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SPORTS



3 - This issue's Athlete Spotlight features CSUSM track and field distance runner Bridgette Stevens. Read about her plans after graduation.

FEATURES



5 - CSUSM's VSAR 301 students have been given the chance of a life time by being able to display their work in the CSUSM gallery. Read when and where you can see their work before it's taken down.

OPINION

6 - Gun control has been a hot button issue the last few weeks. Read what our editing staff has to say on the issue and see if you agree or disagree with our positions.

And

We did a Facebook poll on the issue of recent shootings and school safety. See how CSUSM voted.

A & E

7 - Have some down time this week, want a suggestion on what to watch on Netflix? Read this issue's "For your entertainment" for great films and TV shows out now.

And

8 - The comic book corner is back and this issue it focus' on iZombie. Read about this comic and its growing popularity.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

February 6

RecycleMania starts now

From bottles to cans and paper to plastic, CSUSM prepares to recycle their heart out for the thirteenth annual RecycleMania competition.

On Jan. 20, a ten-week competition involving over 600 colleges and universities across 49 states and Four Canadian Provinces kicked off with the goals of recycling and promoting waste reduction within their campus community. Each week all participating colleges, including CSUSM, will report the collected materials and recycling amounts so that the information can be tracked from the competitions start to finish.

Until Feb. 2, the competition is in Pre-season trial, where the data is used to establish a schools starting point and help set competition expectation. The first two weeks do not actually count towards the final score but it does allow each school to test their tracking arrangements before the actual weigh in.

RECYCLEMANIA CONTINUED ON 2.



CSUSM continues to be a safe school

Recognized as safest California four year university

By KRISTIN MELODY
Co EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CSU San Marcos was recently recognized by Stateuniversity.com as the safest California four-year university in 2012. This is the second year in a row that CSUSM has been named the safest four year university.

Stateuniversity.com pulled statistics from 450 of U.S. colleges and universities. The rankings took into con-

sideration frequency of crime and severity of each crime and are given in ratio of every 1,000 students. CSUSM scored in the categories aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, robbery and vehicle theft. CSUSM did not score in arson, forcible rape or murder.

"Violent crime is on the rise; news reports of callous acts bombard the headlines every day, and while street crime is increasing, crime

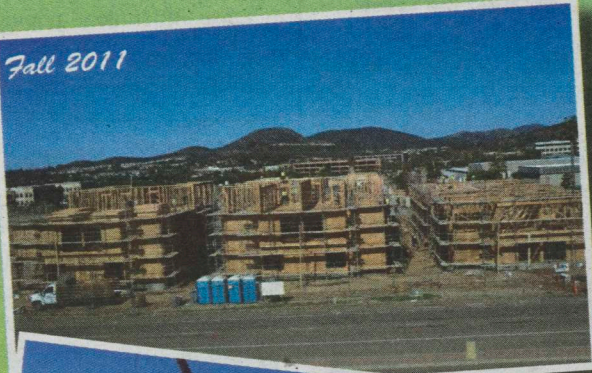
on college campuses is also making its way in numbers," the Stateuniversity.com blog stated.

In 2012, the violent crime of CSUSM included 75 percent aggravated assault and 25 percent robbery, according to Stateuniversity.com statistics. The property crime reported was mostly larceny-theft.

CSUSM scored a safety score of 95.33 out of 100, SAFE CONTINUED ON 2.

Construction update: The Quad

Fall 2011



Spring 2012



Summer 2012



Summer 2012



Fall 2012 / Spring 2013



For the next several months, construction at The Quad will be in full swing. Breaking ground in August 2011, the \$50 million Quad student housing project will be completed by fall 2013. The first phase was a 175,000 square foot project that brought 288 beds to student housing. The final phase will bring in an additional 309 beds.

JOIN OUR STAFF! WRITE HERE, WRITE NOW!
Weekly meetings every Tuesday noon - 12:45
Craven 3500

CAMPUS CALENDAR

1/23 Farmers Market
1 - 6 p.m.,
Parking Lot B

Connect to your food and find out where it's coming from; come meet some San Diego Farmers. You may find more information at www.sdfarmbu-rear.org.

1/24 Meet the Greeks
7 - 9 p.m.,
UVA & Quad Courtyard

Members of all 9 recognized fraternities and sororities will be hanging out, playing games, and eating food down at both the UVA and the Quad. Come and get to know Greeks on a personal level and ask any questions you may have about rushing!

1/29 ASI Extravaganza!
Noon - 1 p.m.,
Forum Plaza

Who is ASI? What do we do? What does it stand for? Come out for some awesome give aways, good music, and learn more about how ASI can help enrich your time at CSUSM!

1/31 Student ORG Fair
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.,
Library Plaza

Come meet some of CSUSM's organizations during this annual event. Members of the greek sororities and fraternities, Arts Association, Kinesiology Club, French Club, College Republicans, American Indian Alliance and many more are expected to attend.

2/5 Tukwut Leadership Circle: Shannon Nolan
Noon - 12:50 p.m.,
Uhall 373

This workshop is your opportunity to learn about the Tukwut Leadership Circle program and what you'll gain as a participant. About Shannon: Shannon Nolan organizes the Tukwut Leadership Circle (TLC) program and is a Coordinator of Student Involvement for Academic and Honor Societies at CSUSM.

SAFE FROM I.

a drop from the 2011 score of 95.79. In 2012, CSUSM ranked seventh place overall in California university safety, a drop from the fifth place standing in 2011.

CSUSM is also growing physically, with the Student Union and the Quad campus housing under construction. The campus has also seen an increase of student population.

"I think overall our school-

atmosphere is laid back...I hope that those new students and those already here keep that mellow ambiance," CSUSM commuter student Karla Reyes said.

The 2012 Jeanne Clery report showed that reported total crimes had decreased by 87 percent from 2009 to 2011. Yet, CSUSM has seen a growth in total student population from approximately 9,700 to 10,200 during that time.

RECYCLEMANIA FROM I.

Since 2005, CSUSM had claimed seven consecutive National Champion titles before the loss last year. CSUSM finished fourth overall in 2012 with a recycling rate of 79.36 percent and missed the top spot to America University by fewer than 6 percent.

This annual competition allows the CSUSM students and staff to actually establish and maintain school spirit

while making recycling fun for everyone.

"RecycleMania's power comes from the way it taps school spirit to motivate students who may not react to a traditional environmental message," President of RecycleMania Inc., Bill Rudy said in a press release.

On average, 91 million pounds of organic materials and recyclables are salvaged across the 7.5 million student and staff.

COUGAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be advised that for approximately eight weeks, beginning Jan. 21, there will be intermittent weeknight closures on SR 78 between Nordahl and Twin Oaks Valley roads from 11:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. as crews work to rehabilitate portions of the SR 78 and finish constructing the eastbound auxiliary lanes.

Motorists are urged to avoid the area if possible as traffic delays at this location are expected. Heavy machinery will cause nighttime noise in the area. Signs will be in place to direct motorists through detours.

We are entering an exciting time of growth at CSUSM. This is the time to be part of the change and help to build the future of YOUR campus! How can you do this? Apply to be part of the 2013 Orientation Team! Orientation Team (O-Team) is a group of student volunteers who are trained to provide a welcoming experience for new students and their families at Orientation. We need students who are interested in getting involved at CSUSM and are willing to help our future cougars make a seamless and wonderful transition to our campus community this summer.

Applications are now available both online and in the Student Life and Leadership office in Craven 3400. We highly encourage interested students to attend an information session. Visit the Orientation and New Student Programs website at www.csusm.edu/sll/onsp/oteam.html to find out when and where the information sessions are being held, to review important dates, and to apply today!

