creating art. I am an art major, so it is something that I hope to do for the rest of my life."

Since her days of drawing in her childhood, art has become a central part of her.

"I am married to my craft, and my art form has always been my best friend," Heard said. "It has been there for me, from the beginning, through my highest highs and lowest lows and still continues to stand firm within me."

"I couldn't imagine myself doing anything else, so that's why I plan to be the very best that I can be at it. I thank God and my family for being so supportive in my ambitions and dreams to pursue art. That is a blessing in itself!"

You can follow Heard's art journey on Instagram @officialsilentecho_art

'Brace Yourself' art exhibit opens at SJC

By Gregory Stires

In the month of March, the Mt. Jacinto college hosted an art exhibit called Brace Yourself in collaboration with Fresno City College's Art Space Gallery which was where the first iteration was held in January-February 2019. The exhibit runs from March 4-April 11.

The exhibit Brace Yourself brings together six studio artists and one collaborative performance work to stir those coming to the exhibit from their current state of being. Each piece engages the people coming to see in an intimate and subtle dialogue of feeling. These works range from graphic design, drawings, paintings, sculptures, charcoal portraits, and even to the performing arts.

The exhibit was organized by Eileen Doktorski, a professor at Mt. San Jacinto College, and aspiring curator Brooke Bunte who assisted Doktorski and helped to select the artist Romina Del Castillo. Other people involved include Elena Harvey-Collins, the curator of the Art Space Gallery at Fresno City College, and John Knuth, Curator of the Art Gallery at Mt. San Jacinto College. The artists featured in the exhibit are Barara Milliorns, Chaz Maviyane-Davies, Eileen Doktorski, Nick Potters, Romina Del Castillo, and Timothy Burica.

When asked about the origin and idea behind this exhibit, Professor Doktorski said "it was inspired by a painting by MSJC Faculty Barbara Milliorns." The painting is called Chemotherapy Bed. It is a haunting work that shows someone looking down at a bed which can create many different dialogues. For some, it could be interpreted that the person looking down at the bed is a loved one, or it may imply that no one is in the bed anymore.



Photo by Brooke Bunte

"Brace Yourself" live art display during March art show.

"That process of chemotherapy for anyone who knows anyone who's gone through. It is both frightening and this the emotion conveyed by that small 10 by 10 inch painting was very powerful," said Doktorski. "And I thought this is the place I can begin to start a show with I want a dialogue about emotions and I don't want them all the same."

And with that Doktorski selected artists from a huge geographic range that includes New York, Oregon, California, Massachusetts, and England. According to the Brace Yourself catalogue, the driving force behind Barara Milliorn's work is memory. Where emotions tied to memory play a part in the creation of a type of memoir. Her work shows a diverse range of experiences, both good and bad. This diversity can be seen by two of her works

April, a work that features a woman holding a cat on a white background, and Chemotherapy Bed.

In the exhibits catalogue, Chaz Maviyane-Davies focuses on piercing "the bubble of complacency that surrounds us." This can be seen in his text-based pieces that call attention to gender-based violence and the abuse of human rights.

According to the catalogue, Eileen Doktorski's sculptures "blend elements of the 'real' and imagined. They are filled with uncertainty and emotion, like something pulled from a dream." As seen with her sculpture solace, where the off-ground sculpture and cloud like comforter can be seen as being on a cloud and in the sky which is reminiscent of a dream, it is contrasted with the realness of the person seeking solace from the animal with how rigid they are clinging to them.

Nick Potter's landscape painting are idealized spaces and homes, painted from the perspective of the viewer looking into them. The pieces are beautiful, yet they contain a foreboding feeling the more they are observed.

"On the surface we see an appealing, perfected world. But as one contemplates the ideal further, we realize these paradises are false," says Potter.

The artist Romina Del Castillo series, La Vie en Noir (Life in Black) are a set of three large charcoal portraits of people who are close to her.

"My experience is that the extended sitting time of the portraiture allows the painter to delve into the private life of the sitter. It provides a unique environment in which the sitter may share personal experiences and life stories," said Del Castillo.

While her work may

have started out as simple portraits they developed meaning and symbolism over the sessions as she connected with the sitter in each portrait.

Timothy Burica's artwork is the daily creation of heads that honor memories of relationships past. Until now, his work has been mainly a private practice; his works have been filled

with a sense of longing.

"As an artist it is about holding onto feelings," said Burica.

The exhibit is open in the gallery on the San Jacinto Campus from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. With the public reception being held from 2 to 5 p.m.



Photo by Brooke Bunte

'Brace Yourself' live art display.

Cooperation Conquering Courses

By Rebecca Metts

At Mt. San Jacinto College, there are different student services available for free. MSJC provides a service known as Supplemental Instruction, or SI.

Supplemental Instruction is a program that provides a place where students interact in a group study session that allows students to engage in the course material while developing study skills. SI is provided for many disciplines through MSJC, including anatomy, anthropology, ASL, history, math, English, Spanish and chemistry.

The program is directed and coordinated by Janice Levasseur and her team, including Kathalena Rios and Vanesse Hilten.

“Supplemental Instruction puts into place the successful student practice of studying in a group,” said Levasseur. “Studying in a group is more effective and more efficient than studying alone. SI provides the space and a facilitator (the SI Leader) for that group studying to occur.”

SI is available only for students who are taking courses where SI is provided.

“SI is academic assistance provided to support students in ‘historically difficult’ courses. The MSJC Institutional Research department identified the top 39 most difficult courses in over a dozen disciplines,” said Levasseur.

With SI available for the students taking these courses, students can voluntarily attend sessions that are held by the SI leader to gain a better understanding of the course content that was covered in the previous lecture.

Levasseur shared how SI has been proved successful for students.

“Data consistently demonstrates that students who do participate in SI (i.e. engage in course content with fellow classmates outside of the classroom)



Photo courtesy of MSJC SI

SI Leaders

do outperform students who don't participate in SI,” Levasseur said.

Typically, students who engage in these SI sessions receive around a 10% higher grade than students that do not attend sessions.

The Supplemental Instruction program has teamed up with the Learning Resource Center tutors, First Year Experience program and Research Assistant Program at MSJC to create a larger PLACE for students to feel welcomed and given the opportunity to succeed.

PLACE stands for Peer Learning Alliance for Collaborative Education. One of the largest take-aways from being a part of PLACE is that “the more our programs know about the other programs, the better we are able to refer students to the appropriate resources. This collaboration is even more paramount with the implementation of AB 705 and Guided Pathways,” said Levasseur.

SI has been a vital program to MSJC since its start up in the fall of 2006, when Levasseur was the MVC Math Center Coor-

ordinator. In 2011, she was hired on as the permanent full-time SI Coordinator.

Since 2006, the SI Program at MSJC has gained Certification through the International Center for Supplemental Instruction, becoming the fifth school in California and the 25th school in the United States of America to earn such standing.

