

December 2011

# the Coyote HOWLER



## Assemblywoman Shannon Grove Guest Speaker At Veterans Recognition Day

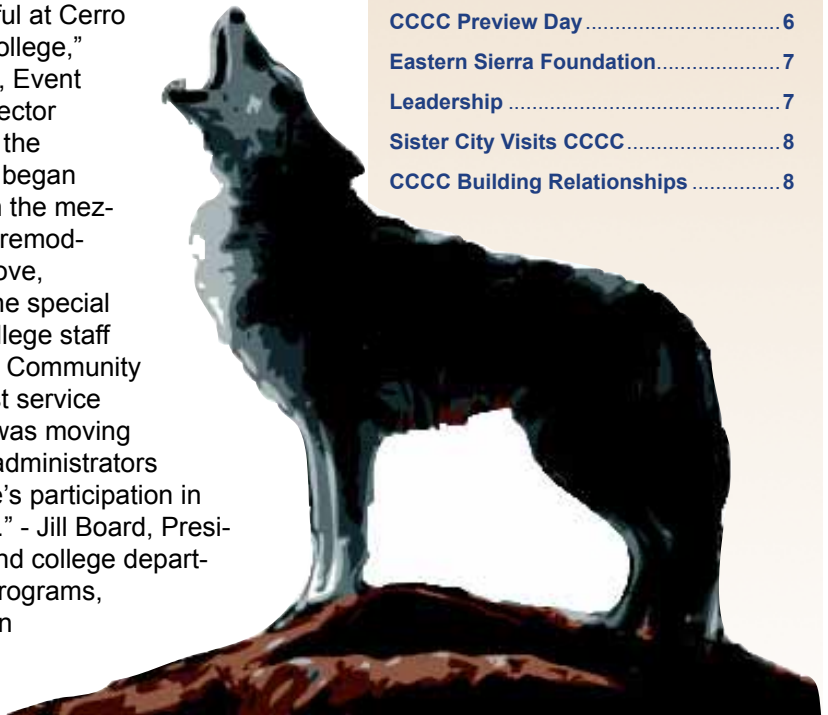


On November 8, 2011, Cerro Coso Community College celebrated Veterans Day by honoring the sacrifices and contributions of student and staff veterans and sharing the many services the College and valley have to offer veterans, active duty military, and their families. "We are here to assist our veterans and active duty military in securing their veteran education benefits as well as provide any additional support they may need to be successful at Cerro Coso Community College," stated Dave Cornell, Event Coordinator and Director of Veteran Affairs at the College. The event began with refreshments in the mezzanine of the newly remod-

eled Student Center. Assemblywoman Shannon Grove, representative for the 32nd Assembly District, was the special guest speaker. Special recognition was given to college staff and student veterans during the event. "Cerro Coso Community College is proud to claim many of our country's finest service men and women, active and retired, as our own. It was moving to see how many of the College's staff, faculty, and administrators served in our armed forces. Assemblywoman Grove's participation in their recognition made this year's event very special." - Jill Board, President. Representatives from community resources and college departments shared information about their services and programs, and were available to answer questions. A reception followed unveiling the newly remodeled Student Center.

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## Overcoming Obstacles Topic Of Lunchtime Lecture



From a confused and frightened little girl to a confident and successful College Instructor and Counselor, Jan Moline was the featured speaker at the ASCC October lunchtime lecture. Jan shared her personal story with Cerro Coso students to encourage and motivate them to utilize the resources around them to help them succeed. As a child uncomfortable in her own skin, she struggled to understand why school was so difficult academically, emotionally, and physically. Her path seemed set and it would be a difficult one. After she sought professional help she enrolled in college classes at Cerro Coso and set out to become an electronics engineer. Jan was diagnosed with a learning disability by the College Special Services Department, "I was actually relieved to discover there was a learning problem." She wasn't "stupid" or "lazy" both terms she'd heard in her past. She just didn't learn in the typical manner. Once diagnosed with a learning disability she was taught strategies to help her learn. Now life was starting to make sense. Married with four children, things were looking up. She was surprised by the number of resources available to her, and in turn learned she, too, was quite resourceful. Borrowing books, making friends, carpooling, showering in locker rooms, were just a few ways Jan used to make it all work. Life has not always been easy but she has discovered that "helping others helped her." So...she changed her major and set out to complete her education. What started out looking hopeless has turned into a journey of self discovery. Grateful for the assistance she received, Jan uses her life experiences to show others how the many resources available can help them achieve their life goals. Her inspiring story proves obstacles can be overcome. Jan holds a Master of Arts Degree in Psychology from California State, Bakersfield.