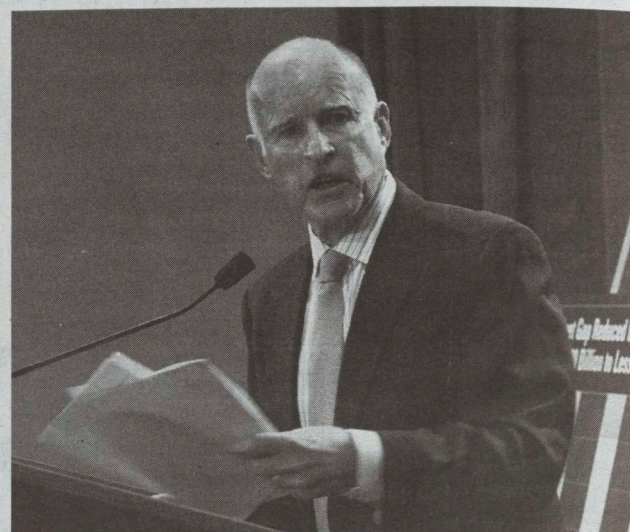
Gov. Brown proposes new budget in support of CSU system

By MELISSA MARTINEZ
NEWS EDITOR

Last fall, Governor Jerry Brown gained the support of California State University students with his new budget proposals aimed at keeping tuition from increasing. With the success of Prop. 30, some CSU students received a reimbursement of \$249, or nine percent of what tuition was raised in fall 2012.

With the start of the new year, Gov. Brown released his 2013-2014 proposal for the state budget, including \$125.1 million in funding towards the CSU system.

Gov. Brown stated that \$10 million of the proposed budget will benefit students for advancing through their degree program without having to deal with "bottleneck" courses, which often causes the students degree progress to be extended longer than anticipated because they are waiting for a particular lower division classes or prerequisite for their major.

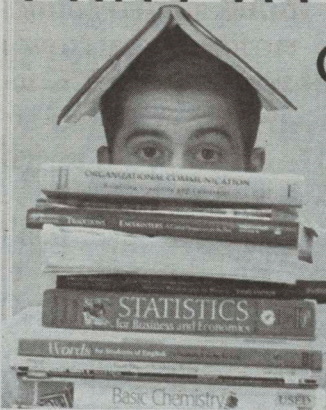


Governor Jerry Brown addressing the budget.

Gov. Brown's support for the CSU system is needed, since it has continuously lost financial support over the last several years. According to a press release of CSU Public Affairs, the CSU has lost more than 30 percent of state funding.

CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White has stated, "We appreciate the Governor's recognition that California will benefit from the investment

of state funds into higher education. The proposed budget heads us in the right direction. It will allow the CSU to address the unprecedented demand for high quality education at our institutions, as well as areas of critical need. We still face many fiscal challenges and will continue efforts to operate efficiently and effectively, and seek out additional innovative ways to control costs."

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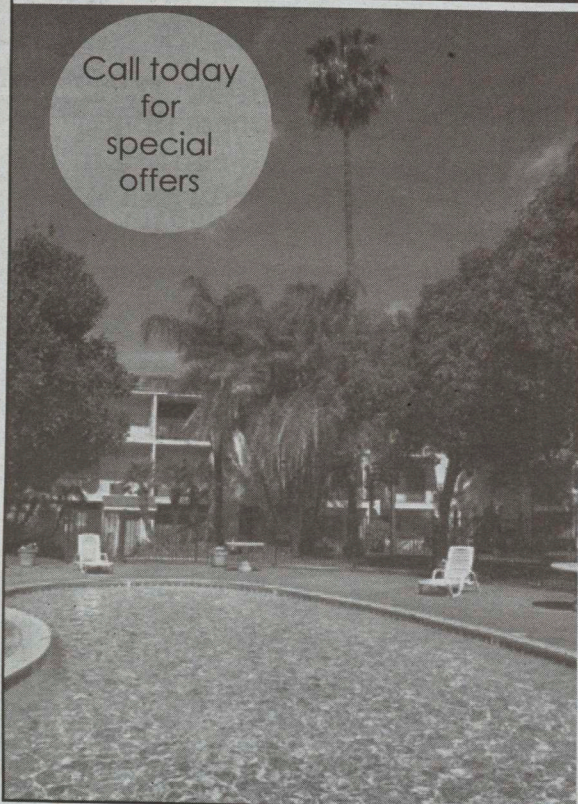


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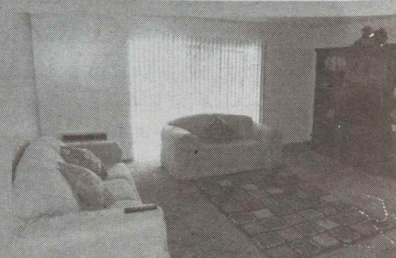
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THE HEART BEAT: Healthy eating is only half the battle

BY CURTIS BOVEE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It has become obvious that portion sizes have gotten larger over the decades-throughout restaurants and grocery stores.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one-third of U.S. adults and approximately one-fifth of children and adolescents aged 2-19 years old are obese.

Portion sizes have certainly fueled this obesity epidemic. According to the American Dietetic Association, the size of dinner plates has increased by 36 percent over the last decade.

It is no secret, that more food on your plate, the more you will eat. Making less food every meal is a great way to combat portion control issues. Having an abundance of food at the dinner table is far worse than not having enough, which in all actuality is probably enough.

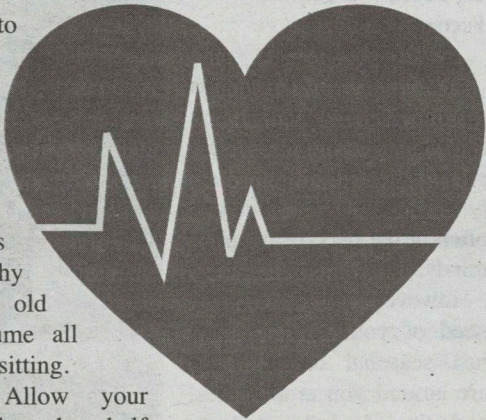
From the lack of nutritional food offered to the overwhelmingly large portion sizes, America's restaurants are contributing to the obesity problem rather than helping it. For example, at Outback Steakhouse, a popular chain-restaurant throughout the globe, an order of Mac-A-Roo 'N Cheese yields over 600 calories, with greater than 220 of those from

fat. It is safe to say that this menu item is popular amongst the youngsters; however, there is no reason why an 8 year old should consume all of this in one sitting.

Solution? Allow your child to eat less than half, and order a side of vegetables. Your caloric total will still be around half of the entire portion, while offering nutritional value.

Importantly, don't forget about what is on your plate. Just because you are eating less doesn't give you permission to eat anything. The USDA recommends that half your plate should be fruits and vegetables. For the remainder of your plate, about half should be a protein source and the other half should be whole grains. Using this as a template should make it easy to determine how much of each kind of food you should be consuming.

When attempting to eat less, cravings are inevitable, thus stressing the importance of snacking. To help with portion control, try eating snacks throughout the day. Include things like fruit and vegetables, and foods with healthy fats like nuts. Nuts,



including walnuts, pecans and almonds offer healthy fats, keep you fuller longer and are easy to pack and take anywhere.

What you are drinking is just as important. Soda is incredibly harmful to your health, and is over-consumed in America because it is cheap and easily accessible. Most sit-down restaurants offer free refills of soft beverages, which seems inexcusable given the large glass sizes. Did you know that one can of Coca Cola contains the equivalent of 10 teaspoons of sugar? Replacing soft drinks with water at the dinner table can drastically decrease chances of obesity and rapidly improve health.

Remember, portion control is not easy. Fortunately, it is far better for your health than some fad diet and it is something you can practice forever to improve your health.

Athlete spotlight: Bridgette Stevens Distance runner for track & field

BY JESSIE GAMBRELL
OPINION EDITOR

Bridgette Stevens has been running for CSUSM for her entire four year college career. She has been competitively running since middle school, but has always loved to run. She is also a kinesiology major with plans to be a physical therapist once she graduates, and has been working at the Clarke for two years, sporting her time as an active member of the CSUSM community.

