Women’s March for equality in Bakersfield

By Haley Duval
Photo Editor

Thousands of women and allies came together at Mill Creek Park in downtown Bakersfield to participate in this year’s Women’s March on Jan. 19.

The first worldwide Women’s March was held the day after President Donald Trump’s inauguration in 2017.

“This march is a global organization that advocates for addressing social issues, ending violence against women, labor rights, LGBTQ rights, along with many more causes.”

This year’s theme was Truth to Power.

“White mainstream feminism has never included women of color. As a result of that, we are often the back-stab stand upon while white women fight for their rights, at the sacrifice of ours,” said local business owner Faheemah Salah-Din.

“Traditionally, Bakersfield is a place where women of color don’t have a voice much less a sit at the table so we have to fight,” Salah-Din continued.

“If black women don’t have rights… If Muslim women don’t have rights… no one has rights. I invite you, my white sisters, to stand with us on issues that have nothing to do with us, but stand on them because they are right.”

Various signs were carried at the march, some including pro-DACA, “feminism without intersectionality is white supremacy.”

She wanted to show her support to include people of color and the gay community in her feminism because she felt many feminists failed to do so.

The march was designed to inspire, and everyone who participated had their own reasons to march.

Ana Reyes, a student at Bakersfield College came out to the march to have a voice for minorities who are afraid to stand up for themselves.

Cameron Chow Garcia and his mother Arjanse Chow, with the Chalon Indian Council of Bakersfield, marched to represent all the missing and murdered Indigenous women.

“To me, this march means the beginning of something that can be much greater and the stepping stones to a more versatile and solidarity-based movement, and hope to oppose all forms of oppression and marginalization in our community and across the United States,” said Garcia.

The chant heard the most throughout the march was “Arriba la mujer,” which translates to up with women.

BC breaks ground for new building

By Taylor Jensen
Editor-in-Chief

Construction and demolition has been heard all throughout the campus as Bakersfield College readies for a new and improved Campus Center.

Construction and exiting the active construction, Safety offices, Baker damaged and fenced off, Bakersfield is a place where women of color don’t have a voice much less a sit at the table so we have to fight,” Salah-Din continued.

“The modernized Campus Center will demonstrate spaces for student government, new food court, and courtyard will encourage a campus sense of community and interaction among students and faculty,” Harp said.

“The scene of a demolished Campus Center. Students can expect a three-story building in 2020.”

The scene of a demolished Campus Center. Students can expect a three-story building in 2020.

TAYLOR JENSEN/ THE RIP

By Camila LaRosa
Assistant News Editor

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The Catalyst Grant provides security for undocumented college students

By Katalina Quintanilla
Editor-in-Chief

Bakersfield College was one of many community colleges that received the Catalyst Grant in December 2018 for $115,000 that will benefit undocumented students attending the college.

The California Campus Catalyst is a group of funders, advocates and educators that provide ambition to undocumented students living in California. These leaders help students and their families feel secure in their homes and help them navigate their lives around the US system.

A team of BC staff, faculty, administrators, and students attended the Catalyst Conference in Long Beach, Calif. in early January. It was a two-day conference that empowered undocumented college students from across California.

Thirty-two institutions of higher ed. in CA were selected as recipients of the Catalyst Fund, a competitive grant process whose funds are designed to provide direct student services and support for undocumented students. Each of the 32 institutions selected two student leaders to attend the Convening; these students are now identified as Catalyst Student Fellows.

Everyone engaged in a set of workshops and presentations that allowed all attendees to learn, share questions, and gain best practices. The goal for the convening was to build and strengthen a community across Catalyst Fund campus partners and to participate in monthly webinars and will complete questionnaires, and they will write a two to three-page reflection on their experience at the end of spring semester.

“I realized that our undocumented population isn’t, dominated by only Latino community but we should acknowledge everyone else,” Diaz continues. “The grant will personally benefit not only me but the school because we’ll be able to create new things for incoming undocumented students.”

There are plans for creating a dreams success center for undocumented students to help with their education at BC.

