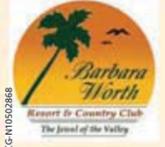


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**Jacinto Garcia**

**On to San Bernardino**

**A step closer to his dream** B1

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012

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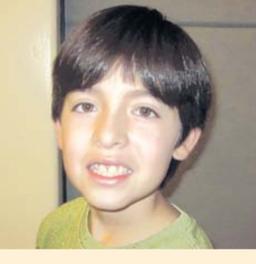
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Gabby Douglas wins women's all-around in gymnastics. **B1**

## SMILE OF THE DAY



**"I'm smiling because my mom is proud."**  
Darian Romero, 10 Imperial

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### IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

# Campus community adjusts to changes

## Fees due upfront; wait list works in real time

### By the numbers

**2011**  
**135** students lost their classes after first enrollment period. That number increased to 339 on the second day and eventually rose to more than 2,000.

**2012**  
**49** students lost their classes after the first enrollment period. That number decreased to 38 on the second day.

### Registration Policies

- Students will lose all their classes if enrollment fees are not paid within five business days
- \$20 is the maximum amount of money a student can owe and not risk losing their classes
- Wait-listed students should check their IVC emails continually to see if their classes have opened up

**"I lost all of my classes last year because I forgot to pay for the health fee, and I think it was only about \$18."**

Alejandra Gastelum, Calexico



**Michelle Jimenez, 19, a student at Imperial Valley College searches for open classes at the college's computer lab.**  
KARINA LOPEZ PHOTO

BY KARINA LOPEZ | Staff Writer

Since implementing new registration policies last year, the students and administrators at Imperial Valley College are still adjusting to the changes.

With open registration now in effect, students may be taking advantage of the changes or suffering because of them.

One of the biggest modifications to occur is the amount of time students have to pay their fees.

"Before, students virtually had the entire semester to pay their fees," IVC Dean of Student Affairs Sergio Lopez said. "If those fees weren't paid, they would not be allowed to enroll in the subsequent semester."

Now, students will be dropped from all their classes if their fees are not paid within five business days.

"Before the changes, there was a lot of money that was not collected," Lopez said. "Now, there are immediate consequences if the fees aren't paid."

After the new policy was applied last year, Alejandra Gastelum was one of more than 2,000 students who lost her classes due to unpaid fees.

"I lost all of my classes last year because I forgot to pay for the health fee, and I think it was only about \$18," the 19-year-old Gastelum, of Calexico, said. "It was so frustrating."

To ensure students like Gastelum do not lose their classes over a matter of \$18, new alterations were put in place this year.

"After the problems we encountered last year, we knew we had to make changes," Lopez said. "This year, students will not be dropped from their classes if they owe \$20 or less after the five-day period."

Despite losing her classes last year, Gastelum said she believes the new policy will help students who are serious about their studies.

"We're all adults," Gastelum said. "If I can get into a class that opened up because someone forgot to pay their fees, I'm going to take it. I learned my lesson last year."

In order to give students a better idea of what classes are open and available, there is a new tool on the college's Web site.

"The 'open classes' tab on the Web site works in real time and adjusts when someone registers for the class," IVC spokesman Bill Gay said.

SEE COLLEGE | A5

### 3 GROUPS AFFECTED

# Brawley votes in pension changes

BY CELESTE ALVAREZ  
Staff Writer

BRAWLEY — With pension reform continuing to be a challenging issue confronting public agencies statewide, this city has moved to approve three resolutions modifying employee pensions with the intention of reducing the city's overall retirement benefit cost, during Tuesday's City Council meeting.

"We have taken a significant look at pensions the last year and have three sets of changes," Brawley City Manager Rosanna Bayon Moore said.

The city has reformed pension agreements for all newly hired city employees not represented by a recognized bargaining union, all employees represented by the Brawley Firefighter Association bargaining unit, and the city manager's pension policy, said Moore.

SEE BRAWLEY | A5

### CAMPAIGN TRAIL

# Obama, Romney trade barbs

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP) — Mitt Romney promised Thursday that his economic program will create 12 million new jobs in the next four years, and likened President Barack Obama to a "dog trying to chase its tail" when it comes to strengthening the sluggish recovery.

Firing back instantly, Obama said his rival favors "trickle-down fairy dust" that has failed to fix the economy in the past, and unleashed a new television ad with a scathing summation of Romney's tax plans: "He pays less. You pay more."

SEE CAMPAIGN | A5

### STRUGGLING CITIES

# San Bernardino files for Chapter 9 bankruptcy

SAN BERNARDINO (AP) — Officials in San Bernardino, which is facing an expected \$45.8 million budget deficit this year, have formally filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection, a move that city leaders approved last month.

Interim City Manager Andrea Travis-Miller said Wednesday that there would be "no immediate service reductions or changes in service to the community as a result of the filing."

### Cities filing for bankruptcy in '12

Stockton  
Mammoth Lakes  
San Bernardino

operational budget during bankruptcy. Once the plan is complete, reductions may occur, said Travis-Miller, who is aiming to submit a plan for the City Council's consideration within the next three weeks.

The city of 210,000 people, about 60 miles east

of Los Angeles, declared a fiscal emergency July 18. It has become the third California city to declare insolvency this year, joining Stockton and Mammoth Lakes.

After last month's announcement, San Bernardino's finances experienced increased stress when a dozen employees put in for retirement with hopes of cashing out accrued vacation and sick time. The announcement also has spurred vendors to demand cash instead of credit as payment.



**City Hall (center rear) looms over Court Street Square, which is closed, Thursday in downtown San Bernardino.** AP PHOTO