

## The Thanksgiving Edition

### The Eagle Has Landed

By Ronald Brazil

October 17, 2013, sometime in the late evening, student Jesslyn Domingo of West Hills College Lemoore experiences a sharp pain in her stomach. Jesslyn is mother to 3-year-old son Aiden, as well as to her unborn child nearing the end of the third trimester. Jesslyn, not new to motherhood, thinks nothing of the pain—she's done this dance before and assumed the agony would be unbearable if and when contractions were to hit. She dismisses the pain as typical pregnancy discomfort—more worried about preparing for Mr. Birrell's math midterm scheduled for the following day.

The morning of Jesslyn's midterm her mother, in an almost foreboding sense, tells Jesslyn that her child would arrive that day. Jesslyn, basing her child's arrival on the doctor's prescribed due date, assumed her mother's instincts were wrong and she headed off to school in preparation of her math midterm. She arrived to campus early to take care of another important art quiz in the campus computer lab and then proceeded somewhat stressed and nerve-wrecked to take the math exam, unaware of what was in her near future.

While traversing to Mr. Birrell's class to take her midterm, Jesslyn had an overwhelming sense of what she could only describe as, "extreme pain." Knowing she wouldn't be able to walk very far she sat on a bench near the student parking lot. She called her mother to inform her of her predicament at which time Jesslyn's water broke. In a clear state of panic, Jesslyn began screaming for help—beckoning to anyone who would be willing to come to her aid.

Luckily, student wrestler Mason Myrick had been walking by as well as Leo Orange from the DSPS lab and noticed young Jesslyn in distress. Leo ran to Wendy Denny the Cal-Works counselor and informed her of the situation and to notify 911. Mason stayed by Jesslyn's side while Leo then ran to retrieve Mr. Freeman,

a nursing instructor on campus. During Leo's absence is when the unthinkable for Jesslyn occurred. Jesslyn, dressed in red and black basketball shorts, gave birth to her child on the campus bench. In a state of panic for her child's safety her motherly instincts immediately kicked in. Jesslyn stated, "I didn't want my baby to fall on the ground, so I scooped him up and wrapped him in my jacket." Mason remained by her side on a cell phone trying to reach a 911 operator. He was then transferred to EMTs who were dispatched to their position. Immediate action needed to be taken to ensure the safety of this new life. No scissors were present and the child was still attached to his mother's umbilical cord. Mason was instructed by the EMTs to remove his shoe string and tie it around the cord until help could arrive. Mason willingly sacrificed the shoe string and allowed Mr. Freeman to use the string to assist in the safety of Jesslyn's newest addition. The two men stayed at Jesslyn's side until the EMTs could arrive. October 18, 2013, 8:05 am, Jesslyn gives birth to beautiful baby boy Landon Domingo, landing in at 7lbs. 14oz., 21 inches long. Once the paramedics arrived Jesslyn and Landon were taken away to Central Valley hospital (continued)