BC Renegade Shuttle provides free transportation between campuses

By Laura Lanfray
Feature Editor

For students who might need rides between campuses, Bakersfield College has partnered once again with Executive Express to provide free rides to students attending across different campuses. The shuttle service was introduced last fall as a way to provide transportation for students, like I said especially, to begin their semester. As Bakersfield College has expanded to the Southwest campus, it was important to both President Christian and Mr. Thomas that the Renegade Express Shuttle tie the two campuses together, Baker explained.

For Esra Shumway, a Bakersfield College student who lives by the southwest campus, the Renegade Shuttle has been helpful so far in helping her get from the Southwest Campus to the Panorama campus. “Last semester I had one class on each campus, Weill Institute, and SouthWest and up here. Talk about shuffling cards... last semester I also had a car, but because of a disability I now have to take the bus... I think it should be a normal program because there are too many people that have disabilities here,” Shumway said.

Shumway further explained how the Shuttle program has helped people who ride the GET buses, which cost even those with disabilities here, “I think it should be a regular thing for those who need it, and maybe even age,” Shumway said.

“People with disabilities need something on their side, this is a great program,” she continued.

According to Baker, the services are only scheduled to run for the duration of the spring.

“At this time, the shuttle will only continue for the current semester but we will reevaluate at the end of the semester.”

The lifeline of students who ride the shuttle show a fair amount of use from the fall semester. This semester the numbers are also being tracked, possibly for future reference for the evaluation.

“We have been tracking the numbers and found that 2,026 students used the shuttle for the fall semester. These numbers might show a duplicated head-count as we are unable to track each individual student.” Baker explained.

The shuttle runs every Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The only exceptions are holidays, during which the shuttle will not run.

The Renegade shuttle waits for riders outside of the administration building at the Bakersfield College Panorama campus.
Measure J progresses

By Hilario Gomez

The Campus Center is next in a long list of renovations funded by Measure J and for services was moved from their all too familiar spot within it.

The last day of food services in their long-time home in the Campus Center passed long ago on Dec 7th and the adjustment to their move to the Huddle located in the lobby area of the gym has been under way since the beginning of the Spring semester.

This change and a whole bevy of moves made possible by the renovations pertaining to Measure J.

"Didn’t really matter but did affect some students, planning a lot of construction is tough, but at the same time it benefits the school," Fatima Siordia a second year Spring semester BC student said.

While other students such as Reyna Tejeda said somewhat of a problem.

"I think for me it was really hard to find a couple of people for the first day but it’s a good idea to upgrade at some point," said Tejeda.

Although the change might’ve been a new experience to returning students who were so accustomed to the usual campus within the Campus Center the move had been foreseen for some time now through the updates regarding measure J on the Bakersfield College website and the immediate impacts it would have on the campus because of construction.

Measure J, a bond measure intended to aid the KCCD passed in November of 2016, began renovations of the campus in March of 2017 with future renovations planned all the way until 2022. With nearly $305 million in tow for said renovation.

BC students wait for food and drinks at the Huddle.

A Jobspeaker banner displayed in the Family and Consumer Education building at BC.

By Logan King

A new resource is available to Bakersfield College students in search of employment. Jobspeaker is a mobile application available on iPhone and Android devices. Students are able to set up multiple personal profiles similar to LinkedIn, and can be the profile specific to the job they want.

The jobs are available on and off campus, and are also listed in relation to a student’s major or certification program.

Once a profile is created one can make an appointment to see a CTE advisor in FACE 16. There advisors like Jessica McGrath, Dominica Dominguez, and Stephanie Balazar are available to review resumes and offer counsel to increase the likelihood of employment.

Appointments with advisors are recommended however walk-ins are welcomed. Another resource available on Jobspeaker is a ledger of local companies seeking to employ BC students exclusively.

Also, an events page holds a list of employment related events on campus and around Bakersfield. Once applied a student’s profile will show all of their current applications and correspondence.

When asked about Jobspeaker, McGrath explained, employers find the app is user friendly and easy to use. McGrath said, “I haven’t had anyone come back with negative feedback so far.”

The CTE office also organized workshops on every Monday where a job development specialist will be present. Outside of the CTE office there is a Jobspeaker table in FACE 11 with a student employee always present and ready to assist.

The last issue includes a printer for students to print copies of their resumes and a hygiene station for upcoming interviews.