Levasseur also said that “the MSJC SI Program is a proud member of the Inland Empire SI Coordinators Group and, as such, plays a vital role in the planning and hosting of the Inland Empire SI Conference, which is endorsed by the International Center for Supplemental Instruction.”

As the SI Coordinator, Levasseur said, “My biggest take-away from being SI Coordinator is the privilege I receive watching the SI Leaders develop into amazing confident and competent student leaders! However, in order to experience that privilege, it is my responsibility to continue to maintain the quality and continue to develop the SI Program to keep it relevant, efficient, and effective.

“I want SI to be a space for students to feel safe and to experience success educational journey! It truly has been a pleasure to share in the success (and struggles) of current and past Leaders in so many different aspects of life.”

Being a leader in SI is much more than just being a part of the program. As an SI leader, we plan out sessions beforehand, attend classes (that we've already passed previously) with our SI students, and are privileged with working side by side with SI Instructors to really benefit students everyday study habits and class performance.

Some of the most successful leaders in SI will tell you that it's a lot of work, but at the end of the day we follow a very specific model and are filled with nothing but joy when we see students walk away with study habits that will not only help them now but later in life as well as in other classes.

Alexandra Figueroa is a Latina Computer Science major, a male dominated field. With hopes of making herself stand out, she

decided to join the SI program. Figueroa has been an SI leader for two years for Math 96 and Math 105.

Figueroa stated that she chose SI for these courses because she “wants to help the students strengthen their math skills early before they enroll in higher math courses like calculus where algebra is at the core of the subject.”

Figueroa's favorite aspect of SI is “the freedom that the program gives their leaders.”

“The program gives the leaders the tools, strategies and techniques to incorporate into their sessions but it is up to the leader's creativity and originality to execute it and put their own twist into their activities,” said Figueroa.

“I enrolled to MSJC as a shy student and I will be graduating as a strong and confident female STEM major thanks to the support of SI that always made me feel like I belong,” Figueroa said.

Conner Haggerty is an Economics major and an SI Leader for Biology. This is his first semester in the SI Program, and he

chose Biology because it is one of his favorite topics that he is passionate about.

Haggerty also joined the SI program to gain a better perspective for teaching. Although SI is not teaching, but is a peer facilitated study session, Haggerty enjoys planning his sessions and can use this experience as a teacher in the future. He hopes to eventually move to Japan, his mother's birthplace, to teach English.

“My favorite aspect about SI has to be the students,” Haggerty said. “Nothing beats seeing a student who was truly struggling at the start of the semester, and helping them get to where they need to be. Truly a rewarding part of the job.”

Being a part of the SI program, whether as a leader or as a student attending the sessions, comes with many rewards.

Kristen Gutierrez is a Spanish Major and Spanish SI Leader. She has been a Spanish SI Leader for the past three semesters and will be graduating this semester.

Gutierrez said that she chose to SI for Spanish because “the class is fairly accelerated and students are usually brand new to the language. Also, I love seeing students going from little knowledge about Spanish to having complete conversations towards the end of the semester.”

Gutierrez said that when she initially joined the SI Program she had doubts, but nevertheless she persisted.

“SI has helped me get out of my comfort zone, helped with my people skills, and has given me more confidence,” said Gutierrez. “Being an SI Leader has given me a richer experience at MSJC because I have met many amazing students and been a part of their learning experiences.”

Since this is her last semester at MSJC, she plans on transferring to a UC but is still undecided, “All I know is I want to continue studying Spanish which I love!”

Honors Enrichment Program

By Pablo Ramos Diaz

At Mt. San Jacinto College, there is a variety of clubs and activities to join where students have the chance to learn new skills and become successful in whatever they wish to achieve.

One such place to hone your academic skills is the Honors Enrichment Program. This program supports students who are transferring to a four-year university by helping them develop academic and professional skills that are very useful in today's workforce.

The Honors Enrichment Program faculty, counselors, staff, student leaders, and administrators work day after day to make sure students get the opportunity to apply to as many scholarships as they can.

Students can apply for the program and, once accepted, they are able to enroll in a variety of Honors courses that are offered at various MSJC campuses.

What should students expect upon entering the program? Well, students should be expected to enroll into one Honors class each semester and be able to maintain a 3.3 GPA overall and a 3.0 GPA in their Honors classes.

In addition, students should also be meeting with their Honors counselor once a semester and be able to attend the Hon-

ors workshops, orientations, and events that are held throughout the year.

Lastly, students that are in the program should expect to become student leaders in the program. Students who are considering or interested in joining the program can apply year-round and the earlier you apply the sooner you will be able to reap in the benefits.

Christina Yamanaka, who is the co-director for the Honors Enrichment Program on the San Jacinto Campus, gave her insight about what the program is about as well as her reasons to consider it.

“Students can join a community of scholars at the college who will support their academic endeavors, transfer goals, and career plans. Honors students also benefit by improved transfer consideration at top schools and higher success in receiving scholarships,” said Yamanaka.

Not only has this benefitted students in achieving their goals, but it has also given them the skills to achieve beyond what is expected of them. The effects of the program can be seen on this campus when students who have participated in the program go to universities and return to teach here at MSJC.

Yamanaka also discussed how “Honors courses require students to be proactive, ask questions



Photo courtesy of Erik Ozolins

Honors Enrichment faculty advisors.

and stay on top of deadlines, critically engage with the courses material, and participate in discussions with a professor and other honors students.”

A four-year institute is a fast-paced environment, so this program allows students to be in a similar environment with similar projects and workloads.

Yamanaka has had a lot of experience with students who have succeeded in and have taken full advantage

of the Honors Enrichment Program. A highlight for her has been helping students see their full potential.

“One of the biggest achievements of the program is helping students have a belief in their own talent and providing them with a forum to succeed and realize their academic goals,” said Yamanaka.

Not only does Yamanaka want students to be prepared for the program, but she wants to leave them

with an everlasting mark. She mentions that the program can provide students with a challenging environment and encourages them to think critically. She also hopes that the students take a more creative approach to any problem they face daily.

The Honors Enrichment program is something students can utilize if they want to succeed in University and their future career.

Students that plan on going to a four-year uni-

versity should consider joining the Honors Enrichment Program to help ensure their acceptance into their desired school and to challenge themselves now to ease the transition into that four-year university.

If you are interested in an environment that is fun and allows you to build community while helping others to achieve their dreams, the Honors Enrichment Program may be for you.

Schultz promotes student centered learning environment

By Shelby Walker

Dr. Roger Schultz began his journey with Mt. San Jacinto College in January of 2001. He currently is the President and Superintendent of the Colleges' District.

Schultz received his BA in Broadcast Journalism and MA in Communication Management from USC. He later got his PHD in Higher Education and Leadership from Capella University.