## CDC Celebrates Fire Prevention Week



The Cerro Coso Child Development Center celebrated National Fire Prevention Week with a visit from the Ridgecrest City Fire Department. The heavy-duty equipment and uniforms firefighters use can be intimidating and scary for young children. The last thing any firefighter wants to see is a child run and hide from them during a fire. Fire Prevention Week is a great time to expose children to the men and women behind the uniforms and to teach them not to be afraid of the uniforms that are there to help them during a fire. Teaching children fire safety, what to do in the event of a fire, and how to protect them in a fire was the goal of the CDC and Fire Department. Each child was allowed a chance to spray one of the truck hoses to familiarize them with the fire truck and equipment. Special thanks to the Ridgecrest City Fire Department for teaching our children Fire Safety and Prevention!



## Scholarship Recipient Bryan Repsholdt

Everyone has a path in life and sometimes that path is not what we expected. That is the story of Cerro Coso Community College student, Bryan Repsholdt. Bryan's father was in the U.S. Navy and with that came the unique culture of military life. Calling nowhere home and yet the whole world his home, Bryan did spend 12 years living in Hawaii. "Not as glamorous as it sounds," said Bryan who suffered from "Island Fever." Bryan thought his high ASVAB scores meant his path would also be the U.S. Navy. Never did he dream a childhood injury to his eye would keep him from serving in the Armed Forces. This bright and energetic young man did not allow the disqualification to get him down. He moved to Ridgecrest in 2008 to be near the love of his life, Kari, and took a couple online classes through the College. He credits Kari for having inspired him to get his degree in Computer Information Systems. "She sees potential in me I never saw in myself," said Bryan. He will graduate from Cerro Coso next spring and then plans to get a full-time job to support his family. He will continue to work on his transfer units while he works and obtains necessary computer certifications. Bryan received six scholarships this fall and said, "These scholarships lightened my load allowing me to go to school full-time, work a part-time job, and not neglect my family." Bryan was awarded the Dick Malone Family Scholarship, James M. Pearson Memorial Scholarship, H.P. Leet Memorial Scholarship, Bill Whitworth Memorial Scholarship, Gilbert Plain Family Scholarship, and the John "Jack" Richer Memorial Scholarships at the College. In addition to his full-time course load, Bryan serves as a tutor and Lab Aide at the College and volunteers as an intern in the College I.T. Department. He also serves as the Finance Manager for the Associated Students of Cerro Coso. Bryan encourages other students to apply for scholarships at the college. Focus and hard work is how this young man maintains his 3.75 GPA and scholarships helped him to maintain balance in his life. "I work hard to achieve greater success," said Bryan who is thankful for the support of these scholarships.



## Counseling Staff Participate In Transfer Awareness Activities

The month of October was Transfer Awareness month. Sporting their Alma Maters' apparel, the Counseling staff invited college students and employees to participate in their Transfer Awareness Kick Off event on Wednesday, October 5th in the Cerro Coso Transfer Center. The focus of the event was to discuss transfer with students, get them excited about transfer, and to clarify the process for transferring to a UC, CSU, Private, or Independent College. The College Counseling Department scheduled many activities and workshops throughout the month of October to help encourage students to continue their education and transfer to a university. Topics included: step-by-step instructions on how to complete the CSU Application, how to write a UC personal statement, and how to calculate transfer GPA. Counselors and other members of the Colleges staff advise and assist students in planning their transfer.



## Halloween Blood Drive



Halloween is typically a time for ghosts, goblins, costumes and candy, but it is also the perfect holiday to give blood and have lots of fun in the process. Cerro Coso students, staff, and community members sought to keep the Vampires away this Halloween by donating blood to the American Red Cross during the Associated Students of Cerro Coso's (ASCC) Halloween Blood Drive held on Monday, October 31, 2011. Not your typical Halloween haunt, but the parking lot of the LRC became a place to save lives and have some Halloween fun. Someone in the United States needs blood every two seconds. Hearing the chant "blood donors needed...see the Count," the ASCC set out to do their part. Dracula was given the day off while students, staff, and community members really got into the "spirit" of things. Fang-tastic job ASCC!

