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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. Congress should bring the minimum wage issue to Congress, only six states have officially passed laws that will raise their minimum wages have barely budged,” said Obama.

“Obama is right. They need to let us know why they can’t agree on anything because this congress hasn’t done s*** for Americans,” said student Faye Davis.

Obama said that Americans deserve to know why the officials they elect stand, and if they oppose the wage increase then Americans should ask for reasons.

“Obama is right. They need to let us know why they can’t agree on anything because this congress hasn’t done s*** for us,” said student Faye Davis.

Not everyone agrees though.

“Obama raises the minimum wage proposal every year. It makes no sense. If people want to make more money, they start their own business!” said student Robert Stevens.

Opponents to wage raises have had the same arguments for years and are always proved wrong, according to Obama.

Recently, Obama raised the wages of all federal contractor jobs using his executive order, but the wage does not apply to other workers.

“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 and said that it was the FDA’s “global responsibility” to make sure that all medicine is heavily monitored.

“Today the FDA must behave like a global agency with a global mission because the products we regulate for the protection 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
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 lil- queur 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 sanber- nardinoobservatory.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 city council members.

Lastly, Omnitrans, has initiated new bus lanes for their “sbX rapid transit ser- vice.” 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.

“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.

San Bernardino City Council held a meeting which focused on important issues that have troubled the city for some time.
California unveils largest solar plant

By CLARISSA TOLL  
Staff Writer

The world’s largest solar-concentrating plant opened last week in Southern California. California unveiled the largest solar plant in the state with the hopes of accommodating American citizens with cleaner and more efficient energy. The solar plant consists of 347,000 mirrors that are used to collect energy and heat steam.

The plant will provide the experience an engineer needs and help reduce electricity costs. “It will provide jobs for future engineers with little experience and give them a chance to work with new technology and a chance to show their hands-on skills. The plant will provide the experience an engineer needs in order to keep moving forward in their young career,” said Jeyson Duarte, a computer science and engineering student.

“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 student. “It is going to stir up issues with releasing human organs, but it is a landmark accomplishment in regenerative medicine.”

Other organs such as tracheas and livers are further along in organ manufacturing. “The scaffolding 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 arise for those who are rooted deeply in religious beliefs. Numerous amounts of incurable lung diseases kill thousands of people.

Critics of the solar plant’s abilities have claimed that these results are irrelevant. According to Business Insider, the 140,000 homes the plant’s electricity is supposed to service is estimated to average only two people per household.

“There’s other prospects for renewables and for solar that look a lot better than this particular solution,” said Lux Energy analyst Matthew Feinstein. Another issue with the solar plant is the amount of rare birds that die by diving into the mirrors which biologists believe mimic the look of a lake, according to Bright Source Energy.

California unveils the largest solar plant in the state with the hopes of accommodating American citizens with cleaner and more efficient energy. The solar plant consists of 347,000 mirrors that are used to collect energy and heat steam.

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 electricty created at the plant will serve So Cal Edison as well as Pacific Gas and Electric.

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 research lab 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, said, “Being able to engineer these organs and tissues in the laboratory would reduce the need for human donors.”

Not only can engineered lungs help those in need of a lung transplant, they can be used to enhance research on lung diseases. According to an article on medicalnewstoday.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 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.

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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.
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 help in.

“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 Ray-an, 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, really important for students to maintain their health,” said Moffett.

Sophomore Sean Ehrenkranz is currently under his family 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 hop-
ing 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.

“In that case, 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 interested in applying or seeking more information should visit the Covered California website or contact Claudia Valtierra Ortiz at (909) 537-5342 or valt890@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.

Herein, 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 deliber-
ate 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.

“When our antibiotics were made here, under stringent regulations, the quality of the product would be better,” said Kakish.
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 opposers of Yanukovych’s decision continue to fight until changes are made in the Ukraine.

By DEVIN RAMOS  
Staff Writer

Sexual orientation should not affect NFL drafts

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.”

Negativity like this surrounds Sam and is creating unnecessary speculation on how the locker-room culture will find his homosexuality unacceptable and create pandemonium in the media.

It’s becoming clearer that these reports that Sam faces are largely exaggerated.

Chris Connelly reports on ESPN that several of Sam’s teammates in Missouri were aware that Sam was gay.

“They supported me since day one,” said Sam. “I couldn’t have better teammates and I wouldn’t have the strength to do this today if I didn’t know how much support they’d given me this past semester.”

