San Luis Obispo residents and students have tried to settle differences in the past, but Mayor Jan Marx said “everyone needs to give 51 percent for it to work.”

“I think it definitely put a bit of a damper on students’ perspective of the city because it made us feel like we weren’t a part of San Luis Obispo,” Kavadas said. “The unruly noise ordinance was sort of a slap in the face, like, ‘Yeah, you’re here for the next four years, and we’re not going to let you enjoy your time as much as you could.’”

This separation of locals and college students is a current issue in San Luis Obispo, and Mayor Jan Marx hopes to help remedy it by visiting Cal Poly more often.

The stereotypical party lifestyle of many colleges like Cal Poly has created friction between local residents and students, said San Luis Obispo vice mayor John Ashbaugh.

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The two graphic communication workshops will be held March 19 and 26 and cost $195 for both. The first workshop is from 9 a.m. to noon, and will lead participants through InDesign, while the second is from 1 to 4 p.m. and focuses on website design.

Amber Kiwan
AMBERKIWAN.MD@MAIL.COM

sign skills this spring.

Web, multimedia software and design will give the community and even on-campus students a chance to learn a little about typography. The Web design workshop, taught by graphic communication professor Ken Rothmuller, will examine already-existing websites. "Participants" will learn by taking apart existing websites and learning how things were built," Singh said.

Although some may not like the two-week set-up of the workshops, there are distinct benefits. "Participants" will have enough time to fully learn the programs. "They can use the week in between to work on projects and have questions when they get back," Singh said.

Having this time to work with the programs and practice the skills they have learned is an important aspect of graphic communication learning. Graphic communication senior Alex Wong said two workshops is sufficient enough to learn layout and Web design because most of the learning comes from independent exploration of the programs. "It is definitely hard at first," Wong said. "But you learn by using it and practicing."

The fee for the workshops is $195, which includes instruction and materials. The workshops will be held March 19 and March 26. InDesign CSS Jumpstart will be from 9 a.m. to noon and Deconstructing Web Design will be from 1 to 4 p.m.

Organic vegetables and market produce for sale. The students get to experience everything that goes into organic farming, Heardick said.

It isn't just the students in the on-terprise class who are doing research at the farm. Fruit science classes also utilize the farm, as well as some construction classes. The organic farm has, Heardick said, become a place where "learning by doing" is offered to students of all majors.

The faculty and staff at the organic farm are also researching ways to improve and diversify it, Heardick said.

First on the list is the addition of new crops such as artichokes and artichokes, as well as the continued growth of classic favorites, such as carrots and squashes, which are planted weekly.

The soil will also change along with the crops. Cover crops, or crops that help the soil's fertility and the farm's overall health, will be used in order to keep the health of the farm strong, MacAuley said.

Despite the success seen at the farm since the program closed, community members haven't realized the continued convenience of Cal Poly Organic Farm produce, environmental management and operations junior Nick Shields said. "It was very convenient from a shopping standpoint because (it's) over 50 percent of my shopping already done," Shields said.

Heardick said he participated in the organic farm agriculture program for 10 weeks this past summer before the department called it quits. He was slow to switch to farmers' markets because of an "intransigent" attitude, but now attends the Downtown San Luis Obispo Farmers' Market almost every week to photograph it.

Produce from the organic farm is not only made available at the Downtown San Luis Obispo Farmers Market but can also be purchased at the Morro Bay Farmers' Market and the Madonna Plaza Farmers' Market, Heardick said.

Still, the horticulture and crop science department is looking into new venues for the organic crops to be sold as well as more availability for the community. With increased student, faculty and community participation, the horticulture and crop science department plans on hosting a large on-campus farmers' market. "We are building an infrastructure toward a Cal Poly farmers' market," Heardick said.

The Cal Poly Organic Farm also offers a U-Pick on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. U-Pick is an opportunity for students, faculty and community members to harvest their own vegetables and fruit that is grown on campus. At each week's depot, resident station sells already harvested vegetables from the organic farm.

Community students move into older neighborhoods. Renting out older homes to college students in the same neighborhoods as permanent residents is "a formula for conflict," Ashbaugh said.

The San Luis Obispo City Council attempted to reduce this conflict by creating the newly-organized fruit market and produce stands. Heashbaugh said it is part of the plan to improve student and community relationships.

"We're all working on that relationship," Ashbaugh said, "and we have a long way to go."

