

## Mariana Pacheco wins Trustee area one



New Trustee for Area 1  
representing parts of Downey,  
Bell Gardens and Norwalk

CERRITOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT Governing Board Member, Trustee Area No. 1				
N	MARIANA PACHECO	41.81%	<div style="width: 41.81%;"></div>	9,898
N	MARTHA CAMACHO-RODRIGUEZ	39.38%	<div style="width: 39.38%;"></div>	9,323
N	MAZEN NABULSI	18.81%	<div style="width: 18.81%;"></div>	4,452

JAZMIN TAHA/TM

**Election upset:** Downey nursing educator, Mariana Pacheco defeated incumbent and Board vice president Martha Camacho-Rodriguez in a tight race during the 2020 general election. Pacheco will now serve Trustee area one until 2024.

Daniel Suarez Jr.  
News Editor  
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Incumbent Martha Camacho-Rodriguez was defeated by challenger Mariana Pacheco, a teacher and director of nursing at Downey Adult School, for Trustee area one.

This was the only race within the Cerritos College board of trustees, other elections such as Marisa Perez Trustee area four, did not have contenders.

Pacheco, mother of Downey Mayor Blanca Pacheco, was well known throughout Downey as member to different clubs and work in adult education.

"I'm in it to improve education so that education is accessible to all. I'm in it to help in whatever way I can," she said in an interview with Talon Marks, "I work very closely with the Dean of Health and I've done several different projects with the

Dean of Health for Cerritos College."

She will now represent the Downey, Bell Gardens and Norwalk area for Cerritos.

Pacheco's role is not officiated until she is sworn in on an upcoming date.

The rest of the board remains the same with President Marisa Perez, Clerk James Cody Birkey, Carmen Avalos, Zurich Lewis Dr, Shin Liu and Dr. Sandra Salazar, with acting student trustee Johnny Wallace.

Wednesday Nov. 18 will be the first meeting since the election where they will discuss the CCCAA Board of Directors decision to pursue a return to athletics in the Spring, despite many institutions within the district staying closed or mostly closed to students.

The Cerritos College Board of Trustees are elected every two years, and each member serves for four years, meaning about half of the board will be facing their own reelection campaigns come 2022.

Birkey, Lewis and Liu, who were elected

or reelected in 2016, will have to decide if they want to run again, unless they too go unchallenged.

When asked by Talon Marks what she'll prioritize as Trustee, Pacheco said "My main priority would be both you and the staff. Because to me the staff is who really teaches you and gives you the tools to be able to do what you do and what you need to have a career," she said.

"If we don't support them then how are they able to support you?"

She also hopes to focus on student needs, saying, "What are your needs, what are the student needs, what are the sort of tools that you needed?"

Pacheco will have a lot of work ahead of her but from the beginning of her campaign she has insisted that she is "...in it to improve education so that education is accessible to all. I'm in it to help in whatever way I can because that's what I've done all my life.

The Board of Trustees will recognize Camacho-Rodriguez's work while serving trustee area one on Wednesday's meeting.

Camacho-Rodriguez unseated Bob Arthur in the 2016 election. While at Cerritos, Camacho Rodriguez became board vice president under Marisa Perez.

She was also elected as the division one director of the Central Basin Municipal Water District.

She declined a request for interview from Talon Marks.

For being the only race in the Cerritos College board, it was a tight one, with Pacheco earning 9,898 votes, just 500 more than Camacho-Rodriguez, and Mazen Nabulsi trailing third.

"I've looked at projects that better my community, I've worked with students in Downey High, seen what they're capable of and I always encourage them that they need to continue their education," Pacheco said.



Community page 4: COVID-19 cases rise



A&E page 9: PS5 first impressions



Opinion page 10: Ending the drug war



# Joe Biden elected 46th president

Daniel Suarez Jr.  
News Editor  
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Vice President Joe Biden has been chosen by the American people to lead the country out of the economic and mortal despairs caused by a raging pandemic amid searing division in the country.

His win, declared on Saturday Nov. 7, finally manifested itself after a long week of uncertainty as millions of mail-in ballots were slowly counted. With battle ground states such as Arizona, Pennsylvania and Georgia reporting 95% or higher votes counted, Biden's win appears clearer.

Pollsters across the country had projected a blue wave in favor of the Vice President, whose led by double digits in several battleground states. The results, however, told a much different story, as battleground states and Republican strongholds in the South and Midwest were dark red by election day.

President Trump led among in-person voters in these states, but over the next four days millions of mail-in votes were processed and accounted for, showing a blue shift in key states. It was a still tight election, the final electoral score had Joe Biden



**Victory Lap:** A woman climbs a street light on Pennsylvania Ave. Washington D.C. in celebration for the Biden win. His victory was called by major news outlets on Nov. 7.

GAYATRI MALHORTA/ UNSPLASH

at 306 to Trump's 232.

Joe Biden beat President Barack Obama's record for most votes in a presidential election. 2020 reported a record turnout, with Hispanic/Latinos showing the largest growth among racial or ethnic groups, especially in the South-Western States such as California with an 11% increase since 2000.

In fact, all major ethnic and racial groups (except for whites) largely leaned Democratic,

pulling President-elect Joe Biden to victory in states like Georgia, where voting rights advocate Stacey Abrams helped register hundreds of thousands of Georgia voters, earning Biden his deep South victory.

Major media outlets including the Associated Press, CNN, MSNBC and Fox News called the win on Saturday, and celebration instantly took place outside the Whitehouse's preemptive barricade and on streets throughout the United States.

President Trump however was not in the Whitehouse, but on the green at Trump National Golf Club in Virginia. He returned to DC later that afternoon amid

crowds of Biden voters.

A viral video of Sen. Kamala Harris calling to congratulate Joe Biden spread on social media, and Joe Biden later went to visit his son, Beau Biden, at his burial site in Delaware.

At his nighttime victory speech, Biden described the need "to rebuild the soul of America, to rebuild the backbone of this nation, the middle class and to make America respected around the world again."

Biden's win was just the first battle however, for the real test of unifying a nation and overcoming extreme circumstances is only beginning.

## Harris first woman vice president

Vincent Medina  
Social Media Editor  
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Kamala Harris will be our next vice president. This is how she got to the second most powerful office in the country.

In January 2021, Kamala Harris will become the first Female-African-Indian-American to hold the office of Vice President of the United States.

Harris announced she was running for president in 2020 and was seen as a strong contender. She had a confrontational exchange with former Vice President Joe Biden during a debate over race-related issues and his past positions.

Despite her increased support among voters, she lost the primary in December.

Harris continued to campaign for social justice reforms in response to the killing of George Floyd in May 2020.

After becoming the presumptive nominee for president, Joe Biden chose Harris as his running mate. This presumptively appealed to minority demographics, with a boost from her fight for social justice reform.

Kamala Harris was born to two minority parents in Oakland, California in 1964.

Her father was Jamaican and taught at Stanford University.

Her mother was Indian and was a cancer researcher.

Harris studied political science and economics at Howard University, a historically Black university, then went on to earn her law degree from Hastings College.