>See **Eagle Landed** on Page 3



JESSLYNN AND BABY LANDON

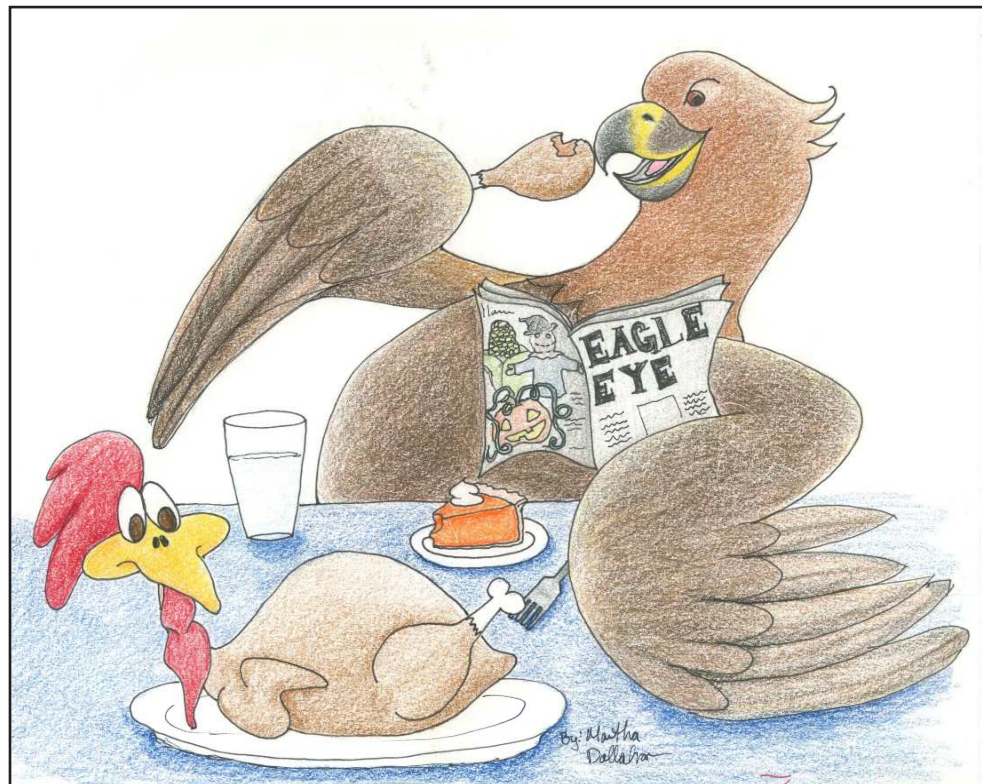
### Rise of the *EagleEye*

By Brittany Burkhart

Some may remember the club-run student newspaper: *The Screamin' Eagle*, the first of its kind on the WHCL campus. But as John Cleese famously said, "And now for something completely different!" Now a class helmed by David Gejeian, stability has been added as well as a talented group of new writers. This class, dubbing themselves "The Gejeagles" (despite Mr. Gejeian's protests), is excited to begin a new tradition on campus!

When asked what got him

excited about having a journalism course on campus, Mr. Gejeian replied, "The reason that I support the journalism class is to give students the opportunity to creatively express themselves in a media that will be read, and something that's a little bit different than just an ordinary paper . . . something that's going to be distributed to the students and the community." This class was available to all students to register for, bringing a wide variety of opinions and writing styles into play. It provides



By Martha Dollahan

### A Letter From the President

By Don Warkentin

We all are extremely excited that our student newspaper is returning. With all of the activities, events and historic achievements that have occurred on our campus over the last ten years, having another means of distributing the news will go a long way in enhancing our esprit de corps for West Hills College Lemoore. Events like the birth of a baby, athletic contests and state championships, business conferences, famous speakers and writers, academic program achievements, and graduations, all need to receive the acknowledgements they are due.

We are proud of the work and success our students, and the *EagleEye* will be a great venue to recognize these achievements. I'm told that in addition to print copies, we will also be able to view editions online through our digital media. By using our new video production class video projects, we will be able to support any electronic requirements that may be used to enhance the quality of our paper. Our Journalism students have great ideas and I am looking for-

students not only the chance to see their work published, but to learn how to create better flow with words and edit their peers' work.

What started out with studying established writers' articles in papers such as *The Fresno Bee*, moved into a creative forum of article ideas and debates.

Every student was involved and excited to be there to lend their voice to what the paper's articles should be, from the cars on campus, to local eateries, unexpected arrivals and events, to the most controversial article this semester: "iPhone vs. Everything else."

One of the best things about taking this course is that the students also have the opportunity to have creative authority, and Mr. Gejeian showed that student opinions mattered by going to bat for them over issues like changing the name. There were some bumps in the road, but under Mr. Gejeian's direction and student management, the newly christened *EagleEye* has a chance to thrive.

Journalism-1/Fall 2013 Student Reporters



## Thankful for Ainsley By Angela Tos

Thanksgiving provides a time to reflect on all the blessings we have in our lives. This year, more than any other, my family has reason to be thankful. Let me share our story with you.

“The genetic test results came back positive. Your daughter has mitochondrial disease. Specifically, she has polymerase gamma (Pol-G).” Three sentences delivered over the phone that should have caused feelings of shock, grief, and a sense of relief that after six years of health issues, there was finally a diagnosis. Instead, these four sentences caused confusion and more questions. What is mitochondrial disease? What is polymerase gamma? How do you even pronounce and spell that?

According to the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, mitochondrial disease is caused by the mitochondria, specialized compartments that are present in every cell of the body except red blood cells. Mitochondria are what create energy and power the cells. They provide more than 90% of the energy for the body. They sustain life and support growth. Mitochondrial disease is the result of mitochondria failure. When mitochondria fail, there is less energy produced in the body. If this occurs repeatedly, the body does not have enough energy to function properly and systems of the body begin to fail. Mitochondrial disease is a fairly recent diagnosis. It was first discovered in 2001. At that time it was discovered that mitochondria have their own DNA. Little is actually known about the disease, however every year through experiments and testing, knowledge of the disease grows exponentially. It is mind boggling to think about how much has been learned in 12 years and how quickly new discoveries are made. What does this disease look like and what does it mean for Ainsley? From her birth, Ainsley exhibited a myriad range of seemingly bizarre and unrelated symptoms. She had difficulty “pinking up” at birth. When she was 8 hours old, the nurse was concerned that she was having heart issues and she was taken to the neonatal intensive care unit for EKG testing, with normal test results. From day three to four months of age her extremities would turn blue for short periods of time. Then, at five months of age, she had a grand mal seizure. Over the course of the next year she developed several different seizure types that were difficult to control with medication. Ainsley presented a conundrum to doctors. She was clearly exhibiting health issues and developmental delays, but all of her test results were negative. Even her seizures were “atypical.” For six years it was a constant back and forth struggle to manage and control her symptoms. Ainsley was on a cycle of adding new or changing current seizure medications.

