

BOARD REPORT

SUPPORT FOR JUAN RODRIGUEZ AND HIS FAMILY



A districtwide effort is under way to support the family of RC Mechanized Ag Instructor Juan Rodriguez, who is suffering from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease). This is a fatal condition in which the brain loses its ability to convey messages to the body's muscles. Over a period of two to five

years, a person with ALS will lose their ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe. There is no cure, and we have been told Juan will not survive the year. Juan began teaching full-time at Reedley College in 2017. He is 42 years old and is married to his high school sweetheart, Tomasita. They have two teenage boys, Benjamin and Christopher. You can help honor Juan's contributions to our community, our colleges, and our students and families by helping his family through our fundraising efforts through a gofundme account. All of the contributions will go directly to Juan's family. We are extremely thankful for all of your donations so far, which have exceeded ten-thousand dollars. Our goal is \$50,000.

LINK: <https://gofund.me/908a9f01>



LET THE CONSTRUCTION BEGIN

For years, the McClarty Center for the Fine and Performing Arts was talked about a lot, created in the forms of blueprints and renderings, and had multiple fundraising efforts on its behalf. Now, all of those discussions, creations and donations are set to become reality. In front of over 100 people which included donors, supporters, community members, board members, district management and members of the RC family, the official kickoff to construction took place with a groundbreaking ceremony for the soon-to-be jewel of the campus March 2 under beautiful blue skies. "We're excited to share this

day with our Reedley College family, community members, business partners and local artists," said RC President Dr. Jerry Buckley. "This facility will create many wonderful moments for all of us, starting with this groundbreaking event. I've been excited for this day for a long time, and cannot wait to see the many performances we will be able to host here." The \$28 million dollar center will be 25-thousand square feet, complete with a five-hundred seat performance hall (which will be known as the Pete P. Peters Theatre), box office, concession stand, art gallery, greenroom and a large lobby area. Seals construction is the builder for the project, with Darden Architects as the designer. Guest speakers at the event included Harold McClarty, who donated \$1-million towards the project, Dennis Peters, the nephew of the late Pete Peters, and Robert Petithomme of Darden Architects. SCCCDC Chancellor Dr. Carole Goldsmith, members of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Buckley, donors and partners took part in the ceremonial shoveling of dirt to officially mark the start of construction. Christine Keenan of our Music Department also said a few words and conducted the instrumental performances by the Reedley Community Band throughout the program. The facility is expected to be completed in June of 2023.

GYM FLOOR MAKEOVER

There are now three massive projects taking place on campus simultaneously, as the gymnasium is undergoing a renovation project, literally from top to bottom. It will have a brand new floor and roof in time for the start of the fall sports season. The process started with removing the old floor in early March, all the way down to the concrete surface, as well as repairing sections of the roof "The Athletic Department is absolutely thrilled about the new gym floor project," said RC Director of Athletics Dr. David Santesteban. "This will be great for our recruiting efforts, sport competitions, physical education classes and community events. We are very thankful for the continued support of our Athletic program by our administration." Expected completion of the project is this September.



Demolition of the old gym floor started in early March.



ASG IN DC

Associated Student Government President Dulce Garcia Huizar, Executive Vice President Jesus Contreras and ASG Co-Advisor Vanessa Leyva attended the American Student Association of Community Colleges National Student Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC March 19-22. The conference develops skills in leadership, citizenship, and advocacy. Since 1984, student leaders from community colleges across the nation have convened in what has become the largest and most diverse annual student meeting held in our nation's capital annually. The conference focuses on issues critical to the success and persistence of community college students. Over the years, ASACC has focused on issues including Pell Grants, reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, Employee Educational Assistance, simplifying the FAFSA, student loan interest rates, and using pre-tax dollars to repay student loans.



Dulce Garcia Huizar and Jesus Contreras.

ASG PRESIDENT DULCE GARCIA HUIZAR: "As a DACA student, I never imagined I would have the opportunity to travel to our Nation's Capital. I had the opportunity to discuss and vote on which bills we think should take priority based on the effects they could have on Community College Students. Additionally, I learned important public speaking and communication skills and tips to keep the attention of people when advocating for students. As a first generation student, I am grateful for the opportunity to continue giving students a voice."

ASG EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT JESUS CONTRERAS: "My experience attending the American Student Association of Community College conference was very insightful as I learned different methods on how to advocate for students and higher education. I had the opportunity to visit Congressman David Valadao's office at the Longworth House, met his staff, and learned about internship opportunities at the Capital which I am now interested in pursuing. Thank you to Reedley College for this life-changing opportunity."

ASG EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT JESUS CONTRERAS: "My experience attending the American Student Association of Community College conference was very insightful as I learned different methods on how to advocate for students and higher education. I had the opportunity to visit Congressman David Valadao's office at the Longworth House, met his staff, and learned about internship opportunities at the Capital which I am now interested in pursuing. Thank you to Reedley College for this life-changing opportunity."

TIGER PANTRY INTRODUCES DIAPER PROGRAM

In collaboration with the Central California Food Bank, we are now offering a Diaper Program to our students with tiger cubs of their own. Diaper sizes 1-7 are available. The program started March 28th. The Tiger Pantry is open Monday-Thursday from 9am-4pm and Fridays from 9am-2pm.

STEM CONFERENCE

The force will be strong with this year's STEM Conference April 30th. This free event will be filled with workshops, networking opportunities, guest speakers and more, with a Star Wars theme. This year's key-note speakers are droid builders Mike Senna and Michael McMaster, who have created various movie droid replicas which have made numerous public and television appearances. In fact, R2-D2 and LX-R5 will be special guests at the conference! This event is open to all middle, high school and college students.



Clyde is preparing for the STEM Conference by brushing up on his lightsaber skills.

BROWNIE POINTS



We're not horsing around with this announcement! Congratulations to our very own 'Brownie' on being voted Western Horse of the Year for our region. Every year after our equestrian team's final show of the season, each school nominates and votes for the their favorite horse.

Brownie is RC's second horse to win this amazing award. He is our feed lease horse, and his owner is Gay Gardella.

APRIL HOME SPORTS SCHEDULE

- April 4: Men's Golf Big 8 South Tournament #8, Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club
- April 5: Baseball vs. West Hills Coalinga, 2pm
- April 9: Baseball vs. West Hills Coalinga, 1pm
- April 9: Softball vs. Porterville, 1pm
- April 12: Baseball vs. Bakersfield, 1pm
- April 23: Baseball vs. COS, 1pm
- April 26: Softball vs. Merced, 2pm & 4pm (DH)
- April 28: Baseball vs. FCC 2pm
- April 29: Baseball vs. Taft 4pm