She became the Deputy District Attorney of Oakland in 1990, and quickly earned a reputation for her formidability. She prosecuted cases such as gang violence, drug trafficking and sexual abuse.

Harris became district attorney in 2004.

She narrowly won Attorney General of California in 2010, being elected by less than one percent. This made her the first female and African American to hold the position.

During her tenure she showed perseverance by rejecting the Obama administration's pressure to settle a lawsuit against mortgage lenders for unfair practices. After pressing the case, she won five times higher than their original offer.

Harris choose not to defend Prop 8 in 2008, which would have banned same-sex marriage. Her choice helped to make gay marriage legal in 2013.

Her speech at the 2012 Democratic National Convention earned her national popularity.

She ran for Senate in 2015,  
[Read more on Talonmarks.com](#)

## Trump bitter in defeat, refuses to concede

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News Editor  
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Trump, who never liked losing, just lost the biggest Presidential election in U.S. history, and he is reacting as expected.

President Trump was at his golf course in Virginia when he learned about his loss to President Elect Joe Biden. Upon returning to the White House, Trump was spotted just outside the building wearing a white Keep America Great cap as he gazed across the crowd.

Earlier in the day, Trump asserted on Twitter "I WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT!," which he also said after telling Biden not to "wrongfully" declare victory.

For hours after the announcement, the Trump campaign was mostly silent, with only a statement provided to the Associated Press containing Trump's reaction to the news.

"The simple fact is this election is far from over. Joe Biden has not been certified as the winner of any states, let alone the highly contested states headed for mandatory recounts, or states where our campaign has valid and legitimate legal challenges

that could determine the ultimate victor."

"Legal votes decide who is president, not the news media."

Conservatives claim that Pennsylvania lawmakers did not give Republican poll watchers access to the counting process, sparking outrage from Trump.

"Only a party engaged in wrongdoing would unlawfully keep observers out of the count room- and then fight in court to block their access."

His legal team, spearheaded by former New York Mayor Rudy Guiliani, has been unsuccessful in proving these claims made by the President and touted by Republican pundits.

These arguments have been rejected by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, saying "we find the board's regulations as applied herein were reasonable in that they allowed candidate representatives to observe the board conducting its activities as prescribed under the election code."

He has since refused to concede this loss or even acknowledge Biden's victory attributing the results to election fraud and conspiracy, claims that have been proven inaccurate and outright false.

## A more diverse election year

News opinion: Thoughts on the 2020 election

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2020 has proven to be one of the most tumultuous years in recent memory, but the 2020 Election has proven to have had some historic outcomes when it comes to diversity and representation.

Of particular note are some newly elected or reelected officials like Iman Jodeh, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, Sarah McBride, Shevrin Jones, and Michele Rayner-Goolsby, who all represent backgrounds that need more representation in office.

Iman Jodeh was elected as congresswoman for the Colorado House of State Representatives, and will be the first Muslim state legislator in Colorado's history. Also of note is fellow Muslim-American congresswomen Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib coming out successful in their elections and retaining their seats in the House of Representatives.

Sarah McBride has made history as well, and has been elected as State Senator for Delaware's First Senate District. She is the first openly transgender person to be elected in the history of the United States. When sworn in, she will be the highest-ranking openly transgender person in the United States.

Another huge win for diversity and representation was in Florida, where two individuals who are LGBTQ+ have been elected. Shevrin Jones, the first openly LGBTQ+ individual in the state's history was elected as state senator for District 53. In District 70, Michele Rayner-Goolsby was elected making her the first openly black queer woman to be elected to Florida's House of Representatives.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has voiced her approval and congratulations for Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib in a tweet where she also voices her disapproval at some of President Trump's actions.

These are important wins for the USA's future, and will allow for previously unrepresented groups of people to be present and represented in the halls of power. While it's a small first step, underrepresented and marginalized groups can better advocate for and protect themselves when they are shaping the policy of the country.



# BLMLA celebrates the defeat of Jackie Lacey

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Black Lives Matter celebrates the projected loss of LA County District Attorney Jackie Lacey on the LA Hall of Justice steps on Nov. 4.

Lacey has prosecuted few officers in police brutality cases, making her an enemy of the Black Lives Matter movement. In response to her inaction, BLM has been protesting and campaigning for her removal.

While the votes had not been fully counted at the time of celebration, George Gascon was favored to win the LA County DA position.

"We feel like it's a victory," said Melina Abdullah, chair of the Department of Pan-African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles and co-founder of the Los Angeles chapter of Black Lives Matter. "This is an affirmation that all our work is important and that hard work leads to victory."

The celebration began at 3pm by blasting songs like NWA's "F\*\*k the Police" and YG's "F\*\*k Donald Trump" on the steps of the Hall of Justice where the DA's office is housed.

LAPD blocked off roads and kept their distance from the event but their very presence sparked anger from the event's



VINCENT MEDINA/TM

**Power to the people:** Organizers of BLM honor victims of police violence. They spoke at the LA Hall of Justice as LA County Attorney General Jackie Lacey is projected to lose reelection on Nov. 4, 2020.

participants.

Black Lives Matter described the event as a celebration rather than a protest. They sold t-shirts and merchandise along with food and drinks.

Almost everyone in attendance wore a face-mask for the duration of the event.

Family of victims of police violence speak at BLM celebration on Nov. 4. They call for the defunding of police out of respect for the victims.

Children were also in attendance, and they played as BLM speakers critiqued the LAPD. A young girl named Messiah even ran up to a BLM supporter and asked if she would like to play.

Family members of police violence victims then spoke about their loved ones. They thanked Black Lives Matter for giving them a voice to speak against police violence.

Many of their speeches

included vulgar language, and several spoke directly to the police who monitored the event from down the street.

Quinces, the father of Grechario Mack, who was killed by LAPD, spoke at the event.

"The sixth leading cause of death for black men in America is death by cop," Quinces said. "They have police officers in the street killing us, and they have Jackie Lacey in the DA's office killing us. She put 22 people on death

row, most of whom are people of color. Black Lives Matter is doing this for the youth, so their family members won't be victims. We have to stop it now!"

"I hope Gascon feels some pressure," said Dani, a Los Angeles resident and participant in the BLM celebration. "I hope he feels pressure to make changes in the justice system and explore or reopen cases where people were killed by police for no reason."

[Read more on Talonmarks.com](#)

## Cerritos College prepares for International Education Week

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Students and faculty will be showing films and discussing the norms and cuisines inspired by a variety of cultures for International Education Week (IEW) running through Nov. 16-20. Presenters will be covering topics from countries in Africa, Asia and Europe.

IEW started as a 'joint initiative' between the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education. It's intended to "promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders to study abroad and welcome those from abroad to study in the U.S.," according to the school's website.

The Office of International Student Services of Cerritos will enter its seventh year leading the program in 2020, however it is the first year that the week will only feature online presentations. As Cerritos College remains closed due to efforts to curb the pandemic, there won't be large performances taking place in the conference rooms and lecture halls enjoyed in previous years.

The program still asserts that "Students and staff will have the opportunity to engage in these global conversations thus helping to internationalize our campus community."

