

State Champions



Sports | Page 8

COURTESY OF DARYL PETERSON/CERRITOS SPORTS INFORMATION

4x State Champions: The Cerritos College men's soccer team joyfully celebrating its state championship victory. The Falcons defeated Golden West College 2-1, after a last minute penalty goal propelled the Falcons to win their fourth state championship at Ventura College on Dec. 2, 2018.

“Genetically modifying babies is for well-being, not aesthetics.”

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Toss aside the old you and discover the new you with this week's Bianca Bitches

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Shmackem: LA Clippers will fall from grace

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‘Overall satisfaction’ and benefits from lot

Carmelita Islas Mendez

Managing Editor
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A community forum to update community members on the 166th St and Studebaker Rd parking lot was held by administration members on Dec. 3 at 5 p.m. with no community members present.

Vice President of Business Services and Assistant Superintendent Felipe Lopez believes that the reason for the low attendance is because community members are satisfied with the lot and have no complaints. He said, “My thoughts [are] you know, once they knew all the improvements that were made, I think they, overall, were pretty satisfied with the parking lot.”

The forum was announced through social media and by email said Director of College Relations, Public Affairs and Governmental Relation Miya Walker.

Walker and Lopez said that the only complaints that they have been made aware of are a graffiti and weed problem, but that these complaints were corrected at the beginning of the year, when they were initially reported.

Even though Walker and



CARMELITA ISLAS MENDEZ

Community Forum: Vice President of Business Services and Assistant Superintendent Felipe Lopez gave a presentation to update community members on changes made to the parking lot on 166th St and Studebaker Rd. However, no community members were present on the Dec. 3 forum.

Lopez have not heard of recent complaints being made, they encourage community members to communicate with them on any issue they may have with the parking lot and made their emails available.

In a previous meeting, one community member suggested that information on how the revenue generated by the parking lot

is being used to benefit students.

During Lopez's eight minute presentation he explaining how the revenue is being used. The funds, totaling \$275,000, are being allocated to fund study abroad programs and the Cerritos Complete.

Cerritos Complete is a merit-based scholarship for high school students and high school gradu-

ates in the district and funds the first year at Cerritos College to encourage students to continue pursuing their education.

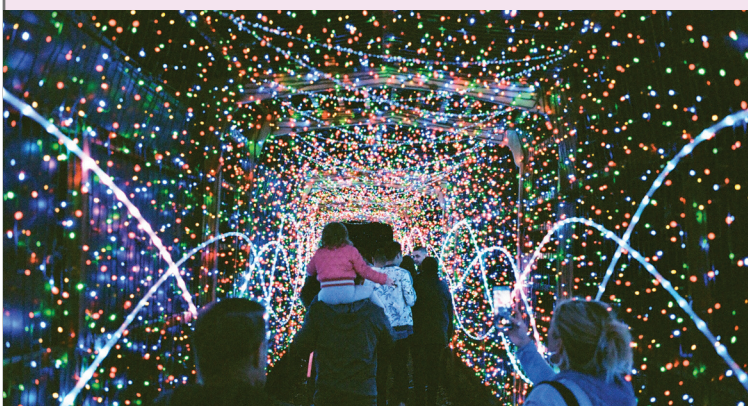
The 2018 Taiwan Experience Education Program where students were able to travel to Taipei City to work as teacher's aides or take courses in Taipei University was funded with the revenue generated by parking lot.

Other study abroad programs coming soon will also be funded by the parking lot revenue.

Lopez said that for community members who were unable to attend the forum, the information presented is available on the Cerritos College website. The community forums will continue until the end of the temporary use permit expires in 2021.

Holiday Events

- Los Angeles Zoo Lights, Nov. 16, 2018- Jan. 6, 2019, 6-10 p.m.
- Pershing Square 'Holiday Ice' Rink
- Queen Mary 'Where Holidays Set Sail, Nov. 23, 2018- Jan. 6, 2019
- Winter Wonderland at the Grove until Dec. 5
- Stevie Wonder's House Full of Toys, Staples Center, Dec. 9
- 'Las Posadas' at Olvera Street, Dec. 16-24
- The Originals Farmers Market, Dec. 15-24
- Help through holiday giving- YMCA of Greater Long Beach toy drive, 239 Los Cerritos Center until Dec. 4



CREATIVE COMMONS

LA Zoo Lights: Located near Griffith Park, this nightly event is filled with holiday lights, ongoing since 2014.

Open Enrollment - Spring 2019

Journalism courses



JOUR 101 Beginning Newswriting & Reporting 3.0 Units

This course teaches you the principles and ethics of journalism by understanding the concepts of writing and reporting. Learn the skill of gathering information by talking to sources on campus and writing stories.

Ticket #20453 | TTH | 9:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. | FA245 -- Christian Brown



JOUR 107A College Newspaper 3.0 Units

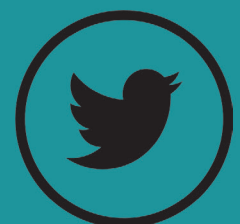
Join the official Cerritos College newspaper, Talon Marks. Experience what it's like to be published in print and online. Develop writing, photography, design and multimedia skills in this course.

Ticket #23310 | MW | 12:30 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. | FA245 -- Christian Brown

JOUR 121 Multimedia Reporting 3.0 Units

This course will provide you with the skills necessary to tell a story through multi-platforms such as writing for the web, video, audio and social media.