The change would work for a short time, then she would have a cluster of petit mal seizures or a grand mal seizure and the cycle would repeat.

Then, in March of this year, the unthinkable happened. For no apparent reason, Ainsley experienced acute liver failure. She went from a (mostly) healthy little girl to a critically sick one in less than four weeks. She was hospitalized March 1, 2013 at Children’s Hospital Central California; transferred to Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital (LPCH) at Stanford on March 11; listed for liver transplant on March 15; and transplanted on March 18.

The picture became clear in July of 2013, when Ainsley was formally diagnosed with Pol-G. The genetics team at Stanford decided to test for a mitochondrial disease because Ainsley’s liver failure was caused by a toxic response to Depakote, one of her seizure medications. A study conducted in the United Kingdom found that when Depakote is taken by patients with mitochondrial disease, 100% of the time it results in liver failure. How is this a Thanksgiving story? First, Ainsley survived liver failure. This is actually a huge triumph for her. With mitochondrial disease, spontaneous organ failure is not uncommon. The victory is in how well Ainsley has recovered. Her body has accepted the new organ well. Her new liver is actually functioning better baseline than her own. Also, her genetics specialist is optimistic that Ainsley will do well because she had enough energy to survive both liver failure and the recovery.

Second, Ainsley is receiving the best care available. She was originally transferred to LCPH at Stanford because it has the highest success rates for liver transplant on the West Coast. On the day that Ainsley was listed for transplant, the national liver statistics for 2012 were released and LPCH performed the largest number of transplants with 100% success rates. Because her transplant follow-up and care occurs at Stanford, she was diagnosed by geneticists at Stanford. She is now treated by a geneticist that is considered to be a world expert on mitochondrial disease. He is personally engaged in research focused on the disease.

Finally, our family has been showered with support and encouragement this year. The West Hills Community College District and West Hills College Lemoore campus has demonstrated their support in many ways. We received visitors, emails, cards, letters, and gifts at the hospital from students, faculty, staff and administrators. West Hills College Lemoore sponsored a very successful replacement blood drive in Ainsley’s honor. When I returned to work, the staff from the administration building applauded and lined up to give me hugs and welcome me back (I was not the only one to cry joyful tears). Many from this community have also contributed to Ainsley’s COTA (Children’s Organ Transplant Association) account to assist with the ongoing medical expenses. We feel blessed to be a member of this loving and generous community.

So this Thanksgiving when we sit down to gorge on turkey, potatoes, stuffing, and pie, we will remember

how challenging and how wonderful this year has been. We will focus on the blessings and the day will be more poignant and meaningful because of all we have

overcome. And we will remember and be grateful for the contributions of this community to our lives.



Above: Ainsley Tos

Below: Ainsley and the Tos family on Father’s Day



>EAGLE LANDED  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and placed under 48 hour observation to insure mother and child's well-being due to the nature of the birthing conditions. The *EagleEye* is happy to report they are both doing very well and West Hills' journalism class had the pleasure and opportunity to meet them both. This event has definitely brought the Domingo family some local publicity.

To commend the mother's dedication to furthering education and to commemorate this unprecedented event in West Hills College Lemoore's history, the school president Don Warken-tin, personally informed Jesslyn that Landon would receive a full ride scholarship to West Hills when he reaches the collegiate level. In symbolic irony, baby Landon's birth also marks the rebirth of the West Hills newspaper now coined the *EagleEye*. Just as the phoenix rises from the ashes, we usher in a new beginning for the West Hills journalism team led by David Gejeian and thank baby Landon for being one of our first major stories. We wish him the best as he embarks on his life's endeavors and appreciate Jesslyn's contribution in allowing us to document this event in the *EagleEye's* very first edition.