Before coming to MSJC, Schultz worked at Long Beach City College as Dean of Admissions and Records. He gained many of the skills that would ultimately help him step into his leadership role at MSJC.

He had moved his family to Yucaipa, CA to get away from the hustle and bustle of Los Angeles. When a position opened at MSJC in administration, it was a perfect fit to be close to home.

When Schultz began at MSJC, he was first Vice President of Student Services and then for a short period of time stepped into the role of Vice President of Instruction when there was a need. He ultimately jumped back to student services when he was able to.

"Due to my wide range of skill sets that I have, I've been able to step into different roles as needed. Ultimately my heart and soul is in student services because of how much I

enjoy interacting with the students," said Schultz.

Schultz's job as president is to assemble a strong team to handle the many different aspects of school.

He admits the business side of things is not his strongest area of expertise. Even though he knows all of the rules and regulations, he has made sure to have a group of individuals he can trust to handle the many different aspects of the business side as with human resources and Vice President of Instruction.

His favorite part of his job is the diversity of people he gets to interact with, whether it be with a student, faculty, board members, staff or the public, there is a wide range of people he comes in contact with on a daily basis. He does all of this to do networking to help with the students, because he feels they will always come first.

"I need human interaction in a job," said Schultz. "I would not be able to be in a cubicle. I thrive off of people and I get inspired from helping people overcome challenges, whether it be with education or with the projects we have going on at the campuses."

He wants students to know that he is always available for them and will always remain approachable. He feels that it's important to stay in contact with the students and know

what they need, and for that to be possible, he must remain available for them.

"I want people to know they can approach me, and do more than just say hi. That's why I man the booth at welcome week. I do brown bags, and I try to hang out with SGA when I can," said Schultz.

Although he can't always be with students and still has a school to run, he also tries to always keep a sense of humor.

"I'm a practical joker; I love the one liners," he said. "If you have been to a board meeting, you know Vice President Moore has a great sense of humor. But my whole team as a whole has a pretty great sense of humor. We choose to be here and enjoy it."

When asked what he is most excited about for this current year, Schultz said, "To continue to prove we are no longer this tiny school 100 miles from LA and San Diego. The business leaders and city leaders we are working with are really seeing MSJC as part of the economic catalyst and driver to bring employers and jobs to this region.

"They are not only turning to the CSU's and UC's but also to us to be a critical player for creating the workforce from the technicians to the STEM students that feed the CSU and UC systems. I want people to see a better perception of



Photo Courtesy of MSJC Information

Schultz gives opening remarks at Mobile Career Center unveiling.

us, our students and graduates. I look at our Loma Linda University agreement made for nursing. We are the first community college to have an agreement with them. This is just one example of showing what we can do. We just need to continue to tell our story about our great programs and faculty."

Schultz wants people to see that many of the negative perceptions and

criticisms of the school that people may have had are most likely no longer a problem and the school has been able to address many of those past issues. He said there is some misinformation out there and the school does its best to address those.

Some of the common misconceptions being small and canceled classes (this only happened back during the last recession).

Schultz is excited for the future and sees the school is on this journey to becoming a larger school.

"When I say larger, I don't just mean more students. I also mean more facilities and programs to serve the community. I'm excited to see what comes next," said Schultz.

Hill motivates MSJC students to succeed

By Jaqueline Cespedes

Everyone can like their job and do it well, but when one adds passion to the equation, the results are far more significant. Connie Hill, an administrative associate in the Learning Resource Center at the SJC campus, is a great example of this result.

Hill first attended Cerritos College, located in Norwalk, and completed her first semester. Shortly after, she found out she was expecting a little girl and decided to move to San Jacinto in hopes of a better future for her and her family. Due to her first pregnancy, she decided it would be best to take some time off school to focus on raising her first child, Candace.

Five years later, she enrolled in MSJC and joined the work study program. Here, she worked as a student in the computer lab. Within this time, Hill was growing her family. A full-

time mom as well as a full-time student, any and all available resources were something she was always looking in to. SJC offers a childcare program that helped give her the support she needed in this busy time.

"I was not given the resources or encouragement to attend college and I had to finish what I started," Hill mentions.

In 2005, Hill was offered a permanent position as a switch floor operator in business services. Since she would be the first person callers would speak to when showing interest in the college, she would ensure it to be as pleasant as possible. Sometimes the conversation was so pleasant, she wouldn't have to transfer the call and would address the caller's concerns herself.

Shortly after, she obtained her associates degree in business administration while having three children. She graduated beside her

youngest at the time, Elijah, who graduated from Kindergarten. This made her the first generation in her family to graduate college.

"I'm very passionate in helping the students attain their academic goals. If I don't have the answer, I'll find someone who will," Hill said.

Although Hill strongly supports the idea of always improving in her academics, her six siblings went down a different path. They chose to enroll in Army services but she was always a lover of academics.

"My family struggled and I didn't want that for my family," she said. "I wanted to do better and expand my knowledge so I could encourage my kids to do the same."

Throughout her 15 years of employment with MSJC, Hill has had some very touching moments to make what she does impactful on the students.

"Students have shown

a lot of appreciation for the things I do for them," said Hill. "None of it is ever expected but it's always appreciated. About three years ago, I was recognized by a group of students for the assistance I was able to provide at the time and even given a dozen flowers!" . Hard work shows and the students of the SJC campus know just how to show appreciation for it.

Even on Hills downtime, she is still doing everything in her power to spend it with those she loves, her family.

"I haven't had so much down time lately but when I do, I try and do what I can to spend time with my youngest daughter, Cassidy," she said.

Today, Hill has four children that she has strongly encouraged to attend college and pursue a career. All, excluding her youngest, Cassidy (12), are currently attending a university and pursuing the career they've



been supported to chase.

"Schools have many resources now that they didn't have back when I was in college," said Hill. "If I would have known of the resources that were available at the time, I feel like I would have graduated with my next de-

gree by now. I love school and I do aspire to go back for my Bachelor's soon. My advice to students is to get it while you can."

For more information on resources available to you on campus, stop by the SJC library, located in building 300.

Miss Hemet/San Jacinto scholarship program empowers women

By Shelby Walker

The Miss Hemet Miss San Jacinto Scholarship Pageant has been going on for 68 years. The pageant gives women of different ages a chance to earn scholarships by giving a year of service to their communities while also learning vital life skills such as marketing, networking, leadership, public speaking, time management, and many more.

Most of the women who compete in the pageant do so to earn scholarships to help further their education. The women are also encouraged to take a platform and make that one of their main focuses during their year of service.

Currently there are eight title holders, all with a wide range of platforms. Miss Hemet Dyana Villa's is T.H.E. Center; Miss San Jacinto Abby Ward's is Riverside County Animal Service.; Mrs. Hemet Valerie Vandever's is Senior Citizen Awareness; Mrs. San Jacinto Petra Macias' is Mental Health Awareness; Miss Teen



Photo Courtesy of Miss Hemet & Miss San Jacinto Scholarship Program

The city queens join together for Christmas event.