City officials and Cal Poly students also try to improve that relationship through the Student Community Liaison Committee (SCLC). The SCLC is a student-run committee attempting to lessen the conflict between long-term residents of San Luis Obispo county students. SCLC chair and Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) President Sarah Storelli said the SCLC is ramping up efforts this year to improve relationships with an area of the neighborhood that is the only one in town with a new website, as well as increased publicity for the committee.

"I feel like in this year, we're trying to take some large strides," Storelli said.

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San Luis Obispo residents will soon have the chance to test their Web and design skills with GrCi's Spring Workshops.

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Amber Kiwan
AMBERKIWAN.MD@MAIL.COM

Cal Poly's Graphic Communication Institute (GrCi) will give the public an opportunity to learn Web, multimedia software and design skills this spring.

The institute will host two Saturday workshops in March called "InDesign CSS Jumpstart" and "Deconstructing Web Design." Industry professionals or anybody in the community looking to sharpen their graphic design skills are welcome and encouraged to attend by workshop assemblers.

"The fact that we're offering Saturday classes opens it up to both the community and even on-campus staff," said GrCi program manager Lyndee Sing. "Everyone needs a printed piece."

That is exactly what attendees will learn to create.

Graphic communication professor Lorraine Dongeau will teach the InDesign workshop, which is a class to help familiarize people with the Adobe program. "It can be a tool for whatever it is they need to do," Dongean said. "But you see, she said. The class also benefits those industry professionals who currently use other programs to meet their design needs. "Some people are a little afraid of Adobe programs because they think they are a little complex, but they aren't," Dongean said.

She also said those attending the workshops will have the opportunity to learn a little about typography.

The Web design workshop, taught by graphic communication professor Ken Rothmuller, will examine already-existing websites. "Participants" will learn by taking apart existing websites and learning how things were built," Singh said.

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Brown’s budget proposal still has no support from Republicans

Anthony York
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Gov. Jerry Brown conceded Monday that he has yet to win a single Republican vote for his budget plan.

As a result, he said, he probably won’t make a self-imposed deadline for a legislative vote Thursday on a key element: a June special election to extend billions of dollars in taxes.

Turning a meeting of community college leaders into a gubernatorial news conference, Brown quoted Jesuit philosophy and his former political-theory professor, and made a direct appeal to those hesitant Republicans.

“We’re not asking for the moon here,” he said. “We’re asking for common sense.”

Brown said many Republicans were afraid of retribution from conservative activists if they go along with the governor’s proposal.

“They believe that their heads will be on a stick,” Brown said Monday. The comment was a reference to the hosts of KFI-AM’s “John and Ken Show,” who call out Republicans for showing a willingness to compromise on taxes.

“There’s a lot of fear the machinery of the more conservative elements will turn against anyone who votes to put this on the ballot,” Brown said.

The governor said he hopes to be able to provide political cover for Republicans who vote for a deal.

“I’m thinking about what I should tell them,” he said. “I’m reaching into my box of great ideas to find something.”

Brown had hoped to get lawmakers to decide on the special election this week, but now says he needs a few more days to get the votes.
NATO may make a move against Libyan violence

Christi Parsons
Michael A. Memoli
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

President Barack Obama said Monday that NATO was considering a military response to “unacceptable” violence in Libya as leader Muammar Gadhafi unleashed his forces against rebels seeking to topple him.

Obama declined to answer specific questions from reporters about a possible no-fly zone. But, appearing with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard following a White House meeting, Obama suggested the military alliance may play a key role in any upcoming action and was considering “a wide range of potential options, including potential military options” as it met in Brussels, Belgium.

“I want to send a very clear message to those who are around Col. Gadhafi,” he said. “It is their choice to make, how they operate moving forward. And they will be held accountable for whatever violence continues to take place there.”

NATO will hold a meeting of defense ministers later this week. In the interim, Obama spoke of humanitarian efforts that the United States was spearheading. Obama said he had authorized an additional $15 million in humanitarian aid to assistance agencies on the ground in Libya.

Obama also declined to answer questions about the soaring oil prices that have resulted in gasoline-price spikes across the United States.

In Brussels, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said leading nations would not stand by “idly” and called Gadhafi’s actions “unforgivable.”

He did not rule out military action.

State

BARSTOW (MCT) — California residents who have disconnected their telephone services have about 90 days before they will no longer be able to call 911 using their home phone line.