IEW will be facilitated by the Director of International Student Services Norma C. Rodriguez and moderated by International Admissions Specialist David Tilahun.

Session one on Monday will begin with introductions starting at 11 a.m. and featuring key-note

Session two on Tuesday will have a greater emphasis on the customs and cultures on Nepal, with a presentation by students Anjina Thapa and Aarju Sapkota.

Those more interested in Indian culture can attend session three on Wednesday, where Duggal Singh and Franceemma Kamidi will present "The Culture of India - Oldest and Unique" and "Congo, the Vital Land."

The final day of presentation is Thursday, where students will discuss a number of topics related to Chinese cultures for session four.

Join the zoom sessions at their designated time to support the students and faculty leading IEW.



COURTESY OF CERRITOS COLLEGE  
Flyer: Cerritos College's IEW runs through Nov. 16-20.

speaker President/Superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro. The student led presentations include a viewing of the short film "You are Not Alone," hosted by Suraj Shrestha, a dance major.



GUSTAVO LOPEZ/TM ARCHIVE  
Rewind: A dance group performs a Mongolian dance for a previous IEW.

## NASA scouts for students in NCAS program

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The NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars Project is offering a 5-week online course to eligible Cerritos College students starting in Spring 2021 semester.

The NCAS is a national program run by NASA, which aims to give community college STEM students an authentic NASA experience and encourages them to finish a 2-year degree or transfer to a 4-year university to pursue a NASA-related field or career.

An online information session, hosted by Janet McLarty-Schroeder and Carlos Mira, was held online for students interested in the NCAS program.

"NASA is particularly interested in community college students because of a unique set of skills that you bring to the table, like multitasking, perseverance. Community college students tend to have the qualities NASA is looking for in the work force," said McLarty-Schroeder.

To be eligible, students must be 18 years old and be a high school graduate or equivalent and have

completed or in the process of completing nine or more units in science, technology, engineering or mathematics classes.

Applications for the program are now being accepted up until Nov. 18 on the NCAS website, and student selection will be announced online on Dec. 4.

The program will consist of a 5-week online activity course which starts in January 2021, and a team event taking place in the summer offered to students who pass the online course with a 70% or higher.

It is uncertain whether the team experience will be an in-person event or held virtually next year due to the pandemic.

In past events, students have been given an opportunity to network with students from other colleges, industry university researchers, NASA experts including people from Boeing and Aerospace

Students have also learned about NASA internships, and a panel of college students who have actually successfully applied and received internships, were available to answer questions.

[Read more on Talonmarks.com](#)



# LA County COVID-19 cases continue to rise

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COVID cases in LA County rise by thousands a day, however a vaccine is in the works.

Residents and medical staff weigh in on how they feel about the vaccine and how they handle the pandemic.

In LA County, there are 326,000 cases of COVID-19 as of Nov. 11. Cases increase on an average of 2,000 a day.

Francisco Arenas, registered nurse at the Wesley Health Center in Bell Gardens and Cerritos

College alumnus, commented on testing in LA County.

"I've seen an increase in testing here. I think people are more comfortable with it now. We've been able to get results faster as well, sometimes in 48 hours or less."

"We have enough tests," says Brennen Villegas, site manager at the Coronavirus testing site at Bellflower City Hall. "People can get tested every other day if they choose. I actually recommend doing that."

Health officials recommend getting a test if people feel symptoms of the Coronavirus

such as a cough, fever, body aches and trouble breathing.

"I had a sore throat, so I thought it would be best if I got a test," said Sergio Martinez, an LA County resident who took his first test on Nov. 10. "It felt so weird! I think I went in too far!"

Martinez is referring to the nasal swab test.

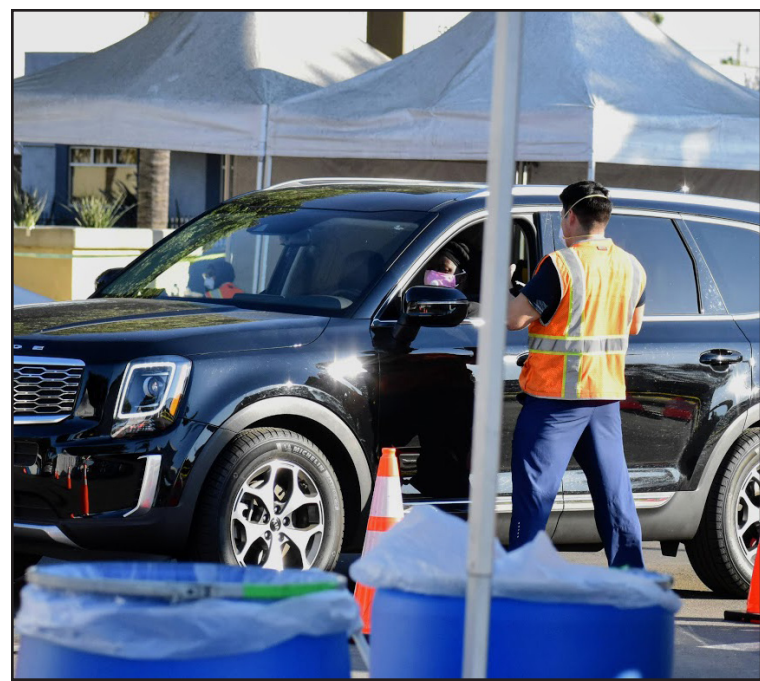
"One of my coaches at Volitude tested positive, so I wanted to check to be safe," said Pati Rodriguez, volleyball player for Volitude sports. "I wear a mask when I play, but you never know."

Cases are rising in almost every state and the U.S. has reached 10 million COVID-19 cases. California has 994,000 cases, which is 9.94% of cases in America.

"We need to stop politicizing masks," says Arenas. "They don't just keep you from getting sick, they help stop other people from getting sick. When we talk to each other, we spit, which spreads the virus and masks stop that. We also need to social distance and have small social gatherings - if possible don't have any social gatherings."