Ticket #22886 | MW | 3 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. | FA245 -- Alicia Edquist



Professor 'Mike' says farewell 30 years later

Eunice Barron
Staff Writer
@barroneunice

It's known that teachers, by mentoring youth, can make a difference in a positive way and their advice can make a huge impact for any student to navigate the real world.

Professor Michael "Mike" McPherson has been coaching and mentoring Falcons for the last 30 years, impacting the Cerritos College community in many different ways.

Simply known as Mike or Coach Mike by former students, colleagues and friends; they have said that he has made a noteworthy impact by becoming a mentor and father-figure to many students throughout the years.

While McPherson has accomplished a lot throughout his life, he has come a long way, making him into the person he is today.

In his early years, McPherson contributed to "this great country

and remain in contact with many college friends to this day.

He continued to pursue his education by transferring to California State University, Northridge where he knew fellow classmate, singer and television personality, Paula Abdul.

After graduating from university, he became first in his family to graduate with a college degree.

McPherson returned to his alma mater, Cerritos College, not only to be an instructor in the health science department but also to hold the positions of football coach and later as administrator.

As an instructor, McPherson recalled his teaching goal for all of his students: "to discover themselves by [knowing] their strengths, weakness and passions."

McPherson said, "My intent in the classroom is to make a difference in student's lives."

As an health science instructor, he made sure his lectures included advice that would help students meet their aspirations. He advised that they take care of their overall health whether it was mental, professional or physical.

He coached the Cerritos College football team for 15 years. He enjoyed his experience as coach by helping the players successfully win football games, going to Super Bowl games and helping student athletes transfer to four-year universities.

He said his favorite task as a coach was recruiting student athletes. McPherson said, "[I] had a chance to promote Cerritos College to new families knowing it could have the same influence on them that the college had on [me]."

His impact as a coach in-



PHOTOS BY EUNICE BARRON

Professor McPherson aka "Mike": After teaching for over 35 years, Fall 2018 is the last semester McPherson will be teaching at Cerritos College. McPherson will start a new chapter in his life.

“...Discover themselves by [knowing] their strengths...”

and to America's freedom" by serving in the United States Navy during the late seventies.

McPherson is a former Falcon alumni himself. He graduated in 1982 and played in the Cerritos College football team.

During his Falcon years, McPherson met his wife and they have been married for 30 years

fluenced many of his student athletes such as former football player Donny Sams, who graduated in 1997. Sams considers Coach Mike as a "father-figure" to him after Sams' biological father passed away.

"When I left Cerritos [College], my father passed away [and] Coach Mike took his place," said Sams.

Coach Mike taught Sams how to "be responsible and to take care of himself."

After 20 years, Sams still considers his former coach as a father-figure and a big influence in his life to this day.

James Rivera is another former student athlete who owes his success and motivation to coach Mike.

Rivera recalls his time at Cerritos College as him being a "terrible student and immature."

"He [McPherson] was awesomely patient with me and put me in the right position" said Rivera.

Thanks to his mentor's motivation, Rivera earned a scholarship to Fresno State University.

As a result of his experience as a coach, he moved position as the Athletic Director on campus.

One of his most significant accomplishments as an administrator was that he coordinated the Pepsi vending agreement in 1999 that resulted in a contract worth \$1.5 million. The purpose of the deal was to fund branding for the school and equipment that the campus needed.

It was reported that the agreement was the largest beverage contract in the state and brought statewide recognition to Cerritos College.

Cerritos College and Pepsi then formed a partnership and a fundraising program in which was expanded to all 107 community colleges in California.

He was also the head of the College Bound Program which offers college courses to high school students in nearby communities.

With this impressive resume of accomplishments, Michael "Mike" McPherson will pass on the Falcon legacy for many future students to come.



Yoselyn Bejarano
Communications major

"What I like about him is that even though he teaches health, he also teaches you about yourself and life situations."



Lily Murrieta
Communications major

"He's just very honest and teaches with intent and you can just feel the impact."