The use of disconnected landlines to call 911 was put into place in California in 1995 to allow people to still access emergency services after losing their phone service, according to the California Public Utilities Code.

Verizon, Barstow’s local phone service provider, notified customers in February that they would be disconnected within 90 days.

LOS ANGELES (MCT) — The crash of a NASA rocket bearing a sophisticated satellite has dealt a major setback to efforts aimed at understanding how humans are affecting Earth’s climate.

A nine-story Taurus XL rocket carrying the agency’s Glory satellite was launched early Friday from Vandenberg Air Force base in California. It crashed into the Pacific Ocean without reaching orbit, after the protective casing failed to open.

The satellite carried equipment to help scientists understand how the sun and particles of matter, called aerosols, affect Earth’s climate.

FLORIDA (MCT) — A conservative watchdog group filed a lawsuit Monday on behalf of a woman who accused U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings of “unwelcome sexual advances” and of retaliating against her for complaining. The suit says the woman, Winsome Packer, a policy adviser for the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, was repeatedly harassed while Hastings, D- Fla., served as chairman.

Hastings readily denied the accusation. “I have never sexually harassed anyone,” he said. The group, called Judicial Watch, is a longtime critic of Hastings.

NEVADA (MCT) — Nevada Sen. John Ensign, facing an ethics investigation for an affair with a campaign aide, said Monday he would not seek re-election because he wanted to spare his family from an “exceptionally ugly” campaign.

In February, the Senate Ethics Committee named a counsel to investigate claims that Ensign violated ethics rules and federal law in the aftermath of his affair with Cynthia Hampton. Ensign said his decision was not influenced by the Ethics Committee investigation.

International

JAPAN (MCT) — Japanese Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara, who had been seen as a possible successor to Prime Minister Naoto Kan, said Sunday that he would quit after receiving illegal donations over the years.

Maehara, who assumed the post in September, apologized to the Japanese public for causing mistrust by the scandal, he said at a news conference after meeting with Kan. He said he had accepted donations of about $650 each from 2005 to 2008 and in 2010, for a total of about $3,000, in violation of Japanese law against foreign donations to politicians.

AFGHANISTAN (MCT) — Afghan President Hamid Karzai rejected an apology on Sunday by the American general running the military campaign in his country for the recent deaths of nine boys in a helicopter attack, sending already tense relations with Washington to a new low.

Karzai’s comments came despite his speaking to President Barack Obama in an hourlong video teleconference Wednesday, the day the boys were killed in northeast Afghanistan, Obama “expressed his deep regret,” the White House said.

I want to send a very clear message to those who are around Col. Gadhafi. It is their choice to make, how they operate moving forward.

— President Barack Obama

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Guantanamo detainees’ trials to continue

President Barack Obama cleared the way for new military trials for suspected terrorists at the Navy base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on Monday.

The White House insists the president still intends to close the facility.

Obama lifted a freeze on new prosecutions under the military commission system that he put in place shortly after taking office in 2009, saying that the process, which had been heavily criticized by human-rights groups and other countries for a lack of fairness, had been revised to better safeguard the rights of detainees.

The president said his decision “broadens our ability to bring terrorists to justice, provide oversight for our actions and ensure the humane treatment of detainees.”

About 170 detainees remain jailed at the prison, down from 242 when Obama took office.

Shutting down the prison at Guantanamo and shifting cases to civilian federal courts was a bedrock promise of Obama’s presidential campaign. He argued that the facility’s reputation was used as a recruiting tool for terrorists.

But the Justice Department’s decision in 2009 to try high-ranking al-Qaida operative Khalid Sheik Mohammed in New York City provoked outrage among both Republicans and Democrats and damaged momentum for closing the prison.

The administration’s plans to transfer some detainees to other U.S. facilities was also highly controversial.

According to the White House, procedures for the reworked military tribunals will include a ban on the use of statements taken as a result of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and also a revamped system for handling classified information.

Obama also outlined procedures in an executive order for periodic reviews of the circumstances of each suspect’s detention to determine whether the individual constitutes a significant threat to national security.

The White House’s announcement, however, also included a vigorous defense of trying suspected terrorists in federal courts, suggesting that the administration is not backing away from its commitment to use the civilian criminal justice system wherever it is possible.

Late last year, Congress restricted the ability of the administration to transfer terrorism suspects to the United States from Guantanamo for trial.