Question: How do you like your team?

Answer: Overall our team is really good, we have sent many people to nationals. Last year we sent 26 people into the nationals.

Q: Have you already

started to practice for your February season?

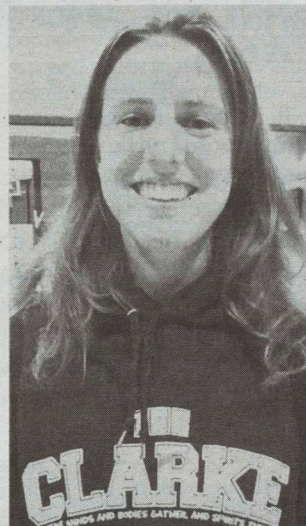
A: Yes, we (long distance runners) have been practicing six days a week. I like the practices it really relieves stress for me and I like spending time with my friends.

Q: When did you start running?

A: I started doing things with track in 4th grade, but didn't really get into the competition till middle school. Then I ran for Mission Hills high school and was ranked fifth on the Cross Country team.

Q: Being a senior, what are your plans for once you graduate?

A: I might want to do some triathlons or 5k's to keep running, but I want to be a physical therapist and actu-



ally work with the athletes.

The Track and Field season begins this coming spring when Bridgette and the rest of the Cougar squad will look to improve on their progress last season.

Cougar athletics goes to Twitter for live updates

BY ALEX FRANCO
SPORTS EDITOR

The CSUSM athletics department has recently announced that it will now connect Cougar students and fans with CSUSM athletes and coaches during the teams' home games with a new Twitter account.

The athletics department will tweet in-game updates,

game photos, statistics and results directly from the Twitter name @CSUSMGameday. The update is an improvement to the old way the athletics departments offered live updates with a live stats link it offered on its homepage csusmcougars.com.

According to the cougars athletics website, a twitter account is not required to access the live feed. You

can simply log on to www.twitter.com/csusmgameday to get the updates; but an account is recommended to get seamless updates onto your twitter home feed.

Be sure to follow @CSUSMGameday and @CSUSMCougars on twitter for the most up to date results and news about your own CSUSM cougars athletics for each season.

Men's basketball stays hot this winter

BY ALEX FRANCO
SPORTS EDITOR

While most of us were home enjoying our winter breaks, the San Marcos men's basketball team took it upon themselves to continue their torrid pace and climb to the top of the NAIA national rankings.

The Cougars have went on an impressive run since the start of break, going a perfect 8-0, improving to 15-4 on the season, in the midst of an eight game winning streak that they will look to keep alive this Wednesday against Point Loma Nazarene in San Diego. All eight of the Cougar's wins during the streak have been convincing wins, not allowing more than 64 points to any opponent and averaging 80 points per win.

The streak includes an impressive win against at-the-time No. 5 ranked Westmont College and currently No. 7, 66-52 at home.

As a result of the Cougar's tremendous string of victories, they have climbed up to a No. 8 ranking in the country, the school's highest ranking in the NAIA coaches poll to date. The last time the cougars cracked the top 10 was earlier this season when they were ranked ninth but lost the next game to defending champion Concordia. CSUSM has bounced back immensely since the defeat and hasn't looked back winning 11 of the last 12 games with the afore mentioned streak.

Leading the way for the CSUSM team this season has been senior guard, AJ Gas-

pora who leads the team in points per game and 3 point percentage, 20.3 and .516 percent respectively. Fellow senior forward, Ali Langford who is second on the team in points with 15.0 points per game, and leads the team in rebounding with 5.8 per game.

Langford also shoots an astounding .569 from the field which is among tops on the team.

With only three home games remaining on the schedule, don't miss a chance to see the Cougars in action as they attempt to keep the streak alive and garner their first national title in school history.

The next home games are Jan. 25 and 31 against UC Santa Cruz and La Sierra, both games start at 7:30 p.m.

Women's basketball trying to turn their luck around

BY ALEX FRANCO
SPORTS EDITOR

The 2012 - 2013 basketball season has not gone the way the Lady Cougars would have hoped with losing seven of the last ten games of the season during the winter break dropping to 9-16 after entering the break at 6-7.

CSUSM has not been able to generate any offense during the stretch of losses, being held under 60 points each of the times. The Cougars season went south after a loss in the Arizona Christian University Basketball Classic earlier this season and CSUSM has only won one game against Simpson College 76-73 at home on Jan. 3.

The bright spots in what is a relatively young basketball squad for head coach Sheri Junnum is the play of junior

forwards, Sherika Miller and Danielle Cooper who have lead the way for the Cougars offense this season. Cooper averages a double-double a game with 10.7 points per game and 10.6 rebounds per game while shooting .466 from the field. Miller compliments Cooper well averaging 10.9 points a game and shooting .392 from the field.

The Cougars will look to finish the season strong heading into the A.I.I conference tournament where they excelled last season and won the conference title and will look to do the same this season. With five more games left in the season, CSUSM hosts one of its final two home games today, Jan. 23, against Point Loma Nazarene at 7:30 p.m.

SCORE REPORT

1/8 Men's Basketball
VS Pomona-Pitzer
W 74 - 54

1/14 Men's Basketball
VS Pacific Union
W 75 - 64

1/16 Women's Basketball
VS Point Loma Nazarene
L 41 - 55

UP COMING HOME GAMES

1/23 Women's Basketball
VS Point Loma Nazarene
7:30 p.m.

1/25 Men's Basketball
VS UC Santa Cruz
7:30 p.m.

1/31 Men's Basketball
VS La Sierra
7:30 p.m.

2/2 Baseball
VS Concordia (DH)
11 a.m.

Like sports, like to write?
Write for us!

We need sports writers for the spring semester to fill our pages. No experience necessary. Come to our weekly meetings on Tuesdays, noon - 12:45, in Craven 3500



SDSU Student creates clothing line that represents a lifestyle of our generation

By JULIANA STUMPP
A & E Editor

In Toby Keith's good-time anthem "Red Solo Cup" he sings, "Red solo cup, you're not just a cup/you're my, you're my friend/thank you for being my friend." For the past couple of years now, this song has been played to bring people together and enjoying being in each other's company. As college students, we study hard during the week but live for the weekends when we can have fun, a concept that entrepreneur Ryan Craig understands.

Craig, a San Diego State student who transferred from Palomar community college, created his own clothing company, "Red Cup Tour," which illustrates our generation with the depiction of the infamous plastic red cup. With the company's website up and running, as well as stylish shirts available for purchase, we sat down with the designer.

Question: What inspired you to start a clothing company? What does the "Red Cup Tour" represent?

Answer: I feel there are all these clothing companies. I wanted to create something about simplicity and relationships, the people you celebrate with. It wasn't about creating a clothing company but the idea and expanding from that idea.

Q: Why did you choose the "red solo cup" as the logo for your brand?

A: First off, [red solo cups] are everywhere. It's the universal symbol of people together and having a good time. The line isn't about beer pong or drinking per se but to live life to it's full-



Entrepreneur Ryan Craig with a shirt from his "Red Cup Tour" clothing line. Photo courtesy of Ryan Craig.

est. Our tagline is "Thirst for Life." That explains it all.

Q: How has the journey been from an idea to putting designs together to selling your product?

A: It's been a while, actually, a year that I started working on the idea. I found resources from my friends to my family and them helping me out. You just have to tell yourself everyday to do something even if it's going to be a mistake, at least I tried. It takes a lot of planning. It's not just drawing something in class and putting it on a shirt.

Q: Where do you get inspiration for your designs?

A: I didn't want anything too cheesy. Its just things I find entertaining and think other people would like. I take in the world around and use certain things in my life.

Q: How do you balance school and running a business?