Matthew T. Vasquez
Police cadet

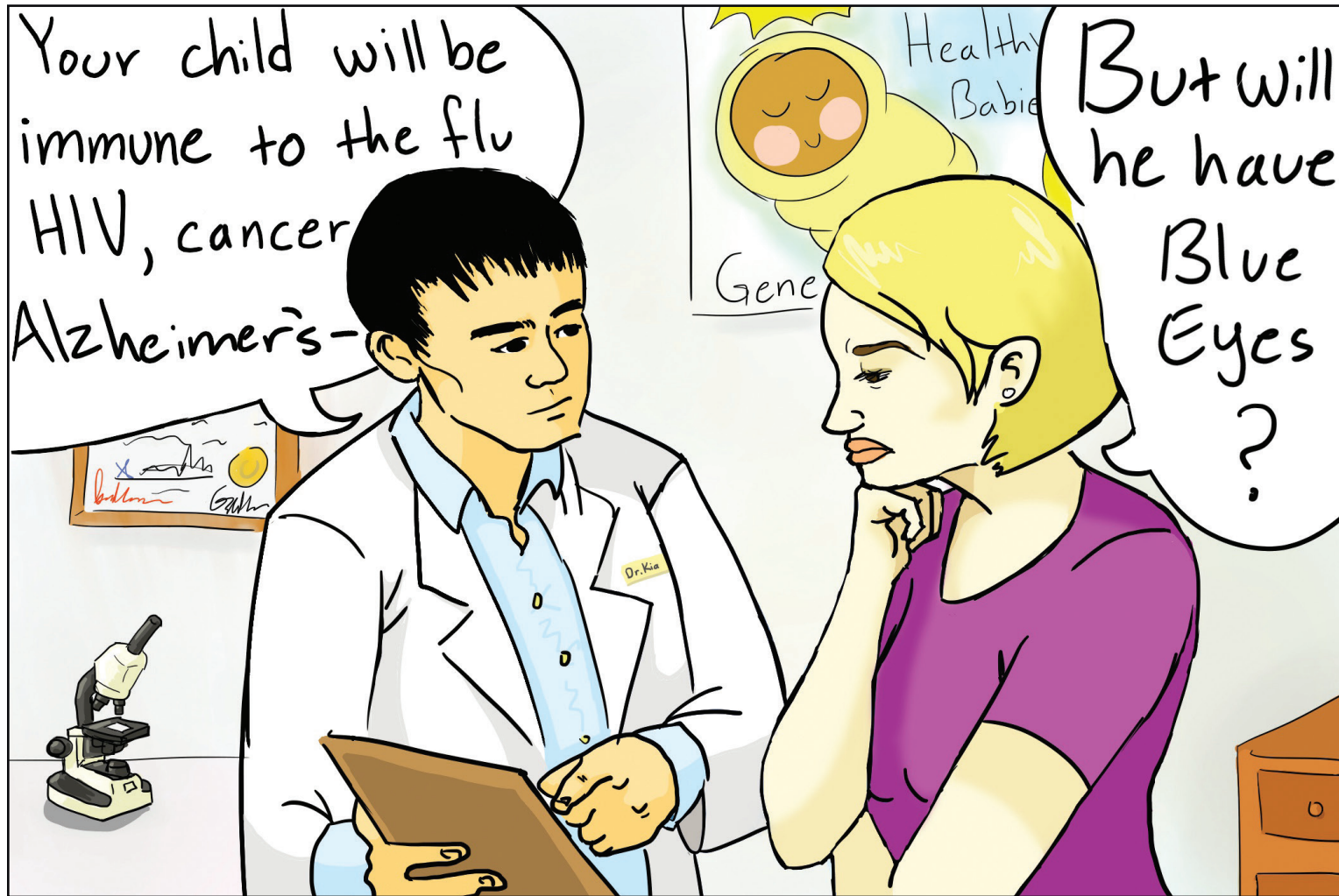
"He is the most respectful man I have met. I see him more as a father-figure."



Hayden Brogdon
Political science major

"I definitely feel like I can take everything from his class lectures and apply into my life in many different ways."

Genetically engineered babies the new future for couples



FREELANCE ILLUSTRATOR/SOFIA GALLEGOS

Although it may be a touchy or a taboo topic, the idea of genetically engineering babies isn't actually as bad as people may think and could actually be a big benefit.

Pretty soon, technology will be taking over the world and sooner or later you'll be given the power to ensure that you will have a healthy baby, and you may not have to worry about it being at risk of illnesses that may run in the family.

Chinese scientist He Jiankui of the Southern University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen, China, claimed on Nov. 26 that he has edited a disease caus-

ing gene mutation in human embryos, which makes him the first man to have potentially created gene-edited babies.

This controversial idea would benefit the LGBTQ community, women who are infertile and babies who are born with predisposed diseases, in other words babies would be free of illnesses that would otherwise be inherited through family genes.

Are genetically engineered babies the new thing for couples?

LGBTQ couples often have the option of adopting or paying for a surrogate, but in this case, this could let the parents combine their genes and create a baby that

is related to both parents.

Some women are born with diminished ovarian reserves, which occurs when a woman's ovaries lose their reproductive potential, making it almost impossible to conceive a baby.

There are currently women and men who have inherited illnesses or certain cancers, this technology would help stop in advance by having them removed from the baby's genetic make up entirely.

Genetically engineering babies should not be permitted when couples only have the intent to genetically modify babies cosmetically.

For example, a couple who both have brown colored eyes go into a doctor's office to see whether they can genetically modify their baby to be born with blue eyes and blonde hair.

This isn't Build-A-Baby where you can pick and choose your baby's facial structure, eye colors or hair color.

It would be ethically and morally wrong to cosmetically alter babies into this certain expectation of perfection, or into their parents' aesthetic desires.

Focus on the benefits of these advances will have in making babies in the future healthier and happy families, and forget about

picking out the colors of the child's hair or eyes.

If you think that you would love your child any less if they were born with black hair and brown eyes then you need to re-evaluate whether or not you're actually ready to have children or if you should even have any at all.

When someone has a child they are meant to love that child unconditionally, regardless of their physical appearance.

Although genetically engineering human embryos is banned here in the United States hopefully the U.S Government could create an ethical way of allowing human embryos to be genetically altered to get rid of family inherited diseases, help the LGBTQ community, and women who are infertile.

Don't have kids just to be superficial, it is important to make that very clear when talking about genetically engineered babies.

It's heartbreaking for a parent to lose a child, the pain a parent must feel when a child suffers from or dies from an illness that was passed down genetically is unimaginable.

What's important in life is that your child is happy and healthy and there are parents out there who would do anything in their power to make sure their children are safe and well.

So for someone to come out and use a potentially life saving procedure, and use it so that their baby will fit their desired look like some kind of designer accessory is disrespectful and wrong.

Many countries and families could really take advantage of this type of technology and the opportunities of having a healthy family would be tremendous in countries where infant mortality is high due to inherited family genetics.

Free Speech Zone

Should babies be genetically engineered?