Hemet Crystal Banda's is Auditory Processing Disorder (ADP); Miss Teen San Jacinto Jay-McKayala Mortus' is Valley Restart Homeless Shelter; Miss Jr. Teen Hemet Ciara Barnett's is Addressing Homeless Situation; and Miss Jr. Teen San Jacinto Brooke Brazier's is Teens: Helping

Create Joy and Friendship.

Each of these women are using their time as title holders to not only shed light on these different platforms but also help make a difference with them.

Villa has already been able to help her platform of the T.H.E. Center with a clean-up day there and raised

\$650 for them through a fundraiser she put on.

"It was an amazing feeling getting the check and being able to give it to T.H.E. Center. It made me motivated to continue to fundraise and bring awareness to what they do," said Villa.

T.H.E. Center, which stands for Therapeutic

Horsemanhip Equestrian Center, Inc, "stands dedicated to improving the cognitive, physical, and psychological abilities of individuals with disabilities and special needs through...nurturing therapeutic horsemanhip program," according to thecenterranch.org.

The Scholarship Program also has a Little Sisters program which allows young girls ages 5-12 to be mentored by the titleholders.

"Little sisters gain on-stage pageant and production experience in a fun non-competitive environment appropriate for their

Continued on page 11

Menifee holds Multicultural festival



Photo by Shelby Walker

Menifee's 2019 Multicultural Festival.

By Jaqueline Cespedes

Menifee's Multicultural Festival, hosted by the Kay Cenicerros Senior Center, was meant to educate the public on the various cultures within our community. From Japan to Norway to Mexico City, there was something new to engage in for everyone. Families gathered to take part in this event on March 16.

In 2018, the Multicultural Festival hosted 11 countries. This year the festival grew and had 19 countries represented.

Africa was represented by Rita and Lydia. They are two very active members at the senior center. After sharing some brief information on the history of this festival, their booth had a lot more to offer. They had coloring sheets

available for the kids, poster boards with fun facts for the crowd and even a couple traditional recipes for homemade sweet treats originating from Ghana. With Africa being one of the largest continents in the world and the home to 3,000 different tribes, there was a lot to learn.

Gabriela Warren, 16, representing Colombia, was one of the first performers to sing a song of their culture. Warren chose to sing "Tu" by Monica Giraldo because of the emotional connection she felt, not only with the lyrics but also with the melody that carried along with it.

Her mother, Sophia Warren, is a native to Colombia. Sophia believes it is important to remind the children of their roots and

intends on taking a trip to Colombia with her family at the end of this year so they can see the colorful culture themselves. From singing around her house to singing in front of live audiences, Warren looks forward to her future in music.

"My culture has always been very present in my life. I love how colorful it is and the pictures of Colombia are very beautiful. I'm looking forward to visiting soon," Gabriela said.

Monica Mitchell, who runs a Spanish club at the Harvest Hill STEAM Academy, encouraged her students to take part in the festival by representing a Spanish culture of their choice. Their table was covered in colorful student artwork, all representing

Continued on page 9

SJC holds mental health awareness event

By Jesus Alcalá

Mt. San Jacinto College now offers mental health counseling services. To use the service, students need to make an appointment with the counseling office. Three sessions are offered at no charge.

The San Jacinto Campus hosted an event to bring awareness to mental health on March 27. Special Programs Assistant II Suzanne Ortega coordinated the event to bring awareness to all the programs available to students and the public.

The Menifee campus is going to hold a mental health awareness event in May, so Ortega wanted to hold a similar event on the San Jacinto campus. DSPS, CalWORKs, NAMI, CASA, and A 2nd Chance were present at the event. A common goal of these services was to provide aid to a person so that they may return to self-sufficiency.

Disabled Students Program & Services was represented by DSPS Counselor Lisa Yates. According to Yates, DSPS offers accommodation for students with disabilities that may affect learning.

To receive an accommodation, the student only needs to walk in the campus office



Photo by Jesus Alcalá

Ruggiero and Koenen have a CalWORKs table at event.

with documentation from a professional or an organization that can verify the disability. Yates said that documents from doctors, therapists, schools, and the military are accepted.

Depending on the disability, DSPS may offer equipment, interpreters, braille materials, and extra test time when needed at no cost to the student.

DSPS will work with teachers to accommodate the student. Yates said that teachers may refer a student to DSPS if the student has described a disability

that may affect learning.

Yates said that it is OK to get DSPS services mid-semester, as situations can change. Yates told a story of one student that did not need DSPS services until the student suffered an eye injury that impaired their vision.

According to Yates, DSPS is currently servicing 1200 students.

The County of Riverside Department of Public and Social Services CalWORKs Department was represented by Behavioral Health Services Supervisor Diana

Koenen, Clinical Therapist II Jody Ruggiero. Job Developer Timmy Diaz with the MSJC CalWORKs and Job Connect Department was also there to let CalWORKs students know what services are available for them.

The DPSS's CalWORKs department can be contacted at 951-791-3018.

According to Koenen, CalWORKs aids with issues preventing self-sufficiency, such as mental health, drug abuse, and domestic violence. CalWORKs will help

qualified students get the aid they need, such as counseling, therapy, court assistance, and housing assistance.

Diaz said that to enroll in the CalWORKs department on campus, the student needs to be receiving County Cash Aid and have at least one dependent. Koenen said that CalWORKs may be able to assist without enrolling in the program, depending on the situation.

National Alliance on Mental Illness was represented by Peer Coordi-

nator Yolanda Siordia.

According to Siordia, NAMI provides classes and support groups for those with mental illness and their families.

NAMI can be contacted at 951-467-7529 or 951-765-1850.

Both the classes and support groups are led by those that have personal experience with mental illness. Classes and support groups are free to participants.

Siordia explained that anyone that wants to be a class or group leader can apply with NAMI. The volunteer will be trained, and the only requirement is that the volunteer must have personal experience with mental illness.

The classes and support groups are divided into family and peer-to-peer groups. The family groups are for those with a family member that has a mental illness. The peer-to-peer groups are for those with a mental illness.

The classes educate attendants on methods of dealing with mental illness.

Siordia said that groups include with people that have panic attacks, anxiety, and depression. The groups provide a place for people to vent frustrations and

Continued on page 9

Colson makes student advocacy a priority

By Mahak Tiwari

Dr. John Colson was the interim Vice President of Student Services at Mt. San Jacinto College since January 26th, 2017 before stepping into the official role on June 30th, 2017.

After obtaining his bachelor's degree from Toccoa Falls College in Philosophy and Religion, his master's degree in Religion, and a doctorate of Higher Education from the University of Georgia, Colson used his skills to take up various positions in academia.