**To inquire about  
Ad space for  
EagleEye please  
contact  
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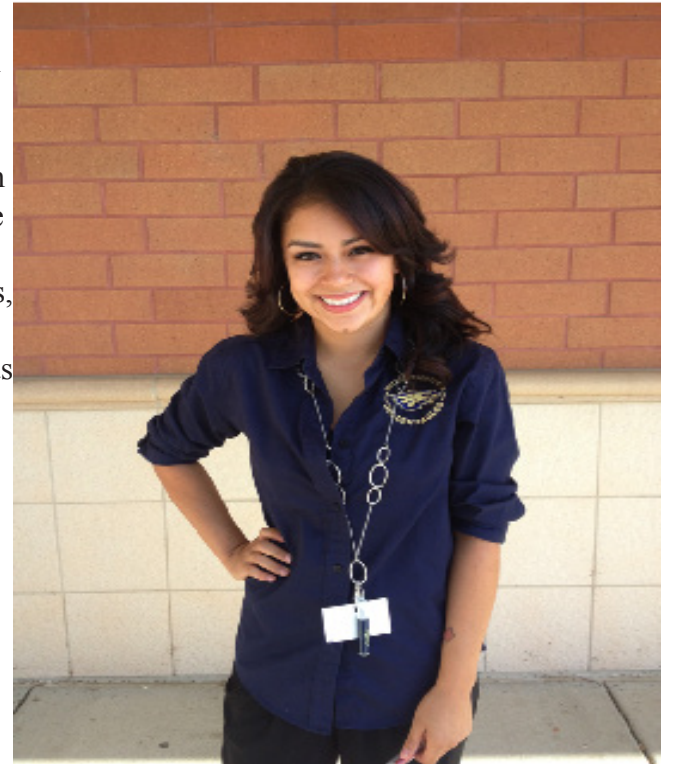
# PEARL JAM: CAN'T FIND A BETTER GIRL

BY STUDENT REPORTERS

West Hills has seen its fair share of bright instructors in the DSPS Lab, but none shine quite as bright as Pearl Gonzalez. Pearl was born and raised in Tulare and gained her AA in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Sociology while attending West Hills College Lemoore. Prior to becoming an instructor in the DSPS lab, Pearl was a student worker in the GED Lab. She already had experience with the West Hills staff from playing soccer and as a student worker on campus, aiding her in achieving her new position in the DSPS lab. Since becoming a part of West Hills four years ago, Pearl has become a key component to the success of students.

The DSPS lab, also known as the Disabled Students Program and Services lab, is a place to help students with physical or intellectual disabilities. As a DSPS instructor, Pearl takes on clerical duties such as phone calls and helping with school events. However, along with her typical duties, Pearl also goes above and beyond to help students with anything she can. Whether it is educational or personal problems, Pearl always tries to help. After being asked what the most rewarding part of her job was, Ms. Gonzalez replied: "I guess it's making a difference in the students that I help, after I help them just the relief on their face about making things just a little bit easier for them." In fact helping students is Pearl's favorite part of her job. Driving students to tests or simply just being someone to talk to, is just one of the few ways Pearl services students. She loves how rewarding it is making a difference in someone's life.

Due to unexpected circumstances, West Hills has been home to Pearl Gonzalez for the last four years. Ms. Gonzalez does not regret the educational choices she has made and loves not only her coworkers but West Hills itself. She appreciates the friendly atmosphere and that God is present in everything she does on campus. In the future she would love to see the DSPS lab move to a bigger location with better technology because it is constantly growing. Pearl may love working at West Hills, but she is looking towards a bright future which includes transferring to the University of Texas. Her dream job is to be a trainer and work with athletes. West Hills was never a part of Pearl's original plan but she is very thankful that it became a part of her future. Pearl states that her most important advice and personal philosophy is that if you're handed a great opportunity, then run with it. Ms. Gonzalez is living proof that if you put in hard work, determination, and focused attention, you can achieve your dreams.



Pearl Gonzalez



Pearl Gonzalez celebrating Halloween in the DSPS Lab

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Comprehensive Excellence Through the Generations

# THE MORGUE: FORGOTTEN HISTORY

BY STUDENT REPORTERS

PHOTO BY NICK STEWART



Can you imagine a school that has its own mortuary? Although, it's not what you would imagine a regular morgue to be—the Morgue of West Hills College Lemoore is here to preserve history, rather than decorate corpses. We've all heard the expression, "What's dead should stay dead." However, the Morgue is all about resurrecting the history of our communal culture through our newspapers. The Morgue is a heavy source of historical information that many can use to research events which have either vanished or been forgotten. It's objective is to archive history and preserve the information for past and future comings.

Also known as the Archives, the Morgue was established during the opening of the 2002 West Hills College Lemoore campus. It was not until December of 2012 that vintage newspapers such as Lemoore Advance, News Herald, Kettleman City Oil News, and our well known Hanford Sentinel, donated all their previous newspapers dating back to the 1890s. Many of the old newspapers are held together inside an enormous book to prevent future decay. We were instructed to always wear the latex gloves when dealing with the material, for it may cause oil marks on the papers.

Ron Oxford, the campus librarian, was kind enough to give us a tour. He explained many interesting facts about the Morgue. We asked him questions such as "What is the most interesting piece of news that you have?" He replied with, "It's not a matter of what is the most interesting . . . it's what interests you the most." In other words, it is only a matter of personal preference that can depict what is interesting and what is not. He also shared that a couple from Oregon, who had visited the Lemoore campus, stopped by the Morgue for matters of personal interest. They claimed to have had a great grandfather who was a previous mayor of Lemoore and wanted to take a look at the old newspapers that were dated back to his time in politics.

