Plan to raise minimum wage

President Obama pushes salary increase proposal to Congress

By DANIEL DEMARCO  
Asst. Features Editor

President Barack Obama said Congress should finish the job he started by raising the minimum wage from the current federal minimum wage $7.25 to $10.10.

“I make minimum wage and even $8 sucks, $7.25 would just be ridiculous. A $10.10,” said student Donny Stevens.

Obama said that Americans deserve to know why they can’t agree on anything Americans should ask for reasons.

“Our economy has been growing for four years. Our businesses have created eight and a half million new jobs. But while those at the top are doing better than ever, average wages have barely budged,” said Obama.

Since the beginning of 2013 when Obama started bringing the minimum wage issue to Congress, only six states have officially passed laws that will raise their minimum wage.

Continued on Pg. 4

Imported prescription drugs not FDA approved

By ANGEL LIZARDI  
Staff Writer

Eighty percent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients in drugs imported to America are actually manufactured in other countries.

About 40 percent of the finished drugs are coming from other countries, according to Dr. Margaret Hamburg, Food and Drug Administration’s commissioner.

In a radio interview with NPR’s Diane Rehm, Hamburg addressed the matters said that it was the FDA’s “global responsibility” to make sure that all medicine is heavily monitored.

“This year the FDA must behave like a global agency with a global mission because the products we regulate for the promotion and protection of health of Americans here at home depends on the quality and safety of products that are now coming from all over the world,” said Hamburg.

Also on the show was New York Times writer Gardner Harris, who was calling in.

Continued on Pg. 4

Banks have paid $200 million because of Target “hack” (Feb. 19)

Due to a data breach that occurred last year in Target, banks and credit unions have paid over $200 million to those who were affected by the “hack.”

Forty million shoppers’ debit and credit cards were exposed, and an additional 70 million might have had personal information stolen from them.

Scientists have successfully linked two monkeys together (Feb. 19)

Using computer chips inserted into the brain, one monkey’s brain is able to control another monkey’s body.

This work hopes to lead to implants for people with nerve or spinal paralysis and could lead to speech and robotic arm treatment.

The first monkey simply thinks about what they want to do and the second monkey will then make the movement.

Israel developing a laser defense program (Feb. 16)

Israel’s new “Star Wars” – like laser shield technology will prevent damage from enemy rocket fire and shoot down short-range missiles.

Its engineers said they are one step closer to perfecting the program.

Associated Students Inc. Elections will be held May 7 and 8 (Feb. 18)

Any student who is interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors or Executive Officers can come to room 108 in the Student Union to pick up an election packet that will be available on Feb. 20 and due on March 19.

ASI is a student government on campus that hosts events such as the athletic game tailgates and movie nights. ASI also provides legal services to those in need, as well as a box office that sells tickets to students at reduced prices.

CSUSB student hit by car on campus (Feb. 19)

A female student crossing the street on campus was struck by a car on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

She was transported to the hospital, but authorities are told that she is in stable condition and should be admitted upon release soon.

When asked if any details could be revealed about the driver or how the incident occurred, CSUSB officer Lt. Walter Duncan replied that there is still an ongoing investigation in progress and the police report is incomplete, so no more detailed information can be released publicly at this time.
New mayor reviews state of SB

The topics focused on the city’s bankruptcy, Omnitrans, and SB’s new Mayor Carey Davis

By ESSENCE DENNIS
Staff Writer

The issues within the city of San Bernardino were discussed at the city council meeting held on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

Important topics presented at the council meeting were the city’s bankruptcy, Omnitrans, and San Bernardino’s new mayor.

Carey Davis, who was elected new mayor of San Bernardino on Feb. 4, was the topic of some discussion during the meeting.

“I don’t think voting for a new mayor is a good idea because of all the money troubles we’ve had so far,” said student Monica Pham-Luu. His inauguration will be held on March 3, 2014, but until then he will continue working half days at his job at Hehr International before transitioning to mayor.

“I think it’s a good thing that we’re getting a new mayor, maybe something positive will get done,” said student Kristi Felix.

“I feel like San Bernardino shouldn’t have a mayor and should find a cheaper alternative, like a committee. I think there could definitely be a downside for the new mayor because there will be high expectations for him to fix up San Bernardino,” said student Tasha Hogan.

Students are hung up on knowing what positive measurements will be taken by Davis in the near future.

“I’d like to see less pot holes, less litter, stores, better apartments that are near CSUSB and maybe a decent mall,” said Hogan.

Next on the list was discussing the city’s bankruptcy, which Steve Turner, president of the San Bernardino Police Officers Association, commented, saying, “There are many crucial issues facing our city — bankruptcy, unemployment, and rising crime.”

“For San Bernardino to become economically stable and for jobs to come here we all must make our city a safer place,” said Turner when discussing the turmoil the city faces in an interview from sanbernardinocitybankruptcy.com.

“It’s our fault we’re bankrupt, we keep putting this money into companies and have nothing to show for it except that we are bankrupt,” said councilman James Mulvihill who placed the blame for the city’s bankruptcy on the council members.

Lastly, Omnitrans, has initiated new bus lanes for their “SBX rapid transit service.” The new street configuration is meant to warn others of what’s in store for the future.

For example, there will be new lane stripping, yellow safety barriers, as well as double yellow lines and Bus Only signs, according to omnitrans.org.

Chief of Police Jarrod Burguan said that a bus lane violation will be a minimum of $341. The bus violation signs are up to warn, “Motorists of the fine for entering a Bus Only lane,” according to omnitrans.org.

If students wish to learn more about the issues plaguing San Bernardino, they can sit in at the city council meetings which are open to the public.

If students wish to learn more about SB, they can visit city council meetings which are open to the public. To find out the schedules for their meetings you may contact them at (909) 384 5188.
News

Monday, February 24, 2014

California unveils largest solar plant

By CLARISSA TOLL
Staff Writer

The world’s largest solar-concentrating plant opened last week in Southern California.
The solar plant, Ivanpah, located five miles from the California-Nevada boarder, is expected to power 140,000 local homes, according to The San Bernardino Sun.

Ivanpah is a solar electric generation system used as an alternative for clean energy.
The system consists of 347,000 mirrors that collect solar energy that is then used to heat steam which creates the electricity. A vast majority of the facility’s water used for steam is recycled back into the system.

“The Ivanpah project is a shining example of how America is becoming a world leader in solar energy,” said U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz at the plant’s grand opening.

The use of this solar energy will be equivalent to removing 72,000 automobiles from roads, according to NRG Energy officials.