Some positions he held include the Assistant Dean of Student Life at Charleston Southern University (1998-2000), Director of Student Life at Waycross College (2000-2006), Dean of Counseling at Coastline College (2013, 2006-2012), and the Vice President of Student Services at Bainbridge College (2004-2006) ending with Coastline College (2013-2014) before coming to MSJC to work the Vice President position he does now.

As the Vice President of Student Services, he, along with many others involved, covers the outreach program, student life, enrollment services, counseling, financial aid, athletics, campus safety, and Disabled Student Services Program alongside a num-

ber of additional branches, such as TRIO, Talent Search, Guided Pathways, and Upward Bound.

Colson has also been involved in numerous committees such as Equity, Student Services, and the Executive Council. "Committees are the way that colleges work and I am glad to have a chance to be involved. They are a part of our shared governance process and we always want to honor that so there is good representation and that voices are being heard."

Being the youngest of three siblings, his upbringing and environment was secure and fun.

"There was a group of folks I hung out with and went through school together with. Everybody gravitated towards high school football. We watched a lot of college and professional sports as well as going to a lot of concerts," said Colson. Outside of the office, some of Colson's interests include bicycling, reading, concert-going and travelling. Colson explained that administrative pressure is a way of life because a lot of administrators in the higher educational system have to be concerned with various constituent groups – primarily students working in

higher education. He further stated that there is also the general public, faculty, classified staff, the president, peers, and the board. "All of these different groups who have items that are to be prioritized and it is really about how we prioritize as administrators and how much time we spend on them. I think that the part of handling pressure is trying to help people understand and the best way to do that being honest and transparent," Colson said.

When asked about deadlines, Colson said, "Some people need deadlines more than others do. I think that they are important because they do bring pressure but none of us are perfect. None of us are omniscient. Deadlines help to really keep us accountable. Although they do bring pressure, I am in favor of deadlines because that is how we function and that is how we know we are moving toward efficiency."

Colson stated the most important aspect of his job has

to do with student advocacy. "Advocacy does have its challenges. One of my main priorities is making sure that the advocacy for students is going forward in a very respectful and kind manner. That is the way we operate down here" said Colson.

When asked about what he admired in others, Colson said, "People that don't let circumstances of life define who they are and how they respond. People that have a higher goal,

and people that persist, I admire that. That is really what life is all about. You're going to get thrown all kinds of little curveballs and challenges. It doesn't matter where you are. It is really how we respond to adversity and I know because that is what I admire in folks. That is, the attitude that says to never give up. You're going to persist and do more than survive. It defines good leaders and people that have an ability to appreciate life."



Photo courtesy of MSJC Information

Colson in front of new Mobile Career Center.

Mental Health cont.

From page 8

provide each other with support.

NAMI can also send people to speak at public events and classes to speak about their experience with mental illness. An event coordinator or a teacher can contact NAMI to request a speaker.

Siordia said that NAMI tends to get requests from psychology professors, but any teacher may request a speaker.

NAMI will have a fundraising event in October.

Center Against Sexual Assault was represented by Prevention and Education Coordinator Erika Cleland.

According to Cleland, CASA is a nonprofit organization that provides counseling, advocacy, and assistance to those that have been impacted by sexual abuse, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

Cleland said that CASA provides therapy, support groups, case assistance, and helps victims of human trafficking. CASA's services are available to all ages.

CASA can be contacted at 951-652-8300.

CASA can dispatch personnel to a hospital or police station if a client needs emotional support or assistance with the process. CASA can also walk a client through the court process.

CASA can help people return to self-sufficiency by helping them get shelter and a job.

CASA also provides a network of support groups. There are groups for women, men, teens, parents, the LGBT community, and those impacted by human trafficking. These groups are formed based on demand.

According to Cleland, CASA's human trafficking program began two years ago and became fully operational last year.

According to CASA's research, the most common age range for sex and labor trafficking was 15-17 years old.

Cleland stressed the importance of a healthy relationship, saying "The most prominent recruitment strategy for sex trafficking is through an

intimate relationship."

Cleland provided a diagram explaining the exploitation process. The diagram showed that exploiters will target a person, usually young, befriend them, and form a romantic relationship. Afterwards, the exploiter will damage their mental state through abuse, isolation, and intimidation. The exploiter then uses the target's guilt, shame, and fear to coerce them into sex.

Call 1-888-373-7888 to get help or report trafficking.

CASA works with law enforcement to help get people out of human trafficking and will provide services to assist the client through the court case and recovery.

Cleland said that CASA is looking for volunteers. Volunteers must be 18 years-old or older. Volunteers will go through a 42-hour training session to be certified to serve the on the hotline or be dispatched to assist a client.

CASA is also hiring therapists. Marriage and family therapist trainees



Photo by Jesus Alcalá

Koenen speaks on the importance of mental health.

and associates can be hired. Those hired will have their work supervised until they obtain their license.

According to Cleland, CASA is funded by donations, fundraisers, and grants.

A 2nd Chance was represented by Joseph Parker.

According to Parker, A 2nd Chance is a student club that functions as a support group for students with at-risk behaviors, such as drug abuse and incarceration.

A 2nd Chance meets Wednesdays on the San

Jacinto Campus in room 107B at 2:30-3:30 p.m.

The mental health awareness event came to an end with a speech from Diana Koenen. The scheduled speaker failed to appear, so Koenen gave an impromptu speech.

Koenen re-iterated the purpose of the event: to bring awareness to the services available to students and the public, and to remove the stigma behind requesting mental health services.

An audience member asked if health insur-

ance was a requirement. Koenen responded that the Riverside University Health System will work with the client to get them the help they need, even without health insurance.

"There's help out there and it's okay to reach to anyone for help. Because everybody has experienced something some time in their life," Koenen said.

Ortega then closed the event by informing the audience that MSJC offers professional mental health counseling services through the counseling office.

MVC holds first 'March Madness'

By Rita Douangpanaha & Jose Daniel Arreguin

On March 6, the Student Government Association held its first ever "March Madness" Super Smash Bros Ultimate in Room 927 at the Menifee Valley Campus.

The event was headed by SGA President Angel Perez, who conducted the tournament via his Nintendo Switch at the podium. Entry to the event was \$3, and included a meal ticket. Walk-ins were \$5, and spectators were allowed free admission. The event was scheduled between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., but with the number of participants and bracket showdown, it ended up lasting more than anticipated.

In the spirit of March Madness competition, the tournament matches were set as 3-stock, 5-minute games. Players faced single-elimination, and advanced in the brackets until the Ultimate Champion could be determined. With over 25 participants, an

audience of 15 additional students watched from the lecture hall seats, and six student representatives coordinated the event.

Utilizing the room's auditorium-style seating and massive projectors, the battles were displayed on two whiteboards covering both sides of the room. The ambiance was intense and competitive spirits ran high as student participants brought their own controllers and Switches for battle.