Few know about this room and what it's used for. According to Oxford, when asked about the importance of the Morgue and its relationship to our history, he stated, "Ten to fifteen years from now, we will be able to look back . . . and without it, I think we would be lost and it is important not to lose that." Most students on this campus are unaware of these historical artifacts. Depending on what topic is being researched, this historical venue can be remarkably resourceful. You can actually take a tangible artifact and read what was said of the media in that era. For those who may be researching about past family members or major events, this room can be very effective in hard copy information. Rather than simply using a search engine, it becomes a much more personal experience, allowing us to hold a piece of history. So, if you're interested in looking into your roots, or just simply curious—stop by the Morgue. Time stops for no one, but one can always stop for time.



Top Photo By Nick Stewart - Bottom & Right photos by David Gejeian



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HILLS COLLEGE LEMOORE. COME VISIT  
US IN THE LIBRARY. WE ARE LOCATED IN  
ROOM 459

# The Vineyard Restaurant

BY STUDENT REPORTERS

Want to relax in an atmosphere conducive to your sanity, but are tired of the same old scene at the packed and mass produced Applebee's or Chili's? Well, as soon as you open the door to The Vineyard Restaurant located on the Houston and D street exit, not only are you greeted warmly by Lucy and her two children, Stephanie and Joe, but also by the tantalizing aroma of some of the best food and wine in the Valley. What makes this local favorite shine is not just the amazing mural devoted to our servicemen and women by Stratford artist Chris Cooper, or the symbiotic relationship between the restaurant and local vineyards, but the atmosphere that creates the impression that every customer, new or old, is a member of the Vineyard's family.

Lucy and her late husband Bruce had always been involved in the restaurant business in some capacity before purchasing The Vineyard in 1996. The restaurant had been a local fixture since 1988, and out of respect to its customers and traditions they kept much the same, including the name and the beautiful wall mural. Their children, who were practically raised in the restaurant, now help run the restaurant after the tragic passing of the family's patriarch. Their son Joe, had left the state with a baseball scholarship to Eastern New Mexico, but came back to take over his father's role, while daughter Stephanie has been an integral part of the restaurant's continued success and growth. When asked what sets The Vineyard apart from other local restaurants, Lucy replied, "We are unique and just better all the way! We keep a clean restaurant and the food is always fresh and cooked when ordered!" The Vineyard also shows their dedication to their customers by offering senior, military, and police discounts, tithing 10% of their profits on the first Sunday of every month, and allows every customer the opportunity to suggest new menu items.



Now let's talk menu. It is extensive at seven pages, and possibly the largest menu in King's County! The deceptively simple comfort food is made with locally sourced produce, and works in tandem with the warm décor to create a comfortable atmosphere you just won't want to leave! All of their sauces and dressings are made from scratch in-house, making you wish they were bottling it. They have daily specials that will tempt even the pickiest eater, including the ever popular 4oz steak and shrimp, prime rib, and clam chowder. And for dessert, why not try a piece of their homemade fudge that you may remember from the old Leoni Pharmacy?

Of course, you can't talk about The Vineyard without discussing their wines. A bar was put in about three years ago to accommodate patrons of the local hotels. The Farmer's Fury Merlot is the local favorite, but there are a total of twelve varieties from Valley Wineries including Copper Ridge, Cypress, Cardella, and Farmer's Fury. Aside from wines, they also offer happy hour and brunch favorites such as mimosas, margaritas, and blood mary's.

Their location inbetween two hotels has inspired some future changes the community can get excited about! There are plans to expand the back patio to allow for live jazz to serenade the diners and to remodel different areas of the restaurant to create an even more relaxed atmosphere. Joe has even implemented the first of planned community programs, such as children's t-shirts, while when purchased, allows the wearer one year free meals with an accompanying adult purchase. The proceeds of this shirt are going back to the community as a charitable donation.

So mosey on over and take a load off at The Vineyard, because sometimes when taking the road less traveled, a chance stop along the way might just become your future destination. For more information about menu items and promotions, The Vineyard can be contacted at either their Lemoore location or on their website at [www.thevineyardle-moore.com](http://www.thevineyardle-moore.com)



## Better than a Pumpkin Pie

### Pumpkin Crunch - By #TulaksTable

- 1 - 15oz can pure pumpkin puree
- 1 - 12oz can evaporated milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup white sugar
- 4 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- TOPPING:
- 1 package yellow cake mix
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup melted butter

#### Cooking Directions :

-Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees (F).

Mix well the first seven ingredients listed and pour into a well greased 9x13 dish, then gently sprinkle cake mix on top. Add chopped pecans and drizzle melted butter over mix.