It is estimated that the use of the plant’s energy will reduce carbon monoxide emissions by more than 400,000 tons per year, according to Bright Source Energy’s website.

According to an article on medical-news today.com, a stem cell researcher named Dr. Joan Nichols from UTMB stated, “We can create a fibrotic lung, or an emphysematous lung, and evaluate what’s happening with those, what the cells are doing, how well stem cell or other therapy works.”

Organ engineering is something that has been in the process for the past several years.

Researchers established that they have been working on lung engineering since 2010 on rat and pig lungs. It wasn’t until recently that they released their accomplishments on human lungs.

Other organs such as tracheas and livers are further along in organ manufacturing. Transplants of lab made tracheas have been a success in several patients around the nation.

This process began with a damaged lung that was stripped down to its scaffold- ing of collagen and elastin. Another lung’s cells were then coated on top of the scaffold lung.

“The scaffold technique provides a ‘casing,’ if you will, in which lung cells would grow and populate,” said Satoorian.

Utmb’s Dr. Michael Riddle was the researcher responsible for growing the lung in a fish tank-like incubator full of cell nutrients.

In a four-week process, the scaffold lung in the incubator resulted in a regenerated lung.

Granting that this is a landmark accomplishment in the medical field, it is unknown if the lung can perform normal lung functions such as the exchange of gases.

It is estimated it will take about 10 to 12 years for lab-engineered lungs to be used as medical transplants.

An advancement like this in the medical field brings up some ethical questions.

A lung is an organ that gives the human body the “breath of life” and it can also give those in need a second chance at life.

“It is going to stir up issues with religious groups because science technology essentially is playing God,” said Andrew Reveles, a communications student. “On the other end of it, we are advancing medicine and potentially saving lives.”

Concerns may rise for those who are rooted deeply in religious beliefs.

Numerous amounts of incurable lung diseases kill thousands of people.

For example, cigarette smoking causes about 480,000 deaths in the United States, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

Ultimately, researchers such as Nichols believes this “landmark in regenerative engineering” can reduce those numbers and potentially save lives.

First human lung artificially created

By GLORIA GUTIERREZ
Staff Writer

Organ engineering took another dramatic step forward when stem cell scientists created a human lung in a Texas university lab.

A much softer, less dense and pink lung was regenerated from a stripped down skeleton lung all done in a laboratory at the University of Texas Medical Branch.

This medical innovation can potentially pave the way for many medical opportunities.

Tiffany Satoorian, a professor at CSUSB who teaches stem cell biology and tissues in the laboratory would reduce the electricity from Ivanpah, Southern California Edison has a Solar initiative that rewards customers who install solar generating systems of their own.

Customers can receive rebates for the amount of energy they save.

The plant has been described as the Hoover Dam of this generation with its substantial size and expectations.

Betchel, the engineering firm that engineered the Hoover Dam, also completed the engineering for Ivanpah.

The grounds of the plant is four times that of New York’s Central Park, according to ivanpah.nrgenergy.com.

Ivanpah was granted a $1.6 billion loan from the Department of Energy to ensure the plant’s state of the art technology, according to NRG Energy.

According to The San Bernardino Sun, an estimated $650 million in salaries and operation fees will be paid during the coming 30 years.

Celebrities have also been a part of the new solar plant.

GRAMMY winners The Fray filmed the music video of the first released song of their upcoming album “He lios” at the plant. The plant is owned by Google, Bright Source Energy, and NRG Energy.

The electricity created at the plant will serve So Cal Edison as well as Pacific Gas and Electric.
Three sessions on health care scheduled at CSUSB

By COURTNEY MATA
Staff Writer

A $95 fine will be issued for those without health insurance by March 31. The fine will affect next year’s tax season and will double every year.

“We are hoping that everyone takes advantage of the new health insurance, Covered California’s payment plans are reasonable,” said Claudia Ortiz, a Covered California representative.

Only one student attended the workshop held by Covered California on Tuesday.

“I came today, because right now I do not have health insurance,” said student Ismael Sanchez.

“I’m signing up because I need health insurance and because I do not want to get fined,” continued Sanchez. “It’s $100 the first year and the second year it doubles.”

Covered California offers a variety of health insurance plans that will help individuals afford insurance.

“If you are making less than $15,856 a year then you qualify for Medi-Cal, which is free insurance,” said Ortiz.

Students without insurance should apply now before it is too late.

“After March 31, if you do not have health insurance then you will get a fine,” said Ortiz.

“It is really simple to apply. Just make sure you have your W2s, 1098-T form if you get financial aid, social security card, and a legal document showing proof of a permanent residence,” said Eduardo Rayan, a Covered California enrollment counselor.

Kinesiology professor Aaron Moffett believes that students without health insurance should get it.

“Students should absolutely take advantage of Covered California, it is the purpose of the Obama Care plan,” said Moffett.

Moffett believes that students should have insurance in order for them to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

“I think it’s really important for students to maintain their health,” said Moffett.

Sophomore Sean Ehrenkranz is currently under his family’s insurance.

“As of now I have health insurance, but once I become of age and I have to obtain my own insurance, I honestly am hoping I am employed somewhere at the time that has health benefits,” said Ehrenkranz.

“Under the new Affordable Care Act, many of our students, families and staff members will be eligible for either no-cost, public insurance under the newly expanded Medi-Cal program, or heavily discounted (subsidized) private insurance purchased through a new government entity known as Covered California,” according to CSUSB Covered California.

“If now, the Covered California is experiencing some difficulties with their websites and those trying to get in touch via phone are in for a long wait.

“The website problems come at a crucial time as the Covered California exchange tries to persuade more uninsured people to sign up ahead of a March 31 deadline,” according to the Los Angeles Times.

Covered California will visit CSUSB again on Tuesday, March 4 from 2-4 p.m. and Thursday, March 13 from 2-4 p.m. in the Lower Commons.

Students were not just interested in applying or seeking more information should visit the Covered California website or contact Cadillac Valtierra Ortiz at (909) 537-5342 or valti300@coyote.csusb.edu.

PEW Charitable trusts, which focuses on drug manufacturing and drug quality control, also believes in more stringent laws.

“Beginning a couple of years ago in the wake of the tragic contamination of a blood thinner called Heparin, we became involved in the issue,” said Couckell.

Herapin, a blood thinner that was contaminated with an ingredient which affected the way it treated the patients negatively; made its way into the U.S. from China.

Couckell claims that it was a deliberate attempt to make money.

“That was not just a case of a lapse in quality standards. That was somewhere somebody deliberately substituting a low-cost ingredient for economic gain,” said Couckell.