Compiled by:
Carmelita Islas Mendez
Managing Editor
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If you'd like to share your own thoughts on the subject tweet @talonmarks or visit talonmarks.com.



Jonathan Lopez
English major

It's hard to say because it's risky and controversial. I am not going to lean toward either side. I think we all just have wait to see how this turns out.



Philip Herrera
Culinary arts major

What I worry is that if you ... don't have health benefits and if you don't have the funds to pay for gene therapy for your unborn child then you might have issues down the road.



Ivette Melgar
English major

You shouldn't do that to a human baby against their will. It could be good too in a way because it could be a good way to get it [genetically predisposed illnesses] out of their systems early.



Ruth Melgar
English major

I don't think it's right or natural. We don't know the outcome that this could have so this is something that is really risky. We also don't know if and how this can affect us.

Talon Marks is a First Amendment publication.

Editorials express the views of the Editorial Board. Other opinions express the view of the author and are not to be considered opinions of the publication's staff, the Editorial Board, the advisers, the Cerritos College Associated Students, the college administration or the Board of Trustees.

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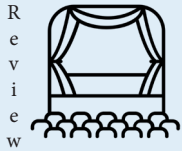
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'Almost, Maine' is superb



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The Cerritos College Theatre Department production of "Almost, Maine," which premiered Nov. 30, proved to be worth the price of admission as the cast pulled off a superb performance.

"Almost, Maine" was an appropriate choice as cuffing and Hallmark movie season is upon us. The rom-com play was filled with on-the-nose jokes and plenty of moments that left you saying, awww! and awww.

This play is presented in bite-sized, tangible skits that are easy to consume for those who are not much of a theatre type.

With the play being set in the present day, there is no old English to trudge through and decipher, thus making it easier for the audience to understand and enjoy.

Each of the eight skits, plus the prologue, interlogue and epilogue, was comprised of believable acting that allowed the audience to follow every word, laugh when appropriate and feel that tug on their heartstrings when a bittersweet scene was depicted.

The cast was a mix of familiar faces and first-timers, Nichole Caayon, Peter Figueira, Marie Igano, Sonny Lopez, Sam Mellgoza and Stephanie Ramirez, who all seemed to take like fish to water, despite acting in front of an audience comprised predominantly of strangers.

The costuming was standard as the play is set in present day, and modern day fashion trends aren't exceptional to begin with.

The set design proved versatile and accurately depicted a small town atmosphere.

Two porch fronts, a bench, a bar sign, a tree stump, a boulder and ironing board and other minimal props and furniture are what compromised the fictional and romantic town of "Almost, Maine."

Along with some aesthetic set lighting and sound sprinkled in, you are able to sit back and enjoy the love-sick, heartfelt atmosphere that was created by both set design and the cast's collective performance.

"Almost, Maine" is the perfect production to take a date or to just pal around and exchange giggles with friends.

The play will be in production Dec. 1, 6-8 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 9 at 2 p.m.

Enter the world of Polychromatic, Time and Space



ELIZABETH CORCOLES

Abstract art: As the Fine Arts gallery hosted the Polychromatic Mojo: Color as Content and Time and Space: 122 Hours of Ink: Work from the Cerritos College Summer Printmaking Residency, the participating artists were invited to elaborate their artwork. The artists Q&A was held in the lecture room in Fine Arts on Dec. 3.

Guadalupe Zaragoza
Staff Writer
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With an incredible theme of Polychromatic and Time and Space, a closing reception was held on Dec. 3 presenting two artists and their take on their artwork featured in the gallery.

The closing reception began with a brief introduction by art professor Hagop Najarian, who provided a fair explanation that well defined the theme.

Najarian continued on and gave a descriptive background of each artist, which included John Koller and Sarah Joe Frieden.

Koller received his bachelors in 1994 at San Jose State and his masters at Cal State Long Beach in 2005. He worked in the field of graphic design transitioning into photography, where he noticed

that creating art was his passion.

Najarian inserted that he was blown away by Koller's work. "Someone [that] likes to work with color [while] thinking about space and texture in the darker paintings were just kind of amazing," Najarian said.

Because Koller comes from a mixed ethnic background, being that his mother is Salvadorean and his father German, it became a large inspiration in his artwork.

"That kind of ties in also to like the the cultural blend and probably a some of my aesthetic," answered Koller.

Although both of the artists are originally from the Bay Area, Frieden took a different approach to the theme of the gallery.

Impressively receiving a degree in painting and printmaking from UCLA, Frieden's work has been exhibited nationally, includ-

ing Australia, Germany, Italy, France, the United Kingdom, South Korea and Japan.

"I grew up around these Hungarian grandparents with all of these amazing embroidered everything in this house. There were just cushions, and pillows, and lots of art books," Frieden



TIARA WHITE

Art reception: Sarah Joe Frieden explained to the students in attendance her art work featured in Polychromatic Mojo, she elaborated the inspiration which came about in her work. The gallery will be open until Dec. 7.

Bianca Bitches: Guide to a new you for the new year

Bianca Martinez
Editor-in-chief
@biancamart1955



The time has come for me to bid you all adieu, for now, whether you adored my column, tolerated, loathed or happened to read it on Reddit.

But as they say, you can't leave without having one more for the road, so here's one more column of me giving you advice you didn't ask for on a topic you didn't get to pick.

As the new year approaches, and another anxiety-inducing family dinner to get through is just around the corner, here's a survival guide on to not fall prey to the judgement of relatives,

finding the new you and how to follow through on all those resolutions you make to no avail.