Statements like these make me suspect that coaches don’t hold much of 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.”

Super Bowl M.V.P. linebacker for the Seattle Seahawks tweeted, “There is no room for bigotry in American sports. It takes courage to change the culture.”

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.

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Over-using social media sites and posting too much information can pose a threat to your safety. A study conducted in 2010 shows that 72 percent of college students have a social media account. This number has more than likely increased within the last four years.

There are a variety of perks and benefits that come with joining a social network. Not only do we get information a lot faster but we also strengthen associations and communication with students, coworkers, and family. It is a great way to stay informed, said student Onalisa Smith. “Social media does create connections, but there is a point where there are privacy violations, in which case we need to adjust our settings.”

What does convenience and entertainment become dangerous? Sometimes we get carried away and post every second of every day letting all of our friends and followers know when, where and why we did or didn’t do certain things throughout the day. It is then that social media can become dangerous because we tend to believe false misconceptions. One of them is that the Internet provides a sense of anonymity.

Since there is a lack of physical interaction, we create a false sense of security. We also think that since the information we post is meant for our friends nobody else can read them.

We need to realize that nothing on the Internet is private. The more we post the more we invade our own privacy. Allowing others to know our personal contact information, financial habits, and whereabouts makes us more susceptible to annoying spam, dangerous stalkers and criminals that can hack our personal and financial information. Social media is convenient and helpful. We just have to use it in moderation.

Websites like Facebook and Twitter change their privacy policies every few months. A smart thing to do would be to read through the new policies and make sure you are aware of what their terms are. You should not forget that CVS is primarily a pharmacy, and second-degree murder of Jordan Davis. My first thought when I heard their announcement was something we don’t necessarily agree with in them or we may find that policies are reliable and something we don’t want to be enforced.

Web pages provide the example that CVS is setting, because life-threatening actions they will take. Larry J. Merlo said, “Put simply, removing tobacco products from the shelves of its stores across the United States with more than 4,000,000 deaths per year. On Feb. 5, CVS Caremark announced that by October of this year their stores across America will no longer be carrying cigarettes and other tobacco products. President and CEO of CVS Caremark Larry J. Merlo said, “Put simply, the sale of tobacco products is inconsistent with our purpose.”

I believe that this is a great idea on their part because cigarettes and tobacco products do not belong in a place where health care is the main focus. According to Merlo, CVS’s decision to remove tobacco products from the shelves of its stores shows how well they are serving their clients, customers and healthcare providers in the evolving healthcare marketplace.

You should not confuse that CVS is primarily a pharmacy, which means that they should be looking out for their customers but also in terms of health at all. Most people would agree that it is unnecessary for a pharmacy to be selling products that contain tobacco because there are more effective ways to help people quit smoking. I think that the company’s move will make a positive impact on people’s lifestyles due to the preventative actions they will now be taking.

If one person per CVS store across the country is deterred from buying cigarettes for a day, then at least 7,000 smokers will have one less pack on them.

I am pleased to say that I was not disappointed because starting in spring, the company will carry out a program that will provide information and treatment needed to help over 300,000 at CVS Pharmacy locations, Minute Clinic locations and on their website.

“Removing tobacco products from our stores is an important step in helping Americans to quit smoking and get healthier,” said Merlo. The company will be making it less convenient to pick up a pack of cigarettes now that the pharmacy chain will no longer be carrying tobacco products. This means that smokers will have to find other places to buy their tobacco. CVS is proud of the fact that they will be the first national pharmacy chain to take a step of this magnitude in support of the well-being of its customers and patients.

It did not make sense to me before that this company was selling a product that is so harmful to the human body. I am happy to hear they have now realized that they can help in the prevention of the diseases and deaths caused by tobacco use by no longer carrying tobacco products in their stores.

I hope that all pharmacies and stores with pharmacies in them will follow the example that CVS is setting, because life-styles can be improved if cigarettes are hard to find.

By MARLYN RODRIGUEZ Staff Writer

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I hope that all pharmacies and stores with pharmacies in them will follow the example that CVS is setting, because life-styles can be improved if cigarettes are hard to find.
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.

They managed to squeeze out just enough time to carve out 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.

Their salad used a mix of carrots, vinegar 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.

“Alexis and Andrea are my likely choice to win because they have the most experience. Alexis even has experience as a baker,” 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.