Place in oven for 65-75 minutes or until golden brown. Cover halfway through cooking with foil to prevent pecans from burning.

Serve with whipped topping. Enjoy!

# THE EAGLE PANTRY

BY WENDY TETRAULT

The driving force behind any venture offering help to others can be traced back to pivotal events in the lives of those involved. The establishment of the Eagle Pantry Club on West Hills campus is no exception. In their mission statement the purpose of the Eagle Pantry Club is to prevent food waste and hunger by providing food and nutrition to West Hills College Lemoore students and their families through community partnerships while building a volunteer spirit among the student body. In a recent meeting with President Don Warkentin and Vice President Sylvia Dorsey Robinson, several students drew vivid pictures from personal experience to underline the need for a food pantry, serving the needs of students on campus. During the presentation one student stepped forward, shifted his feet nervously, then made eye contact as he spoke. "I'm a younger child from a single parent household" he stated. "My earliest memories are of my mother removing food from her plate to ensure that none of her children went to bed hungry." The next speaker recounted that she had begun college in 1987 as a mother of five seeking an education to give her children a better future. The dream lasted only one semester as it became apparent that without that second income she could not afford to both pay the bills and buy groceries. This semester at age 52, now back in college, she wants to ensure that other mothers don't have to choose between an education and feeding their children. A young veteran and single father spoke earnestly admitting that he often arrived to classes having only a black cup of coffee because it was more important that his child have breakfast than himself. Trying to concentrate on his studies and doing well, a frustrating task already, his mind focused on what he would serve his son for dinner.



These are just a few of the people who have banded together to form the Eagle Pantry Club which in partnership with the Food Recovery Network, a nationwide organization with chapters at colleges across the country, redistributes food donations from local merchants that would otherwise become waste in our nation's landfills. The idea is that by showing a West Hills student ID on predetermined distribution dates the student would be given a box of nutritious food. Any surplus will be donated to Lemoore Stable House, a local shelter. This concept has been well received by local merchants such as the Commissary at Lemoore Naval Air Station, Fresh & Easy, and Tos Farms. The projected first distribution date will be in November before the Thanksgiving holiday. Those wishing to donate, join the club, or seeking more information can contact club President Kimberly Raulino or attend a Friday meeting on campus in room 209 at 11am. Come make a difference!

**Would you like to write for EagleEye?**

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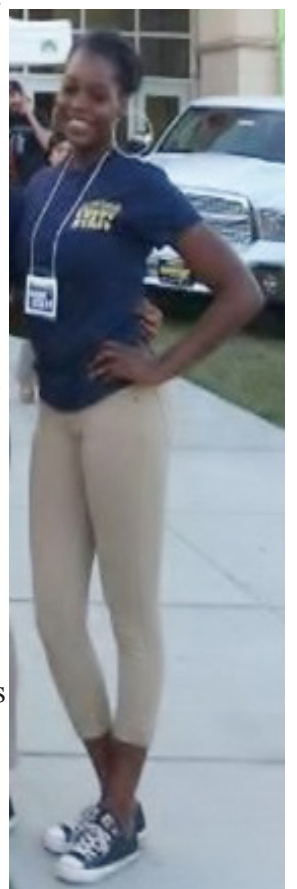
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## 1 on 1 With Jayla By Student Reporters

Jayla English, a freshman here at West Hills College Lemoore, plays center for the women's college basketball team. After she completes her two years at West Hills, she would like to move out of California and transfer to Alabama State University, which has a division two basketball team. Jayla attended Hanford West High School where her stats were an average of 17 points and 19 rebounds per game. She also holds the record for all-time leading scorer with a total of 1,560 points overall. Her senior year at Hanford West, she went on to win the Valley Championship. She stated, "We all got a ring . . . it was very exciting."

Jayla has high hopes of receiving a scholarship to help her with her dream of attending Alabama State, which remains her first choice. However, she mentioned that she would be open to attend any school where she could receive a scholarship. Aside from basketball, Jayla also has other goals for her future. She plans to major in sports medicine or become a high school coach for the sport she loves. "Who knows what will happen . . . I just know that basketball is my main priority."

JAYLA ENGLISH



# THE RIDES OF WEST HILLS

By Student Reporters

One glance at the West Hills parking lot can make you feel as though you've landed in a car show or perhaps a dealership. The West Hills College Lemoore parking lot has a variety of cars and trucks from the slammed society, to the fire breathing V8's, to the lifted trucks. While most of the car owners will remain a mystery, we wanted to find out what we could about how students feel about their rides.

At first, it seemed like it would be simple to get information. However, this was not the case. A majority of students that we approached had planned their arrival to campus just in time to make it to class. We were able to interview a handful of students to find out what they had to say about what they drove, and we found there are three types of people. The first, those whose parents bought them cars, secondly, people who purchased their own car, and thirdly, those who had borrowed their cars. Some owners marched to the well-known stereotypes of the car world and some were rebels. As we made our way through the parking lot each morning, we came to find that the majority broke the stereotypes.