Step #1: Build up your self-confidence/esteem

Anxious about meeting up with relatives because you know there's going to be an onslaught of back-handed compliments, judgmental remarks and intrusive questions.

You know the culprit, that one aunt that likes to pass her judgemental glare over everyone and tell them how they should live their lives, even though she is unemployed, has multiple health conditions, kids that have no manners and spews out more profanity than a well-seasoned sailor and I put together.

Well, no worries here because I'm going to teach you how to fend her off.

Negative comments have little to no effect if you don't let them bother you so instead developing a "thicker skin," try an approach that actually works, doesn't excuse their actions and improves your self-esteem in the process.

You must develop a healthy mindset, don't feel embarrassed to check out books or read articles on the subject and/or write

yourself affirmations where you can see them.

According to an article by Teen Vogue, "Write down some of the talents, skills, successes, and other things you love about yourself and focus on those."

Step #2: Find Spirituality

When I say, spirituality, I don't mean Jesus, no matter how much your BFF claims you need him, but I mean spiritually in yourself.



Put yourself on a pedestal for once, the grass is always greener on your side, you are too hot to handle, the world is your oyster!

Imagine all the positive things you are capable of, if you just believe in yourself.

Just think of how much lighter you would feel if you just lift the weight of all the self-doubt off your shoulders.

explained.

As both a graphic designer and an illustrator, Frieden believed that it's about being tight and loose within your work.

She began to work with lots of paper which she very much loved. From that point, she began to paint and cut up older paintings that served no interest to her. This slowly led her to much more abstracted work.

Cheryl, a student majoring in architecture, believed that from the presentation, one thing that captured her attention from both artists was that they thought outside the box, Frieden in particular.

"Her art is magic worrying. It transcends into something. The beautiful part of it is that she creates without error. And if there's mistakes, then you just keep going. That's what she utilizes in her art," said Cheryl.

The artwork and the artists overall represented that perfectionism is impossible to create but chaos will further include itself regardless so that's what makes art original and magical.

Push yourself to be the better version of you, because at the end of the day it's you that's going to get you to where you need to be, nobody else is.

Step #3: Implement your personal bill of rights

Don't want to go to the relatives for the holidays because it incites uncomfortable situations, memories and stuff you just don't want to deal with, because it affects you emotionally in a negative way?

Then don't, it's just that simple. You are not obligated to put yourself in a situation that you don't want to be in.

You have the right to be happy, and you especially have the right to make decisions that benefit you and put yourself first.

Stop pleasing others and please yourself first, just because it's the holiday doesn't mean you have to visit garbage people, even if they are related to you.

Step #4: Don't forget to self-care!

With all the hustle and bustle and stress that comes with the holiday season, don't forget to make time and "treat yo self!"

Six holiday activities to get in the Christmas spirit

Marilyn Parra

Staff Writer

[@talonmarks](#)

It is now Christmas season and if you're looking for a place to go with a friend or loved one these places are filled with holiday lights, food and cheer.

1. Amusement Park: If you have family visiting for the holidays try to check out the nearest theme park. This pricey, but fun activity will be sure to satisfy the Christmas desire. Disneyland, Universal Studios and Knott's Berry Farm all have holiday decorations, shows and food to try out as well as all the fun rides.

2. Los Angeles Zoo Lights: For just \$15 the LA Zoo puts on a beautiful display of bright lights throughout the whole park. It's a great opportunity to take photos and the drive up there is beauti-

ful as well.

3. LA Live Ice Skating: Sports fans will love this, the LA Kings ice skating rink is back and for a limited time only. It's perfect for any date night, and also a fun activity to do before or after a hockey game. Tickets are \$20 and high in demand, its best to call before making the drive to Downtown LA.

4. Candy Cane Lane: There are many parts in LA that put on a grand display of home lights but the best being Candy Cane Lane is located in Woodland Hills. These homes take it to the next level by having Christmas carolers, life-size Santas and many more. A tradition that has been going on for over 60 years, it is for sure a nice activity to do with family.

5. Snow Day LA: Love snow

but don't want to make the far trip up to the mountains? Well this activity is perfect, for only \$12 you can experience snow and even ride down snow hills at Snow Day LA. This event is fun for both adults and children, there are drinks, music, an interactive light show and to make it even better there is free parking.

6. Queen Mary's Chill: If you did not want to make a trip up to LA, the Queen Mary has their annual Chill festival. All ages are guaranteed to have fun, there are rides, music, snow, mazes and drinks. Located in the Long Beach Harbor the festival has different prices for different dates.

If you ever have time on the weekend or holiday break make sure to check out one of these places.



CREATIVE COMMONS

Fun, L.A. style: As winter break is steadily approaching, there are many places to visit for the holiday season. Whether, it's at Disneyland, Universal Studios Hollywood or simply ice skating, there is always something to do in the ever evolving L.A.

Smorgasburg LA's for the hipster foodie

Elizabeth Corcoles

A & E Editor

[@talonmarks](#)

Ranging from juicy fried chicken from Daddy's Chicken Shack, to an interesting, but quite delicious, Middle Eastern take

on tacos from Mideast Tacos; Smorgasburg has a variety of options to choose from.

Smorgasburg Los Angeles, a fairly new location for foodies and hipsters to spend their Sunday, located in the industrial

part of Los Angeles right off of Alameda, offers a diverse food selection that are Instagram worthy.

Many of the variations of food were aesthetically pleasing and gave the impression that it wouldn't be satisfactory to the foodie, but to our surprise, the thought that went into the visual of the food, also went into the making of the food.