A: I've never thought I needed to be in school to be successful. I want to create jobs for others and myself. If I had the choice between reading a business book over a textbook, I would choose the business book. In my opinion, education is too

streamlined. I find it successful to teach yourself. I still have to balance school. For me, school is more networking and I take it upon myself to learn what I need to.

Q: What future plans do you have for the "Red Cup Tour"?

A: Every clothing line has collections, so I have some upcoming releases seasonally. There will be different designs and clothes, some surprises. Eventually, backpacks and other accessories but I don't want to give too much away.

Q: What advice do you have for aspiring entrepreneurs?

A: Be a self-learner. You can't completely rely on others to do everything for you but allowing their help. Definitely know your strengths and weaknesses. Find others that can supplement your weaknesses. Also to fail faster, by that I mean learn by failing because it's a quicker path to success. This is the best time to make mistakes.

Find the "Red Cup Tour" collection at theredcuptour.com and follow it on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Use this special coupon for 20% off: **RCTAMIGO**

Local ways to make a difference

Doing good in your community isn't based on the season

By KATLIN SWEENEY
Features Editor

Now that the Christmas season has ended and the new semester has begun, giving back to the community and donating to charity is often at the back of people's minds.

However, the people in need of your help are not just seasonal based. They are around you at all times, and they include students on campus. Even if you are already busy amidst your homework and classes, here are two easy ways to help the people around you, even if it is just during a study break.

One way to immediately give back to the CSUSM student body is by helping Summit Church (across the street from CSUSM and next to The Quad) with their Food Distribution program. Summit is in need of volunteers that are willing to help pass out food to students and people that need it. Volunteers would need to show up at 1:00 p.m. and the actual distribution would take place from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Summit Church park-



ing lot on Feb. 12 and Feb. 26. All CSUSM students are welcome to participate, regardless of if they attend Summit Church or not.

"It's in conjunction with Donate Don't Dump, the North County Food Bank and the [CSUSM] Kinesiology Club with Professor Laura de Ghetaldi. In general, it's to help feed students and families in our community," Summit College Ministry Pastor Andrew Hopkins said.

In addition to helping pass out food, Summit is also looking for volunteers to participate in Friday Night Heights from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the first and

third Fridays of every month.

"It is a ministry to help out youth/families living in North County Solutions for Change, which is a homeless shelter. We take out the youth to Boomers and serve as 'Big brothers and sisters.' The discounted rate for those participating in Friday Night Heights is \$12 for activities," Pastor Hopkins said.

While these are only just a few of the ways to give back to the community, there are plenty of opportunities both on campus and in the San Marcos area. Remember that while the Christmas season has already passed, your ability to help people has not.

Cinnamon Corn Bread

In this cold chilly weather, you need something cozy and comforting to nourish your tummy. I have the perfect thing that you can make in your kitchen. This simple recipe will become your go-to treat to accompany those cold winter nights.

What you'll need:

- 1 cup of all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup of sugar
- 4 tspn of baking powder
- 3/4 tspn of salt
- 1 cup of yellow cornmeal
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup of milk
- A stick of butter
- 1 - 2 tspn of cinnamon (depending on how sweet you want it)
- A 9x9x2 pan (or an equivalent)
- A mixer, bowl and spatula

Stir together: flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, with the cornmeal. Add in the eggs, milk and melted butter. Beat with mixer until smooth, and pour the mixture into greased pan. Bake in the oven at 425 degrees for 20 - 25 minutes. Slice into squares and serve to your family and friends as a delectable treat that will leave you feeling all warm inside. Enjoy!

What's your Frapp flavor?

Fruity?

Strawberries & Crème Frappuccino

Strawberries and milk blended with ice and topped with a swirl of whipped cream.

Green Tea Frappuccino

A refreshing blend of sweetened matcha green tea, milk and ice. Topped with sweetened whipped cream.

Chai Frappuccino

A creamy blend of spicy Tazo chai, milk and ice. Topped with sweetened whipped cream and a dash of cinnamon.

Tea based?

Spicy?

Vanilla Spice Frappuccino

Coffee blended with cardamom-spiced syrup, milk and ice. Topped with sweetened whipped cream and Vanilla Spice sugar.

Cinnamon Dolce Crème Frappuccino

A creamy blend of milk, sweet cinnamon flavored syrup and ice. Topped with sweetened whipped cream and cinnamon sprinkles.

Vanilla?

Caffè Vanilla Frappuccino

Coffee with vanilla bean powder, blended with milk and ice. Topped with sweetened whipped cream.

Vanilla Bean Crème Frappuccino

A rich and creamy blend of vanilla bean, milk and ice. Topped with whipped cream.

Java Chip Frappuccino

Coffee with rich mocha-flavored sauce blended with milk, chocolaty chips and ice. Topped with sweetened whipped cream and chocolate-flavored drizzle.

Chocolate?

Mocha Frappuccino

Coffee with rich mocha sauce blended with nonfat milk and ice.

Double Chocolaty Chip Frappuccino

A creamy blend of rich mocha-flavored sauce, chocolaty chips, milk and ice. Topped with sweetened whipped cream and mocha drizzle.

TA positions available at Dehesa Charter School

By KEANDRE WILLIAMS-CHAMBERS
COPY EDITOR

Dehesa Charter School is offering TA positions to CSUSM students that are involved in education or considering teaching as a career.

CSUSM students can have the opportunity to get hands-on involvement in the classroom environment with students from the middle school to high school level. One of the available options is to be a classroom TA, assisting teachers in classrooms of up to 30 students. TAs would be asked to provide in-class assistance that ranges from grading, student assistance and help with classroom activities, among other duties. This would be done Monday through Thursday during class time.

Another option available is one-on-one advisement and assistance to Dehesa students who seek to improve their organizational skills, complete miscellaneous class assignments, develop essay planning and writing strategies and otherwise improve their class performance in various areas. TAs would be work-

ing with either individual students or small groups, offering their skills and knowledge to those they attend to. This would be accomplished Mondays through Wednesdays.

Dehesa Charter School is a K-12 school located in the city of Escondido, boasting over 1,000 students throughout San Diego, Riverside and Orange County. With the reasonably close proximity, this opportunity is ideal for those seeking experience within their own school schedule. Students won't have to go too far out of their way to make use of this opportunity. It would be ideal to balance this with a given schedule and make the most out of this learning experience.

Should any CSUSM students be interested, contact the Dehesa Charter regional manager Tony Drown, who can be reached by phone at (760) 455-5376, or through their main office line at (760) 743-7880.

If you take advantage of this opportunity let us know and you could be featured in our next issue!

The artists among us CSUSM art exhibit showcases student work

By KATLIN SWEENEY
FEATURES EDITOR

CSUSM is home to countless creative visionaries and artists. Beginning in December, the public has been able to experience some of their work up close.

Students from Professor Judit Hersko's VSAR 301, "Materials and Structure of Art" course, have been given the unique opportunity to showcase their art to family, friends and members of the community at the Old Restaurant Row CSUSM Gallery.

Throughout the semester, VSAR 301 students worked hard creating different projects, with their final project being the gallery showing. This allowed the students to put their best work in the exhibit, while simultaneously displaying all of the knowledge and experience they had gained during the semester.

The gallery features an array of work, showcasing different styles. Visual Arts

major Amalia Wood created the piece "Sobering Up," which featured a brightly colored canvas that showed women flying upwards. Liberal Studies major Karissa Bullington contributed two of her dream catchers, the first entitled "Enchanted" and the second called "Birds of a Feather." Visual and Performing Arts major Laura Musgrove created the piece entitled "Resilience," created from wood, paint, the Bible, text, Paper Mache and yarn.

"In ["Resilience"] I explored two very vital elements: spirituality and identity. My intention is to awaken the viewer's mind to the contrast I perceive between the negative cultural communications and the uplifting, encouraging and life-giving truth spoken by God through His Word. I wanted this piece to reflect my personal design aesthetics as well as communicating the underlying theme conceptually," Musgrove said.