Students were surprised at the fact that our country wasn’t the main distributor of pharmaceutical drugs.

Rita Kakish, a student, said that she would like to know where our antibiotics are made.

“If our antibiotics were made here, we would have a better product,” said Kakish.
By DEVIN RAMOS  
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri defensive lineman, Michael Sam’s decision to come out should not affect his position in the NFL draft.

On Feb. 10, the 24-year-old athlete revealed that he is “an openly proud gay man” and he wants to be in the NFL.

It is unfortunate that people are speculating that Sam’s announcement could drop his position in draft.

According to Pete Thamel of Sports Illustrated, “From a football perspective, his decision to come out prior to May’s NFL draft will make his path to the league daunting.

It would be foolish for a general manager to let somebody’s sexual orientation affect their decision to pick a skilled player out of fear that the team is unprepared for a gay player.

An NFL assistant coach, who remained anonymous, in an interview with Sports Illustrated said, “There are guys in locker rooms that maturity-wise cannot handle it or deal with the thought of that.

It’s going to be a big distraction.”

Statements like these make me suspect that coaches don’t hold much confidence in the capabilities of a team’s ability to accept a player based on his ability to play football.

Sports require players to test their abilities in the game against any situation, and Sam’s prior position as a mid-draft pick should speak volumes on its own.

Sam understands the repercussions that he’ll face on and off the field for his decision to come out.

It should be taken into consideration that he is fully capable of handling himself.

Players in the NFL have voiced their support for Michael Sam through social media outlets. Player for the Miami Dolphins, Jonathan Martin tweeted, “Hats off to you Michael Sam, that takes some guts.”

The predicted fear that the coaches and media have suggested is based on hypothetical thinking and off stereotypes of locker room culture.

Michael Sam is clearly a capable player and general managers and head coaches should re-evaluate their apprehensiveness before they make a decision to rule him out as a draft pick.

Prospective NFL draft pick announces he is gay leaving doubt on his projected draft position.

Michael Sam is clearly a capable player and general managers and head coaches should re-evaluate their apprehensiveness before they make a decision to rule him out as a draft pick.

Weekly Chuckle

According to CNN, 100 protestors were killed Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014 in clashes with the police as gunfire was unleashed. The protest stemmed from a decision made by Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych to halt a trade deal with the European Union and instead turn towards Russia. The opponents of Yanukovych’s decision continue to fight until changes are made in the Ukraine.
Defendant not guilty of 17-year-old’s death

**Florida’s “Stand Your Ground” law threatens more than it protects**

By TORILYNN QUALLS

I believe the Florida “Stand Your Ground” law should be repealed.

The law was tested on Feb. 17, 2014 when Michael Dunn was found not guilty for the first-degree murder of Jordan Davis even though he was convicted of four accounts of attempted murder.

Florida’s law states that a person may use deadly force in self-defense without the duty to retreat when faced with a reasonable, perceived threat.

Dunn, 17, was shot and killed by Dunn, 47, in November 2012 during a parking lot confrontation over loud music coming from the SUV Davis and three other teenagers were parked.

Dunn declared that he acted in self-defense as indicated by Florida’s law. Dunn stated that Davis had threatened him and pulled a gun on him first. However, there is no evidence indicating that Davis was carrying a weapon.

I do not accept that Dunn’s reasoning for murdering Davis in cold blood was justified, and I believe this controversial law should be repealed.

The law, or a form of it, is enforced in over 20 states. Those in favor of the law believe it protects the innocent by allowing them to act in self-defense.

Rich Nornhland, member of the Illinois House of Representatives argues on a forum at USNews.com, “States are turning toward self defense measures to uphold the principle that our laws must protect the innocent over the criminal, the peace-loving from the violent, and the law-keeper over the law-breaker.”

The law is also said to protect the second amendment, which protects our right to own and bear arms.

Defense Attorney Mark O’Mara writes, “As a responsible gun owner under this law, I have a moral duty to retreat — as long as doing so does not put me or anyone else in increased or prolonged danger.”

In my opinion, I believe that this law is very dangerous to innocent people who become a target because of racial stereotypes. Technically, the law permits the act of murder and the reasoning is based on the shooter’s judgement.

This law seems to have many loopholes which enable the murder of another human being to be justified. The law doesn’t question the mental stability of the shooter. Does that come into play when deciding a verdict for cases similar to the “loud music shooting of Jordan Davis?”

Nor does it indicate if the shooter will be able to plea insanity under the law.

Jim Wallis of the Huffington Post states that the law enables racial discrimination because racial fear and hatred is now legally justified.

In an e-mail to the Diane Rehm show, a listener explained that, “The law allows subjective feelings rather than objective facts to determine if shooting another person as a crime.”

According to Wallis under the law it is 11 times more likely that white-on-black self-defense killings will be found justified than black-on-white cases.

Florida’s controversial law inhibits public safety and is a law fueled by racial discrimination that shouldn’t be enforced in any state.

Jordan Davis was a victim in Florida’s recent case under the “Stand Your Ground” Law, his killer was found not guilty.
CSUSB hosts first ever culinary competition for students to expand their wings in the kitchen

By MINTIMER AVILA
Staff Writer

The heat turned up as students put their cooking skills and creativity to the test. CSUSB Dining Services hosted its first Copper Chef Tournament at the Upper Commons on Feb. 17, where competitors were given one hour to prepare a dish that must be accompanied with a salad. The real challenge, however, comes from the mystery ingredient that is announced only a minute before the event starts and must be used in the main dish.

This keeps the competitors on their feet and requires them to think on the spot. Four teams, each with two CSUSB students, competed against each other for first place. The dishes were judged by six CSUSB staff members on presentation, creativity and taste. Each judge could give a total of 60 points for each category for a maximum total of 180 points.

The team with the most points would be crowned the champion, winning the title of Copper Chef and a pizza party for 20 people.

The event was modeled after the TV show “Iron Chef,” where competitors are given a secret ingredient that must be served as the main dish, using only the provided ingredients and utensils.

The students were given a variety of fruits and vegetables to choose from but ultimately had to work around the secret ingredient, beef tenderloin.

There was no limit to the number of times students could go up and get ingredients. The teams consisted of Michael Dandurand and Ryan Bracken, Nicole Oliver and Daniel Mambou, Alexis Andrade and Andrea Navarro, and lastly Brandon Woods and Emmanuel Ezeagwula.

Dandurand and Bracken prepared the tenderloin with onions, mushrooms, garlic and papaya. They accompanied the dish with a classic fruit salad and a fruit smoothie to wash it all down.