The ambiance is chill and ranged from locals to tourists and parking wasn't too terrible.

As well as offering food from local vendors; vintage clothing, handmade jewelry and vegan creams were also available for tourists who are looking to be a part of the LA lifestyle.

Although, some vendors are pricey, for the most part vendors have a reasonable price. It was definitely worth the LA traffic. Smorgasburg is every Sunday.



CREATIVE COMMONS

Foodie central: Smorgasburg originated in Brooklyn and in the last two or so years made its way to Los Angeles. The food vendors are local and offer a diversity of food.



GAGE SKIDMORE/CREATIVE COMMONS

A miss: "A Christmas Prince: Royal Wedding," the sequel to "A Christmas Prince," seemed to have been a miss and disenchanting its audiences. The sequel premiered on Netflix Nov. 30.

'A Christmas Prince: Royal Wedding,' more like royal mess

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Eunice Barron

Staff Writer

[@talonmarks](#)

The Netflix holiday rom-com sequel, "A Christmas Prince: The Royal Wedding," which premiered Nov. 30, was not as magical as one would hope.

"A Christmas Prince: The Royal Wedding" made its grand royal return as a sequel for "A Christmas Prince" premiered back in 2017.

This sequel was a major disappointment and not as good as the first movie.

The dialogue and chemistry between the characters did not work well and did not deliver that magical feeling of romance to the audience.

The dialogue between the characters felt bland and unexciting which did not fulfill the film's high expectations to be more electrifying.

The chemistry between the characters seemed to lose its personalities with this sequel.

The plot also lacked enthusiasm with the most important event of the story which is: the Aldovian royal wedding.

Planning out the Aldovian royal wedding was supposed to be the main star of the entire movie, but it failed to do so by its lack of interest.

The Aldovian royal wedding seemed more like a regular wedding than a much expected glamorous event.

Despite the movie's lack of excitement, it still managed to be entertaining for the audience by foreshadowing many cliffhangers throughout the whole film.

The film had a Hallmark Christmas-like feeling to it, in which felt appropriate for this upcoming Christmas and holidays.

"A Christmas Prince: The Royal Wedding" takes place one

year later after former struggling journalist, Amber Moore, played by Rose McIver accepts to marry the prince of Aldovia on Christmas Day.

As Prince Richard, played by Ben Lamb, prepares to take his position as the King of Aldovia, the country unexpectedly gets hit by an economic crisis in which many citizens lose their jobs.

While the prince tries to find a solution to end the crisis, Amber finds herself second-guessing whether she is fit to be queen or not and fears that she will lose her identity along with it.

There were a lot of Meghan Markle references throughout the film, which drove a lot of attention to the similarities between Amber and the Duchess of Sussex herself.

Both ladies are American with professions and married into royalty, which the audience can

“
This sequel was a major disappointment and not as good as the first movie.
”

Eunice Barron
Staff Writer

definitely can point out.

Although the wedding looks to break traditional wedding protocols there is no doubt that this sequel was heavily inspired by the real-life royal romance of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

The sequel lacked its charm and excitement for the royal wedding event between the main characters in which was a huge disappointment for all fans from the first movie.

It was disillusioning to see the film not return the magic from the first film but it was still nice to see the plot's inspiration from the romance between Prince Harry and Markle.

Men's Basketball: Chasing the Ring

Jah-Tosh Baruti

Freelancer

@press1800tosh

Falcons men's basketball aims to reach the Final Four in consecutive seasons after coming up just short of the title game last season.

The 2018-19 team improved to 7-1 on the season overall after winning the three-game Grossmont tournament last weekend.

With wins against Grossmont, Palomar and San Diego City College the Falcons' locked up its second tournament championship this season.

MVP honors for the recent tournament were awarded to sophomore guard No. 5 Tawon Elston, while freshman guard No. 13 Chance Hunter made the All-Tournament team

The Falcons' 7-1 start is the best start for the men's team in over six seasons.

At the rate that this team is winning it's inevitable to be compared to last season's team which torched opponents on a nightly basis en route to a 27-6 record and a Final Four berth.

Sophomore guard No. 12 Christian Alvis-Labadie, says they are expected to make it back to the Final Four this season. "... everybody knows what's at stake and everybody knows what we have to do."

The team has state championship aspirations above just racking up regular season wins. "If we don't get back to the Final Four it's like a failure to us," Alvis-Labadie said.

He added that the chemistry is great for the season to be so early.

The Falcons are led in points by Hunter, who's averaging 14 points on 60 percent shooting from the field through the first



COURTESY OF DARYL PETERSON/CERRITOS SPORTS INFORMATION

Redeem team: Sophomore guard Christian-Alvis Labadie drives the ball to the basket against a Santiago Canyon College defender in the Southern California Regional Final at Cerritos College on March 3, 2018. The 2018-19 Falcons team are 7-1 on the young season, as the team seeks a consecutive Final Four berth.

eight games.

Hunter says he wants to lead the team is scoring, rebounds and take the Falcons to Ventura where the state championship game is held.

According to Hunter, the team has been progressing well and he expects for Cerritos to keep winning. "Just be ready for that [championship] banner to hang up," Hunter said smiling.

Head coach Russ May said this

team has progressed faster than expected. In comparison to last season's group, he said, "This year's team is equally talented, if not more talented as a whole."

He continued, saying this current team is more responsible, noting that last year's team had more dynamic and creative players, but this team is more disciplined on defense.