Stereotypes of vehicles are generally the same, such as when we interviewed Casey Shandor. The few questions we asked made those stereotypical thoughts more realistic. When asked what she drove she said, "My mom's minivan." When asked what her dream car is, she responded, "A Lexus." Now when she responded with that the type of image, Casey automatically brought up the thought of her driving a Lexus or any type of European car—Mercedes, BMW, Audi. In the next set of questions she made the stereotypical thoughts more realistic than previously believed. We talked about the type of people who drive lifted trucks, "Someone who is just trying to show off . . . which there's nothing wrong with. Just make sure you know how to drive." When asked about someone driving a new style Camaro, she stated, "Someone with money wanting to show it off." When it came to the more classic Camaros she said, "Someone who isn't wanting to show off . . . someone who is into their car." After that, the subject shifted to tuners, or rice burners so to speak. She reflected on these types of cars by stating, "All they care about is their cars." Lastly when asked about a typical car such as a Toyota Camry or a Honda Civic she said, "Just a typical college student using a gas saver." After all that she was asked how her mom's minivan made her feel and she replied with positivity, "It makes me feel happy that I actually have something to drive. Every vehicle in the West Hills parking lot has a story. Some cars were a gift, and some were hard earned dream cars. When people talk about their passion for their cars and trucks, they mention dependability, time spent maintaining, and the freedom that comes from having that set of keys.



## iPhone Vs. Everything Else

By Student Reporters



The iPhone is one of the top selling devices in the world. The Apple icon symbolizes the smartphone's popularity—a phone that is widely recognized and hard to compete with. However, many people find themselves with strong opinions of whether or not they choose to use the iPhone. Apple users tend to be very loyal to their device, while those who chose other phones, such as the Android, or even simpler and less common phones seem to have strong reasons as to why they would not use an iPhone.

Through research conducted at West Hills College Lemoore, of 30 students surveyed, only three did not have the iPhone. This shows a lot about the status of the phone. The abilities offered by the phone make it a well-known choice for those whose lifestyles put the phone's features to good use. Some students explained why they are fans of the iMessaging capability between other iPhone users. Others like the software—especially the latest iOS7. The design is really simple for such a complex phone and the speed is hard to compete with. IOS, the foundation of the iPhone, comes with a variety of applications that help make everyday life simpler. However, the iPhone isn't limited to "simple" tasks. Many users of the iPhone purchase it to help with the more complicated things in life—like business apps and language translators.

Tegan Turner, an animal science major here at West Hills College Lemoore, was very honest with her reason for purchasing the phone, "I bought it because it was popular." She feels the iPhone is overpriced and not worth the money for what it has to offer. "I would much rather have bought the Galaxy" (made by Samsung). The newest iPhones out now, the 5s and 5c, range from \$99-\$399 depending on the storage and contract. Some thought that the phone lacked originality in its design and would rather have a phone with more features. The customization ability of the Android system seems to be the iPhones' greatest competition, however many believe that the Android has a low battery life and sluggish operating system. Users choose the iPhone because it fits into their daily lives. Whether it is due to wanting a popular phone or actually utilizing what the device has to offer, the iPhone has marked itself as a top seller in the mobile phone industry. The battle between Apple products and "everything else" can't be solved, but in the end our popularity does not depend on whether or not we have the right kind of cell phone.

# A VISIT FROM JANE PORTER

By Brittany Burkhart & Wendy Tetrault

Home-grown, 4-time RITA nominee for romance novelists, mother, and one of the most genuinely engaging women you will ever meet. This powerhouse of an author has successfully published over 44 novels before the age of 50, with such titles as *Flirting with Forty* (a story recently picked up by the Lifetime Movie Network), and *The Good Wife*, and she has a message for every aspiring novelist: Follow your passion, honor your imagination, and don't let anyone set limits for you. Speaking from her own experience with the challenges of the publishing industry, she made it clear that even though the results might not always be equal to your effort, don't get discouraged. Every "No" is just one step closer to that life-changing "yes!"

Ms. Porter has written since her elementary school days. She recalled always being gently guided by her scholarly father, a College of the Sequoias professor, Mayor of Visalia, and amateur writer himself. Her mother, though also academically inclined, was a student of the rational, always attempting to sway Jane into a more fiscally stable profession than writing. After a tragic heart attack tore her father from his family at the age of 43, it was up to the then, teenaged Jane to sort through his boxes of unfinished manuscripts. Though heartbreaking, this was the gentle nudge that Jane required to focus seriously on her studies and future career, with the hopes of one day completing her father's Nuremberg war trial manuscripts among others.

