

The Funding Formula Edition



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Money, Politics, Success ... WHCCD's Allocation Ailment

By Dorian Ecker

The West Hills Community College District (WHCCD) received \$7 million less in their budget than expected due to a revision in the state funding formula for community colleges.

They solved the equation to the funding formula, but still received millions less than earned.

In April, the West Hills Community College District calculated their budget and expected to be granted \$50 million for the upcoming fiscal year (July-June), however, the CCC Chancellor's Office was unable to fund colleges based on the original projections. When discovering the district would only be receiving around \$40 million, immediate budget revisions were made.

Dr. Kristin Clark, the President of West Hills College Lemoore, explained in an interview that the district is striving to limit the budget cut's direct effect on students.



Dr. Clark went on to explain that the financial cut will mostly affect faculty, staff, and administration. The district has had to limit resources and cut back on travel, supplies, and discretionary funds for all campuses.

West Hills is looking at \$45 million to sustain its current position, but costs continue to increase every year, leaving the district to find new ways to generate the lost revenue.

Although the funding formula has hurt the district as a whole, WHCCD is doing everything in its power to get the adequate monetary backing to best serve students. Staff is looking into outside grants, adjusting business practices, and creating new revenue-generating solutions. For example, classified employees and faculty are required to take unpaid days off, furlough, throughout the semester.

Students are of utmost priority in the district, so solutions that best support them are vital. The formula may have caused changes in the day-to-day college practices, yet staff has adamantly reassured students that they will still have the tools to be successful in their studies.

A Letter from the President

Why does WHCL have a budget shortfall?

In fall 2018, the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) released simulations that, under the CCCCCO's new Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF), strongly favored the West Hills Community College District (WHCCD). Based on these simulations, WHCCD was projected to receive a significant increase in apportionment due to enrollment growth, our student success rates and the number of first generation, low income students we serve. WHCCD's initial budget was developed based on the projections from the CCCCCO.

In March 2019 the CCCCCO released the 2018-19 First Principal Apportionment (P1), which showed a slight decrease in anticipated apportionment based on lower than anticipated property tax collections (actuals). Then on April 26, 2019, the CCCCCO released a revision, which drastically reduced WHCCD's funding. The anticipated shortfall was announced only two months before the end of the current fiscal year.

What Are We Doing About the Budget Reduction?

We remain focused on our students' success. Bottom line—our students come first so our top priority is to protect the class schedule. With this in mind, we are reducing expenses that have the least impact on students (salaries and discretionary general funds such as supplies and travel).

We continue to focus on strategic enrollment management and efficiency by meeting our students' needs to complete their program pathways. For the most part, we have been able to accommodate students' scheduling needs within our revised budget.

In addition, we continue to advocate for WHCCD and the Central Valley. We are stressing the importance of fully funding the SCFF, which was enacted to address the State's achievement gaps by funding districts that serve a higher proportion of first generation, low income students. We are sending letters to legislators, meeting with legislators, and advocating for our students who are the very students that the new funding formula was intended to help.

As students, I want you to know that we are here to serve you, that we are doing everything we can to mitigate the impact on you, and that we are maintaining our *relentless pursuit of student success*.

KRISTIN CLARK, ED.D.



"DIA DE LOS MUERTOS"
Room 253

TUESDAY, 10/29/19 - ALTAR VIEWING - 9AM-5PM

WEDNESDAY, 10/30/19- FESTIVITIES - 5PM - 8PM
Join us for a night of food, conversations, theatrical entertainment, altars viewing, dancers, and much more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MONICA REYNOSO (559)925-3704

WEST HILLS COLLEGE LEMOORE

The President's Barbeque Fall 2019

By John Rodriguez

West Hills College Lemoore welcomed students to campus with the annual two-day President's Barbeque. As usual, there was food, entertainment, and socialization. There were many campus clubs and departments present including SPLAAT, MPAC, and the Rhythm & Poetry Club. Students enjoyed hamburgers, chips, and bottled water, which were provided by Vel's Café. To go along with the festivities, there was hip-hop and pop music being played, as well as games students could participate in to earn candy or prizes like school supplies.