The ability to show their work in a gallery has moti-

vated the students to work even harder on future art pieces.

"This was my first time having my artwork shown. It made me feel pretty happy that others could see it; I look forward to making more artworks to show," Wood said.

"It was such an amazing opportunity to have my artwork showcased. This was the first time having my work displayed in an art gallery so it was very exciting and I hope to have another chance to do it again!" Bullington said.

"I feel very fortunate and I am also appreciative to have had this opportunity to create an art piece that expresses my personal views and my identity both as an artist and person and for it to be showcased in an art gallery located at Restau-

rant Row which is a popular area," Musgrove said.

To see these and other works created by the VSAR 301 students, visit the CSUSM Art Gallery. The exhibit is open Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 7 through Jan. 26, from 5 to 8 p.m. It is located at 1080 San Marcos Blvd. Ste 185 (in the Village Shops Area) in San Marcos.

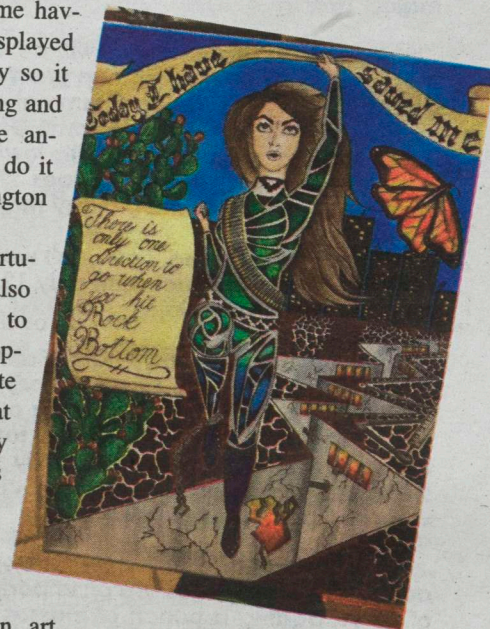


Photo Courtesy of Amalia Wood

Send a love note for our valentine's issue!

To participate, send no more than 25 words to cougarchron.features@gmail.com by 2/2/13. The Cougar Chronicle has the right to refuse any letter for any reason.

Restaurant beat San Marcos brewery is a knockout

By MELISSA MARTINEZ
NEWS EDITOR
& ALEX FRANCO
SPORTS EDITOR

Looking for amazing food, great service, atmosphere and the best beer in town? Look no further than San Marcos' very own San Marcos Brewery restaurant.

San Marcos Brewery is a grill-style restaurant, offering the best cheeseburgers and hamburgers. You can order your way with any combination of toppings, ranging from standard ketchup and mayo to the not so standard jalapeños served with a side of lightly seasoned fresh cut fries. They also offer a delectable choice of freshly grilled steaks with a variety of sides such as potatoes, baked or

mashed, and steamed veggies.

For those looking for a little different entree, the brewery also serves a sausage platter with all types of dipping sauces, as well as an endless selection of seafood for those not looking for the standard choice of meat.

The brewery's menu also includes sandwiches, pastas and salads, which along with the rest of the menu are delicious and filling.

What makes the San Marcos brewery different from other restaurants is their selection of beers and ales brewed on site and are available in bottles and jugs to take home and enjoy. They have classics like red amber and IPA, specialties such as the Pompous Ass beer and

many other styles.

Lunch and happy hour specials are offered, lunch being served before 4 p.m. Happy hour is Monday through Friday from 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m.

Regular hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Sundays.

You can find the San Marcos Brewery in all its wonder in Restaurant Row right off of San Marcos Blvd. and can be contacted at 760.471.0050.

Have you been to the San Marcos Brewery? Share your thoughts online at csusmchronicle.com



Photos Courtesy of Yelp



InterVarsity has event to kick off new semester

By KATLIN SWEENEY
FEATURES EDITOR

If you enjoy live music, listening to guest speakers and making new friends, InterVarsity is a great way to start off your semester.

InterVarsity is a combination of students from CSUSM, Mira Costa and Palomar College coming together as a community. They seek to include students of different backgrounds, ethnicity and culture who are all working towards a common goal: to become closer to God.

To welcome in the new semester, their first event is their "1st Large Group of the Spring Semester." It will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 30 in Clarke 113. For more information on upcoming events or the club itself, visit www.ivalsanmarcos.org.



csusmchronicle.com

Unit cap opinions Is an unborn baby a baby?

By JULIANA STUMPP
A & E Editor

Over our much-needed winter break, a new process for class registration took place. In late November and early December last semester, the new class registration process restricted you to a limit of 13 units until Dec. 17th, at which time you were able to add more classes if need be. Here are some of the students' opinions on this new change in our registration system:

"Getting classes wasn't too difficult since I got priority registration because of my class standing. Despite the slight advantage, the unit cap made it so that it wasn't possible for me to get all my classes, thus I had to strategically pick the classes that I knew would fill up fast," - Pat Tang, biology major

"I reckon the people who will be affected the most and worst by the unit cap are those who are graduating seniors. Though I am not one of them, I can sympathize. There are some benefits to the unit cap. It allows students with lower priority to get some classes, even if it does hinder other's chances," - Viv Nguyen, biology major

"The unit cap sucked. I couldn't wait list enough classes so now I'm stuck with only 12 units," - Jordan Hays, business major

"To be honest, I already had a late priority registration date the day before priority registration ended. So, I was already freaking out about getting all my classes. I was not very fond about the unit cap benefitting me personally because I'm still on the wait list for 2 out of 5 my classes," - Savannah Shick, business major

"Well the unit cap definitely made me prioritize and choose classes based on importance instead of kinda adding a bunch of classes and loading up. I focused more on important classes and it helped me set my priorities. It was kind of beneficial," - Austin Hoover, biology physiology major

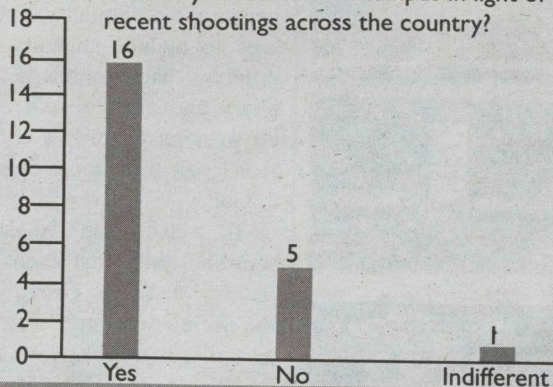
"My main concern was that I could only sign up for four classes but there was a chance that I needed five due to a concern with a class that's was unsure if I was going to pass. I was also not too crazy about the classes that were available. I was looking through my course catalog at all these classes for my major and hardly any of them were offered. I had already taken most of the classes offered so it was difficult to plan a schedule with the few choices I had left," - Jenica Caruso, communications major

"It's not right for all of us to have to wait for everyone to pick their classes and then pick again later. It should be done on a first come first serve basis. What is the point of priority registration if we are going to be capped off at 13? If I'm paying for all these classes I want to be able to pick as many as I want," - Hunter Chanove, communication major

"I guess the only concerns I came across was whether or not the classes I needed/wanted were full. Also, there was a concern with the timing of my classes, and whether or not the class I wanted would interfere with the rest of my schedule for this semester," - Zach Wilson, business major

CHRONICLE FACEBOOK POLL

We asked: Do you feel safe on campus in light of the recent shootings across the country?



40th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade sparks 'Walk for Life' marches

By JESSIE GAMBRELL
Opinion Editor

On Jan. 22, 1973 the Supreme Court came to a decision on the controversial case of Roe vs. Wade concerning the touchy subject of abortion. Abortion was illegal before this court case controversy came about, but in 1971 a woman tried to get a "legal" abortion claiming that she had been raped. She later confessed that she had lied on matter in order to get an abortion, but did in fact have the baby before the court reached a decision. Another similar case (Doe vs. Bolton - 1973) reopened the case, finally bringing the decision to extend the 14th Amendment of the Right to Privacy for the women to make their own decision to have an abortion.