Tattoos: My form of self-expression

By Hope Denny

When you go to the doctor and discover you’re going to be a mom, the first thing most people don’t get too excited about is, “I don’t even like the feeling of having a needle puncture my skin,” 3,000 times per minute feels so liberating.

The first time I decided to get a tattoo I was terrified. Growing up with strictly religious grandparents made fear the pain and the rejection I would get to having to something so permanent on my body.

For most people, it’s the same story.

Tattoos have become a way for people to express themselves in any way that they desire. And in some cases, usually, when someone has many tattoos, tattoos become something that they can just decorate their body with, just like piercings.

The first piercing I decided to get, that was not the average ear lobe piercing you see on girls everywhere, was my septum piercing.

That is the piercing in the cartilage between the right and left nostril. Needless to say I cried, it hurt. I held my friend’s hand so tight, he made a comment that I suddenly turned into a Hulk-one with tears flowing down her face. Besides that, I only have one other piercing and eight tattoos, thus far.

Tattoos can go anywhere on your body and piercings are pretty much the same voy with lip and cheek piercings, genital piercings and tattoos.

Why would I and many others put ourselves through pain for something that will fade with time and risk being called Neanderthal for? My piercings and tattoos have a meaning behind them. I have one for family, my signet ring, for my beliefs, and I just wanted them.

Tattoos and piercings not only make great conversation starters, but they have been great to my self-esteem.

My tattoos allow any passions or emotions I have to be physically visible.

My piercings, however, looked ‘bad-ass’ and I just wanted them. Tattoos and piercings have a special meaning into getting them for many people, although they have been around for centuries, tattoos and piercings have become more frequent in the last two decades. And if you are part of the older generation, odds are you think tattoos and piercings make the person a juvenile. Does a certain tattoo, such as “temp stamp” make you a slut? Or does having a navel piercing make you one? And do tribal tattoos make you generic?

Odds are you have made an assumption about someone the same way with tattoos and odds are, that assumption was wrong.

The first tattoo I got was a sleeve. For most people aren’t the average tattoo wearer. They make me better than average and I’m just happy that I have something that they see on girls every day.

Odds are you have made an assumption about someone the same way with tattoos and odds are, that assumption was wrong.
BC leaders talk about campus issues at lunch

By Bryana Lozoya
Digital Editor

The Bakersfield College Student Government Association (BCSGA) hosted its first Power Lunch of the semester on Jan. 16 in the Levan Center. The Vice President of Student Affairs Zav Dadabhoy, the Vice President of Finances and Administrative Services Mike Giacomini, and Vice President of Instruction Liz Rozell are all part of the Bakersfield College Leadership.

The three attended the Power Lunch and answered questions from students and faculty members.

Director of Legislative Affairs Mustafa Barraj facilitated the event and directed pre-written questions to the BC Leadership about the specifics of their roles within it, and how the Kern Community Colleges District (KCCD) Board of Trustees’ decisions affect their decision making.

Giacomini Oversees the college’s budgeting, maintenance, and operations. The construction under Measure J, food services, and public safety are also things he is responsible for.

Rozell said her primary role as vice president of instruction is to determine community needs and develop partnerships with other academic institutions, industry or community partners.

“We are out in the community, trying to determine what it is that the community needs in terms of programs,” Rozell said. “She’s responsible for the curriculum development process at the college, along with the development of the college catalog, and scheduling classes to meet community needs.”

Dadabhoy’s responsibilities encompass a large portion of facilities that involve students.

Financial aid, the admissions office, records, registration, graduation, scholarship programs, counseling, athletics, outreach, testing and placement, DSIPS, EOP & S CARE, CallWorks, academic support programs, student health, and veteran resources.

Challenges for Dadabhoy were the different hats he sometimes wore on the job and the complexity of working in a large organization where there are so many people to work with.

“I think that when it gets to our level, you can look at it one of two ways: you can say that everything is difficult, or everything is really an opportunity for some great outcomes,” Giacomini said.

The KCCD Board of Trustees’ decisions impact whether something is going to happen on campus, and the process of approval can be long if not done in a timely manner.

Rozell spoke how their decisions impact the school at the instruction and curriculum level because they ultimately decide what makes it into the curriculum, and any changes to it must be run by them and explained.