The White House said it intended to seek the repeal of those restrictions.

Last week, Attorney General Eric H. Holder said he didn’t know whether the administration would be able to close the facility by the end of President Obama’s first term.

In a statement Monday, Holder said the president’s order “strengthens the legal framework under which we will continue to detain those individuals who are at war with our country and who pose a significant threat to the security of the United States. In addition, federal courts will continue to review the legality of detention of individuals at Guantanamo. While we continue to work to close Guantanamo, these steps will ensure that the detention of individuals there is appropriate under our laws.”

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**WHAT'S YOUR RANT?**

**YOU WRITE IN. WE INVESTIGATE.**

mustangdailywire@gmail.com

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**Tuesday Tunes**

What are you listening to?

- "One Love" by Bob Marley
  - Megan McIntyre, industrial engineering junior

- "An Honest Mistake" by The Bravery
  - Scott Edwards, industrial technology junior

- "Get It" by Chevelle
  - Chris Done, computer engineering senior

- "Up, Up & Away" by Kid Cudi
  - Cora Garcia, aerospace engineering sophomore

- "Rexha" by The Strokes
  - Kyle Huffman, wine and viticulture sophomore

- "Love Me Tender" by Elvis Presley
  - Jason Luong, civil engineering sophomore

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**The On-campus Housing Experience...**

Visit our booth at the Housing Fair on Dexter Lawn this Thursday, March 10, from 11am-2pm. First 50 people get a FREE t-shirt!

Sign up to live at Poly Canyon Village for a chance to win El Corral Bookstore gift certificates!

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**All current residents**

All Continuing Off-Campus Students apply:

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805.756.9300 housing@calpoly.edu housing@calpoly.edu
The orange is a prime example in which the color of the fruit is not an indicator of quality. Some oranges, if left on the tree long enough, will experience regreening—a natural process in which the chlorophyll pigments return to the fruit and cause a green color to return to the fruit. These fruits might actually be sweeter because of the extra time they were allowed to ripen.

Uniform color found in the skins of oranges is often accomplished through the use of injected dye, and therefore, the color is not a good indicator of quality. Superficial brown streaks seen on some oranges will also not affect the flesh’s flavor. The important factors to look out for in choosing the best oranges at the market are a smooth, textured skin free of large pits, an even shape and no soft spots.

Oranges are in the top 20 types of produce to have residual pesticides, so when eating an orange it is wise to rinse it under running water (even if you plan on peeling it and not using the skin). If zesting an orange, it is important to either lightly wash the ped with soapy water, or choose organic varieties free of pesticides to ensure the safest and best tasting zest.

Whether it’s for your morning coffee, lunch, snack, dinner side dish or late night dessert, be sure to pick up an orange or two this week to amp up your vitamin C and immune system.

**Prevent colds during finals with a glass of OJ**
Chef shares kitchen secrets at SLO Botanical Garden

Kariee Prazak
KARLEEPRAZAK.MD^MAIL.COM

From the best way to get the smell of freshly-cut garlic off your hands to knife skills to food lore such as the food served at the Last Supper, local chef Brenda Hock knows it all. Take the knife for example. "The wrong knife is like a lethal weapon — a good knife is like having a third hand," Hock said.

That knife can be used to successfully cut produce multiple ways or filet a fish properly, she said.

Hock will channel her extensive culinary knowledge to teach two classes that will cover techniques, tips and more at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden March 26 and March 29. The events, "30 More Secrets from Your Favorite Chef," are a continuation from a January class called "30 Secrets From Your Favorite Chef."

Hock's goal for the classes is to teach practical cooking methods through a single recipe that features various cooking techniques. Once learned, Hock wants her students to take their new culinary knowledge and implement it in their own kitchen.

This teaching style is a result of her own experiences. She said she knew she wouldn't use a majority of the recipes learned in culinary school, so she took the acquired skills and applied them to what she did cook. The class is her way to share these experiences.

Techniques and tips from local chef Brenda Hock

1. When making a pie, freeze the butter then grate the butter to prevent clumping.
2. To freshen bread, spray with water and put it in the oven to make the crust crisp.
3. To defat chicken broth, run the hot liquid through an ice cube filled funnel.
4. Liquid and solid measure cups are off the same. Using them interchangeably will throw the measurements off.