Players were allowed to choose from over 74 characters to knock their opponents off the brackets and claim the Classic NES console (Grand Prize), a SSB t-shirt & Amiibo figurine (1st runner-up), or SSB t-shirt (2nd runner-up).

With participants ranging in varying degrees of experience, the March Madness event brought in male and female gamers alike. Between button-mashing and experienced tactical players, SSB was definitely a game requiring defensive and offensive moves



Photo by Christopher Soto

Players competing in 'March Madness' event.

to put an edge on wins.

Depending on the character chosen, players had to min/max their character's abilities to outsmart their opponent. Counterattacks and defensive shields provided clutch moments for some; while others faced defeat to the ultimate environment boss and fell to their deaths without that extra jump to boost them back to platform-safety.

"We chose Super

Smash Bros because it offered the competition we were looking for as a March Madness event. Also, a lot of the students grew up playing Nintendo so we thought it would be a fun, competitive choice for the event," said Student Activity Coordinator Jose Hernandez. Like many of those present, Hernandez explained how most of the students grew up on the franchise

characters in the game and believed the nostalgia was a great way for students to connect and participate in the event. While most of the titles on the Classic NES are on the Switch, the console was more than just a prize. It was a trophy; a memorabilia for the first SSB event and a collector's piece for the winner to cherish as talks for more tournaments to be held are in the works.

Alarcon makes full circle back to MSJC



By Enrique Perez

Professor Herbert Alarcon teaches history at Mt. San Jacinto College -- specifically World, Western World, American Histories, and the newly installed History of Religions course. However, there is also something interesting about Alarcon's own personal history; he was once a student at MSJC himself.

He attended MSJC around 2003 and majored in history, since he was determined to be a history professor. After finishing his general education, he transferred to the Univer-

sity of California Riverside to complete his undergraduate studies in history. Then he completed his graduate work at California State University San Marcos.

Alarcon's determination to become a history professor was fueled by his love for history, saying that he could recall being passionate about the subject since his childhood, which was influenced by his father and his school friends.

"I've always loved history," said Alarcon. "From the time I was a little kid, my dad was really into English longbows and we used to dress up and go to

King Arthur shoots and dress up like Robin Hood, you know, that kind of stuff. Then a couple of my friends and I joined Renaissance Fairs in high school."

But despite his passion and pursuit of historical reenactments, Alarcon knew that he wouldn't be able to make a living from it.

"I've done a bunch of historical recreations, but that really wasn't a way to make a living," said Alarcon, "so I kind of 'grew up,' and I was working in a bicycle shop, being a general manager and doing well, but then I got downsized."

After getting downsized from his job, instead of trying to get another job, Alarcon's wife encouraged him to go back to school.

"My wife said that instead of going back to doing that, I should do something that I love," he said. "So she encouraged me to go back to school, and so I went back to school to be a history teacher."

Originally, Alarcon thought that he would be teaching history for high school, until he came to MSJC.

"After my experience here, I decided that I wanted to be a community college professor and specifically

here at this school. I was lucky enough to be able to actually come back and teach here," said Alarcon.

Alarcon's desire for wanting to return to teach at his alma mater was motivated by his own personal appreciation of his time and residence in the area.

"Well, it's just like where I started, and I live here, I've lived here for 20 years, and I've lived in the Inland Empire my whole life, so it was just kind of like, 'these are my peeps,'" said Alarcon.

"So it was just kind of like a 'give back' kind of deal or just more of I could connect with the students here and maybe even a little better than the teachers that I had."

As for his students, Alarcon hopes to teach them valuable lessons that will not only benefit them in the subject of history, but also in their own lives as college students living in modern day society.

"History has kind of changed a lot because it used to be like, 'we were the holders of knowledge because we read the books,'" Alarcon said. "But now in the age of the internet, there's so much information out there and it's kind of changed how you fig-

ure out what are the good information sources and where to get the good information sources. So it's kind of changed from a knowledge base to a skill base, and the content of history helps you learn these life skills, such as being able to do good research."

Alarcon hopes that his story and his presence on campus will influence and inspire students who have come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"I just want them to realize that they can do it too," he said. "Because when I went back, my wife was like, 'You know more history than most professors do,' but I was like, 'Yeah, but I have long hair, and I'm an ex musician, blah blah blah' and she just said, 'You can do it.'"

"So I want people to know that they can do that. You know, there isn't some box. If you want to be a teacher, then be a teacher. You don't have to think that you don't look or fit the part. We often do that to ourselves, and I want people to not do that. You know, it's not about where I came from, it's about where I'm going."

Outside of teaching, Alarcon still continues to pursue his love and pas-

Multicultural Festival cont.

From page 8

a Spanish culture of their choice. Their table was covered in colorful student artwork, all representing Peru in their own way. About 35 of her students participated in this year's event

"I encourage my students to get involved in local events while learning something at the same time," she said.

Vietnam was represented by Lan Tran and Chi Bao Nguyen. Along with a poster board full of personal photos from their country, they also had what is known as the national garment of Vietnam, the Ao Dai. The Ao Dai garment is a tight-fitting silk tunic worn over trousers available in various colors, typically worn by women but can also be worn by men.

Lynn Meyer represented Germany by putting together an Oktoberfest poster board. Oktoberfest is known for its infamous large beers, beer drinking contests and brats. This German festival originated in 1810, to celebrate the wedding of Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen on the 12th of October.

The city of Munich was invited to take part in the royal event leading to the now historical Oktoberfest. With a population of over 82 million people, this party has left an enormous stamp on society. Along with her eye-catching poster board, Lynn also provided the children with pretzel glasses and coloring sheets to take home.

Anahi Rodriguez, 17, was one of the last performers to sing. Anahi was representing the Puerto Rican culture in singing, "Vivir Mi Vida" by Marc Anthony.

"As I was getting older, I didn't realize the difference in Mexican and Puerto Rican culture. This was the first song my dad showed me from a Puerto Rican singer." Rodriguez said. Rodriguez joined choir at just 6 years old. At age 15, she began to take her singing seriously and expanding her knowledge in music. She is currently taking vocal classes as well as performing at local events for the city of Menifee. A soon to be graduate with plans to pursue her dream, Rodriguez has all the support from her family and friends but most of all her mother.

Lake Elsinore ‘superbloom’ cont.



Photo by Shelby Walker

Lake Elsinore city officials hold press conference concerning ‘superbloom’

From page 1

we experienced about three weeks of a spike in tourism, but not large enough for us to really get an accurate number of just how many people came.”

The weekend of March 17, the city experienced crowds beyond anything they could have experienced with over 50,000 people visiting on Saturday the 16th and 100,000 on Sunday the 17th. According to the mayor, the city was expecting about 20,000 people a day.