Ever since that decision day on Jan. 22, 1973 the debate still continues on whether or not abortion is a right thing to do. On the

"Roe" side, people defend it saying that if a woman becomes pregnant and decides she does not want that baby, and then she should have the right to abort it. On the "Wade" side, people say that aborting a baby means killing an innocent human being (since human life begins at conception) and that the if you don't want a baby, either don't have sex or give the baby up for adoption.

Some defend the notion of abortion "killing a human baby" saying that unborn babies are not babies, instead a "fetus", "lump of cells" or even "tissue". People who are pro-life strongly oppose this claiming that human life begins at conception, showing the pregnant mothers an ultrasound image of the growing baby inside them proving to the mother that it is not just tissue. In fact in the controversial murder case of Scott Peterson (2005) proves that an unborn baby is a human being since he was

convicted of murder on two accounts even though his baby was not yet born. Facts are facts, but the opinion is yours, is an unborn baby a baby?

In the month of January across the nation, religious groups, pro-family advocates, and many other pro-life people gather to fight for the unborn babies by marching in public with their signs of protest in what they call, "Walk for Life".

This year it is the 40th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade so there are anticipated to be more than usual. According to the National Catholic Reporter, tens of thousands of pro-lifers march every year in 'Walk for Life' events to help save the millions of babies being aborted every year.

The woman who originally was fighting for abortion, is now Catholic and is fighting in the battle to save the unborn babies as well. "Roe" is pro-life now!

Shout out!

Editorial goals for spring semester

By JESSIE GAMBRELL
Opinion Editor

Hey all you Cougars! I am your new opinion editor for the Cougar Chronicle this semester and have some new plans for you this semester. I can't do this without your help. My plan for you all is to send us your shout outs to your friends for special events as well as your opinions on various topics. On our website www.csusmchronicle.com and our Facebook account Cougar Chronicle we like to ask you questions to get your opinions on events that happen, etc. You can also send us your opinions to our email at: cougarchron.opinion@gmail.com. So as the opinion editor, it is my job to ensure that your voice is heard in our paper. So send us your thoughts and opinions, we are more than happy to share them to our CSUSM community. Go Cougars!

Editors' topics: gun control

In light of the recent tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, (among other horrific shooting as of late), gun control has become a hot topic across the nation. President Obama has proposed 12 congressional actions and 23 executive actions that he feels will combat the issue of gun violence and control in the United States, which has led to nation-wide debate. Here are some opinions from your Cougar Chronicle editors:

"As a college student, I feel that gun control is not regulated enough. Though you need background checks to purchase a gun, I highly believe in the regulation of Mental Status Exams that should be required in the purchasing of a gun. I understand that this is a second Amendment right, to bear arms, but tell me, why must we need assault weapons? As someone who has had family members die at the bullet of guns wrongfully purchased, people need to realize the importance of life. How many people have to die for this country to realize the danger we put our children in without regulating gun control? I have a question

for you America: would you rather have your "right to bear arms" or see your children reach their next birthday? It's time to prioritize. I know guns don't kill people. People kill people, but can you put a price on saving the life of even one person? Arguing that is selfish. People don't realize the importance of safety until they're burying their children six feet under. Why take the chance?"

— News Editor, Melissa Martinez

"While creating emergency plans and paying officer salaries are worthwhile causes, the amount of money being spent for these reasons is far more than we can afford during a time of economic hardship. This sounds like another piece of legislature that gives tens of millions of dollars to people that are already doing their jobs and taking these precautions when this money could be better spent. While Obama can be applauded for taking action to prevent more tragedies like Sandy Hook, there should be a reevaluation of how much money needs to be spent and more of a focus on the other reasonable ideas that he has proposed. The

foundation for legislation on gun control [background checks and bans on certain guns] makes sense, but the surplus amount of money being spent on police officers, gun control research, and safety plans seems to be a bit outrageous."

— Features Editor, Katlin Sweeney

"Guns have taken the fall for the terrible, horrific events that have taken place over the past few months, but I must say that (as it says in our Constitution) we have the right to bear arms. I don't think that we need to have automatic guns on the market, because I do not see the logic in having that for hunting, but I do believe that for the sake of the safety of the American people every school, business facility, and home should have, and be trained how to use, a hand gun. You never know who just may be walking in the door. I also think that we should start having Mental Status Exams for every gun purchase. Though many of the criminals buy their guns in the Black Market this could possibly weed out any potential psychos. Oh and I know my brothers would

not appreciate me saying this, but I think violent video games have a huge factor in these shootings, there need to be regulations on the video game market."

— Opinion Editor, Jessie Gambrell

"Guns have gone beyond the use of protection but now is a threat in society. Ever since school went on break, gun control has become a bigger problem then before. We can't go anywhere now without being paranoid if another tragedy is going to strike. During the Newtown, Conn. shooting the press got the information of the shooting wrong, they just used any information they got and published it. It just goes to show that these random shootings are just a common story in the newspaper nowadays. It all starts at home, with everyone watching primetime shows where the characters use guns or random people being put behind the guns in violent video games."

— A&E Editor, Juliana Stumpp

What are your thoughts on gun control? Share them on our facebook page or on our website.

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Letters to the Editor should include a first and last name and should be under 300 words, submitted via email. It is the policy of The Cougar Chronicle not to print anonymous letters. The Cougar Chronicle reserves the right to reject any Letter to the Editor for any reason.

For your entertainment

Chronicle picks Netflix movies and episodes of the week

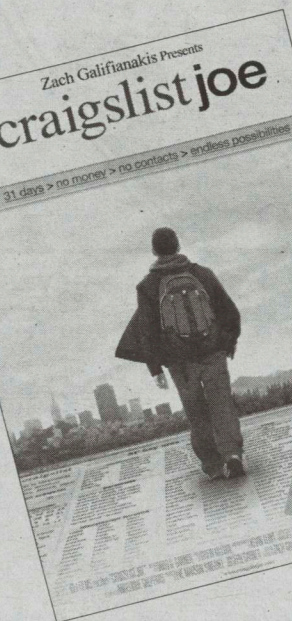
BY KATLIN SWEENEY
FEATURES EDITOR

Whether you want to watch a movie with your roommates or are bored and in need of some entertainment, Netflix is your perfect choice for motivational documentaries and comedic sketches.

"Craiglist Joe"

🐾🐾🐾🐾/5

From producers Joseph Garner and Zack Galifianakis comes a documentary that poses the question of whether or not survival based solely off of Craigslist advertisements is possible. Over the course of one month, "Craiglist Joe" follows Joseph Garner as he leaves his friends and family behind to test an unthinkable idea. Accompanied only by a cameraman that he met through the website, Garner's only means of survival for 30



days is to post advertisements online asking for food, jobs to pay for necessities, transportation and places to sleep. He is unable to contact anyone he already knows for assistance, only relying completely on the help of strangers to get him through the month. While viewers may wonder if the presence of a cameraman may at all affect the



outcome of some of these encounters or provoke people to be nicer to Garner, "Craiglist Joe" is still a fascinating watch for anyone that enjoys films about the human existence and our connections with one another.

"Portlandia"

🐾🐾🐾🐾/5

Must-Watch Episode:

Season 1, Episode 3: "Aimee"

From the minds of "Saturday Night Live" cast member Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein comes a comedy-sketch concoction so strange, viewers have no idea what will come next. Combining a funky sense of humor with outlandish wardrobe design, "Portlandia" is an off-kilter, charming satire that commands attention. Brownstein and Armisen offer up sketch performances centered around themes such as discovering their favorite singer-songwriter is their maid, freeing someone's pet dog because they feel it belongs in the wild and a couple that is addicted to "Battlestar Gallactica." For one of the most unique, hard-to-describe satirical sketches ever created, check out "Portlandia."