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Sco'pic GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You mustn’t lose sight of the big picture; focus on the details when the time is right, but never become short-sighted.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — A straightforward assault on an issue that has proved stubborn in the past is likely to open some eyes — and, possibly, some minds as well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You must come to terms with the adversity that is facing you. Do everything you can to understand your rival’s true motives.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You mustn’t lose sight of the big picture; focus on the details when the time is right, but never become short-sighted.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — No matter how complicated something may get, you’ll have a way of getting to the heart of the matter. Others will follow, surely.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Don’t end up standing in your own way for any reason. A clear path to an important goal can surely be discovered.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You may come to mistrust your feelings for a while, especially when you make a gut decision that proves to be unwise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You’ve been asking a lot of everyone around you this time — and you certainly don’t want to start doubting yourself, either.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You can’t afford to let anyone second-guess you at this time — and you certainly don’t want to start doubting yourself, either.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You’ll be closer to your goals, especially when you make a gut decision that proves to be unwise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Illusion can be powerful at this time, and you must guard against any sort of deception that puts you at a disadvantage.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may want to shift things around in a manner that seems random to others, but to you it represents a return to order.

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PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may want to shift things around in a manner that seems random to others, but to you it represents a return to order.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You must come to terms with the adversity that is facing you. Do everything you can to understand your rival’s true motives.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — No matter how complicated something may get, you’ll have a way of getting to the heart of the matter. Others will follow, surely.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Don’t end up standing in your own way for any reason. A clear path to an important goal can surely be discovered.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You may come to mistrust your feelings for a while, especially when you make a gut decision that proves to be unwise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You’ve been asking a lot of everyone around you this time — and you certainly don’t want to start doubting yourself, either.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You can’t afford to let anyone second-guess you at this time — and you certainly don’t want to start doubting yourself, either.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You’ll be closer to your goals, especially when you make a gut decision that proves to be unwise.

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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You’ll be closer to your goals, especially when you make a gut decision that proves to be unwise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-28) — Illusion can be powerful at this time, and you must guard against any sort of deception that puts you at a disadvantage.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may want to shift things around in a manner that seems random to others, but to you it represents a return to order.

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The trouble with democracy today

When individual citizens cast votes, they do so as one among millions. The vast number of voters that participate means the contribution of any single voter is nearly zero. As a result, the cost of voting (doing a little research and going to the polls) can be quite high compared to the benefit of contributing a fraction of a percent to the final decision. The value of making a decision is probably less than the cost of additional research necessary to reach it. Therefore, voters tend to do less research.

Special interests can exploit this in two ways. By providing large amounts of advertising, they reduce the cost to the voter of acquiring more (but not necessarily better) information. And by increasing the apparent value of each voter’s fractional decision (voting is patriotic/throw the bums out), they can increase targeted voter turnout on ideological and emotional grounds. In the upper echelons of politics, such as Congress, the decision-making entities face a different cost/benefit analysis than the average citizen. There are fewer voters, so each vote has a much larger impact — and after all, it is their job to obtain information and make decisions. They spend a small proportion of the money other peoples’ time and money to get more accurate data and decide how to use it more effectively.

Here special interests have different methods of pursuing their goals. Campaigning for office costs a great deal of money. Special interests, business or social, have money to fund those campaigns, ensuring an obligated official. They also have the money to hire information-dealers and people-pushers — lobbyists — to influence the decisions those officials make. The cost to a voter of losing a political decision is often low (when a tariff is implemented, or a product is subsidized or mandated), while the benefit to special interests is often high. The benefit to a voter of winning a political decision is often low (preventing a subsidy/tariff/mandate) while the cost to special interests, in missed revenue/funding/feelings of superiority, is often high.

As a result, special interests have a tendency to dominate in the political arena, and individual citizens, who wish to get involved, will be best served by supporting whatever special interest is most aligned with their own goals.

Eventually, most people are taxed/regulated/mandated under the assumption, conscious or otherwise, that being screwed over a lot and getting the special advantage is better than merely being screwed over a lot. It’s just not worthwhile (individually) to fight it (individually).

The agents most active in the political arena — special interests — will push to get as much benefit as they can from the tools available to them. But ultimately, special interests can only obtain the privileges available to politicians to dispense.

