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Campus Landmark Destroyed

A greenhouse building which was constructed in 1972 was burned to the ground as a result of an automobile accident on the highway above the campus. A car left the road and crashed into a tree, exploding, and setting the building on fire.

The original use of the building was as a teaching facility for the Horticulture and Ag students. It was a state-of-the-art facility which was abandoned in the mid-1980s and was re-opened in 1988 when PC teamed with the Tulare County Office of Education to provide a training facility for college-age students with developmental disabilities. Since that time, under the direction of Tom Cemo, the program has produced some outstanding results in the area of vocational training for the students.

Cemo said he was devastated by the destruction of the building, but he said that the

program will continue as the students work in the area east of the building where they create and produce professional-grade items such as concrete benches, bird baths, pots, planters, statues, decorative stepping stones, animal figures and other interesting products. The students learn to prepare molds, mix cement, pour molds, and other facets of production. They also are visible on campus helping in other ways, such as with Maintenance and Operations ground crews and in the cafeteria. The plants and trees they grow in the greenhouse are often used to help decorate for special events on campus.

The greenhouse served as the focal point for growing house plants, trees, and outdoor plants. Each plant is given care and individual attention. The plants and garden art items are made available for sale on occasion, and

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Lady Pirates Reach New Heights



Above, left to right, are Jessica Hernandez, Olga Velasquez, Laura Lopez. Below, the volleyball team practices.



It has been a long time since a PC volleyball team was ranked among the top teams in the state, but in an amazing transformation from last year's team, which placed last in the conference, second-year coach Dale Henderson's team has been ranked #13 in the Northern California Coaches Association poll. The team racked up a consecutive sweep (3-0) of wins over Hartnell, Allen Hancock and San Jose in their early season schedule.

"The ranking is great recognition for our program. It is still early in the season, but this is another reason for our players to keep working hard. Our goal is to continue our momentum, and gear up for the conference season," Henderson said.

The CVC race started Oct. 1 with a home game. The roster is made up of Laura Lopez of Tulare; Nansi Reyes and Olga Velasquez of Arvin; Jessica Hernandez and Sarah Jimenez of Delano; Gabby Pino of Los Lomas, New Mexico; Kirbi Rivas of Monache; Sylvia Ramirez of Granite Hills; Deidra Dale, Rachel Harrison, and Shannon Garcia of Shiprock, New Mexico; and Jennifer Gliddon of Las Vegas.



Greenhouse destroyed in fire

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the facility has often been a favorite visiting point for the city's Garden Club tour. The fire caused all of the garden art objects to fall and break.

Tom started the program and is proud of the fact that his students have been so warmly accepted as part of the college by everyone. That is one of his goals in helping train them to be highly employable. Over 200 students have graduated from this program. Here's hoping a replacement for the greenhouse can be built quickly so the program can continue with full facilities.

As Tom said, "With a 200 foot water hose and lots of extension cords, we are back in business, and our great PC staff and students have volunteered numerous items to help. ASB students are even bringing my students treats to eat. This is a great campus and we are proud to be part of it."

POPCORN AND PHILOSOPHY

What do popcorn and philosophy have in common?

Each Tuesday Dave Kavern, PC's women's basketball coach, sends out an e-mail with a philosophical saying ... and follows it with an advertisement for the popcorn and soda business he runs out of the concession stand in the gym.

He raises money for the athletic department to use for such things as travel expenses for summer league games and other needs coaches have. He cooks the popcorn and dispenses Pepsi to people on campus and his business has raised a balance of about \$500 at the last count.

An example of his prose is: "It's not what happens to you in life ... it's what you do about it."



Orientation held for PC Athletes

A new format was used for the orientation program for all athletes this year, held as two one-hour sessions over a two day period. Nine speakers appeared to inform them of the many services and programs that are available to them on campus. They were welcomed by President Rosa Carlson and the speakers' topics included financial aid, admissions and records, counseling, computer lab use, eligibility requirements and a captain from the local police department.