## Harvest Fest Brings Students Out For Food And Fun



On Thursday, October 27, 2011 the "quad" at the Cerro Coso Ridgecrest Campus was transformed into a Harvest Festival for all to enjoy. The event drew a good crowd of students despite the unusually cool weather. Dancing, baked goods, bobbing for apples, great food, a pumpkin carving contest, and blood drive proved fun for all who participated. Hosted by the Associated Students of Cerro Coso the event was a fun and safe way to celebrate the holiday without ghouls, ghosts, and goblins. A great way to spend an afternoon, the festival was jam-packed with fun things to do.

## Big Band X-Press Performs Garden Concert



The music of the Big Band X-Press was foot-tapping, dance-worthy, and fun for the whole family. On Saturday, November 12th the full sounds of the Big Band X-Press resonated from the Cerro Coso Community College Luis Miro Sculpture Garden. Together for over 25 years, the band played a great collection of music from its extensive library. Sponsored by the Associate Students of Cerro Coso the concert played to a group who love listening to good, live music. With a catalog of over 300 hundred songs, including such classics as "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" and "In the Mood," this band plays wide ranging pieces spinning from the early Swing style of the 1920's to the Big Band styles of the 1940's and beyond. Band members represent a wide cross-section of the community. Players range from retirees to base employees, music teachers, and students. Listening to music from the Big Band era, while enjoying a beautiful outdoor venue, was a great way to spend a beautiful afternoon at the College.

## Students Form Optimist Club

A group of Cerro Coso students promise to: be so strong that nothing can disturb their peace of mind; talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person they meet; make all their friends feel that there is something in them; look at the sunny side of everything and make their optimism come true; think only of the best, work only for the best, and expect only the best; be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as they are about their own; forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future; wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature they meet a smile; give so much time to the improvement of themselves that they have no time to criticize others; and to be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble. How's that for optimism? This is the Optimist Creed these Cerro Coso students honor in the recently formed Coyote Optimist Club of Cerro Coso (Coyote Optimists). Their aim is to conduct positive service projects that benefit area youths and the community. The Coyote Optimists Club is affiliated with Optimist International, one of the world's largest and most active service club organizations. Officers elected to lead the Coyote Optimists during its first year are Eric Leon, President and Ruth Serna, Secretary-Treasurer. Club Vice-Presidents include Krista Kenny and Vikramjeet Rathaur. Elected to board of directors were ReAnna Chee, George Eckert, Lachelle James, Adam Neubauer, Trevor Usher and Anthony Williams. The Club meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm in the College East Wing, Room 206. The Coyote Optimists will also meet once a month for a social mixer. Their motto: "Friend of Youth".



## Multi-Award-Winning Author, Marty Essen, Speaks At CCCC

On Monday, October 31, award-winning author Marty Essen presented his high-energy multi-media show, *Around the World in 90 Minutes*, to a packed Student Center at Cerro Coso. Sponsored by the ASCC, the FREE show featured interesting facts, humorous stories, and the best of thousands of photos he took while traveling the world for his book, *Cool Creatures, Hot Planet: Exploring the Seven Continents*. The audience had fun laughing at the stories, oohing and aahing at the photos, and then, when it was all done, they realized just how much they had learned. Highlights of Marty's show included: Amazing animal facts, debunking animal myths, cuddly wallaroos and spiny walking sticks, charging elephants and howling wolves, deadly snakes and friendly penguins, bizarre creatures and endangered species, swimming with piranhas, kayaking in the rainforest, hiking with the porcupine caribou migration, rafting with humpback whales, and surviving a hippo attack in Zimbabwe. Marty Essen has won multiple book awards for travel essay writings, including the Benjamin Franklin Award, the Best Books Book Award, and the National Indie Excellence Award. In addition, he won a first place award at the 2009 Green Book Festival in Los Angeles, and the Minneapolis Star-Tribune named *Cool Creatures, Hot Planet* a top-10 book.