David Brooks, WHCL's new full-time art instructor attended the event. When asked about the barbeque, Mr. Brooks responded stating the event served . . .

"to give every student an opportunity to explore clubs on campus."

The event was vibrant because of the WHCL community. This is something that every student should attend.



Some Math By Shawn Jackson

CAN YOU SOLVE IT?

 +  +  = 24

 +  +  = 18

 +  +  = 11

 +  +  ×  = ?

Find the answer on the back page :)

A Letter from the ASG President

Greetings West Hills College Lemoore students and staff! My name is Holly Cassina and I am the Associated Student Government President for the 2019-2020 school year. Since the start of the semester, my team and I have been working diligently to best represent the students at WHCL. With our newly reestablished student government, we are working hard to increase student engagement as well as staff, faculty, and administration involvement in our activities and we are thrilled with the outcomes we have seen so far. With events such as our Welcome Back BBQ and semesterly Dodgeball Tournament, we are striving to revitalize student life at WHCL.



As the Associated Student Government, our main goal is to be the voice for our student population on our campus, in our district, and on a state level through our involvement in Region V. We are excited for every opportunity to serve you and hope to see you all at our upcoming events this semester. Stop by the ASG office in the Student Union for more information about our organization. We hope to see you around soon!

Holly Cassina
Associated Student Government President

Welcoming A New Face: Lester Costa - Paramedic Program Director

By Katie Farrell and Deborah Saad

In August 2019, WHCL opened its doors to welcome Mr. Costa, a new member of its Paramedic Program as the new EMT instructor here on campus. After 27 years of being a paramedic instructor for the America Medical Response Ambulance, he found the enjoyment of training the next generation.

When he is not teaching, Mr. Costa spends as much time as he can with his wife and five children, the oldest 21 and the youngest 14. For leisure, he enjoys barbecuing and coaching his daughter's soft ball team. Additionally, he likes a good book or re-watching The Hobbit or the Star Wars franchise.

You can easily find him in what he dubbed his "cave" also known as room 803, which is located in the same area as the main office room 823 for the EMT program. Their doors are always open for those who are curious about this field of work.

Mr. Costa stated, *"Don't rule out the medical field. Prepare to be committed and dedicated because you will have at least 20 to 24 hours of studies, besides the class time, to receive the experience and training that you will need to become a successful steward of this profession."*



HRCM Department Revamped

By Jane Dustin and Victor Grey

Christian Raia is a thirteen-year instructor for the Hotel Restaurant Casino and Management (HRCM) Department at West Hills College Lemoore. Born in Sicily, Italy, he is the father of four and a thirty-five-year industry veteran. Growing up, Raia and his family immigrated to the United States and moved between Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and eventually settled in the San Joaquin Valley.



Raia comes from generations of instructors and says the original attraction to the profession came as a thought of "what a great job — fire and knives!" Chef Raia enjoyed having the opportunity to travel while obtaining his education as he attended seven junior colleges, three private colleges, three state colleges, and two UC's. He feels as though the industry is "not always calculated" and provided him with a "very successful and beautiful career".

The HRCM department at WHCL has been redesigned to consist of thirty-two courses that are offered in an accelerated quarter system. With this system, one quarter can equate to an entire year of learning, making it possible for the students to obtain their degree in two years.

The Epicurious Club is comprised of students from the HRCM department, is partaking in hospital-ity — based projects on campus such as the annual Dia de Los Muertos celebration at WHCL in collaboration with the Associated Student Government.

The Epicurious Club will provide food for the event to display Hispanic Culinary Culture and its role in the celebration.

Chef Raia and his students are passionate about their industry and their work on the WHCL campus displays the promise that the HRCM department provides for the students' future success.