Traffic on the 15 freeway was backed up north and southbound, causing severe delays for not only the people trying to reach the superbloom but commuters and residents as well. There were a total of seven emergencies that required medical attention, ranging from exhaustion, heat stroke, and snake bite (only one reported snake bite).

The crowds, excessive

traffic, people parking on freeway, and an increase in emergency calls caused the city to close down Walker Canyon, where the bloom is, until a better plan could be made to handle the large number of tourists.

The city reopened the canyon on Monday the 18th, due to weekday traffic being easier to handle.

“We do not want to deny anyone from being able to see the poppies, so we reopened the canyon and have begun to put a plan in motion to handle the weekend traffic. We will be teaming up with various agencies to help with the problems that took place this last weekend” said Manos on March 20.

On March 21, the city held an official press conference to explain what measures have been taken to ensure public safety and how the city planned to handle the boom in tourism. There were representatives

from the City of Lake Elsinore, Caltrans, California Highway Patrol, Lake Elsinore Police Department, Riverside County Fire, Parks and Recreation, and the County of Riverside, all of which played crucial roles in developing the plan to help the city, tourists and above all the residents.

Officials explained they would be closing the of-ramp at Lake Street as it was the exit causing the most problems with traffic. They would also be closing other various streets from the public and those would only be accessible for emergency personnel and residents of those areas. Also, the only way people would be able to reach the canyon to view the poppies would be by shuttle, which would cost \$10 per a person over the age of 3.

A Highway Patrol official explained there would be an increase of officers out to help control the

traffic on the freeway to keep the 15-freeway moving and stop people from parking on the shoulder.

When the weekend of March came around, things did end up going smoother. Although were lines for the

shuttle going to and from the canyon, they were able to keep a flow of getting people in and out. The freeway did slow in areas but continued to move along without any real incidents.

Manos said their weekend efforts have been effective. Their focus now is working on the weekday efforts to help with traffic. They will now be staffing the week days with city officials and volunteers in an effort of keeping Lake Street traffic manageable because since there are no shuttles during week days and visitors are able to park near the canyon.

Nicole Daily, Assistant to the City Manager, explained that the city is hoping to either break even or make a small profit after all of the efforts being made to accommodate the superbloom.

Although the city has not seen a huge revenue from the tourism directly, the local economy is booming from it. Businesses and restaurants are even almost running out of goods to

sell due to the consistent amount of people coming.

A Parks and Recreation official said that there is no real way to see just how long this beautiful display of flowers will last. Their biologist says that as the weather gets hotter and rain showers happen less often, the flowers will begin to die.

This is why the city recommends those who have not yet gotten a chance to see the superbloom come out before it’s gone forever.

Manos wants everyone to remember, “Respect the area. Be sure to clean up after yourself, stay on the trails, do not pick or lay in the flowers, know your limits, wear the right attire, DO NOT PARK ON THE FREEWAY, and enjoy this possibly once in a life time experience.”

Make sure to check the City of Lake Elsinore’s website before visiting to know exactly what roads and exits to avoid.



Photo by Christopher Soto

Lake Elsinore ‘superbloom’

STEM

Have you ever pounded questions about ideas & mechanics that make the world go around?

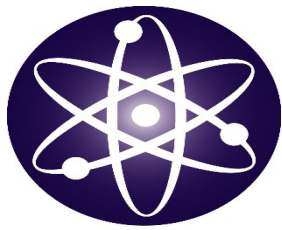
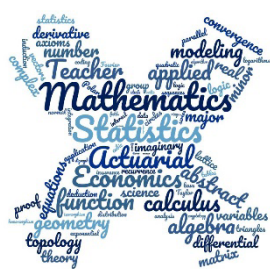
Are you interested in learning new skills & ideas related to the field of STEM?

Are you a STEM Major & want to make your transfer application look good?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you will enjoy the STEM Club?

Interested? Our meeting times are as follow:

Tuesday (Workshop & General meetings): 3:30-6:30pm, Rm. 156



Science Fridays (Officers meetings): 11am-12pm, Rm TBA

THE MSJC FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THE SJC POETRY CLUB

TREATS AND POETRY

Join us for our event taking place in the art gallery April 18th at 12pm for poetry prompt and poetry-sharing based on the prompt, to help expand our creativity writing skills.

POETRY/SECOND CHANCE CLUB

“Poetry is not a turning loose of emotion, but an escape from emotion; it is not the expression of personality, but an escape from personality. But, of course, only those who have personality and emotions know what it means to want to escape from these things” T.S Eliot



Photo by Christopher Soto

Katie Koestner speaks at Women’s Empowerment and Survivor Forum.



Photo by Mya Correa

Correa’s art work on display at Menifee Music and Art Festival.

Menifee Music & Arts Festival cont.

From page 1

One of the local performing artists, Temecula Road, told the crowd that playing the festival was a bitter-sweet moment for them as it was their last home town show before they make the move to Nashville.

They are currently working on new music they are gearing up to release and allowed the festival goers the opportunity to hear unreleased music. After their performance, they held a meet-and-greet so that everyone could have the opportunity to meet them and take pictures and get autographed pictures and guests were able to purchase some of their merchandise that was for sale.

"We loved being able to play close to our hometown of Temecula, and seeing all our family and friends at the show. We are moving to Nashville next month. We will be working on lots of new music there and releasing some new songs very soon," said Temecula Road.

Having a successful Music & Arts Festival requires a big draw and that included the headliners,



Photo by Jennifer Vargas

Temecula Road performs at Arts and Music Festival for last 'hometown' event.

Thompson Square. The full band show was lively and it didn't feel any different than any other big venue concert. The crowd was able to sing along to familiar songs and get silly with the band as they did impromptu cover songs.

There were tender mo-

ments throughout the set that even had couples dancing together near the front of the stage.

Thompson Square's Shawna and Keifer Thompson even made an appearance on The Talon's Instagram as they greeted all of their readers and viewers

of social media and spoke about playing for the festival. In a separate quote, they told The Talon, "It was an honor playing the first annual Music and Arts Festival. The crowd was awesome we had an amazing time and we can't wait to come back."

They also thanked the crowd for attending and supporting the local community. They reminded the crowd that the key to any successful festival was their attendance and if they keep showing up year after year, the festival will be able to get big-

MSJC's student leadership cont.

From page 2

Another position is The Senator of College Activities, which is held by Crystal Garcia and Debbie Gelista. Their job involves bringing college activities into fruition that the student body wants or needs. An example is that last semester, Garcia put together a panel based on sexual harassment to bring awareness to the issue on campus and off.

The next role is held by Allison Salas, who is the Commissioner of Institutional Effectiveness, and Nicklas Singh, who is the Senator of Institutional Effectiveness. Their job is to make sure everyone in the commission is attending the meetings and running the committee efficiently and to spot any errors the SGA makes.