## Motivational Speaker, Mark Wellman

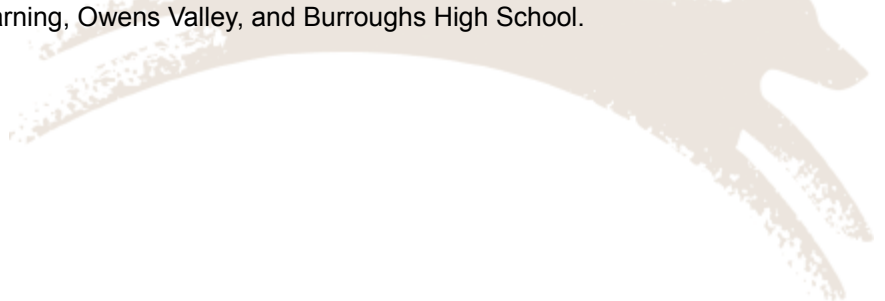


Nationally acclaimed author, filmmaker, and motivational speaker, Mark Wellman, spoke at Cerro Coso Community College on Thursday, October 13, 2011, followed by a climbing demonstration in front of the Learning Resource Center. Despite being paralyzed in a mountain climbing accident, Mark has inspired millions to meet their problems head-on and reach for their full potential. A two-time Paralympian and former Yosemite Park Ranger, Mark's NO LIMITS philosophy encourages individuals to venture into new horizons; to go beyond the seemingly unreachable. Faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles, Mark persevered, using courage and determination to fulfill his passion for the outdoors. He shares his story in his autobiography *Climbing Back*. An accomplished wheelchair athlete, Mark is best known for the first historic paraplegic ascents of the sheer granite faces of El Capitan and Half Dome in Yosemite National Park. The first paraplegic to sit-ski unassisted across the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, Mark has also carried the flaming torch up the 120-foot rope, shocked by thousands of spectators, and lit the cauldron for the opening of the Paralympic Games in Atlanta. Presented by the Associated Students of Cerro Coso the community was invited to attend the event for FREE. From college campuses to corporate boardrooms Mark has become a nationally known influence for the disabled and able-bodied alike. Students were given the opportunity to climb the wall following his presentation.

## College Rolls Out The Red Carpet For Preview Day



Over 350 area high school students soaked up the energy and excitement of college life at Cerro Coso Community College's 11th Annual Preview Day on Thursday, November 10, 2011. This was an exciting opportunity for junior and senior high school students in the service area to get a firsthand look at college in action and explore the many programs and services Cerro Coso offers. It was an exciting day for Cerro Coso staff, faculty, and administrators, with more than the normal hustle and bustle of students attending classes. The event is designed to increase college awareness and behavior in students who will be transitioning to college within the next two years. The activity is intended to be a bridge opportunity as students transition from high school to higher education and consider career and higher education goals. Students got a look at what makes Cerro Coso unique, received guided tours of the campus, explored career options, interacted with college students, and enjoyed lunch and entertainment around the campus fountain. Preview Day is a great opportunity for prospective students to learn more about what the college has to offer academically and in the community. Schools participating in the event included: Trona, Mojave, California City, Big Pine, Immanuel Christian, Mesquite, Opportunities for Learning, Owens Valley, and Burroughs High School.



## Eastern Sierra Foundation Sets Tiles

Cerro Coso Community College Bishop campus has a new look these days. During the week of September 26th, 2011, nine Eastern Sierra Foundation Pioneers were honored for their generous contributions to the Eastern Sierra Foundation scholarship fund. In recognition of their donation of \$5,000 or more, a tile with their name was permanently placed in the cement walkway - the "Pioneer Pathway" leading to the front doors of the Bishop campus. According to Kim Kost, Eastern Sierra Foundation Executive Board member, the name "pioneer" was selected because many of these donors began donating to the Foundation before there was even a building on the site. She goes on to say, "Through their generosity, the Foundation is able to continue supporting ESCC Bishop students with scholarships. It is the Foundation's goal to fill all 30 tile spaces with Pioneer Donor tiles in the future." The Eastern Sierra Foundation was formed in 1994 and they continue to raise funds for scholarships for local students each semester. Each individual tile was beautifully hand-crafted by Cerro Coso College Adjunct Art Instructor Patty Holton and her students. The nine Pioneer honorees are: Dr. and Mrs. Steven E. Taylor, The John and Beverly Stauffer Foundation, Dave and Roma McCoy, Martha Kramer, Deane and Joan Funk, The John B. and Nelly Llanos Kilroy Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Larson, Phil and Cheryl McDowell and the Donald M. and Ursula Slager-Sunset Foundation