Oliver and Mambou prepared their tenderloin with mushrooms and asparagus to create a simple but delicious meal. Their salad used a mix of carrots, vinaigrette and lemon juice.

Andrade and Navarro was the team that drew the most attention with their healthy take on beef tenderloin. They prepared the beef in a lettuce wrap that was accompanied with a sweet and sour fruit salad that had kiwis, strawberries and chili peppers to balance out the sweet flavors.

“All you need is a lot of passion and hard work to do great things,” said Andrade.

They managed to squeeze out just enough time to carve the letters CSUSB from apples and put them on display. Oliver and Mambou prepared their tenderloin with mushrooms and asparagus to create a simple but delicious meal.

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“All you need is a lot of passion and hard work to do great things,” said Andrade.

They prepared the beef in a lettuce wrap that was accompanied with a sweet and sour fruit salad that had kiwis, strawberries and chili peppers to balance out the sweet flavors. “Alexis and Andrea are my likely choice to win because they have the most experience,” said student Omar Marquez.

Woods and Ezeagwula prepared their tenderloin with potatoes, spinach, parsley and orange sauce. As a side they prepared a Mai Tai fruit smoothie to add a tropical touch to their dish.

This was surely an evening to remember.

“What a great experience. The judges and the competitors were all so friendly,” said Woods.

Students in attendance enjoyed the competition and described the aromas as delicious.

It was surely an evening to remember.

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Student chefs were provided various fruits and vegetables for their dishes and were free to use of it as desired.
Happy 36th Birthday
Santos Manuel Student Union

By ADRIAN CARLOS
Staff Writer

A fully stocked nacho bar, an adventurous scavenger hunt, and free iPad mini put a cherry on top of this year’s Santos Manuel Student Union (SMSU) birthday.

The celebration was in honor of the SMSU, to commemorate its 36th anniversary. “One of the main goals for our SMSU birthday bash is to collect as much student feedback as possible,” said Alexandra Preston, marketing coordinator for the SMSU.

Preston was responsible for putting this year’s SMSU birthday bash together. SMSU was incorporated in 1978. Since then, the SMSU has been celebrating its anniversary every few years, collaborating with all the centers and student staff that make up the SMSU.

For SMSU’s 25th anniversary, the center gave away a VW. Beetle, so as you can tell it’s a big deal.

The scavenger hunt that was set up, was geared towards letting students learn about the SMSU and everything it has to offer, having the students stop at every program board to find clues leading to their prizes.

There was a DJ present playing music and a nacho bar and snack table were set up for students free of charge.

One of the main goals of this event was to promote the centers involved within the SMSU and their missions, in order to help them gain exposure.

The University Dance Company made an appearance and performed about half way through the event. All of the SMSU coordinators were pitching in at the food tables or the side activities.

To top off the evening, one lucky student went home with a free iPad mini, courtesy of the SMSU. The SMSU birthday bash was yet again another successful celebration that was collectively organized and produced by all the people involved within the whole building.

SMSU is looking forward to another great year of fun!

Dreaming the perfect spring break

By ERIN POSJENA
Staff Writer

Spring break is a time where most college students fantasize about relaxing beaches, picturesque scenery and bright city lights.

March 24 is the start of CSUSB’s spring break and many students on campus are beginning to plan their ideal vacation destination.

I asked various students on campus where they thought their ideal vacation would be while on a student budget. Student Ariana Gomez said she would love to visit San Francisco.

“You can drive up there and there’s plenty of good food places and attractions!” said Gomez.

San Francisco is a seven hour drive and offers visions the chance to view the bay lights of the Golden Gate Bridge, take various tours of the infamous Alcatraz prison, and enjoy true harbor food in the historic districts of Fisherman’s Wharf and Chinatown.

While Gomez envisions a week in the self-proclaimed “green-minded” state of Oregon.

Oregon is about a 13-hour drive, but if you’re in the mood for a road trip it’s the perfect destination. Oregon offers an array of camping, fishing and hiking along their volcanic mountainsides.

Brown says she envisions her spring break as a “cabin in the woods-type of vacation.”

For those students who are looking to spend their break in a more exotic location (and on a higher budget), they may find themselves taking a trip along the southern tip of the California peninsula, to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Spring breakers will be able to enjoy top of the line fishing, exciting scuba diving excursions and laid-back beach life. Student Shelby Hancock said, “My first choice is Cabo, it’s right on the beach, perfect for relaxing and it’s not super expensive.”

Saving money on trips like this isn’t as hard as students may think. Students can definitely take trips like this on a budget. My first tip is to use the various travel sites that compare and help find the cheapest flights and hotel rates.

If you’re going as a group, staying in one hotel room and requesting roll-away beds is the most economical choice you can make. The hotel bill won’t look as scary if you’re splitting it!

Students should also look into bringing food and coolers so that dining won’t be as pricey. Budget-friendly trips are all about being money conscious and only spending what you have to.

My biggest piece of advice is to bring a predetermined amount of spending money for activities and meals and emergency money for gas or cab fare and leave the credit cards at home.

It’s important to enjoy yourself on break without facing the harsh realities of how much you overspent during that week.

Spring break is fast-approaching and offers tourists the chance to participate in the vibrant city of Las Vegas. It’s important to enjoy yourself on break without facing the harsh realities of how much you overspent during that week.

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AFROTC provides opportunities

By GLYNN GUERRA
Staff Writer

The AFROTC (Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps) is a voluntary four-year program that students can enter if they are interested in joining the Air Force after graduation. Student Valentina Aproda explained the benefits of joining AFROTC and the opportunities it provides students.

In order to join, you do not initially have to be a student at CSUSB to join. In fact, Aproda is a student from UCR. You are only required to have a 2.0 GPA, be a full-time student, and have at least three years left of college.

Once you join, you will be enrolled as a student at CSUSB and be required to take aerospace classes for the AFROTC program. You will still be able to take your normal college classes and graduate from whatever school originally enrolled.

There are no commitments or contracts to join right off the bat, you will only make a commitment to the Air Force once you are a junior or once you are a “300” as they call it in AFROTC.

After you graduate you will be ranked as a second lieutenant and you will be assigned to a job based off your “dream sheet,” which is where you list six things that you would be interested in doing, your experience in the field and the base of your preference.

“I was interested because I wanted to become a pilot, that was always a dream of mine so I thought I’d check it out,” said Aproda.

“AFROTC is not only for those who are interested in joining the military and gaining experience, but is open to any CSUSB students including those who are interested in building life skills, meeting new people and giving back to their community.”