“I like to look at our relationship with the board of trustees as a two-paged treaty. I think...there is authorization that we require from them for every single action that we do...” Dadabhoy said.

Giacomini, Rozell, and Dadabhoy sat down in the Levan Center to discuss their roles on campus.
Children’s choir visits from Uganda

By Amy Samiento

The African Children's Choir provides the chance for young children from Uganda to join a choir and travel the world.

The choir is composed of children from poverty-stricken towns in Uganda, performed at Ridgeview Community Church on Jan. 20. This organization, also known as Music for Life, focuses on bringing awareness to audiences around the world about Africa's vulnerable children and their potential to have bright futures.

About 20 children from ages 8 to 10 performed in the choir while incorporating African culture and music in their songs, dances, and vestment. They sang well-known gospel songs as well as some songs that were in their native language. Each child had the opportunity to introduce his or herself and say what they would like to be when they grow up.

This organization allows the children to be part of a choir for one year, where they have the opportunity to go on tour around the world in order to bring awareness about their lifestyle in Africa, and raise funds for their education.

The African Children’s Choir, Janelle Hoekstra stated the different backgrounds of each child and how the choir is formed. "They come from families who wouldn’t have been able to provide them the opportunity to go to school, so the organization has contracts for different areas in Africa and talks to people who know families who are having trouble providing. From there, they invite children to a fun music camp for 4 days, and then a choir is selected," Hoekstra said.

During their one year on tour, the children have performed in front of audiences such as American Idol at the season 6 finale, and been invited to a Black Ball Gala to sing alongside Alicia Keys. They have also been featured in a CNN international documentary “Inside Africa.”

Not only does this organization provide children with an experience to travel the world and be a part of many significant accomplishments, but they are also fundraising for their education.

“All of their education from primary school to university is paid for by this program so it is completely life-changing for them, and for many other children who are ambassadors for other countries in Africa which funds are also used to help their education.” Hoekstra said.

So far, the donations received since initiating their organization in 1984 has allowed 50,000 children to obtain an education. This organization relies on donations to help the children and make a positive impact in Africa.

Children’s choir visits from Uganda

By Laura Lanfray

“Passion for the arts, passion to share, and commitment to excellence,” Conductor Angel Vasquez-Ramos believes these are just a few things that went into putting together “LEGO-AY,” an evening of choir and chamber music hosted by St. John’s Lutheran Church on Jan. 20.

The show featured Meridian Voices and the Synergy Chamber Choir, putting together “LEG-AW.”

St. John’s Lutheran Church hosts chamber music for Meridian Voices’ debut concert

By Amy Samiento

The Renegade Rip www.therip.com Thursday, January 31, 2019

Features

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Finally, the two groups of artists came together to perform Johann Sebastian Bach’s “Jesu, Meine Freude.” Vasquez-Ramos thanked guests before the start of the choir section and gave some insight into the songs they would play, trying to get the audience members to be on the lookout for certain motifs, and even the emotions shared between the choir and the chamber players. The team even provided the translations from German to English texts with each program.

The night was seen as a huge success as the seats filled almost entirely. With the encouragement of the audience’s cheering, the two groups stepped up for an encore to close the night.

“There’s that cliché that says many hands make for light work. I think to make something like this happen takes a lot of coordination from selecting the music, ordering the music, passing the music, rehearsal time, locations, as well as with providing things...it takes passion and commitment, that’s what it really takes,” said Vasquez-Ramos.

His passion for the arts drives him to create and share music. “It’s a never-ending task to be a musician. You can only get better and better, you have to keep working on it,” said Vasquez-Ramos.

“This is my contribution to the community, this is a purpose in my life, to share music with others, in Spanish, [and] in English,” said Vasquez-Ramos.

Vasquez-Ramos expressed his gratitude to the men and women of the choir. “This happened tonight not only because of me but a lot of people with a lot of passion and skills and commitment...we found some of the finest singers in Bakersfield, I mean there are many fine singers in Bakersfield, but we found eighteen really good ones and it’s going well,” said Vasquez-Ramos.
RBG: wins R-E-S-P-E-C-T

By Bryana Looyza
Digital Editor

“On the Basis of Sex,” directed by Minni Leder, was released January 2019. The movie is the biography of Ruth Bader Ginsberg’s life and journey through her academic career and her work as a lawyer before becoming a justice for the United States Supreme Court.