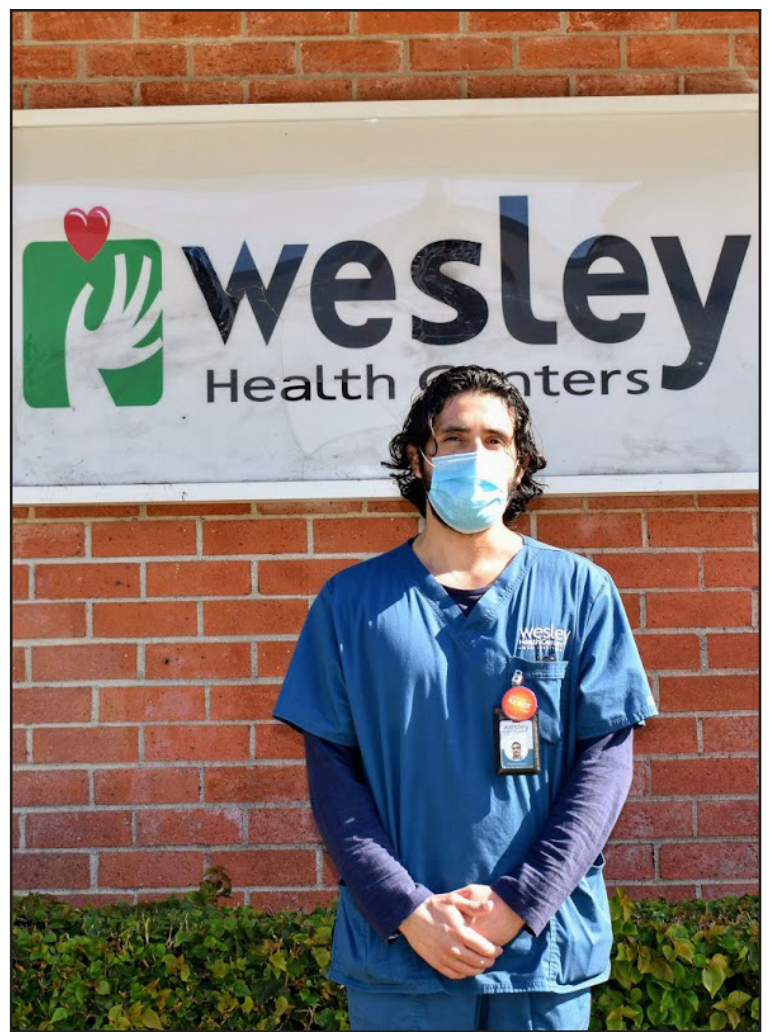
"People should take extra precautions," said Villegas. "Masks, distancing and hand hygiene can stop the spread. Like I said, we have enough tests for people and they're free, so people can come and get tested so they know if they have the virus."

Pfizer pharmaceutical company announced that its vaccine is 90% effective and will



VINCENT MEDINA/TM

**Bellflower Testing:** Coronavirus testing site staff gives instructions on how to perform a nose-swab test at Bellflower City Hall testing site. People who get tested receive their results in less than five days, however the rise in virus cases has increased the testing lines. Nov 10, 2020.



VINCENT MEDINA/TM

**COVID-19 Test:** Francisco Arenas is a registered nurse, and Cerritos College alumnus, who now works at Wesley Health Center in Bell Gardens. He commented on Coronavirus cases and a potential vaccine. The vaccine will hopefully stop the spread of the virus and restore a sense of normalcy Nov.10, 2020.

be available next year, pending FDA approval.

Due to leaders politicizing the virus, residents and health officials are skeptical to take it.

Arenas feels people need to wait. "They need to get through some trial and error. I suggest people wait for tests to be published."

"People react differently to treatments, there should be more tests before people take the vaccine," said Natalie Castillo, Medical Assistant at Wesley

Medical Center in Norwalk.

"I'm gonna wait, there's a lot of skepticism about it right now," said Martinez.

Rodriguez agreed, saying, "I want to wait for the vaccine to be approved by doctors, then I'll take it."

Talon Marks, along with doctors and medical experts, encourage everyone to wear a mask, practice social distancing and practice proper hygiene such as washing your hands to stop the spread of the virus.

## Election 2020: A voting guide made easier

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November 3, 2020 is this year's General Election. In such an unprecedented time in the lives of Americans throughout the united states the election seems to be front and center.

"Voting in this election will decide one of the most important issues that is on the minds of my entire family," stated Javier Ray, a registered voter and college student in Los Angeles County. "Who will be our next president is a regular topic at home," stated Ray. But if I take the time to vote, will my vote get counted and is the risk of catching COVID -19 worth it?"

The State of California decided it would mail an absentee ballot to every registered voter in the state. The idea behind this is a way for everyone to vote without exposure to COVID-19 and to minimize the spread.

All voters would have to do is take the ballots to their local post

office, no postage required. Or the ballot can be deposited into one of the many voting boxes that have been placed in many locations throughout local cities.

If you are afraid to use the ballot boxes, there is still time to do early in-person voting. Almost the entire month of October offered an opportunity for voters to visit the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorders Office.

"My family and I enjoyed the experience of early voting. I have been voting for at least 30 years and it was wonderful that I was able to do this with the people I love," stated Hajop Najarian, Professor of drawing and painting for Cerritos College.

"It felt safe and there were no long lines. You are required to wear masks and they escort on two people at a time in the elevator. I would recommend it if you have time," Najarian continued.

Other in-person voting places including the Staples Center and Dodger Stadium will be open for voters beginning the October 24 - October 31, 2020.

Voter suppression is not a new tactic. According to the America Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) there have been a few incidences this year to try to keep some votes from getting through, such as voter ID laws, cuts to early voting and mass purges of voter rolls just to name a few.

In California, there have been instances of voter suppression. For example, there were reports of fake voter ballot boxes being distributed in places throughout Los Angeles County.

An article on CNN reported that the illegal boxes have been distributed by the Republican Party. Although the state has issued a cease and desist order, the California Republican Party has refused to remove any of the illegal boxes, the article said.

Authorized ballot boxes can be found in various cities throughout Los Angeles County. To locate an official voter drop box near your home or work you can enter your address in this link and a list of locations will be generated.

On October 18, 2020, an official ballot box in Baldwin Park was set on fire causing the damage of at least 100 ballots to be damage. According to USA Today, the Registrar recorders office has asked the FBI and

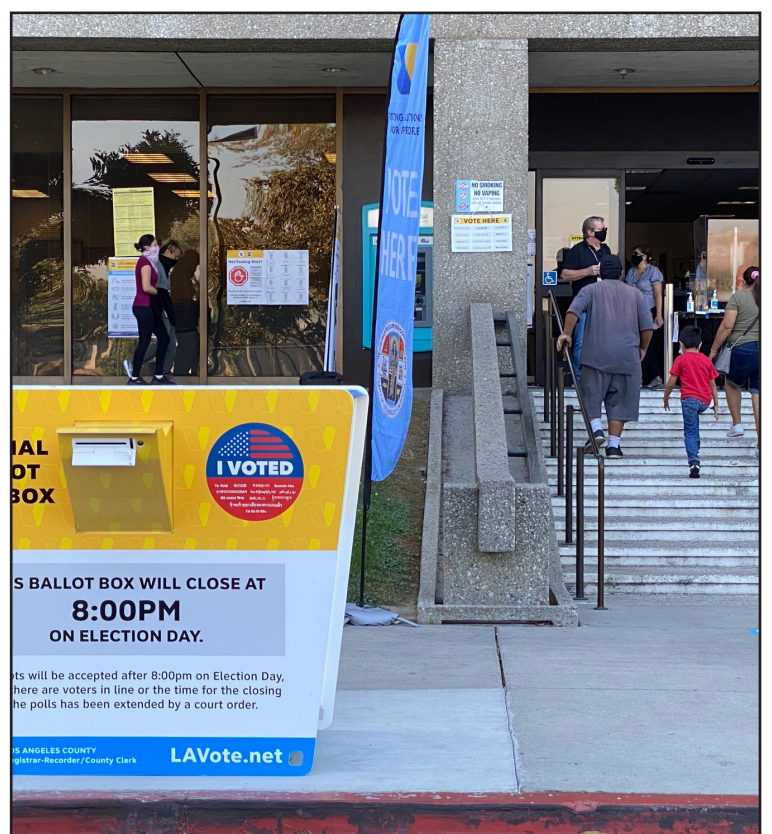
Attorney General to investigate this crime.