“You’re going to become close with some of the people that you meet at AFROTC and make friends for the rest of your life,” said Aproda.

“Since we will all become Air Force officers, we will all eventually see each other again and we’ll remember each other.”

Not only does the AFROTC offer endless opportunities and possible lifelong friendships, it is also a great way to gain professional training development, team building skills, and leadership skills.

If you are interested in joining the military, AFROTC is a great place to start. They can help you gain information about what it means to be in the military. Even if you aren’t interested right away in committing to it, it can still provide you with lifelong skills.

Students voice their political views
Confronting young adults and the political issues that matter most or not at all

By ERIN CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

Some students confess they do not have a deep understanding of politics and that they don’t care.

“Once you join, you will be enrolled as a student at CSUSB and be required to take aerospace classes for the AFROTC program. You will still be able to take your normal college classes and graduate from whatever school originally enrolled.”

“The AFROTC is also a great way for networking and making lifelong friends.”

A few students are interested in joining the program, but they express that they do not have the time to commit to the program.

“I was interested because I wanted to become a pilot, that was always a dream of mine so I thought I’d check it out,” said Aproda.

“You’re going to become close with some of the people that you meet at AFROTC and make friends for the rest of your life,” said Aproda.

“Since we will all become Air Force officers, we will all eventually see each other again and we’ll remember each other.”

Not only does the AFROTC offer endless opportunities and possible lifelong friendships, it is also a great way to gain professional training development, team building skills, and leadership skills.

If you are interested in joining the military, AFROTC is a great place to start. They can help you gain information about what it means to be in the military. Even if you aren’t interested right away in committing to it, it can still provide you with lifelong skills.

Some students confess they do not have a deep understanding of politics and that they don’t care.

“On a scale of one to five, being the most important, voting is a two," said student Tyler Nguyen.

Other students who are more involved understand that the decisions made by politicians and voters do make a difference.

“Although I am not highly involved in politics, they affect the things around me, that’s why they affect me directly,” said student Matt Martin.

When asked about the different political topics students are interested in, each answer is different and unique but also relevant to his and her lifestyle.

“The common answer amongst women was women’s rights. A couple video game players both agreed that Internet safety and privacy were political issues they are concerned with.

Common answers from both men and women included gay marriage, foreign policy, budget and taxes, drugs and health care.

Kelci Lynn Lucier, a freelance writer for about.com and former full-time college admissions advisor, encourages students to get involved on campus and to become more aware of the different types of political activities that could affect our future.

Some ideas Lucier proposes to students to help them become more involved include, but are not limited to becoming a registered voter, volunteering for an on-campus political event, incorporating your activism and involvement into a research paper or project, and attending events for both or all political sides of an issue.

“More ideas Lucier proposes can be found in her article at about.com.

San Bernardino Generation Now is a student-led organization that is always looking for new members and encourages young adults to become more active in politics.

Petitioners are commonly seen outside the library or student union asking if you or the people around you are registered voters.

The next time you come across that opportunity, take the time to listen to their reasons on why you should sign their petitions.

Signatures on each petition represent the public’s desire to have the chance to vote on different topics such as drug and alcohol tests for doctors who perform medical practices and overturning petty crimes from a felony to a misdemeanor for non-violent criminals.

“We are out here collecting signatures to help you and to help the people,” said student and petitioner Josh Castillo.

Castillo was participating in petitions since 2007 and has been politically involved off and on campus.

Castillo recommends students become more aware of politics on every level by getting information, sharing information and embracing the fact that each vote matters.

Keep yourself updated on the politics in your area by reading the newspaper, watching the news and visiting sites like politico.com and politifact.com.

“Although I am not highly involved in politics, they affect the things around me, therefore they affect me directly.”

Matt Martin
Student
Welcome to the “Dollhouse”

Despite her loss on the “The Voice,” Melanie Martinez, continues to create unique artisic sounds on her debut single

BY OFELIA FUENTA
Ass. A&E Editor

New York native Martinez shows off how the plastic life covers up the truth and reality alongside the writing team Kinetics & One Love releasing her first lead single of her up and coming album to be dropped in 2014.

“Throw on your dress and put on your doll faces, everyone thinks that we’re perfect. Please don’t let them look through the curtains,” said Melanie Adele Martinez in her new single unveiled on YouTube on Feb. 10.

The young New Yorker made her first real public appearance in 2012 when she became a contestant for the third season of the U.S. musical talent show, The Voice.

Martinez performed a folk-indie alternative version of Britney Spears’ “Toxic,” with only her acoustic guitar and a tambourine during the blind auditions.

The artist was able to capture not only the audience but also three of the four judges and she decided to join team Adam Levine. Martinez had incredibly unique and moving performances while on “The Voice,” but unfortunately finished the competition in sixth place. Her elimination from “The Voice” was not the end of her career, it was only the beginning. After leaving “The Voice,” Martinez has been diligently working independently on material for her debut album.

She has many musical inspirations, which include Lana Del Rey, Feist, Kimbra, Marina and The Diamonds and has even been compared to some of her biggest inspirations, Fiona Apple and Regina Spektor.

In 2013, Martinez performed her original pieces and covers for her fans in small sold-out venues and clubs throughout the United States. The artist received plenty of positive feedback from her audience, which encouraged her to create an album.

The unique singer/songwriter released her debut single on iTunes along with the slightly creepy, yet artistically doll-like music video. With the help of her fans, Martinez was able to create and fund her own video.

The singer/songwriter’s “Dollhouse” song is a realistically haunting depiction of today’s typical families.

The song describes a family, whom appears to be perfect on the outside, but a lot more troubled than the eye can see behind walls.

The whole concept of the song is how this family appears to be so perfect, they almost seem plastic, and the music video goes along with this ideal.

The set of the music video looks to be a life size dollhouse, with several rooms that fit each of the characters perfectly.

All the actors in the music video resemble slightly demented human dolls with exaggerated make-up and costumes. “Dollhouse” has a very simple beat. It kind of sounds like a ticking from a clock when the song begins and progresses to a steady drumbeat at its climax.

Let’s see if Martinez evolves into a breakout star, despite her early elimination on “The Voice.”

“Hey girl, hey girl, open your walls, play with your dolls, we’ll be a perfect family.”

“Dollhouse” lyrics
It was a dark and stormy night

The California Theatre presents a spin-off of Mary Shelly's “Frankenstein”

By DIANA RAMOS

Mary Shelly’s “Frankenstein” hit the California Theater on Feb. 14-16 bringing in a full house at $80 per ticket.