Each athlete was given a handbook, which contains information on what is expected of them while students at PC. A code of conduct document was also included and athletes were required to sign contracts that they would abide by the rules of the college and the coaches.

Following the final session, the athletes were treated to a barbecue cookout, as is described in the article below by one of our students, Sabrina Ziegler, who is a regular contributor to The Porterville Recorder.



Who says Porterville College can't have the same amount of school spirit as the universities?

No one, according to PC's new, full-time Athletics and Activities Director Eric Mendoza. That is why he and the Associated Students of PC kicked off the fall 2008 semester with a "welcome back" barbecue after the orientation for the athletes.

"This is just going to show what is going to happen in the future," Mendoza said.

Freshman and sophomore athletes on the baseball, softball, volleyball and women's and men's basketball teams were invited to the campus, with their coaches, for an afternoon of feasting and socializing. The event — a first in PC history, according to a couple of coaches — involved preparation and planning by the ASPC.

This semester Mendoza is launching PC's first Student Athletic Advisory Council. Three players from each team, who are elected to leadership positions, meet every two weeks and work to promote PC sports and student involvement on campus.

The council will collaborate with ASPC to make signs and hold events throughout the year.

"I want them to be



the most visible and influential club on campus," Mendoza said.

The universities are required, by the NCAA, to have the council on their campuses. The new council will have the same responsibilities and influence, he said.

Head baseball coach Del Marine said he is excited about the new council. He seemed to be most appreciative of the barbecue — a preview, he said, of the support he expects this year for the athletes.

"I'm hopeful that we can do more things and especially with events like this.

This definitely goes a long way in bringing [ASPC and the Athletics Department] together," Marine said.



Clockwise from top: Students sit in on the athletic orientation, after which coaches Greg Lanthier and Dave Kavern serve up barbecue to lined-up students. Reporter Sabrina Ziegler talks to softball player Kasey Nichols and softball coach Vicki Dugan during the barbecue.

Athletic Director Hosts Weekly Radio Show

Porterville College's new athletic director, Eric Mendoza, is hosting a weekly radio program featuring local high school and college coaches. It goes on the air "live" each Friday at one o'clock from the Brickhouse Restaurant in downtown Porterville. He features a different school each week and allows them to promote their upcoming game and review the previous one. The show is broadcast on 96.1 FM, Sporting News Radio. It is another in a list of outreach programs to the community by Porterville College. A regular guest is Jim Crichlow, CIF commissioner, and former coach and athletic director at Monache. Porterville Recorder sports editor, Sam Robinson and his assistant editor, Jason Peterson, are also regular guest commentators.

Another media outreach is done each week when PC has the halftime feature to fill on the radio broadcasts of the high school football game of the week on KTIP 1450 radio. That segment is used to interview PC coaches, administrators, and athletes about their teams and programs on campus.



Constitution Day Observed with Guest Speaker

A filled theater greeted guest speaker Gregory Gillett as he helped commemorate Constitution Day on the Porterville College campus. The Cultural and Historical Awareness Program (C.H.A.P.) sponsored the appearance of the former PC student, who received his bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego, and then his juris doctorate from the University of California, Davis School of Law. He is currently a candidate for a Doctorate of Education from the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education.

He is active in the community as a member



Gregory Gillett is pictured with Jeff Keele, Division Chair of the Social Sciences department, which co-presented the event with C.H.A.P.

of the Porterville Unified School District Board of Trustees, president of the local Rotary Club and chairman of El Futuro Credit Union. He is a member of the California Bar Association and

specializes in the areas of family, school, and contract law.

Gillett told the audience, mostly students, that the subject of his presentation "Torture, Terrorism and the U.S. Constitu-

tion," is a very controversial issue. He said that we need to respect other people's ideas and beliefs, and he pointed out several times in his PowerPoint presentation that, according to the Constitution, torture is illegal. However, the United States is currently fighting a war on terror, and there are varying opinions on what constitutes torture in extracting information from captives that would help win that war.

His concluding remark was the most important one: "We could not be having this discussion if we did not have the Constitution that was written some 200 years ago."