If you have any questions about the HRCM department or the Epicurious Club, contact Christian Raia.

christianraia@whccd.edu



Christian Raia

Vet Net Ally

By James Chavez



Vet Net Ally is a program designed for service members and veterans striving for an academic future. This program helps support military students by bringing awareness to college faculty and staff, educating them about the needs and concerns of the service members. This movement is educating college faculty on PTSD, triggers, boot camp, war environment, veteran struggles, and better ways to assist the students.

The program was started by Mr. Marshall Thomas of CSU Long Beach. The prime initiative of this program is to support soldiers coming from the battlefield, and help transition them into a classroom environment. By establishing an understanding on military culture and structure, this program gives students a better environment for a more efficient education. The faculty go through a training course. Once completed, they receive a sticker badge that is placed outside their door, or in their office. This lets the students know that the faculty supports them. Like a breath of fresh air, the service member will feel welcomed, accepted, and understood. This program gives the students a reassuring message: "We care about our soldiers. Thank you."

West Hills College Lemoore welcomed this program in 2016. Veteran of the United States Navy, Mrs. Callie Branan, is the program coordinator of Vet Net Ally in West Hills College Lemoore. Mrs. Branan wanted to initialize a way for soldiers to have a better academic experience. By sacrificing her time and showing great passion, she brought this program to the West Hill's campus. Due to the establishment of this program, she is spreading awareness to help soldiers achieve their degrees. "Being a veteran, this program means a lot to me. I want to let these active duty soldiers and veterans know I am here for them. They are not alone." Callie Bryan

Let's Go Clubbing!

By Daisy Rubiano & Gabriella Hernandez

West Hills College Lemoore has been home to various clubs over the years. Here are some brief introductions to some that West Hills currently has to offer:

Go Green: This is a great one to get involved in if you are passionate about making the world a better place! Its main focus is to help promote sustainability and the three I's -- Inspire, Inherent, and Improve, which represent their core values.

Gains: This is one of the newer founded clubs which helps promote health and fitness and also serves as a safe place for those passionate about fitness to come in and encourage each other to push towards their goals.

Business Entrepreneurship: Here prospective student entrepreneurs are supported and are able to build connections and apply business principles into everyday situations. This is also a great opportunity to learn how businesses are started and how you can potentially create your own with the resources around our own community.

In addition to these three, here are some other clubs worth looking into:

- Rhythm and Poetry
- Dream Achievers
- Spirit Counsel
- Students Promoting & Learning Art Appreciation Techniques (S.P.L.A.A.T)
 - Eagle Pantry
 - Educators Rising
- Mission Possible Awareness Club (MPAC)

If you are curious about the other clubs West Hills College Lemoore has to offer, check out the Help Desk at the Student Union for a flyer with information on all that are offered.

How to join: Joining is really simple. All you have to do is contact the advisor. The Student Union's TVs have revolving information on them. Clubs are also found at the President's BBQ and at Club Rush hosted in January. Contact Monica Reynoso at monicareynoso@whccd.edu or at 559-925-3704 for more information.

How YOU can start your own: Gather at least five people with the same interests as you and attend one of the Associated Student Government meetings.

Domestic Violence Awareness

By Ashley Linde and Melissa Murillo



*"Educating the students on what domestic violence is letting them know there is help. This breaks the stigma."
(Tiffani Gonzales WHCL counselor)*

Did you know that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month?

Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain power or control over someone.

Abuse can come in many forms such as economical, emotional, physical, psychological, or sexual. Abusive behaviors are meant to blame, frighten, humiliate, hurt, injure, manipulate, terrorize, or wound someone else.



Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. It happens to couples that are married, dating, or living together. Domestic Violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

Domestic violence has a ripple effect, it does not only affect the people in the relationship. It pours over to friends, family and children that are witnesses to the abuse. It dramatically affects family bonds. Some short term effects on children may include increased crying, bedwetting and thumb sucking during the early years of childhood. Long term effects may include headaches, stomach aches, low self esteem, anxiety, suicidal tendencies, substance abuse, PTSD, etc.