This new thrilling spin-off of the classic tale Frankenstein takes a complete left turn with the monster’s character.

Instead of having a dim-witted monster like most writers have in their version of “Frankenstein,” Mary Shelly had a fast learning monster with a robotic like brain that was able to learn how to read, write and reason all in less than a year.

The actors that performed in “Frankenstein,” held in the California Theater on Feb. 14-16 bringing in a full house at $80 per ticket.

The actors that performed in “Frankenstein” were good at making you feel the emotions of “Frankenstein” and reason all in less than a year.

The California Theatre presents a spin-off of Mary Shelly's “Frankenstein”

Staff Writer

Nineteen year old edgy, fun and sassy singer/songwriter Nina Nesbitt released her new album ‘Pericles’ on Feb. 17 with her own pop flavor.

Nesbitt’s fans (Nesbiens) showed their loyalty to her music by sharing many of her songs social media networks.

She has been stated renowned as an iconic figure for the teen viewers with relating and understanding.

Nesbitt’s most popular single “Stay Out” helped her album hit 21 on the United Kingdom single chart back in April 2013, which placed her on the United Kingdom’s top 40 singles list for the first time.

Nesbitt has another hit on this album titled “Selfie.”

The single reflects on the madness of taking fake-happy selfies after a break-up.

The single “Selfie” is also lyrically lightweight and it’s actually difficult to know Nesbitt’s true feelings on the matter and if it’s really from experience or just for the show.

Besides being known for her great music, Nesbitt is also often remembered for her Taylor Swift like characteristics portrayed through her blond hair and music style.

Neil McCormick stated, “It is a pleasant surprise to find the title track twisting the beauty product metaphor to focus.”

Her feisty attitude gave off the vibe that said, “I’m here and I’m going to the top and you can’t stop me.”

This album’s message gave different perceptions.

“The struggle to develop an authentic self in an age of post-modern productivity,” said student Michael Bloomenthal.

Nesbitt’s album had been buzzing around when it caught the eye of writer Amy Shaw.

The themes on the album are based largely on the dilemmas of a teenage mind, associated with pop music; friendship, love, and heartbreak, with Nesbitt nailing the stereotypes whilst continuing to keep her effortless cool,” said Shaw.

That particular idea from Shaw’s view on the meaning of the song goes to show how teens can relate to her music, which makes it all the better to listen to.

Nina will be going on tour around the U.K. for her debut album starting March 21.

Student Karissa Morrow said, “This was a great album and I’m looking forward to seeing more great music from Nina.”

Other students on campus also enjoyed Nesbitt’s music.

“I could really relate to Nina’s music although I am a little older than her. I remember those days when I was 19 years old, gosh this was a little piece of heaven having that carefree boyish on type attitude,” said student Seana Venzuela.

Nina Nesbitt’s album caught her fan base’s attention with her catchy and lyrical music.
Red Bull showcases Renelle White Buffalo’s mural at club Los Globos on Sunset Blvd. in Los Angeles making it the second mural to be unveiled for Latagra.

By LILY PEREZ
Staff Writer

Red Bull Latagra was first launched in 2012 to showcase artists’ talent within the Southern California community and giving them a broader medium to display their artwork.

The Red Bull program is back as La
tagrafia Edicion II, which will feature ten Los Angeles artists each painting an individual mural over the course of ten months. In October, a 12 oz. Red Bull can will be released with one of the selected artist’s graphics on it.

Native American artist Renelle White Buffalo unveiled her mural at club Los Globos on Sunset Blvd. in Los Angeles on Feb. 15 making it the second mural to be unveiled in the series.

Buffalo, who is known for her multimedia stylistic art, creates her paintings using various media like acrylic, canvases and collage materials. The mural, which spans across the front of Los Globos, was made from acrylic paint and took Buffalo five days to complete.

The mural showcases a combination of vibrant colors and feather shapes, which can serve as a testament to the artist’s strong Native roots.

“This style and what I’m kind of known for, I’ve only been doing it for a couple of years but I went to school for art,” said Buffalo.

The 26-year-old artist graduated in 2011 from Iowa State with an art degree and seems to have mastered the art of multimedia in a short time.

The South Dakota native moved to sunny Los Angeles to pursue her dream of being an artist.

“My culture and coming here to Los Angeles really in being immersed in all these cultures in Los Angeles just being Native American and everybody knew too as well that I was going to be an artist.”

Inside Los Globos several of Buffalo’s canvases were on display with each of them displaying multi-layered and colorful shapes making each canvas truly unique.

Red Bull’s Latagra Edicion II program is their way of supporting the arts and bringing the community together.

The art unveiling was a true testament of the artistic talent steaming out of Los Angeles as 27-year-old singer/songwriter Irene Diaz was also featured alongside Buffalo.

Diaz performed a memorable set and was accompanied by two fellow musicians, sang several songs and captivated the audience with her powerful and sultry voice.

Red Bull’s Latagra program will continue to draw attention to the Los Angeles art community throughout the year with a new mural unveiling the 15th of each month at a different location.

Viewers can learn more and support the Latagra Edicion II program by visiting redbulllatagra.com.

They will not be disappointed by thriving new talent by local artists like Buffalo and Diaz.

By CARLY WOOLEY
Staff Writer

An enriching tale of an elite breed of vampires has arrived.

“Vampire Academy: Blood Sisters” hit theaters on Friday, Feb 7.

“Vampire Academy” was originally an American best-selling series of six young-adult romance novels by author Richelle Mead before it was transformed into a movie.

This is an enchanting tale of Rose Hathaway and Lissa Dragomir, two teenage girls who attend St. Vladimir’s Academy, which is a hidden boarding school for Moroi (peaceful Vampires) and Dhampirs (half-vampire/half-human).

Lissa is a royal vampire princess and Rose is her guardian-in-training and lifelong best friend.

They decided to run away from St. Vladimir’s Academy suspicions that their lives would be in jeopardy if they remained there.

Unfortunately, they were captured and taken back to the Academy where they’re instantly thrown back into their old lives and Lissa struggles to reclaim her social status while Rose trains to ensure her rightful place as Lissa’s permanent guardian.

Rose feels she is the only person who can fully protect Lissa and she constantly proves that she will sacrifice everything to protect Lissa from those who wish her harm from within the Academy as well as the Strigoi (evil vampires) who hunt her kind from outside of the Academy.

St. Vladimir’s Academy can easily be compared to a Hogwarts style of school for vampires that houses the Moroi, the Strigoi, and the Dhampir.