The US Census Bureau website shows Baldwin Park as having a predominately Hispanic

population. As of this year, the city is 74.2 % Latinos.

If you feel as if your right to vote has been obstructed in any

[Read more at TalonMarks.com](https://www.talonmarks.com)



JACQUELINE COCHRAN/TM

**Election 2020:** California voters visit the Los Angeles County Registrars Recorders Office to vote early for the November 3, 2020 general election. The registrars is one of the few early voting centers that was open before election day. Mail-in ballots could also be deposited here before the election October 15, 2020.



# College alumnus Vinny West music artist

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Staff Writer  
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Ambition, hard work and education have all been contributing success factors for Cerritos College alumnus Vincent Brown.

Brown, 23, from West Los Angeles attended Cerritos College from 2015 to 2018. During his time at Cerritos, Brown played as a running back for the Cerritos Falcons.

Brown, better known now by his artist name Vinny West, has been hard at work making his mark in the music world as an independent artist, all while playing college football and working towards getting his business degree.

With over 6 million views on YouTube and his new album "HEEM" now available on all music platforms, the "No Face No Case" artist has utilized his studies to his advantage to help set his music career in motion.

West, who currently attends Western New Mexico University, says the education he received and football experience he gained from WNMU and Cerritos College has contributed to his success as an independent artist. When asked if he feels he has a better chance of succeeding in such a competitive industry because of his education,

West answered that he simply feels like he has a good advantage of growing his career and music business because of the tools provided for him in school. "I feel like you can take what you learn through this major and use it through this career, business wise," says West, "By learning



COURTESY OF VINNY WEST

**Rising Star:** Former Cerritos College Alumnus Vinny West is making a name for himself in the music industry. As an independent music artist, West is working on a degree in business and plans to write music and manage other new artists. Oct. 27, 2020

how to invest, brand yourself, and market yourself."

For West, juggling school, sports and music hasn't been an easy task. However, all the hard work he put in has been rewarding. On Dec. 15, 2019, West took the stage and performed at "Rolling

Loud," one of the biggest hip-hop music festivals in the city of Los Angeles.

"Performing at Rolling Loud was crazy," said West, "I had been to the one in Miami and I remember thinking to myself, like 'I'm going to perform in one of

these someday."

Being one of the newer artists, West had an earlier set so he was a little unsure of how the turn out would be, but as soon as he took the stage and saw the crowd, he was pleasantly surprised by the amount of fans waiting for him to

perform.

When asked if that had been one of the most rewarding experiences of his career, West said it was definitely one of the biggest. Getting the opportunity to perform at Rolling Loud made West realize "Like okay, I'm definitely doing something right."

With performance plans put on hold this year due to the pandemic, West has taken the time to re-evaluate his career.

As much as he enjoys performing and singing, West has other future goals set for himself once he graduates in December from Western New Mexico.

"Once I graduate, I want to start investing and getting into private equity, but with music... I love music, I love it to my soul, but honestly I rather write music for others and [to] be behind the scenes," said West.

West plans to branch out to more than just being an artist. He hopes to be able to write and manage others in the future. However, his main goal will remain to invest. In the meantime, West continues to enjoy his time creating music, setting up new music videos for his new album and growing his fan base.

As for advice West gives to others who are working to achieve their goals, West wants everyone to keep the faith.

"You will go through obstacles and hardships in life. I've been through a lot of stuff in life, but I'm still here pushing," said West "So keep faith, keep your head on straight and I want to preach to everybody, this is my number one thing I like to preach and practice peace and positivity, don't let anything or anyone disturb your peace."

## Student Accessibility Services hosts disability awareness forum

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On October 29, Cerritos College hosted its first Disability Awareness Panel via Zoom. The Zoom discussion was moderated by David Rodarte, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator. The primary purpose of this event was to highlight the accomplishments of various students with disabilities.

This panel discussion was also intended to highlight specific issues that persons with disabilities face, including universal design in education, social justice and employment issues that impact persons with disabilities. The four person panel represented students with various types of disabilities. The students spoke about their first hand experiences attending college. Rodarte asked a series of

questions that the panelist were all very eager to answer. The panelists included Kristine Crable, Hector Arellano, Brian Gutierrez, and Jeremy Hill.

Kristine Crable, who is deaf, started attending Cerritos College in 2005. She is majoring in Self Development and Social Behavior. She indicated that she left Cerritos for a little while because she was not as focused as she needed to be but returned in 2013.

Crable said, "I don't see myself as disabled. Yes I can't hear but I am still capable to do lots of things.

"My advice to anyone with a disability would be to have passion for what you want to do. Start early and look at all the programs that are being offered. This will help you to accomplish what you want in life and ultimately make you stronger," Gutierrez said.

[Read more on Talonmarks.com](#)



COURTESY OF CERRITOS COLLEGE

**Conquerors:** Cerritos College students with disabilities share experiences with navigating their everyday life as a person in society with disabilities. The college celebrates the students accomplishments and discusses tips to make college easier.



# Volunteer fights COVID-19 food insecurities

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Community Editor  
@talonmarks

Every Saturday since April, Long Beach resident Kirsten Spreitzer has been one of the vast number of volunteers that pick-up left over food from grocery stores or restaurants to deliver to any number of local food pantries through Food Finders Inc.

“When the shut down happened, I just knew I had to do something. I chose this because food speaks to me. I’ve always loved food and love to cook and the thought of people going hungry is something that is unacceptable for me,” said Spreitzer.

Founded in 1989, Food Finders is a unique local volunteer food program.

It connects people who have extra food with organizations that help those in need of food. It’s known as a “food rescue program.”

“We partner with about 700 vendors that donate which is a combination of grocery stores, restaurants, corporate kitchens,” said Patty Larson, Food Finders Marketing Manager.

Once the food has been found it is routed to any number of food pantries, shelters and service groups that feed the hungry.

“I pick up food from like Whole Foods and I sometimes deliver to places like Pools of Hope, which is a California aquatic therapy and wellness



COURTESY OF KIRSTEN SPREITZER

**Volunteer:** Kirsten volunteers for Food finders by rescuing extra food from grocery stores, restaurants and corporate food kitchens like whole food and delivers it to a local food pantry, Oct. 24, 2020. The pantries use the donations to feed the hungry.

program in Long Beach that serves veterans, elderly, disabled and children.

“The pandemic forced the closure of the pool but they switched gears and began giving out food every Saturday as a way to help,” said Spreitzer.

“It’s super awesome and it’s really that simple. Once you become a volunteer, Food Finders has an app that you download. Once you log into the app you will receive the pick-up location and then the drop-off location.”

“When Food Finders began it

was mainly a Long Beach based organization that has grown exponentially since that time,” said Larson.

Food Finders now services Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Bernardino County and some areas in San Diego County.

