Head Coach of the Track & Field, Christopher Zepeda was announced a “local hero” in the Monterey County Weekly, issue 0630 last week. An individual portrait of coach Zepeda graced the cover of that same publication. His career at Hartnell College began in 2006; ever since he has inspired and pushed athletes to be the best they can be in the field. “Having been here 10 years, I’m starting to see ‘generations’ of our students accomplish this and come back into our community,” Head coach Zepeda expressed. In the past two years, the Women’s Cross Country team has won the championship for the Coast Conference, achieving second place in the State. “This is an accomplishment never achieved before,” Zepeda affirmed.

He has earned multiple recognitions local, state, and nationwide. During his time at Hartnell College, Coach Zepeda has gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that his athletes are well prepared to compete by organizing fundraisers year-round to provide proper nutrition and equipment for his athletes. However, Zepeda’s commitment is not only displayed here at Hartnell, he has also expanded his motivation to the Salinas Valley community. As of last year, he founded the Salinas Valley Elite Running Club, a non-profit organization that organizes events and fundraisers for local causes and is an advocate for a healthier lifestyle. “Creating training groups that supported our athletic program and now Salinas Valley Elite Running Club have been how I focused on connecting with the community. Now, runners can come together and train at Hartnell and also unite to make Salinas a better place,” he added.

To read the full story on the Weekly, go to:
Happy Independence Day! It is a great day to commemorate the birth of this great nation. At Hartnell, the celebration started on Friday, July 1, 2016. The Office of Student Life and Hartnell students kicked off the 4th of July Holiday weekend with an Independence Day celebration at the Student Center! Students and staff gathered in the main lobby to have fun and indulge with cupcakes and lemonade, while listening to the patriotic classics, “America the Beautiful” and “The National Anthem” performed by alumnus Francisco Juarez. What a way to get the festivities started! Enjoy your day with family and friends.

Each year the California Rodeo Salinas offers five to ten scholarships ranging from $500 to $1000 each for students graduating from Salinas Valley High Schools who are attending Hartnell College or transferring from Hartnell to a University. Students of Salinas Valley high schools, who are seniors in the fall, may also apply if they will be attending Hartnell the following fall. Students must be 17 years of age or older and special consideration is given to children or grandchildren of Rodeo Committee Members in good standing. The recipients are typically notified at the end of May each year. The California Rodeo Committee believes in promoting education and helping the youth in the area to become successful. We at Hartnell College congratulate these students for their efforts and wish them the best of luck for their future endeavors. This year’s recipients are:

- Francisco Amaro, a Soledad High School graduate transferring from Hartnell to California State University, Sacramento to study administration of justice.
- Angela Serrano, an Everett Alvarez High School graduate transferring
The Office of Student Life held its annual retreat in June with the newly elected 2016-2017 ASHC Officers in Moss Landing, CA. and at the college campus. The two-day retreat brought together the outgoing and the incoming officers in team-building activities that motivated and inspired our student leaders. The incoming members discussed goals, priorities, and developed a calendar of events for the upcoming year. The retreat agenda also included a workshop on Hartnell’s mission, vision, values and strategic priorities, as ASHC Officers are members in the participatory governance councils. In addition, Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Romero Jalomo welcomed the new members and discussed their responsibility as representatives of students. There were many opportunities to stimulate leadership skills, build working relationships, and develop friendships through group activities at the beach and art projects. I am excited about the ASHC’s ever growing enthusiasm and look forward to what they have planned for the upcoming school year.

The Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association (MLBPAA) brought to life the dreams of about 200 local youth by offering a free clinic here at Hartnell. The clinic headlined by current and former Major League Baseball players, such as five-time All-Star, Steve Sax, 16-year MLB veteran; Rance Mulliniks, Dwain Anderson, Dennis Burtt, Ernie Camacho, James Campbell, Michael “Tiny” Felder, Dion “Sweet Baby” James, Daniel Larson, Leron Lee, and Richard Robertson. The 11 players combined for 90 seasons, 6,148 games and 4,809 hits in Major League Baseball.
During the clinic, the players taught the youth basic baseball skills and drills, while sharing some of their life lessons. These players also took the time to offer an autograph session and giveaways. The MLBPA was founded in 1982 with the mission of promoting baseball, raising money for charity and protecting the dignity of the game through its Alumni players. It has a membership of more than 7,600, of which approximately 5,600 are Alumni and active players. Alumni players find the MLBPA to be a vital tool to become involved in charity and community philanthropy. The MLBPA’s Legends for Youth clinics impact more than 15,000 children each year, allowing them the unique opportunity to interact with and learn from players who have left a lasting impact on the game of baseball.

Meet our new Salinas Valley Health Professions Pathway Partnership (SVHPPP) Manager, La’Quana Williams! La’Quana is a Los Angeles native with a BA in Africana Studies from San Diego State University; she has her Masters of Public Health in Urban Health Disparities, from Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

La’Quana has lived in Monterey County for 3 years, and previously worked for the Monterey County Health Department, as the Health Equity and Cultural Competency Coordinator. La’Quana is also an adjunct professor at California State University Monterey Bay where she teaches an “Introduction to Community Health” course. She has a passion for academia as a first generation college graduate who understands the doors that access to education opens for individuals and their families. That passion is grounded in addressing the health and educational needs of underserved populations.

When not working, La’Quana is actively involved in the community she lives in. She previously served on the local NAACP Monterey County Branch board, and currently holds a Board of Supervisor appointed seat on the Housing Advisory Commission. Most importantly, La’Quana loves traveling to new cities and exploring college campuses with her husband Tre and their 4 year old son, Dru. Welcome to Hartnell La’Quana!
7. ERIC SETS SAIL AFTER 23 YEARS WITH US

On Wednesday, June 29, 2016, the Hartnell staff celebrated the retirement of long time Computer and Phone Technician and friend, Eric Price. He has worked for Hartnell for 23 in technology Technician which made him responsible for setting up the first internet network and fiber optics infrastructure at Hartnell, back in 1993! Thanks to Eric, we were the first California community college to have an internet network! Before beginning his career with Hartnell College, Eric worked as a Prison Guard at Soledad Prison for 2 years, then worked as a fireman for Cal Poly, while also attending college to later become a teacher. Eric obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in 1976 and a Master’s Degree in Industrial Arts in 1985 to teach electronics and auto shop. Eric is happily married and looks forward to spending more quality time with his wife, Susan Price. Now that he is retired, Eric and his wife plan on doing some travelling. They are visiting New Zealand this coming March! We wish you and your family much happiness, you will be missed!

8. UPCOMING EVENTS

The Western Stage presents Carrie: The Musical
July 16 through August 6, 2016
Students are free with a valid I.D. (CatCard)
For tickets and information, visit westernstage.com or call 831-755-6816

Women’s Education and Leadership Institute Forum
September 29, 2016 at Tehama Country Club
Call 831-755-6810 for tickets

Grand Opening of Science Center!
September 30, 2016
More information to come!

Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2016
Saturday, October 29, 2016

The Western Stage Gala
November 19, 2016
Hartnell, MPC, Alisal could place bonds on the November ballot

Hartnell announces latest Hall of Fame class

Hartnell track coach pushes athletes beyond their limits

PMA focuses foodservice conference on growing future talent

CGTbyPMA cultivates talent at PMA’s Foodservice Conference & Expo

Winning Ways: Sgt. Burbank, Deputy Diller medal

Local baseball events give free training to Salinas players

Local baseball players get the chance to learn from former pro players

Hartnell assistant track coach competes on “Spartan: Ultimate Team Challenge”
http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/article/NE/20160624/SPORTS/160629812

Martinez takes the long road, and finds his calling
http://www.sanbenitocountytoday.com/sports/martinez-takes-the-long-road-and-finds-his-calling/article_c7f55bb8-3f11-11e6-917e-0b9ef33f45ef.html