These are just a few of the many complex terms that were constantly being used within the film yet, subtitles were used to explain these terms which instantly made it easier for the audience to follow the complex plot.

I found the main character, Rose, to be a complete breath of fresh air when it came to a stereotypical vampire role.

She was fearless, outspoken, and all while being exceptionally witty and entertaining.

The performance of the rest of the cast may not have been memorable, but in the grand scheme of the film, they didn’t need to be.

The script was written with such mystery and excitement that it kept the audience continually wanting more.

No previous vampire tale has gone into so much depth of a story and made it likable and relatable to this day and age in a way that this one did.

The production quality including set design, focused lighting, and cinematography played an excellent role in setting the correct mood for the film.

Although there was an enlightening love story involving the two main characters and their unlikely love interests, this was in no form a typical love movie.

Overall, Director Mark Waters’ “Vam-
pire Academy” was a strikingly witty and original film that will not only satisfy its previous fans of the book series but it will also satisfy its new and future followers.
Honoring the life of Gabriel Luis Acosta

By JOEL HANKE

CSUSB’s Art Department hosted an open reception and scholarship fundraiser on Feb. 13 at 5 p.m. in the Robert and Francés Fullererton Museum of Art (RAFFMA) honoring the life and work of alumnus Gabriel Luis Acosta.

On Sept. 14, 2013, Acosta died tragically at the age of 46 due to a sudden brain aneurysm. The Gabriel Luis Acosta: Path of Life exhibit consists of 25 photographs from the past 15 years of Acosta’s work, as well as work done by friends and Acosta’s fellow photographers. The featured exhibition was open from Feb. 8 through Feb. 20.

The show was held not only to honor Acosta’s life work but to also start an endowed scholarship to remember Gabriel and support future students who share Acosta’s talent and desire for photography.

According to The Press-Enterprise, Acosta was hired as a part-time photo lab technician at The San Bernardino Sun in 1990 with a bachelor’s degree in art. Acosta graduated from CSUSB in 1991 and decided to focus his career on photography.

On Sept. 13, the day before his death, Acosta passed away at the age of 46. The photos available for purchase include Acosta’s work as a photojournalist for the San Bernardino Sun and Riverside Magazine, as well as some of his more personal work while traveling the world to places such as the Amazon River and Mexico on missionary trips. Acosta’s mentor and former CSUSB art professor, Sant Khalsa, said, “The photographs demonstrate Acosta’s outstanding photo-journalistic documentary style, which uses vibrant color and dynamic formal composition to create its visual impact.”

Khalsa continued, “When I got a call from the Sun Bernardino Sun asking if I could recommend someone for a lab technician job, Gabriel was the first one that came to mind.”

Photographs by Acosta were being sold for $150 a print, while photographs by friends of Acosta’s were sold for $100. All profits will go support the CSUSB Art Department’s “Gabriel Luis Acosta Memorial Scholarship in Photography.”

Memorial T-shirts with his name and the image of a camera with wings can also be purchased at GLAPhoto.Spreadshirt.com.

Donation slips to support the scholarship fund could also be filled out in any amount.

Acosta’s memory will live on through his friends, family, and especially his photography.

On Sept. 13, the day before his death, Gabriel left this final tweet, “You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11.”

New York fashion week inspires new trends

By CHRISOULA BAROUDOS

Instead of wearing darker hues this fall, stand out by wearing colorful pastels. These unexpected colors were seen in shades of icy blue, pale pinks, and soft lavenders.

The collections this season are even more dramatic than usual. Popular designers such as Zac Posen, Reem Acras, and Marc Jacobs were able to deliver standout collections.

Sparkle was also seen on the runway, but when attempting a bold shiny look, keep the accessories simple.

A mid-length skirt hemline is sure to be the coming fall trends will land just about everywhere on the fashion map.
The Coyotes earn their place at the top

By KIRILL FIGUEGUIS

Staff Writer

The Coyotes were once again victorious during their road game against Cal State Monterey Bay this past Saturday night.

Coyotes were trailing by with 30 points during the half and were able to push forward to win 79-77 against the Otters.

Men scored over 70 percent from the field during the second half, which gave them the momentum they needed to finish the game successfully.

The team went on a 15-4 run to tie the game at 46 all with 15:54 left in the second half. Persistent shooting from guards kept the pressure on the Otters.

The remainder of the game had seven lead changes and six tied scores.

Consistent shooting and inside scoring was a key part of the Coyotes’ game and success.

They showed significant changes and improvement in their game in the second half.

Senior Andrew Young led the Coyotes in scoring for the second game in a row with 21 points during Saturday night’s game and scored 30 points during their game against Cal State East Bay.

Lacy Haddock also produced 17 points for the team and shot 8-12 from the field against the Otters.

Young and Haddock had help from senior players Joshua Gouch, Jordan Burris, and Taylor Statham, who all scored nine points. Juan Martinez assisted the team with seven points over the Otters.

With 19 seconds left in the game, the team took a time out and were then able to get Haddock inside to finish the game winning layup.

Both teams then called for a time out during the Otters’ possession.

As the Otters inbounded the ball, they found themselves out of time and were unable to score.

Young was also named as the Player of the Week from Feb. 10-16 by the California Collegiate Athletic Association men’s basketball for the second time this season.

“We played very aggressive during our game against Monterey Bay. We kept playing hard against a team who was effective at shooting, but we kept playing aggressively and kept taking the ball to the basket,” said senior Andrew Young.

The offense in the second half was remarkable and was necessary for the team to secure their win.

The team effort helped the Coyotes with their victory over Monterey Bay.

The Coyotes now hold an overall record of 19-3 and 16-2 in the NCAA.

The CSUSB men’s basketball team is ranked No. 1 in the NCAA Western Regional poll and 15th overall for all Division II schools.

The Coyotes are looking very promising for the playoffs and look to prosper during the playoffs.

The team is now tied with Cal Poly Pomona as they fight to hold the No. 1 spot with two away games left in the regular season.

A double by Jennifer Del Mar to centerfield closed the gap for a score of 3-2.

Melissa Roberts would also double to tie the game on an RBI and set up Thalia Ortiz for the winning run. Ortiz would come through with a hit to center field and winning the game 4-3 upsetting the Jacks.

On Saturday of the second double-header, the Coyotes were looking to feed off Friday’s win and continue the momentum.

In the bottom of the first, Williams would smash the ball to right center field for a three run home run.

The Coyotes look forward to improving their rank, as they face off against California Baptist and Sonoma State at Softball Park later in the week.