Many local organizations that participate with Food Finders such as Christian Outreach in Action of Long Beach, the Salvation Army of Long Beach, Desert Region of Downey, FoodHelp of Downey, Long Beach Community Table of Bellflower and the Salvation



COURTESY OF KIRSTEN SPREITZER

**Helper:** Food Finders work with stores and restaurants to find food for people in need. Volunteers conduct pick-ups from the local stores and deliveries to food pantries.

Army of Bellflower.

“Our goal for this year is 14 million pounds of food, which translates into about 30,000 meals,” Larson said.

When asked why she has dedicated her time to volunteering, Spreitzer said “I put myself in the shoes of someone who would need to go to a food pantry and I would hope I could get assistance.

“As a matter of fact, I’ve been laid off before and didn’t know what I was going to do. If I paid my rent then other necessities

I would be without,” said Spreitzer.

Food Finders is gearing up for their holiday sort and pack. This is where they will provide family food boxes for the upcoming holidays.

You can volunteer like Kirsten. “Everyone should do something to help, especially now. Imagine if we each did one thing, think about how many people we could reach.

“If you can’t give money, then donate time. It doesn’t cost anything to donate a little of your time,” said Spreitzer.

## Long Beach gives learning development kits to preschoolers at select libraries

Eileen Osuna  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services and the Long Beach Public Library kicked off their partnership to distribute childhood developmental kits to 2,000 young children throughout the city on Tuesday.

The kits, which are for children from birth to five years old and support early development while at home, include books, art supplies, additional materials and are designed with unique supplies that are developmentally appropriate for each age group.

They will also contain resource packets with information on local early childhood resources.

The program was created in part thanks to the \$40 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Recovery and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding the city has received, of which the Long Beach City Council allocated \$1 million for early childhood support.

Alejandra Albarran Moses,

community health coordinator, said the program was inspired after conversations with early childhood education community highlighted the needs of the community to have supplies for children to continue to learn at home during COVID-19.

“At that time, many of our early childhood education programs were closed and a lot of them had shifted to virtual learning, even preschool,” she said.

“But what they really noticed is that a lot of the families didn’t have a lot of the supplies they needed to fully engage in those learning opportunities.”

Albarran Moses said the kits will be used in conjunction with another project the city is doing through another partnership called the Early Learning Festival, where families will have the opportunity to learn how to support their child’s early development whether they received a kit or not.

“For us, it’s making sure our youngest children have what they need to continue to thrive in the midst of this time at home, time where they’re not at the same rate in early childhood opportunities as they would have been before,”

Albarran Moses said.

Albarran Moses said that when the announcement was made, the city’s libraries were bombarded with phone calls from people who wanted to take advantage of this opportunity.

In fact, calls of interest continue to pour in from Long Beach residents and those outside.

However, all 2,000 kits are reserved for Long Beach Residents and the boxes were assigned to children within a week of the announcement.

The distribution will continue Tuesday to Saturday through Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a reservation at the following library sites:

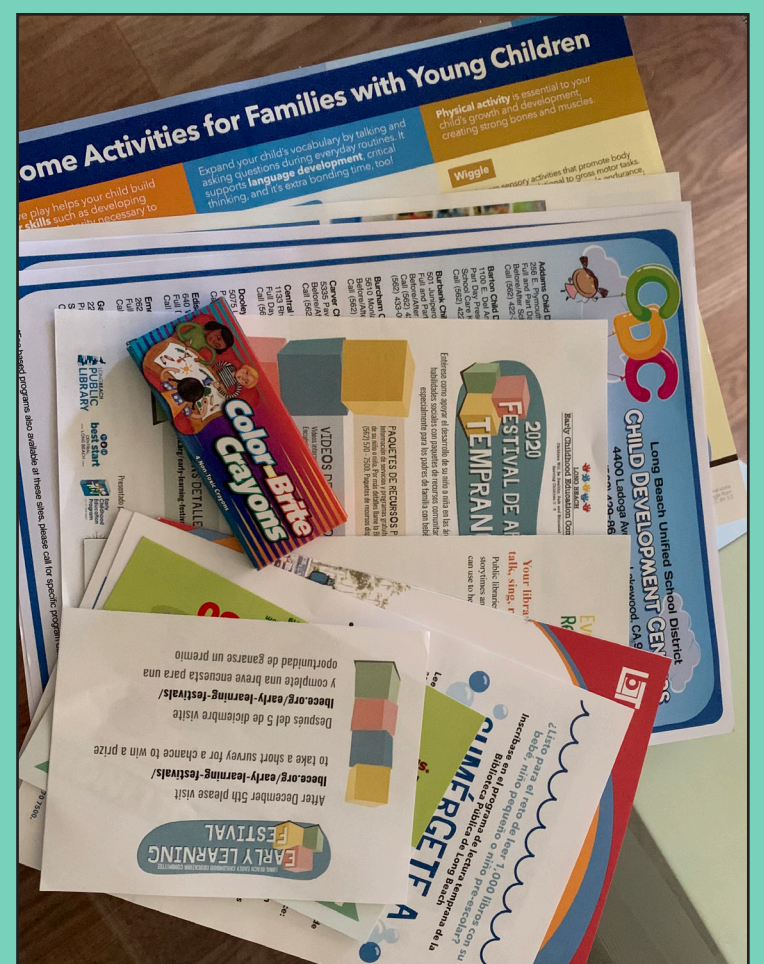
- Mark Twain Neighborhood Library
- Brete Harte Neighborhood Library
- Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library
- Los Altos Neighborhood Library
- Billie Jean King Main Library.

All locations have health and safety guidelines in place and people are required to wear face masks, maintain social distancing and wait in their vehicles until

their scheduled appointment time.

For more information on the CARES Act programs available to Long Beach residents offered by

the Department of Health and Human Services, you can fill out the resident interest form online or call the city of Long Beach at (562)570-4636.



EILEEN OSUNA/TM

**Learning:** Developmental kits contain a packet with additional childhood resources. Included is information on reading programs, development center locations and strategies to help with at home learning. Nov. 11, 2020.



# 'The Mandalorian' Chapter 11: Exciting heist action



WALT DISNEY COMPANY & LUCAS FILM LTD.

The Child and The Mandalorian (Pedro Pascal) in Lucasfilm's THE MANDALORIAN, season 2, exclusively on Disney+. © 2020 Lucasfilm Ltd. & ™. All Rights Reserved.

Oscar Torres  
A & E Editor

@talonmarks

Bryce Dallas Howard returns to give fans a new inclusion of "The Mandalorian". Will it be better than the last episode she Directed?

Another episode of the Mandalorian has hit the streaming service and it looks

to be one of the best ones so far for many people including fans of Star Wars. Let's see what all the excitement is about.

The episode starts off where the audience has left last time with Mandalorian the frog lady making their way to the planet Trask. After a hard crash that leads to Din's ship needing repairs, they meet with the passengers husband who leads Din to a man who has more information on the whereabouts

of other Mandalorians.

He gets into a boat with some sailors but gets ambushed with him and the child close to death until they were saved by three other Mandalorians lead by Bo-Katan

they try to enlist him in taking control of an Imperial transport ship filled with weapons that they need to take back Mandalore and in exchange she'll tell Din where he can find a Jedi.