Majoring in English, Jane submitted her very first completed manuscript her sophomore year at UCLA. Rather than wallowing in the crushing disappointment of rejection, she saw completing her education as an opportunity to open up a world of career choices. After obtaining her degree and teaching certificates, she accepted a position teaching junior and senior high school English and History. It was actually her students who rekindled her passion for the written word, encouraging her to follow her heart and write, not for the glory of success, or the positive response of critics, but for herself. Her father may have been focused on historical non-fiction, and writing may not be the most lucrative business (as well as being a source of major contention between herself and her mother), but as Jane put it, "somewhere between mom and dad, Jane Porter had to be someone." She realized that even though she would always cherish the memory of her father and the guidance he provided her, he wouldn't want her to spend her future writing about his dream. She had to let go, and find her own path.

How did she end up writing romance you might ask? Well, surprisingly, it found her! It was an easy way to pay the bills and she unexpectedly grew to love the genre. This was not to say that writing did not come without its challenges. Ms. Porter showed phenomenal dedication to her craft. It actually took 15 years to sell just one of 14 completed manuscripts to a publishing house! She wants future authors to know that following your dreams is not without its risks. There is no financial security for authors, no way to call in sick or have someone else pick up the slack. It can also cause physical wear and tear. Ms. Porter actually suffered from severe repetitive stress nerve damage. She could not type for nearly 3 months, and was told that she may never be able to physically write again. It was only her abiding love for her craft and with intensive physical therapy that she was finally able to slowly get back into action. It was touching that although she had sustained an injury that could keep her from one love of her life; it opened her eyes to truly appreciate two of her biggest inspirations, her children. She used her injury as a blessing to dial back her life and focus on her loved ones, something that writing did not always allow her time to do. It has also opened up her schedule to devote time to other projects, such as becoming an integral part of the revitalization of the indie publishing world, coaching aspiring authors, and supporting her sons no matter where their own dreams may take them.



Photos by Dennis Gallegos

When talking about advice for would-be writers, her tips are genuine and lack the condescension one might expect from such a widely recognized author. She made clear that there is no magical formula for a successful plot. As she put it best, "Writing is like driving without any maps, without any road signs. Let it take you along for the ride, and the ending might just surprise you." Even if you think you know how your story is going to end, be prepared to be flexible. Jane actually re-wrote her last book *The Good Wife* over and over again; ultimately missing three deadlines. She ended up with such loathing for her original ending that she scrapped everything from page 65 on and re-wrote the ending that finally spoke to her. That's not to say that you shouldn't be as prepared as possible. Ms. Porter is a staunch supporter of the storyboard, ripping images out of magazines and creating an organized chaos of character references. She's been known to use (and talk to) pictures of pop-culture characters such as Chris Hemsworth's Thor, or Spartacus, morphing them from their traditional identities into something purely her own. Be creative and research even the smallest scenes into minute detail. The more comfortable you get in your character's world, the easier it will be for the reader to fall into it with them. Her biggest asset might just surprise you. It turns out that Pinterest isn't just for Martha Stewart wannabes anymore. If you lack the space for a physical storyboard and character reference, just pin them to your boards and refer back as needed!

Jane Porter's success and insight into the female mind led to the president of NBC requesting first copies of any and all new works, contract offers from all sides, and even a job proposal from the FBI! But in the well publicized chaos and uncertainty of traditional publishing in the wake of new internet staples such as Amazon.com undercutting the profit margins of the massive publishing and media conglomerates, Jane Porter wants a fresh beginning. A start away from the ever-present threats of return to obscurity by the publishing giants demanding stories churned out faster than quality and intellectual integrity can possibly keep up with. Enter Tule Publishing.

Tule Publishing (pronounced too-lee) was the answer to her needs. By creating this independent publishing house, it helped her to open doors not only for her own creative freedom, but to center on what she considers to be the staple of successful writing; focusing on strong and meaningful plot structure, spacing, critical writing, and to grow and strengthen emotionally, while the name reminds her of her small-town roots. It allows her the time to travel and lecture, getting back to her professorial heredity, and put together the inspiration for her next work. Last but not least, it will allow her the time to focus on her biggest fans, her family. Speaking of family, the next time an anecdote seems too comical to possibly be true, know that her greatest inspiration comes from her own son's shenanigans.

The main point aspiring writers can come away with from this phenomenal woman is this: You can be a good writer, or even be technically flawless; but you'll never write your best and touch people until you're emotionally strong enough to reach your depths and write for yourself. It will be terrifying and exhilarating, but until you know yourself and how far you're willing to go for your dreams, how much you would be willing to sacrifice, and then go for it, you will never be the silencing hush to every voice who said you couldn't. In Jane's case, it was outgrowing the restraints of familial expectations to find her passion and honor her imagination, but what will it be for you?