THE SHUFFLE

BY MELISSA MARTINEZ
NEWS EDITOR

With the excitement of award season comes the buzz over who will dominate at the Grammys and who will be snubbed. This playlist is dedicated to honoring those nominated for top honors this award season and my personal favorites.

"Babel," Mumford & Sons

Nominated for three Grammy Awards, Mumford & Sons continues to win my heart. It's not easy to build up the perfect delivery that Mumford & Sons offers, building up their melody as well as hard-hitting lyrics, but if that's what you're looking for in an album, you can find it in "Babel."

"Set Fire to the Rain (Live)," Adele
I'm rooting for Adele to win Best Pop Solo Performance. Having just won a Golden Globe for Best Original Song, "Skyfall," the latest James Bond theme and nominated for an Oscar for Original Song of the same, I expect Adele to impress the Recording Academy as much as she did the Hollywood Foreign Press.

"We Are Young," fun.

As much as it was played on the radio, I never got tired of listening to anything from fun. Fun reminds me of a modern, more pop version of Queen. "We Are Young" offers a catchy tune to sing to in the car and if you're like me, you'll be listening to it way longer than the radio can play it out.

"The A Team," Ed Sheeran

There is no one more sweet or adorable than Ed Sheeran. He pretty much makes me want to be on the other end of his gaze as he serenades on. Nominated for Song of the Year, "The A Team" is a beautiful ensemble of poetry and acoustic guitar that makes me weak in the knees.

"No Church in the Wild," Jay-Z & Kanye West feat. Frank Ocean & The-Dream
Though my rap taste is biased since I prefer the old-school stylings, I appreciate the collaborations with legends (Jay-Z) that changed the modern rap industry for what it is now. With heart-wrenching lyrics and voices of Frank Ocean and The-Dream, "No Church in the Wild" is bound to win Best Rap/Sung Collaboration.

This one time....

We know you've got those embarrassing stories, why not share them! Completely anonymous! We want to know your most hilarious, random stories you've had at CSUSM! Email them to cougarchron.arts@gmail.com

Competition arises for 2013 Academy Awards

BY JULIANA STUMPP
A & E EDITOR

On Jan. 10, the nominations for the 2013 Academy Awards were announced, with Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" leading the other contenders with 12 selections, including Daniel Day Lewis for best actor, Sally Field for best supporting actress, best director and more.

The critically acclaimed movie "Argo" was not nominated for best director. His third film in all, Ben Affleck presents the true-life story of a secret operation during 1980 Iran. Affleck was honored by the Hollywood Foreign Association at the Golden Globes Jan. 13, taking home two awards for best picture-drama and best director.

"Zero Dark Thirty" was acknowledged for best picture and best actress, Jessica Chastain for playing a determined CIA officer assigned to search for Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan based on her expertise about al-Qaeda. Kathryn Bigelow directed best picture "The Hurt Locker" in 2010. Like Affleck, she was snubbed by Oscar Voters.

Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway were nominated for best actor and best supporting actress, respectively, on behalf of their stunning performances in the musical "Les Misérables." Both won for the same category during

the Golden Globes, and the film won best picture-comedy or musical.

The past year was filled with many impressive movies that it is hard to say what movie will take home the Oscar. To view the full list of nominees visit oscar.go.com
Here is a list of some of the nominations:

Best Picture

"Argo"

"Silver Linings Playbook"

"Lincoln"

"Django Unchained"

"Amour"

"Les Misérables"

"Zero Dark Thirty"

"Beasts of the Southern Wild"

"Life of Pi"

Best Actor

Bradley Cooper "Silver Linings Playbook"

Denzel Washington "Flight"

Joaquin Phoenix "The Master"

Hugh Jackman "Les Misérables"

Daniel Day-Lewis "Lincoln"

Best Actress

Naomi Watts "The Impossible"

Quvenzhané Wallis "Beasts of the Southern Wild"

Jennifer Lawrence "Silver Linings Playbook"

Emmanuelle Riva "Amour"

Jessica Chastain "Zero Dark

Thirty"

Best Supporting Actor

Tommy Lee Jones

"Lincoln"

Philip Seymour Hoffman

"The Master"

Christopher Waltz "Django Unchained"

Alan Arkin "Argo"

Robert De Niro "Silver Linings Playbook"

Best Supporting Actress

Helen Hunt "The Sessions"

Anne Hathaway "Les Misérables"

Sally Field "Lincoln"

Jacki Weaver "Silver Linings Playbook"

Amy Adams "The Master"

Best Director

Steven Spielberg "Lincoln"

Ben Zeitlin "Beasts of the Southern Wild"

Ang Lee "Life of Pi"

Michael Haneke "Amour"

David O. Russell "Silver Linings Playbook"

Original Song

"Before My Time" from

Chasing Ice

Music and Lyric by J. Ralph

"Everybody Needs a Best Friend" from Ted

Music by Walter Murphy;

Lyric by Seth MacFarlane

"Pi's Lullaby" from Life

of Pi

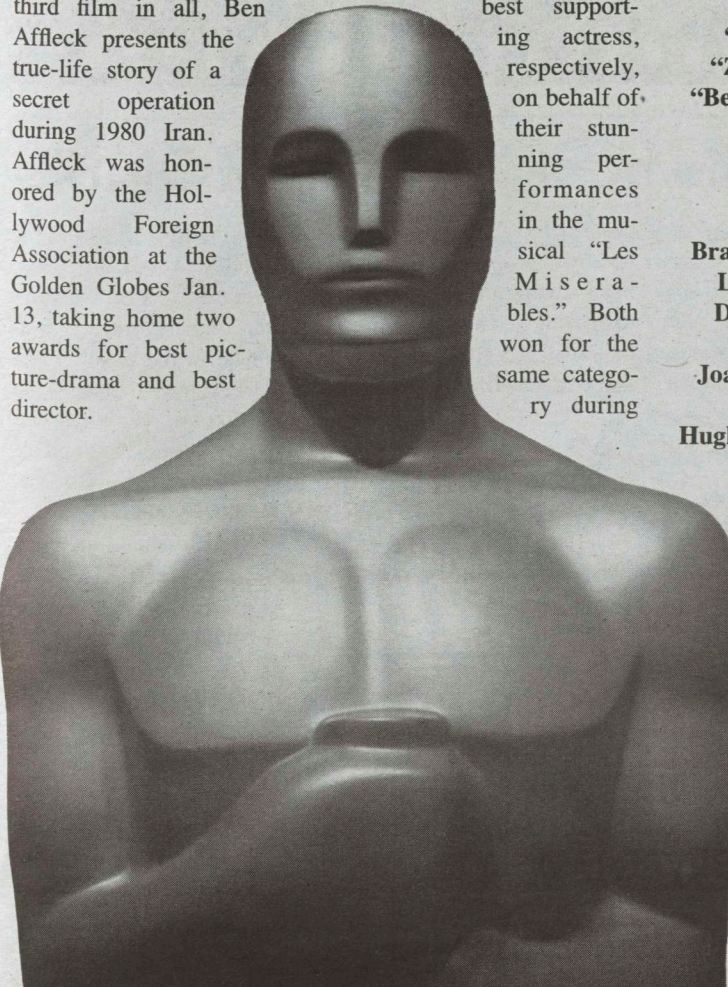
Music by Mychael Danna;

Lyric by Bombay Jayashri

"Skyfall" from Skyfall

Music and Lyric by Adele

Adkins and Paul Epworth



Student A: "Crash Course" by Faith Orcino



Welcome back to school! Hope you enjoyed your winter break!