Din agrees to join them as he leaves the child with the frog people before embarking on the heist.

After enduring a scuffle with imperial troopers and taking the ship Bo tells Din to head to the planet Corvus in a city called Calodan where he will find Ashoka Tano.

He heads back to his mostly fixed ship with the child as they leave the planet heading to Corvus to finally end his quest to give the child back to the Jedi.

This was a pretty well-done episode and such a great way to honor fans of both Clone Wars and Rebels with having a character from those shows be a part of live-action it's something that Dave Filoni and the fans really wanted to have and it's great to have their wish come true.

There seems to be a recurring theme in each episode as Din meets new people he starts to think about what really means to be a Mandalorian. It's not just about the armor or not showing your face, but the actions and good deeds that they do with the armor.

So as more episodes come up we'll start to see him grow out of

the old Mandalorian ways and become a Mandalorian that follows a new way.

The action in this episode was spectacularly phenomenal by far one of the best action that has been seen in this show thus far.

The costumes and makeup are so well done, it's amazing how they were able to replicate Bo Katan's armor from animation to live-action like one to one perfect.

The acting is still pretty well done as Kathryn Ann Sackhoff who voices Bo-Katan in the Clone Wars reprises her role and doing a good job at portraying her character so well in live-action.

All the other actors did well with some imperial officers acting really good showing that this isn't the empire from the civil war but transforming into a new type of empire.

All in all Chapter 11: The Heiress is a fantastic episode and is a good example of introducing a legacy character.

This episode gets a Perfect 5 out of 5 stars a solid 30 minutes and one that would be rewatched more and more.

## A Look Back with Oscar: 'Street Fighter III' success parry since 1999

Oscar Torres  
A & E Editor

@talonmarks

With the success of "Street Fighter II" and both "Street Fighter Alpha" games, many fans were excited to see where the third entry would take this beloved series.

However, it would have take a long time for the third entry to be loved by many as the first few attempts had been less fruitful.

"Street Fighter III" is the third entry for the franchise after years of updated versions of "Street Fighter II" and "Street Fighter Alpha" and "Alpha 2."

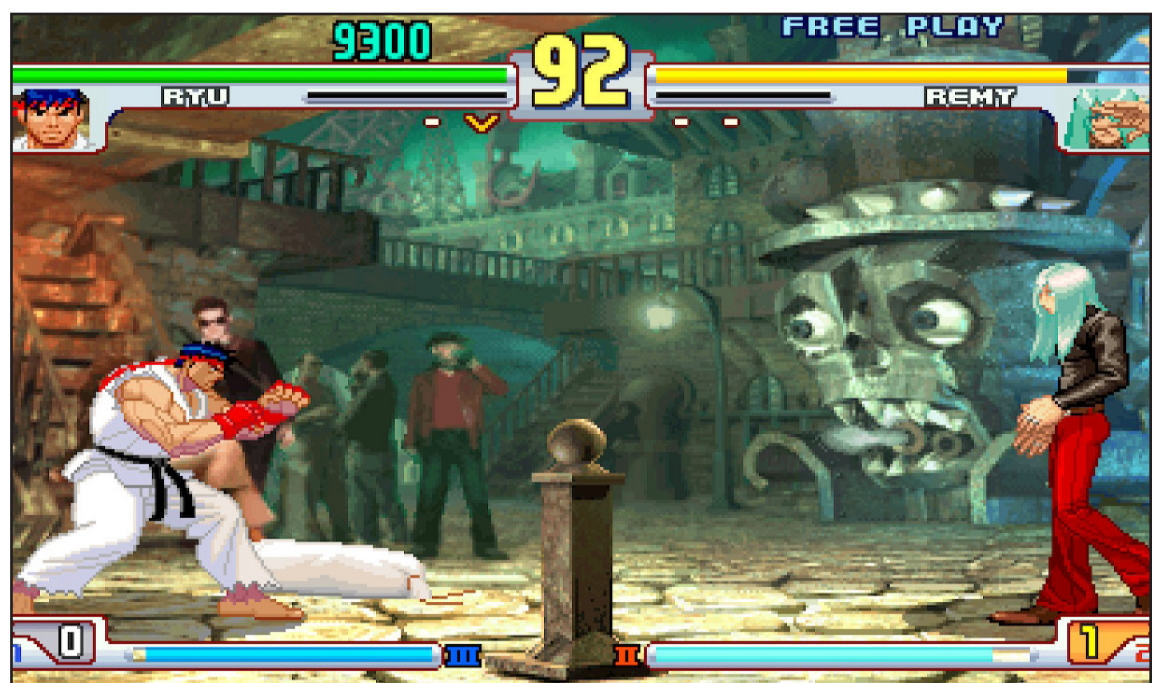
The games used Capcom's brand new CP System III capable of visually pleasing sprite animations and newer instruments of music for each character/stage.

"Street Fighter III" takes place years after "Street Fighter V" as Shadaloo has been fully destroyed but a new organization has arisen, The Illuminati lead by GILL.

Wanting to find warriors that would be perfect for his Utopia, he holds another world warrior tournament to see who's the strongest. Alex, the main protagonist, joins the tournament to avenge his friend that lost to GILL, Ken, and his student Sean joins the fight hoping to get the chance to face off against Ryu again.

Ryu enters the tournament and meets Oro, an old hermit, who trains him to control the raging demon inside of him and prepares for his fight against Akuma.

In Third Strike Chun-Li is included in the roster and her entire story is about trying to rescue Li-Fei a little girl who was



OSCAR TORRES/TM

**Street Fighter III: Third Strike** released for arcades in 1999. We see ryu facing off against one of the new additions to the game Remy who is made to replace guile.

previously been used by Shadaloo.

She does rescue her from the likes of Urien and The Illuminati and spends the rest of her days as a mother and teacher.

Urien spends his times making schemes and trying to take over his brothers place as leader of the organization.

With Twelve his whole story is to find and kill his successor Necro with his search ending in Russia, there are multiple clones of him making Twelve The Illuminati's soldiers.

Story-wise it could have been better but it's solid, and for Third Strike, it could have been less confusing but each character story is understandable and easy to get with bosses in the mix of it.

Gameplay-wise each version plays similarly with a bit of balance tweaking and adjustments to characters. The parry system helps players block an attack that doesn't drain health but is difficult

to pull off. The game also has the option to use multiple super art moves but you can choose only one out of two or three for one match.

Second Impact adds in EX moves which are powerful versions of command input moves and an easier way to grab opponents.

Third Strike includes a red parry which is when you parry a block stun attack. It's super difficult to pull off but deals a lot of damage.

Visually, it's amazing, one of the most beautiful looking Street Fighter games to date, with its background looking colorful and character animations looking clean and well animated.

The music is great, with some songs feeling jazzy and easy to dance to at times.

Some problems with the games is that it may feel too difficult to play with the speed of

the game being faster and harder to do combos. While it is true that the game can be difficult, if you got a friend who is not into fighting games it would be fun for both.

However if players wanna get competitive in this game some recommendation would be Third Strike as it is the most popular of the three either cause of popularity and it is more chosen in terms of tournaments.