Actress Felicity Jones’ portrayal of Ginsberg in the movie highlighted the adversity of being a woman during a time where discrimination based on sex was not only the norm but legal.

This movie is phenomenal in its storytelling about the life of Ruth Bader Ginsberg and the monumental work she has done for women’s rights and gender equality in the 1970s.

Although the movie put some events of Ginsberg’s life slightly out of chronological order, it did a good job with focusing on what the director wanted to get across.

“On the Basis of Sex” wasn’t just a movie about a person who made an impact on American law and history; it was also a movie telling a story reflecting the struggles women faced and the fight to be treated seriously and fairly.

One thing I thought the movie should have made a note on was the gender equality the law.

I especially admired how the movie chose to highlight one of Ginsberg’s cases where she represented Charles Moritz (Chris Mulkey), a single man who wanted the caregiver tax deductible while caring for his ailing mother.

Moritz was not eligible to a caregiver tax deductible because he was a single, never married man and the deductible was only available to women, married or not, or a husband whose wife was incarcerated or institutionalized.

Ginsberg took on his case to argue the unconstitutionality of the caregiver tax deductible and noted the countless other laws that discriminated based on sex, whether for man or woman.

This is a movie I encourage everyone to watch because of the amazing storytelling and how great the acting is, along with the historical value it holds for United States history.

What is feminism and why is it important?

By Rosa Salazar
Copy Editor

The best definition of feminism comes from Wikipedia: It is to be, “Feminism is a range of social movements, political movements, and ideologies, that share the common goal to define, establish and achieve political, economic, personal, and social equality of sexes.

This includes seeking to establish educational and professional opportunities for women that are equal to those for men.” It’s important to mention men, and the definition does with, “equality of sexes.”

Feminism is important because we are part of a society, and the way it’s shaped influences who the people around you and more importantly, it shapes the future. You fall into one of three genders: male, female or other. You are then influenced subconscious ly by movies, tv shows, music, history, and your culture and their depiction toward gender.

Many forms of entertainment are a reflection of society.

So then, how can we move forward as a better functioning society if we treat half of their own species differently?

Many people argue that men and women can’t “see eye to eye” because we are biologically different.

In Natalie Wolchover’s article titled, “Men vs. Women: Our Key Physical Differences Explained,” she stated, “Since 1923, activists have been trying to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, which states, ‘Equality of rights under the law for men and/or women’ or brutishly or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.’” So, women do not have the same rights as men.

What rights do men have that women don’t?

Political representation, the wage gap, not paying for the pink tax, are some examples. Now, what rights do women have that men don’t?

This topic is sometimes met with resistance. Women have the right to geni
tal integrity and women the right to vote without drafting for the military. Both genders have a few rights that prevent them from being seen as equal. We need to address these topics in depth and change our way of thinking in order to achieve fairness in our society.

Op-ED: LA teachers achieve needed reform after strike

By Amy Sarmiento
Reports

Teachers and educators throughout the Los Angeles public school district went on strike earlier in January, impacting about 500,000 students and their families.

Teachers sought to improve students’ overall education by demanding that the district hire more school staff, decrease class size, and provide higher wages.

Many argued this affected the current students’ education and caused many parents to stay home to watch their children. The governor, Gavin Newsom, was against this strike as well.

However, this strike, which ended with an agreement on Jan. 22, was very necessary and progressive in order to create a reform on education in California and eventually the rest of the country.

With smaller class sizes, students will have a better learning environment and have more one-on-one time with their teachers.

This allows for better control management for the teachers in classroom rooms and a decrease in noise volume and disruptions from big groups of children.

Currently, the majority of class sizes are up to 45 students for one teacher, which may cause more distractions and smaller attention spans.

Schools should also provide their students with more support staff such as nurses and counselors.

Students will have more aid available when they need it and will feel free to approach for help when needed, especially with the rise of bullying and lack of care for mental health.

Teachers demand ed a raise in salary to a reasonable amount.

They need more acknowledgement for the impact they have on students’ lives.

The amount of work teachers put into their students’ education is extraordinary and often goes unrecognized or valued.