"I think we got potential to be really, really good down the

stretch," May said.

Due to a hiring freeze after the passing of beloved assistant coach Criss Freeman, the team's coaching staff was left short-handed. The coaching vacancy was something that May eluded to last season.

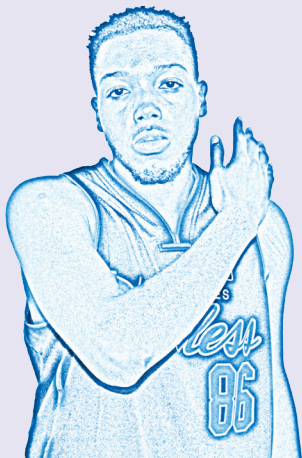
This year Christmas came early for May as he was gifted with two new assistant coaches in Murphy Davis and Danny Lawton. May spoke of the new additions to the

sideline, "They've been outstanding, they're hard workers..."

Next up for the team is a game at Allan Hancock College. After that game Cerritos will participate in the College of the Sequoias Tournament on Dec. 14-16 for a shot at its third tourney title of the season.

The Falcons have their season home opener game versus East Los Angeles College on Dec. 21 at 6 p.m.

Shmackem: LA Clippers are far from a threat in the Western Conference



Jah-Tosh Baruti

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Don't let the NBA standings fool you, the 2018-19 Los Angeles Clippers are not the best team in the Western Conference.

These Clippers couldn't even cut hair.

The Clippers (16-7) are about the third best basketball team in LA, behind the LeBron James-led

Lakers and UCLA men's basketball, with its 5-2 record.

Luke 13:30 states, the first shall be last. In other words new fans watch your step when getting off that bandwagon, as the Clippers fall from grace.

If the Big Baller Brand brothers still played for Chino Hills, I don't know if the Clippers would be better than that high school squad.

When it comes to the Western Conference, everybody and their mama knows the Golden State Warriors are the best in the west.

Although injuries to two-time MVP Stephen Curry and Defensive Player of the Year Draymond Green has caused the team to struggle.

The build-a-team Clippers are only on top right now because the best teams in the West have gotten off to slow starts.

This team even had the audacity to come up with the moniker "Clamp City" Clippers as a way

to express the team's on court defensive capability and prowess.

The nickname is disrespectful to the recently disassembled "Lob City" Clippers, a championship contending group, featuring three All-Star players.

According to ESPN's NBA Relative Performance Index, the Clippers have the seventh toughest schedule in the league.

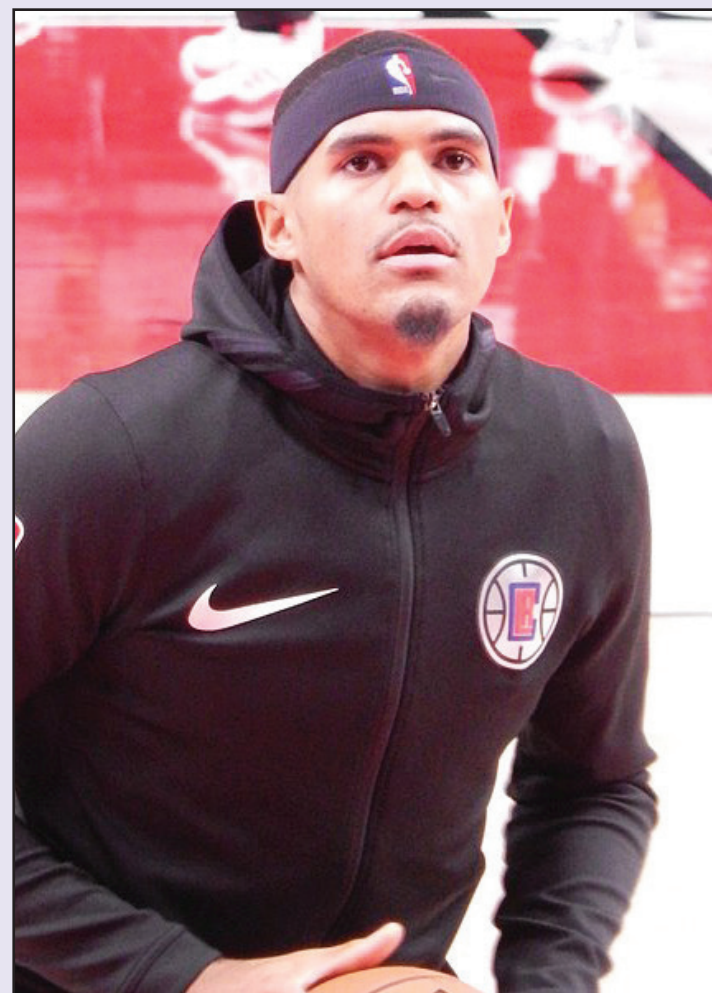
Who runs LA? It's still the purple and gold baby!

Sorry [not sorry] to fans that jumped ship to the other LA team when the Lakers weren't making the playoffs the past five seasons.

Now the Lakeshow have King James and hold this "L," Clipper nation because the Clippers will regress to the mean all the way out of the playoffs.

The Clippers will take on the Miami Heat on Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Full story on talonmarks.com



CREATIVE COMMONS

Most Improved: Los Angeles Clippers' forward Tobias Harris eyes the basketball hoop pregame. The Clippers are tied for first place in the west.