The great financial and ideological struggles we see in our government are incidental and inherent. Those who stand to gain the most from powerful interests have the greatest interest in obtaining, preserving and expanding it. This is an argument against the increase in government power, because it can only result in an increasingly violent struggle for control — terminating either in anarchy or authoritarianism. Atoms approach government power is tempting because of the seeming good to which it may be put, but such a result, would be more a happy accident or a sporadic event than a consistent policy. It would be wiser to pursue a thoughtful, organized retreat from omnipotence to essentials — distributing power rather than collecting it — so democracy may be less useful for manipulation.

Will that solve problems? No. Political trouble — it’s our nature. But, it is important to understand that even a government completely free from partisanship and manipulation would be incapable of addressing the root cause of human conflict. There are no mechanical solutions to moral problems.

A less-powerful, less-enslaving structure would be an improvement. First, it would reduce the temptation to fix all our problems by legislation. Second, it would consist of people to obtain profit and agreement by force.
Lewis, Hanson garner all-conference honors

Basketball continued from page 12

Shawn Lewis, a senior guard, and David Hanson, a forward, have been a significant part of the Mustangs’ offense this season. They have combined for more than half of Cal Poly’s 59 points per game this year. The duo collectively average 30 points per game, with each averaging 15 points per game. Guard Malik Love was also named co-freshman of the year.

With the change in format to the Big West tournament this season, Cal Poly will not get to enjoy the first or second round byes earned by previous Big West top two finishers. In the past, the first and second seed would get byes into the semifinals, and the third and fourth seeds would get first round byes. This year, all eight teams will play each other in the first round.

But, Cal Poly is poised for one of its best chances at taking the Big West tournament. The only other time in program history the team finished second in the Big West, they advanced to the tournament finals, only to lose to Long Beach State. This season, Cal Poly has shown it is capable of contending with any team. The Mustangs have defeated each Big West opponent at least once, save for preseason favorite and No. 1 seed Long Beach State and No. 5 UC Santa Barbara. In Cal Poly’s last meeting with each of these teams, the Mustangs lost by just six points in games decided in the final minute of play.

If Cal Poly defeats UC Riverside, it will go on to play the winner of No. 3 Cal State Northridge and No. 6 Cal State Fullerton on Friday, with the championship game taking place on Saturday.

The tournament begins for the Mustangs March 10 at 6 p.m. at the Honda Center in Anaheim.

THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS

TUESDAY NIGHT
7:00 PM in Mott Gym

CAL POLY BASKETBALL
Women’s Basketball Hosts First Round of Big West Tournament*

The team begins its march to a Big West title on Tuesday. Be here as Cal Poly takes the first step toward the conference crown and the team’s first-ever NCAA tournament bid.

Student Tickets at the game — $5

*The First 200 Cal Poly students get FREE tickets courtesy of the Mustang Mentors and Coach Faith Mimnaugh.

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS
Men's basketball gears up for Big West Tournament

A season's worth of work and progression will be tested this weekend as the Cal Poly men's basketball team (15-14, 10-6 Big West) travels to Anaheim to chase their NCAA Tournament aspirations.

The Mustangs enter the Big West Tournament as the second seed, matching the program record for the highest finish in their 17-year Division I history.

Head coach Joe Callero said in a press conference Feb. 28 that he is proud of what his team accomplished this season, and how much they've grown.

"We've attained all the goals we set out for this season," Callero said. "Now, it's finally time to look back a little bit and say, 'We are proud of all our accomplishments this season.'"

In a preseason Big West media poll, the Mustangs were picked to finish fifth overall in the conference. An early three-game winning streak kept Cal Poly in the upper half of the standings before it was able to pull away and claim second place with a six-game winning streak, its longest in four years.

While maintaining stout defense, the Mustangs showed offensive growth through the season. The team was led by senior guard Shawn Lewis and junior forward David Hanson, who tied for eighth overall in conference scoring with 15.1 points per game.

For Lewis, a loss in the tournament would be the end of his career with Cal Poly.

Lewis said though he is proud of his individual accomplishments, he is driven to bring home the program's first Big West Championship.

"I'm very proud of myself," Lewis said. "But I hope to get past that and be the first team to make it to the NCAA Tournament or take first place in the Big West."

Hanson said the team has worked hard all season in anticipation of the tournament.

"We've put in a lot of work, not only the players but the coaching staff, so it feels great to see some success like (our record)," Hanson said. "Our goal is still to be the best and be first place, but we're very happy with how things have turned out."

Cal Poly will face No. 7 UC Riverside (13-18, 6-10) in the first round. In both of their regular season meetings, the Mustangs have