What to expect for popular music festivals in 2013

By JULIANA STUMPP
A & E EDITOR

April showers bring May flowers, and music festivals in the spring. With these music festivals comes new rules that aren't favored by fans of these events. Stagecoach, California's biggest country festival altered their rules regarding camping. For the 2013 festival, there will only be RV campgrounds without the usual tent or car camping options. In addition to the cutbacks of ways to camp, there is a six-person limit to each RV.

Currently, applications for RV spots have passed. In the past years, attendees of the festival were allowed to go into the campgrounds, but this year you won't be able to unless you're a camper. Other concerns that arise is the lineup of country artists that will be performing. The top three headliners are Toby Keith, Lady Antebellum and Zac Brown Band. Actors Jeff Bridges and John C. Reilly will be performing with their own bands. Stagecoach tickets went on sale back in October 2012. The festival will be the weekend of April

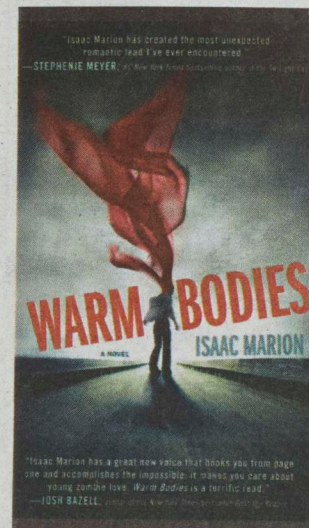
26. Visit stagecoachfestival.com for the full line up and more information. The Coachella festival features artists of the rock, hip-hop, indie and house music genres. Last year, the festival surprised the audience with a holographic version of rapper Tupac Shakur during Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg's performance. The lineup of Coachella has not been announced but will be released within the month, where tickets will also be available. Stay updated with the latest news at Coachella.com

A good read: 'Warm Bodies' A zombie novel with heart and brains

By MORGAN HALL
Co EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Written in 2011 by Isaac Marion, "Warm Bodies" is a comedic and romantic love story about a zombie who falls head over brains in love with a mortal girl. The main character, R, who can't remember his real name or how he became a zombie, has been spending possibly years in the confines of an airport, which he and hundreds of other zombies call home and have formed a community. R is different than his fellow zombies and has developed a unique personality and strives to figure out his purpose in life. Not being able to hold long thoughts down or speak words with more than three syllables, R personally enjoys riding the airport escalators for hours or spending time with his friend and fellow zombie M.

R and M also take occasional trips to the outside city to hunt and feast on the brains and bodies of the "Living," which R is not particularly fond of. On one trip, R and his fellow zombies find a small group of the living and begin feasting. As he starts consuming one man's brains, he sees these vivid memories from that man's life and feels this deep connection to that man's girlfriend, Julie, which he falls in love with. During their time together R, slowly begins to transform himself and starts to break away from the typical zombie tendencies and changes those around him to become more human like. "Warm Bodies" is an easy read, with a great love story from start to finish with a killer ending. It's a novel that will put life and death in perspective and will allow the reader to see that just because you are a zombie doesn't mean you have to act like one. Be warned, this book is not for the faint of heart due to its graphic nature and harsh language. "Warm Bodies" will also be a major motion picture set to hit theaters Feb. 1, starring Nicholas Hoult and Teresa Palmer.



Hitting the shelves

By JESSIE GAMBRELL
OPINION EDITOR



Jan. 29: "Hotel Transylvania"

This comical animated version of the legendary story of Dracula, has a spin on the tale, placing Dracula (Adam Sandler) as a hotel owner, running a hotel for unlikely creatures/monsters. Voices include Kevin James, Andy Samberg, and Selena Gomez among other riots in the comedic world.



Jan. 29: "Paranormal Activity 4"

This fourth thriller in a series offers chilling scenes throughout the film that will leave you cleaving to your neighbor, and don't forget the nightmares. The first three "Paranormal Activity" films were huge hits in the box office as well as the shelves, and no less is expected for the fourth in the spooky sequel.



Jan. 29: "Heavy Fire: Shattered Spear" on Xbox 360, PS3 & PC

This action-packed, military ops game will be coming out on all platforms everywhere Tuesday, Jan. 29. It is published by Mastiff (who also put out: Heavy Fire: Afghanistan and many hunting games) and is rated "T" for mild language and violence.



Feb. 5: "Two Lanes of Freedom" by Tim McGraw

Classic country singer, Tim McGraw will be releasing his twelfth album this February to his country loving fans. For those of you love country songs be prepared to hear some "new country" tale-telling, beats that you can sing along to as you drive.

The Cougars den: local hangout spots to hang out with friends on the weekends

By KARLA REYES
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Often times, we find ourselves sitting around with friends wondering what to do on a Friday night. The typical conversation goes as follows: Friend 1- "What do you wanna do?" Friend 2- "I don't know. What do you wanna do?" This could go on for a while, eventually leading to a night in watching a movie. Next time this happens to you, opt out of watching Mean Girls for the tenth time (that month) and see a live performance to beloved stories at San Marcos's Theater West.

Shows range from reenacting Disney favorites such as "Snow White" and "The Little Mermaid" to seasonal

themes like "The Year without Santa Claus" which was performed at the end of November to early December. There are five shows a year. Usual times are Thursday and Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and weekends at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets are available in person, either in advance at the Community Center information desk or at the door the day of. Located in Civic Center, right across from the San Marcos Public Library, the Center of the Arts of San Marcos puts together plays for the community at reasonable prices. It's walking distance away from campus, and only a couple steps from the Sprinter stop "San Marcos Civic Center", making it an easy activity to plan.

Theater West was founded with the purpose of encouraging creative development for the youth of San Marcos. Auditions are any day from 5 - 8 p.m. for those between 7 and 17 years of age. You can find the audition application online. Upcoming productions include: "The Little Mermaid": Feb. 14,15,16,17 "A Bad Day in Shootersville": April 4,5,6,7 "Rapunzel- A Hairy Tale": May 16,17,18,19 Tickets: \$10 Adult \$7 Youth, Senior, Student For more information and more upcoming productions and auditions, visit www.San-marcos.net under Community service, parks and recreations

Reel clips from the film 'Warm Bodies'

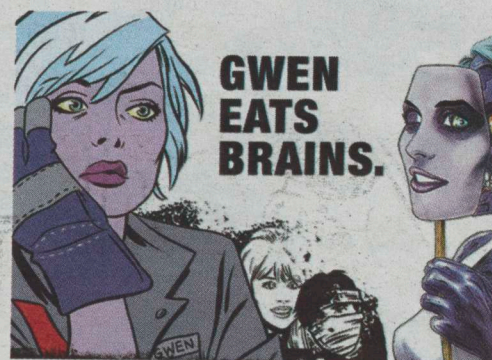


The comic book corner: 'iZOMBIE'

By FAITH ORCINO
CARTOONIST

As the release of the "Warm Bodies" movie grows closer, zombie enthusiasts can get their undead fix with Vertigo Comics' "iZombie." First published in 2010 and nominated in 2011 for the Eisner Award for Best New Series, the 28-issue series is now in four volumes for easy reading and collecting. The story focuses on Gwen, a zombie living in Oregon. She has the appearance of a normal human woman, but strangely works at a cemetery and does her

best to have a normal life. Recently something has been stirring up the peaceful town and it may give Gwen the answers she has about her previous life.



Writer Chris Roberson, who worked on Fables spin-offs "Cinderella," and "Jack of Fables," and the iconic Laufa Allreds use their talents to tell Gwen's

story. While the setting is in modern times, the series goes through events before Gwen and beyond. It even touches on the development of some monsters like ghosts, vampires and, of course, zombies. This then hints what other characters and creatures Gwen will encounter. Roberson's intriguing plots filled with mystery and action wonderfully goes well with the Allreds' eye-popping art style, which Allreds won the 2012 Eisner Award for Best Coloring during the past San Diego International Comic-Con. For more information, visit vertigocomics.com or stop by your local comic shop.