Sweet victory, state champions once again



COURTESY OF DARYL PETERSON/CERRITOS SPORTS INFORMATION

Champs: The Cerritos College men's soccer team won the California Community College Athletic Association State Championship against Golden West College, after a successful season. The team managed to tie the game late in the second half and won the game after Golden West College conceded a tie-breaking penalty allowing the Falcons to emerge victorious 2-1, at Ventura College on Dec. 2, 2018.

Randy Tejada
Staff Writer
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The Cerritos men's soccer team obtained the California Community College Athletic Association State Championship for the fourth time on Dec. 2, its first title since 2014.

The Falcons obtained their five playoff wins against Cuyamaca College (3-0), Oxnard College (1-0), Santa Monica College (3-0), San Francisco City (3-2) and against Golden West (2-1).

Cerritos made it to the championship game against Golden West College, it was a tough first period for the Falcons, in the 19th minute midfielder Kevin Everastico scored off a free kick

and gave the Rustlers a 1-0 lead.

In the second period, Golden West went down to 10 men after Everastico was sent off with a red card.

Two minutes later, the Falcons equalized thanks to midfielder Carrillo who was assisted by forward Diaz.

In the 86th minute, Golden West midfielder Alex Pinon was also sent off meaning they ended the match with nine men.

In the last minute of the game midfielder Gallinar scored a penalty kick to give Cerritos the championship.

The Falcons finished the season with an overall record of 21-1-2, after losing the first game of the season the team remained unbeaten the last 24 games to

end the season.

For the first time in school history, following the state championship win, the men's soccer team was named the National Champions for Community College Division 3 (non-scholarship) schools by the United Soccer Coaches according to the Cerritos Falcons Twitter.

Playoff Run Recap

Cerritos played their first playoff match against Cuyamaca College. The No. 1 seeded Falcons had a tough first half despite having a 2-0 lead.

Later Freshman forward No. 9 Kevin Diaz scored in the 35th minute after an assist from freshman forward No. 19 Brandon Pelayo.

In the second half, Cerritos added a third goal thanks to freshman forward No. 26 Bryan Villalobos assisted by forward Diaz.

Cerritos hosted Oxnard College in the second round. The Condors and Falcons had an intense game with a combination of 33 fouls and 13 shots-on-goal.

The game ended scoreless after 90 minutes and went to overtime.

Sophomore Midfielder No. 7 Alberto Carrillo scored in the sixth minute of extra time.

The Falcons also hosted Santa Monica College in the quarterfinals, this would be the final home game of the 2018 season.

The first half ended scoreless, however in the second half Cerritos scored two goals in two

minutes, Diaz scored in the final minutes winning the game 3-0.

The Falcons would travel for the fifth time to the Final Four, where they took on San Francisco City College in the semifinal.

Cerritos had a two goal advantage at the half.

In the second half, Ortega scored in the 48th minute midfielder Gallinar with the assist.

San Francisco City College was able to intensify the game play by scoring two goals in the second half and almost tying the game in the final minutes.

Ultimately the team stamped its berth in the CCAA state championship matchup against Golden West College, with the 3-2 victory over San Francisco City College.

Under the Radar: Street or Ice?

Christopher Martinez
Staff Writer
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Whether it be in the streets of your local neighborhood, an open field or at the ice rink nearby, hockey can be played. Hockey is one of the most aggressive and graceful sports in the world.

Take the aggressiveness of a football player with a splash figure skater's grace, crammed into the control an elite soccer player and you will have a hockey player.

Hockey is the only sport in the world, besides fighting sports, that do not discourage fighting.

Some hockey players even feel fighting is essential to the game.

Hockey, unlike many sports,

is played with an odd number of periods (three) and for 20-minutes with a 15-minute intermission after the first and second period.

Teams then exchange ends after each period and if a tie appears then there is a five-minute sudden victory overtime period where the first team to score wins.

In the National Hockey League the only time a penalty shootout can be seen is in the NHL All-Star skills competition in which the competition ends in a penalty shootout, known as the Breakaway Relay.

There are "heavyweights" in hockey known as team enforcers, which are the players that are most likely to fight in the game.

Los Angeles is lucky enough to be home one of the most dominant NHL teams within the last few years.

The Kings won two NHL Championships in three years. One in 2012 and another in 2014.

There are a few different ways to get started in the sport, you can play by simply grabbing a pair of rollerblades, a ball and a broom.

If playing on ice is something that catches your attention than there are plenty of learn-to-play programs locally.

For example, Lakewood ICE skating rink has a free learn-to-play program where equipment is given, along with a jersey that can be kept.

After the free classes that last

a few weeks you can either sign up again to increase your skills or join their hockey league and play against other people from the community.

There have been a few times in history where hockey has captured the American spirit and it has come once again at the Olympics.

In early February the U.S. women's hockey team squared up against their neighboring rivals Canada at the 2018 Pyeong Chang winter Olympic games.

Team Canada defeated the U.S. 2-1 in a hard-fought game.

Full story on talonmarks.com

Sports Results

Men's Basketball

47th Annual Grossmont Tournament

- Dec. 1, Palomar, W, 61-45
- Dec. 2, San Diego City, W, 80-75

Women's Basketball

College of the Sequoias Tournament

- Dec. 1, LA Valley, W, 47-43
- Dec. 2, Pasadena City, L, 51-48

Men's Soccer

CCCAA State Championships

- Dec. 2, Golden West, W, 2-1

Wrestling

SoCal Regional Championships

- Dec. 1, Rio Hondo, second place, 131 team Points

W: Win L: Loss T: Tie
Italics: Away event **Bold:** Home event