

The Greater Bakersfield

**GREEN EXPO**

IT SEEMS THAT PEOPLE FIND MORE WAYS TO LIVE “GREEN” with every passing day, and Bakersfield should be proud to be at the forefront of this sort of progressive thinking. Every year, the Greater Bakersfield Green Expo is held as a celebration of the efforts that local people have put forth the previous 12 months through the Keep Bakersfield Beautiful organization. These efforts include graffiti cleanup, litter removal, and planting trees and flowers.

“The Greater Bakersfield Green Expo is the only high school Recycled Materials Competition in the state of California that annually gives \$6,000 in student cash awards for their creativity,” Ray Scott, Board Chair for Keep Bakersfield Beautiful and Chairman for the Green Expo, stated. “In six years, the [event] has given over \$42,000 to 66 students [out of] over 300 students from over 23 different high schools throughout Kern County.”

The overall collaboration includes Keep Bakersfield Beautiful, Kern County Waste Management, and Metropolitan

Recycling, LLC, and nearly 40 vendors are present to give participants information on the most current ways to live a greener lifestyle. One of the most exciting parts is getting to view the works of art that the high schoolers make completely out of recycled materials, like bottles and cans.

There are two categories for the prizes: Best Presentation and Best Use of Material. In the Best Presentation category, first place when to Shadyn Defrees, second to Allyanna Demafeliz, third place was awarded to Anaya Behran, and Cristian Vasquez took home fourth. Daniel West topped the Best Use of Material category, with McKayla Molina coming in second, Maryjane Alcalá in third, and Jamine Lopez nabbing fourth. Each category also had four honorable mentions.

Anyone can join the cause year-round, though, and meet up with some like-minded individuals who gather for the betterment of our community. Go to the Keep Bakersfield Beautiful website at [keepbakersfieldbeautiful.us](http://keepbakersfieldbeautiful.us) for more information, and to put litter in its place!

**Adopt a Box HELP THE MOMS**

IF YOU’VE NEVER HEARD OF THE KERN RIVER BLUE STAR MOMS, it’s high time you learned what this amazing local organization is up to. A chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America, this small but mighty group of military moms has banded together to do some good.

“We have two missions,” explained chapter president Shonda Abercrombie. “First, we support moms during their journey through military mom life. Second, and this is what the public sees the most, we support our warriors while they serve.” And they do this mainly through care packages.

They ask for donations from the public—toiletries, games, foods, local treats (even copies of Bakersfield Magazine!)—and package them up and ship them out with the help of volunteers. But believe it or not, getting the donations and volunteers is the easy part (last year, Kern River Blue Star Moms collected and packed nearly 300 pounds of goods).

“The hardship is actually raising the money to ship the boxes and getting the names of local soldiers,” Abercrombie said; they’ve had extra boxes but no local soldiers to send them to. “It’s fourteen dollars to ship a box—that’s a flat rate from the Post Office—so we’re asking people to ‘adopt a box,’ or two or three. We had a beautiful outpouring earlier this year and were able to ship about two hundred boxes to fourteen countries.” For more information, or to Adopt A Box, visit [kernriverbluestarmoms.org](http://kernriverbluestarmoms.org).



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—Shonda Abercrombie



**HAPPENING THIS MONTH AT TEJON...**

**DADS & GRADS GIVEAWAY**

June 8 – 22

Visit us on Facebook and tell us why your dad or grad is the best for a chance to win gift cards to the Outlets at Tejon!

**FLAG DAY**

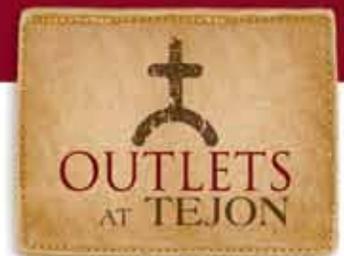
Sunday, June 14

Join us for family fun as we salute the men and women who proudly serve us. Show your military ID to receive special discounts and perks!

**4TH OF JULY SIDEWALK SALE**

July 3 – 5

Find great deals during the 4th of July sidewalk sale event. Save up to 65% at more than 70 stores!



Easy access off I-5, just south of Bakersfield.

For more details, visit [TejonOutlets.com](http://TejonOutlets.com).



IMAGES COURTESY OF RAY SCOTT (GREEN EXPO), SHONDA ABERCROMBIE (BLUE STAR MOMS)