Lastly, Joseph "Max" Swanson is the Senator of Public Relations who handled his position all on his own without a commissioner. Now that a commissioner has been appointed their team will be more potent than ever. Their job is to run the social media accounts for SGA and are responsible for going to SGA events and other club events.

From being in the SGA, these students have experienced a lot and have enjoyed the journey. Lopez's experience as a student trustee has shown her why she enjoys being a part of the committee.

"I think the best part is getting to see the deans and vice presidents and seeing how hard they work for us and just knowing what really goes into this college and seeing how much they really care," Lopez said.

Although it may seem like work for these students, to them it is group effort that can influence. Perez describes the SGA as a family and that to many in the committee it seems to be the case.

Vandals don't stop Beyond the Binary cont.

From page 1

ranging from administrators, faculty, staff, students, and community members.

When Oberg was asked how it felt to see such a large turnout and united front, she said, "Not surprised, but humbled and moved by the response. I was honored to see the walls lined with faculty, staff, and administrators from both campuses to stand in unity supporting our LGBTQ+ students, as a show of solidarity and commitment to support students of all marginalized groups."

"It was the proudest moment of my time here at MSJC, and I was never more honored to be an Eagle. I am so thankful to Dr. Schultz, Dr. Colson, and all the administrative team for their swift response to the incident. I am also thankful to our dedicated faculty who commit their hearts and lives to not just educating students, but to empowering them and supporting them in their lives, and advocating for their success and well-being in and outside the classroom."

Before the forum began, Professor Ryan Sullivan of the San Jacinto Campus gave the opening remarks. Sullivan was able to tell everyone a bit about his story of coming out and showing what he has accomplished. Sullivan reassured every student that he will always have an open-door policy

and be there to advocate for the students of MSJC.

"If you want on our campus you don't see any visible support for the LGBTQ+ community except flyers when there is an event. Today we take a stand," said Sullivan.

When speaking about the need for LGBTQ+ students to know MSJC is a safe place where they will be supported.

The panel for the forum was made up of students, faculty, administrators, and a representative on behalf of PFLAG. The panel was able to give a wide range of insight on various questions from asking what everyone's experience with coming out was, how they created a support system, to what obstacles they have faced, and many more.

The audience was engaged and eager to ask questions at the end during the Q and A part of the event.

"This forum made me know that I will always have a family here and I know that I have a safe space to just be me without judgement. Before tonight I hadn't felt that in my life before," said a student who wishes to remain anonymous.

MSJC also has a LGBTQ+ task force that will be planning more events like this to spread support and educate. They have also launched a scholarship for LGBTQ+ students.



After the event, Oberg was asked what she wanted the vandals to know if they were to read this article.

"The vandals should have the opportunity to be educated," she said. "Ideally, their actions are founded in ignorance, which we can combat with education. But if it is founded in hate, then that is something we can only combat with love and experience."

"Social psychology shows that when we find ourselves connected to a member of a group for which we carry hatred and prejudice, then we face a cognitive dissonance that forces us to reconsider our attitudes. It is hard to carry hatred and prejudice toward a group when you know and care about a member of that group."

"That is why these events are important. Not only do they create a safe space for members of the



Photos by Shelby Walker

Above photo Sullivan gives opening remarks. Bottom photo forum panel.

community, but they also provide visibility for others to see how much they have in common with one another, and how much all of us deserve respect and support to be our authentic selves."

The administration and faculty want students to know there are resources available if

they ever feel threatened or discriminated against.

"If any student feels as if they are being harassed, discriminated against, or threatened on the basis of their sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation, they can file a Title IX complaint," Oberg said. "They can contact Aysia Pennell, Maya Cardenas, or Jeannine

Stokes for a Title IX concern. They can also come to me Anjeanette Oberg, Erik Ozolins at the Menifee Campas. At San Jacinto, Ryan Sullivan, Tami Smith, and Alma Ramirez will all stand with students who need a faculty resource. You are not alone."

Miss Hemet/San Jacinto scholarship pageant cont.

From page 7

ge level," according to valleyqueens.org.

On top of their platforms, the titleholders and little sisters participate in a wide range of community services. These include ribbon cuttings, helping in the community, community events, and helping local organizations.

Everyone who goes out for the titles has a different reason as to why they want to give a year to service for their community.

Ward decided to go out for Miss San Jacinto so she could get involved with her community once again. Ward was Miss Teen San Jacinto 2015. Another reason she decided to return was San Jacinto High School's legacy program. Ward is currently a senior there.

"The Miss SJ/Miss Hemet pageant program has been inviting me as an alumnus for the last eight years because of being a past title holder for



Photo Courtesy of Miss Hemet/ San Jacinto Pageant
The city queens attend Soroptimist girl power conference at MSJC.

Miss San Jacinto Fire Dept. 1978-1979," Vandever said. "The pageant just reinstated the "Mrs." category in 2018, so I decided it would be a great opportunity for me to participate again in this event, and it would be my honor to give back what I can to the

community I grew up in." The titleholders are not even half way through their year of service and have taken part in over 45 events since November, already surpassing the number of events last year's title holders participated in. The program continues

to grow each year and reach more parts of the community.

When asked what has been the best so far, they all agreed it was meeting new people and being able to give back to their community. They each elaborated a bit more in detail to what

has been the best part so far.

"I would have to say the best part has been all the events at Christmas time and helping families in need during the holidays. Also, the fact that I was able to fundraise money for T.H.E. Center since it means so much to me," said Villa.

"I would have to say the amazing people I am lucky enough to come in contact with practically on a daily basis," Vandever said. "Whether it's a ribbon cutting or a parade, it's been an amazing journey so far and it's barely four months into it. The absolute best thing I've been part of so far is what I've been able to organize, meet and discuss my ideas for my cause or platform, helping seniors."

The women have each been impacted from the journey so far and felt they have benefited from participating in the pageant. They also encouraged women to look into it if they were interested. The

women plan to continue to use the next eight months to make as big of a difference in the community as they can while also being role models for other young women.

"All the title holders are role models. We have so much to give, teach and learn from our community. I love being the older title holder out of the group for this reason, my hope is to be a role model, and one even within our organization," said Vandever.

The women have also attended multiple events at Mt. San Jacinto College since November, including the Winter Orchestra Concert, Soroptimist Girl Power Conference, and Day of the Young Child.

MSJC students who may be interested about going out for the 2020 pageant can find more information at valleyqueens.org. The pageant lets women of all ages participate, whether you're 15 or 50 and married.



Thompson Square headlines Music & Arts Festival.

Photo by Jennifer Vargas



Students learn how to fingerprint.

Photo by MVC Criminal Justice Club



Child Development Center gets chicken coop donated.

Photo by Shelby Walker



TED students put on activity at Chil Development Center.

Photo by Shelby Walker

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 Facebook: Mt. San Jacinto College Talon
 Twitter: [@msjctalon](https://twitter.com/msjctalon)

#KeepCommAndTalonOn



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