## Leadership Through A Different Lens

While success has always been at the center of Cerro Coso Community College's commitment to students, administrators recognized that many adjunct faculty are unable to attend department meetings and college flex day activities. Determined to change that dynamic, Cerro Coso Leadership held their first Professional Development activity for Adjunct Faculty at the Ridgecrest campus on Saturday, November 5, 2011. Adjunct and full-time faculty were invited to attend to heighten the dialogue about Student Success and Best Practices. "Because such a large number of our students are served by our adjuncts, it is important that they become part of the discussion and training surrounding Student Learning Outcomes and Student Learning Outcome Assessments" said President, Jill Board. Forty-nine adjunct faculty members participated in the event and came from as far away as San Francisco. The activity was purposely scheduled as a face-to-face meeting to give faculty members an opportunity to meet, greet, and get acquainted with colleagues from the various locations the College serves. The main topic for the day was Student Learning Outcomes – what it is, why we do it, and what good it does for students. Over 70 faculty, staff, and administrators participated. In the afternoon, faculty were given the opportunity to join in department meetings. Adjunct Math Instructor, Helen Wang, found the discussion on Student Learning Outcomes insightful and interesting and is looking forward to future department discussions.



## Sister City Visits Cerro Coso

Cerro Coso welcomed delegates from Tepatitlan, Jalisco, Mexico during a recent visit to the college. Ridgecrest has enjoyed Sister City relations with the people of Tepatitlan since 1975. The Sister City organization is a network created to strengthen partnerships between the United States and international community's by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. The relationship between Ridgecrest and Tepatitlan allows each city to learn more about one another, and to develop friendly meaningful exchanges. The mission of the Sister City Program is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time. During their visit to the college the delegates toured the Classroom Wing, Learning Resource Center, Student Center, Welding Lab, and Art Labs. Math Instructor, Bob Phung, showed the group how he uses innovative and interactive SMART technologies to teach. Instructor, Herman Foster, explained the different welds, metals, and equipment utilized in the Welding Lab and Instructor, Dick Benson, gave them a tour of the recently remodeled Art Labs. The tour gave the delegates an opportunity to look at how services and education are provided across Cerro Coso's 18,000 square miles service area that could be useful in their own city. With a population of 136,703, Tepatitlan is the largest producer of eggs, pork, and milk within the country. Founded in 1883, Tepatitlan de Morelos is located in the central Mexican state of Jalisco, east of the state capital Guadalajara. The delegates returned to Mexico the following day.



## Cerro Coso Building Relationships With The Community

Four days, 29 employees, and 65.5 hours of volunteer time is what it took to staff the Cerro Coso Community College booth at this year's Desert Empire Fair (DEF) in Ridgecrest. This year's fair, themed "Carnival Lights and Country Nights" offered something for everybody, from the midway's neon magic and carnival rides to a demolition derby. An exciting Cerro Coso tradition, the DEF is a high-profile marketing opportunity which allows college staff and faculty to interact one-on-one with students, potential students, their families, and community members. Amid the excitement of the children, carnival rides, crafts, quilts, livestock, and food is an excellent time for Cerro Coso to build on community partnerships and cultivate and nurture the higher educational needs of the communities it serves. "Our presence at the Desert Empire Fair ensures that the general public sees us as an educational institution that is an integral part of the community and is interested in hearing what they have to say. It is also an occasion to highlight the training and educational opportunities that each Cerro Coso program has to offer," stated Jill Board, President.



### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Coyote Howler is a publication of Cerro Coso Community College. For more information about the stories in this publication, or to include information in this publication, contact Natalie Dorrell, Director of Public Information, at 760.384.6230 or email [ndorrell@cerrocoso.edu](mailto:ndorrell@cerrocoso.edu).



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