As the competition wound down, the audience counted the seconds down to end the competition.

The team that ultimately took the prize was Andrade and Navarro with their healthy and delicious wraps.

When asked about the challenges that their team faced, Andrade said, “I felt confident going into the challenge but the tricky part was the secret ingredient. You don’t know what is until you arrive so it can be difficult to incorporate the ingredient.”

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

It was surely an evening to remember.
A birthday bash is to collect as much student
sary.
Santos Manuel Student Union (SMSU) to commemorate its 36th anniver-
sary.
“One of the main goals for our SMSU birthday bash is to collect as much student
feedback as possible,” said Alessandra 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 cele-
brating its anniversary every few years, collaborating with all the centers and stu-
dent 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!
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 at 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.

“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

Confessions of 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.

Every student’s perspective on politics is different, but equally important.

Students and young adults are encouraged by society to become more aware of the politics in their community and understand their voice makes a difference.

“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, 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 among 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 about 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 choice 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 has been 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 informed, 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 artistic sounds on her debut single

By OFELIA FUENTA
Asst. 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 music video was written and created by Melanie Martinez, directed and shot by Nathan Scialom and Tom McNamara, produced by Melanie Martinez, Nathan Scialom, Tom McNamara, and Nullah Sarker and Visuals and editing by SteamyintheCity Music Collective.

Martinez is also known to immerse herself in all kinds of artistic endeavors that make her stand out from the norm and this video shows that side of her.

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.

“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.”
It was a dark and stormy night

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

By DIANA RAMOS
Staff Writer

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.

It was a dark and stormy night

The actor that played Frankenstein’s monster was my favorite. The play began with the creature being brought to life with electricity. He breaks free and plunders to the ground where he struggles for minutes, which felt like hours, trying to stand and remain balanced on his two stretched feet.

This scene makes you feel hopeless because you can feel him struggling to stand and you want to get out of your seat and help him.

Later in the scene, the monster wanders aimlessly through society and discovers he is not like the rest.

He is hated for the way he looks and no matter how hard he tries to help people and make friends, he is beaten and chased away by ignorant people who do not take the time to help someone simply because they are different.

Later in the play, the monster finds a blind professor who feeds him and also educates him in one year.

Since the professor is blind he does not judge the beast on his appearance.

A scene that really stuck to me was when the professor forced the beast to meet his family and was rejected.

His son was surprised that a hideous creature was so close to his father. He reacted due to terror and attacked the beast with firewood. He did not listen to his father’s pleas begging him to leave the beast alone.

“He’s harmless!” the professor shouted over and over again but the son did not stop until the beast finally managed to limp away.

Blinded by hatred, the monster wanted revenge on the professor and his family.

“How dare they treat me like this!” the beast growled and limped to the professor’s home and set fire to the home of the kind, generous professor and his family.

This play helps us see that when we are born, we have no worries and we are pure. We see the world as a beautiful place and you want to get out of your seat because you can feel him struggling to stand and you want to get out of your seat.

It is not until we begin to grow older and go through different experiences that we begin to see the world for what it is, a lonely cold scornful place.

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

Nebbs’ fans (Nesbians) 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.

Nebbs 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 individuality,” said student Michael Bloomefield.

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 UK for her debut album starting March 23.

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.

“T 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 bed/sit on type attitude,” said student Seana Venezuala.

Nina Nesbitt’s album caught her fan base’s attention with her catchy and lyrical music.
An enchanting vampire tale

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 earn 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 “Vampire 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
Staff Writer

CSUSB’s Art Department hosted an open reception and scholarship fundraiser on Feb. 13 at 5 p.m. in the Robert and Frances Fullerton 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.

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

He became a full-time photographer a few years later and went on to become an award-winning photographer with the Inland chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and the California Newspaper Photographers Association.

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 San 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 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
Staff Writer

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 Acra, and Marc Jacobs were able to deliver standout collections.

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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 keep the accessories simple.

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By KIROLLES GUIRGIUS
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 shot 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 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.

Young and Haddock had help from senior players Joshua Gough, Jordan Burris, and Taylor Statham, who all scored nine points.

Juniors 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.

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 seconded 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 Coyotes came out swinging as they slugged four home runs out of Softball Park. The Jacks took a commanding 5-0 lead with two home runs and three RBIs.