Softball makes a sweet sweep on Valentine’s day

By URIEL ORTEGA

Staff Writer

The Coyotes get a split on Valentine’s Day, but No. 4 ranked Humboldt State shows no mercy, sweeping the Coyotes in the second double-header last Friday and Saturday.

In a fourth game against top ranked conference opponents Humboldt State, the Coyotes fell short on upsetting the Jacks on missed opportunities, as the Coyotes fell 4-1.

The first game of Valentine’s Day, the Jacks came out swinging as they slugged four home runs out of Softball Park. The Jacks took a commanding 5-0 lead in the second half.

The Coyotes narrowed the score in the second inning with a triple to left field by Cassandra Williams finishing the inning down 5-4.

During the fourth inning, the Coyotes kept it close until the Jacks capitalized on a hit to center field to add two more runs for a score of 6-4. In the bottom of the sixth, Williams hit a single, setting up Victoria Llewanos, who doubled for the RBI, for a score of 6-5.

The Jacks would pull away in the seventh adding two more runs and winning the game 8-5. The second game of the double-header caught the Coyotes off guard as the Coyotes rallied in the bottom of the seventh to steal the game in a 4-3 victory.

The Jacks would score three runs in the second inning but would be the only runs of the game until the bottom of the seventh when the Coyotes got their last hit.

It appeared that game was over, but the sluggers for the Coyotes really came to life when Tiffany McIntosh hit a home run to center field avoiding the shut out.

A double by Jennifer Del Mar to centerfield closed the gap for a score of 3-2.

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The Coyotes play California State Dominguez Hills and California State Los Angeles Friday, Feb. 28 and Saturday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m.
Nicole Chapple has “no complaints” pertaining to playing for the CSUSB’s women’s basketball team.

Chapple started to love and play basketball when she was in the third grade. “I have just loved sports ever since I was little. I took a liking to basketball at a young age, and just stuck with it,” said Chapple.

Chapple continued to play basketball into her adolescent years. During her time at Clovis High School, Chapple was team captain for the Cougars for three seasons. As a sophomore and junior, she earned second-team all-league honors.

In her senior year, she took home first-team all-league honors. This achievement earned her the title, “Athlete of the Year.” Upon graduating high school, she pursued higher education at Fresno City College (FCC) for two years.

Chapple continued her basketball passion at FCC and as a freshman earned second-team all-conference honors. In her sophomore year, she earned first-team all-conference honors while helping lead the team to the final four in the state playoffs.

After her second year at FCC, Chapp- le transferred to CSUSB. In the 2012-13 season, which was Chapple’s junior year, she appeared in 25 games and averaged 3.7 points. This season, Chapple has chosen to redshirt. To “red shirt” means Chapple won’t be playing in games, but is still a valuable member of the team and still attends practices and games. “The first season I had here wasn’t the best experience, and since this year we have new coaches, I want to develop for a year under them, and have an extra year of school, and come back next season with devoted game and abilities,” said Chapple.

She is enthusiastic about how well the season is going. “Although our record looks as otherwise, I think we have had a pretty good season. We had a lot of changes this past year and yet we’ve been growing and developing more and more every week. It’s exciting to see how much better the team has gotten throughout the season,” said Chapple.

Chapple believes teamwork is an important part of game success. Chapple said her team has gotten along much better over the past year. “We now get along off the court, I think that helps when it comes to playing with one another,” said Chapple.

Basketball is Chapple’s getaway. Senior Nicole Chapple has “no complaints” pertaining to playing for the CSUSB’s women’s basketball team.

By CARLEY BENNECKE
Staff Writer

Nicole Chapple played basketball for her high school before she decided to joined our team here at CSUSB and join the pack.
The best players in the NBA showcased their talents during the 2014 NBA All Star weekend.

This year, the games were held in New Orleans, LA, for the second time since 2008.

The 63rd annual NBA All Star Game was the main attraction featured NBA superstars LeBron James of the Miami Heat, Oklahoma City Thunder's Kevin Durant and the Indiana Pacers' Paul George.

The first event that kicked off the festivities in New Orleans was the BBVA Compass Bank Rising Stars Challenge. This game featured some of the best young athletic talents in the NBA, including the 2013 Rookie of the Year Damian Lillard of the Portland Trail Blazers, New York Knicks' guard Tim Hardaway Jr., and the Detroit Pistons' center Andre Drummond.

The teams were drafted by NBA legends Chris Webber and Grant Hill. Both teams gave a stellar performance, but at the end East won, 142-136. The Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the game was Drummond, scoring 30 points and grabbing a record 25 rebounds in the game.

On Saturday night, State Farm sponsored the annual All Star Saturday Night inside of the Smoothie King Arena. This year’s State Farm All Star Saturday Night was different from the previous year’s with the Eastern Conference and Western Conference going against one another in each event.

The first event to kick off the night was the Sears Shooting Star featuring current and former NBA players, as well as players from the WNBA. The defending champions, Team Bosh, which included Hall of Fame player Dominique Wilkins, the Miami Heat’s Chris Bosh, and WNBA player Swin Cash won the Sears Shooting Stars event. After the Sears Shooting Stars event, the Taco Bell Skills Challenge featured some of the NBA’s most fundamentally sound players testing them on their dribbling, shooting, and passing skills.

The champions of the Taco Bell Skills Challenge were Trey Burke of the Utah Jazz and Lillard. The Foot Locker Three-Point Contest took place after the Skills Challenge featuring some of the NBA’s best three-point shooters in the game having only one minute to complete five racks and record the highest score.

This year’s champions were Marco Belinelli of the San Antonio Spurs, heating up Bradley Beal of the Washington Wizards in the tiebreaker, making nine three-pointers.

The last event that took place was the Sprite Slam Dunk Contest featuring the league’s best dunkers. The slam dunk contest was different from last year’s since it featured a freestyle dunk round with all of the contestants.

The East won both of the events with George, Terrance Ross from the Toronto Raptors and John Wall from the Washington Wizards throwing down the best dunks of the night. Wall won the Sprite Slam Dunk Contest with the best dunk of the night, jumping over the Washington Wizards mascot, and making a two-handed reverse dunk.

Sunday afternoon’s NBA All Star Game was the highest scoring All Star Game in NBA history.

Blake Griffin and Durant led the Western Conference, scoring 38 points each. However, it wasn’t enough to beat the Eastern Conference. Eastern Conference All Star Kyrie Irving stole the show with 31 points and 14 assists.

“I was going out there trying to compete. It’s a great honor,” said Irving to USA today.

His performance earned him All Star MVP honors and capped off the weekend.