Educators made a bold decision to leaving their work and put all of their schedules on hold until their demands were met in order to make a stance on what they believe in.

They set a great example for their students and for the public by speaking up and making a difference in their community.

Though it is over, this strike is sure to leave an impact or inspire Californians to finally let women come a justice for the United States.

Leder, was released earlier in January, impacting about 500,000 students and their families.

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Ginsberg took on his case to argue the unconstitutionality of the caregiver tax deductible and noted the countless other laws that discriminated based on sex, whether for man or woman. This is a movie I encourage everyone to watch because of the amazing storytelling and how great the acting is, along with the historical value it holds for United States history.

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Many people argue that men and women can’t “see eye to eye” because we are biologically different.

In Natalie Wolchover’s article titled, “Men vs. Women: Our Key Physical Differences Explained,” she stated, “Since 1923, activists have been trying to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, which states, ‘Equality of rights under the law for men and/or women’ or brutishly or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.’” So, women do not have the same rights as men.

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BC’s Baseball and Softball teams bring high hopes

Haley Duvall
Photo Editor

BC Renegades spring sports are expected to reach high goals this season.

Bakersfield College Renegades softball head coach Casey Goodman said her team is setting the bar high this season after their 33 wins and 11 losses last year.

“We get speed power and gap power this year,” said Goodman. Softball Renegades have a young team this season with all freshmen outfielders and three returners.

“They’re all great in their own unique ways. They got speed out there. They all have good arms so we got a different look this year,” said Goodman. Infielder Ashley Hernandez and pitcher Kylee Fahy both agree they have high expectations for their team this season.

“The teams that we lost last year, I want to beat those teams this year every time we play them,” said Fahy. Unlike the softball team, the BC Renegades’ baseball team have a large number of returning players this season.

When asked if there are any freshmen that would make a big impact for the team BC’s head baseball coach Tim Painton said, “there’s no substitute for experience, but I really like our freshmen arms.”

Painton said they will grow each week they get on the mound. Pitcher Kameron Willman had been injured last season but believed his time off the field and watching this teammate grow and play was a “blessing in disguise.”

Willman said it helps him grow and get to where he needed to be for this season.

“The biggest thing I learned to always have the patience for guys. No matter their age, where they come from, to always help them.”

Since last year, WWE has been struggling to keep their TV ratings at a steady rate but are since the Dec. 24, 2018 taping of “Monday Night Raw” drew the lowest ratings in history with 1.7 million viewers, fans have said that they will not take a liking to AEW.

“One wouldn’t quite possibly call this a “Monday Night War” because both promotions, so far, are not scheduled to broadcast at the same time and on the same night. WWE, then, WWF battled WCW for higher ratings back in the Attitude Era on Monday nights on the same hour and it took WWE to dominate.

However, when Mick Foley won the WWE Championship on Raw on Jan. 4, 1998, 600,000 fans switched from WCW to WWF to watch Foley win the title. That night forever changed history because WWE had finally smoked WCW in the war for higher ratings.

Owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars and multi-millionaire Shad “Shad” Khan, Chris Jericho, and Cody Rhodes, are all involved in AEW’s creation. Jericho and Rhodes are a few of the hottest names in the wrestling world as of right now, so that could possibly lead WWE fans to abandon WWE and become part of AEW’s fanbase.

Former WWE superstars such as The Revival and Mike Kanellis have been supposedly asking for releases from the company. The rumored names are the tag team The Revival and Mike and Maria Kanellis. The Revival claimed that they are being disrespected in WWE and they are correct because they barely ever get any TV time.

However, there are others that think it’s too early because WWE will die because the money within the company and the millions of loyal fans that they have, which would be myself included.

In my humble opinion, I don’t believe that AEW will ever get over WWE as the money is how many old school legends they utilize, and how many fans they have.

As of right now, AEW is scheduled to have a show titled “Double or Nothing” in Las Vegas on May 25th at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. This is the only show that is written in stone so far and there may be many more to come.

Nonetheless, AEW has yet to sign a TV deal which will be when competition heats up between the two companies. I am certainly going to keep my eyes glued to AEW when they get a TV deal so I can see if it will really live up to its hype or if it’ll just turn into another TNA.
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