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 Lievanos, 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 Jacks 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 to center field avoiding the shut out.

A double by Jennifer Del Mar to center field closed the gap for a score of 3-2. Melissa Roberts would 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 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 Jacks would fight back adding two runs, but McIntosh hit a home run to left field with two runners on base for a 6-2 lead.

Unfortunately for the Coyotes, the Jacks would rally back by scoring runs for three consecutive innings finishing the Coyotes 12-6. In last game of the second double header, the Coyotes struggled to find their swing as the Jacks shut down the Coyotes for five consecutive innings with a score of 6-0.

In the bottom of the fifth Lievanos would hit a home run to left field with bases loaded, putting the Coyotes on the board for a 4-6 deficit.

In the sixth inning, the Jacks would increase their lead by adding three more runs and ultimately finishing the game with a 9-4 victory.

The Coyotes’ loss to Humboldt State took without a couple missed opportunities to win a couple of games.

However, the Coyotes’ batting lineup is looking strong and promising as the Coyotes look ahead after losing 3-1 to a top conference opponent.

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

Women’s softball played their double header against the number four ranked team in the state, Humboldt State University, on Friday and Saturday. The women made their best attempt but still found themselves trying hard to stay in the game.
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, Chapple 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, 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. “I love it,” Chapple declared. “I love my team, I love the arena, and I love my coaches. I really don’t have any complaints.”

Chapple explained how there have been many memorable moments from this season. One of her favorite memories was Head Coach Renee Jimenez’s 100th win.

“It was an exciting game, and the team was excited for her and threw water on her when she came into the locker room, that was a pretty cool experience,” said Chapple.

Chapple is currently in pursuit of a Liberal Studies degree and is expecting to graduate in Spring 2015.

Upon graduating, she plans on jumping into her career of becoming a special education teacher.

Get real with Nicole Chapple
By CARLEY BENNECKE
Staff Writer

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

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Historic Olympic gold rivalry in full swing
By SHANE BURRELL
Sports Editor

The Sochi Winter Olympics comes to its final week, ending the events and preparing for the closing ceremony. At the time of publication the United States are in the lead with a 23 medal count, followed by Russia and the Netherlands tied at 22.

These great achievements have been made possible with the unconditional support from fans and fellow USA team members.

Although team USA is in the lead with team medal count, there is one team member that would fall somewhat short in his expectations in earning the gold. Shaun White planned to participate in the new Slope Style event, and the half-pipe, which he has won two gold medals for in past Olympics.

However, upon his arrival in Sochi, White decided to remove his name from the Slope Style event, which gave team USA no time to find a replacement competitor.

It was a decision that might have affected the capability of competitors for the Slope Style event.

White made this decision in order to pay more attention to the half-pipe event. The amount of concentration White devoted may have backfired though, as he finished the half-pipe event in fourth place and fell twice in the final event.

“By putting all of his chips on the half pipe, White had gambled big. He then had to put the stakes when everything came down to his final run. Unfortunately, this time around, the greatest half pipe specialist of all time simply saw his luck run out,” said Chris Smith of Forbes Magazine.

Despite White’s luck running out, there was excitement and celebration with other USA team members.

USA and Canada team hockey will come back head-to-head, facing each other in the semi-finals.

These two teams have had it out for each other since the last Olympics in 2010. “Both teams are undefeated in the tournament. But Canada’s offense has been lacklustre throughout the Sochi Games, and in some cases non-existent,” wrote Heather Loney of Global News.

“By contrast, the Americans have scored 20 goals in the tournament, averaging five a game,” Loney continued.

This past Thursday the USA women’s hockey went up against Canada in the final for gold.

The U.S. had a two-goal lead with three minutes left in the game however they could not hold the commanding lead.

The game went into overtime after Canada scored twice in the final minutes.

Canada scored in overtime to seal the victory and give the Canadians gold.

USA had to settle for silver in a bitter defeat.

“It’s okay. You don’t have to put on a proud face and be the big sister any more. You can cry. Cry all the tears you want because your teammates are doing exactly the same right now,” stated four-time Olympian Julie Chu.

Despite some of the let downs there is still hope that team USA will remain optimistic and come out of the games with the most medals.

As the games come to a close, we must not only remember that the Olympics are a way to have the world come together in harmony and compete for the pride of their country, but also to show that our competitive nature brings us together.
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 beat West, 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, beating out 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.