The management of domestic violence requires combined effort with law enforcement, and health care services. The majority of domestic violence cases are not reported due to social stigma. By changing the mindset of society through education, we can get rid of the stigma associated with domestic violence.

We are hoping that WHCL can bring more information about this subject and many others to educate our students in the near future.

If anyone is in need of counseling we have the D.R.A.W. program on campus. Never feel that you are alone in these situations.

The number for The National Domestic Violence Hotline is . . .

1-800-799-7233



Shrimp Ceviche

By Ashley Linde & Melissa Murillo

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds cooked shrimp
- 1 cup red onion chopped
- 1 jalapeno -ribs and seeds removed, then chop
- 1 cup cucumber chopped
- 1 cup roma tomatoes chopped
- 1 cup cilantro chopped
- 1 avocado chopped
- 1 cup lime juice
- 1 cup lemon juice
- 1 cup orange juice

** Salt to taste **

Instructions:

- Place shrimp, avocado, cilantro, cucumber, jalapeno, onion, and tomatoes in a bowl.
- Pour lemon, lime, and orange juice over shrimp mixture
- Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 min before serving
- Serve with tortilla chips

EN-JOY!





Joker Review

Ramiah Jordan

Verdict: 9/10

Joker starring Joaquin Phoenix is the latest adaptation of Batman's most iconic rival after the failure of Jared Leto's take on the character. Does this film deliver and do the Clown Prince of Crime justice? The film follows Arthur Fleck who has a serious mental condition and we watch as he transitions into becoming the Joker. The film masterfully tells a story of man being bullied by society while also diving into his psychology. It's a different take on the character—a beautiful yet horrific story being told.

The production value is also amazing but really is underappreciated. The cinematography masterfully captures the tone of the film as does the production design. They also really nailed the soundtrack and score of the film. Joaquin Phoenix's performance as Arthur Fleck is phenomenal. It's one of the best performances of the year which is why there is a high likelihood he'll at least receive an Oscar nomination for best actor.

Joker is a must see. It's very unique unlike most of the comic book films that we have seen lately and is a breath of fresh air. Joaquin Phoenix not only nailed the Joker, but he rivals Heath Ledger's performance as Joker which many have deemed as the best depiction of the character. This film is truly amazing and lives up to its hype and does exactly what it set out to do which is to start discussions about mental health and reflect on our society.

It: Chapter 2 Review

By Daniel Cancio

Verdict: 7.5/10

Does *It: Chapter 2* live up to the hype of the first film? Here we leave behind the middle school aged Losers Club and meet them again 27 years later. This older Losers Club is made up of a star-studded cast featuring Jessica Chastain, James McAvoy, Bill Hader, Isaiah Mustafa, Jay Ryan, James Ransome, Andy Bean, and Bill Skarsgård as Pennywise the Dancing Clown. The Losers find themselves returning to their hometown of Derry to face off against Pennywise once more.

The cast perfectly portrayed their characters and did their equal parts to give this story a satisfying conclusion. Bill Hader especially excelled in his role as Richie Tozier and stole every scene he was in. The comedy can be hit or miss, but when it hits, the audience is left laughing together.

Unfortunately, this movie has its flaws. There are some pacing issues that occur halfway through the movie where things begin to slow down. Another issue is that *It: Chapter 2* relies more on jumpscare than the first film did. Despite this, there are plenty of scenes that naturally build suspense that leaves you on the edge of your seat.

Is *It: Chapter 2* a good movie? If you were fans of the first film you don't want to miss out on this exciting conclusion. *It: Chapter 2* explores the characters more deeply than in the first film and you learn to sympathize with them. At surface level this is a horror movie, but you'll see this movie is about overcoming trauma, self-acceptance, and personal growth if you take a deeper look.