But even then, "Street Fighter III" is one of the most aesthetically pleasing and greatest Street Fighter games that is still being played to this day, even by new fighting game players.

These games get a four and a half stars in my book and are highly recommended if and only if you want to experience true competitive Street Fighter games.

It's available as part of the "Street Fighter 30th Anniversary Collection."



OSCAR TORRES/TM

**2nd Impact:** This is Street Fighter 3: 2nd Impact Giant Attack, the 2nd version of Street Fighter 3. Akuma on the left is using a fire ball to attack Yang, Akuma, Hugo and Urien are the three characters new to 2nd Impact: Giant Attack.



# 'Age of Calamity' demo sets high bar for full game

Oscar Torres

A & E Editor

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## Review

Many fans of the Zelda franchise are very excited to hear more on "Breath of the Wild 2" but many didn't expect another "Hyrule Warriors" game that's canon to the BOTW world. That is until Oct. 28 when fans got a hold of the "Age of Calamity" demo that Koei Tecmo and Nintendo distributed on the Eshop. Let's take a dive into the demo and see what fans can expect.

The premise is a prequel to the first BOTW, taking place before the Age of Calamity and the destruction of Hyrule.

A lone small guardian gets sent to the past in order to warn the past Zelda about Hyrule's demise. This demo consists of the first and second chapters.

That's all that could be said, as Koei Tecmo wants to keep the story and plot details a secret and let fans discover more for themselves.

The gameplay is a warriors style game where the player faces masses of enemies, making them a one-man army as they storm



OSCAR TORRES/TM KOEI TECMO & NINTENDO

**Special Attacks:** Many characters can utilize a special attack bar that can take out loads of enemies with a single button. This is Impact special attack where she summons a lot of spirits that leave a bomb barrel to explode.

the levels defeating enemies and completing objectives.

Hidden in the levels are Korroks, returning from the 2017 game. Find and collect all of them and a special event might happen.

There are side quests that the player can complete to earn more rupees, weapons, or materials that would help on their journey.

The only characters that were playable in the demo were Link,

Impa, and Zelda who play very differently from each other.

Link is a knight for the Royal Hyrule army, chosen by the king to protect the Princess. He is an all-around character that is balanced in speed, attack, weapons, etc.

Link is the only character so far who can change outfits.

Impa is a member of the Sheikah Client and the adviser to the Royal Army and one of

Zelda's closest friends. She's a speed type of character that relies on fast movement and attacks that don't deal a lot of damage but are quick to deliver. Impa is able to summon spirits to help her in chaining combos, adding new mechanics and attacks to her arsenal.

Zelda is the Princess of Hyrule and has the responsibility of awakening her power to seal the

Calamity.

Though more of a researcher than a fighter, she is able to attack enemies with the Sheikah Slate, making her a more technical combatant. She wasn't as fun to play as Link or Impa, but it's still interesting that her move-set uses different versions of the already available Sheikah Slate that all characters have.

The voice acting is really nice as many voice actors and actresses came back to reprise their roles and still sound fantastic. The graphics looks just like how they did in the 2017 game and it still looks amazing.

There weren't as many frame drops and for the most part, everything was smooth and in working conditions so that was a plus. and it is a demo so stuff will be fixed in the final version of the game.

All in all, first impressions on "Hyrule Warriors: Age of Calamity" are positive. There are a lot of things that the game has done right and some that can be fixed just a bit.

But this is just a demo so the full game should resolve these issues. Can't wait to play the full game on Nov. 20 and experience this prequel.

# 'Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War': same game but new unique twist

Rafael Magana

Staff Writer

@talonmarks

## Review

Black Ops Cold War is a worthwhile entry to the Call of Duty series, delivering an action packed campaign, enjoyable multiplayer, and a fresh zombies experience.

With "Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War" being the seventeenth installment in the "Call of Duty" series, developers Treyarch and Raven Software had the challenge of innovating with this title.

It's safe to say they succeeded (for the most part).

While 2019's "Modern Warfare" brought refinements to the formula, Cold War opts to take a different approach. This year's installment plays more like a classic "Call of Duty" while retaining the more realistic approach to movement introduced in "Modern Warfare".

The graphic fidelity of the game is put on full display on the PlayStation 5, which is where I experienced the game.

Ray Tracing is fully supported, and players can opt-in for a 120 FPS mode, which makes the game run beautifully.

As mentioned in our PlayStation 5 First Impressions, the game utilizes the DualSense's Haptic Feedback and Adaptive Triggers, which gives every gun

a sense of tension that helps immerse players even further.

Speaking of immersion, the game's gunplay feels as smooth and impactful as always. Each gun handles like you'd expect, and in some ways feels like an improvement over the weapons that were present in 2019's "Modern Warfare".

Sound was vastly improved in this year's installment as well, with 3D audio being a huge boon to those with headsets that support it.

Warzone will be integrated into Cold War in the future, with developer Treyarch stating that progression between 2019's Modern Warfare and Cold War will be universal starting with Cold War's season 1 launch in January.

Cold War boasts three unique experiences at launch: Campaign, Multiplayer, and Zombies.

The game's campaign is set in the Cold War and player-created character Bell, who works to track down Perseus, a Soviet spy who threatens the United States. The game is a direct sequel to 2010's Black Ops and features fan-favorite characters from that game like Alex Mason, Frank Woods, and Jason Hudson.

Much like 2012's Black Ops II, choices made in the campaign can result in multiple endings, encourage replayability. Dialogue choices can also be made during the campaign, resulting in



TREYARCH/ACTIVISION

**Multiplayer:** Each game has a small cutscene before each match that gives it a bit of flavor. The way that teams get into the map is depending on the environment that the map is in.

different outcomes.

Missions often have side objectives that players can complete, resulting in situations where a player can approach a situation stealthily, or go in guns blazing.

The story seems to tread the line of being tongue-in-cheek or serious, with some missions having the player in Vietnam using a chopper gunner to defeat hostiles while Adler, a character in the campaign, is using expletive words in what is possibly the most American mission I've ever played. Other missions revolve around darker themes, which is where I believe the campaign truly shines.

Multiplayer is what most players would expect, with the usual modes like Team Deathmatch, Domination, and Free For All returning. The new fireteam mode is where the game

shines, delivering a 40-player mode where players are divided into 10 teams of 4 in a large map where they are expected to complete objectives.

New modes and maps are expected to be added in a seasonal format, with a battle pass being introduced each season.

Zombies returns this year as well, with several changes to the formula. While not as complicated as "Black Ops III" zombies mode, the model still has plenty of new introductions like armor plates, triple Pack-a-Punch, and craftable lethal and tactical weapons.

The biggest change to the mode is the introduction of rarity levels to weapons, which determines how much damage any given weapon can output.

Previously, the game only ended if players chose to do the Easter egg on the map, or if they

died.

Now, players have the option to "exfiltrate", which allows them to escape on a helicopter with bonus XP.

If they fail to get to the helicopter and eliminate the zombies present, however, the game simply ends.

Players also play as operators in this mode now and can choose a loadout weapon to enter the mode with. With all these new introductions to the mode, Zombies hunting is as fun as ever.

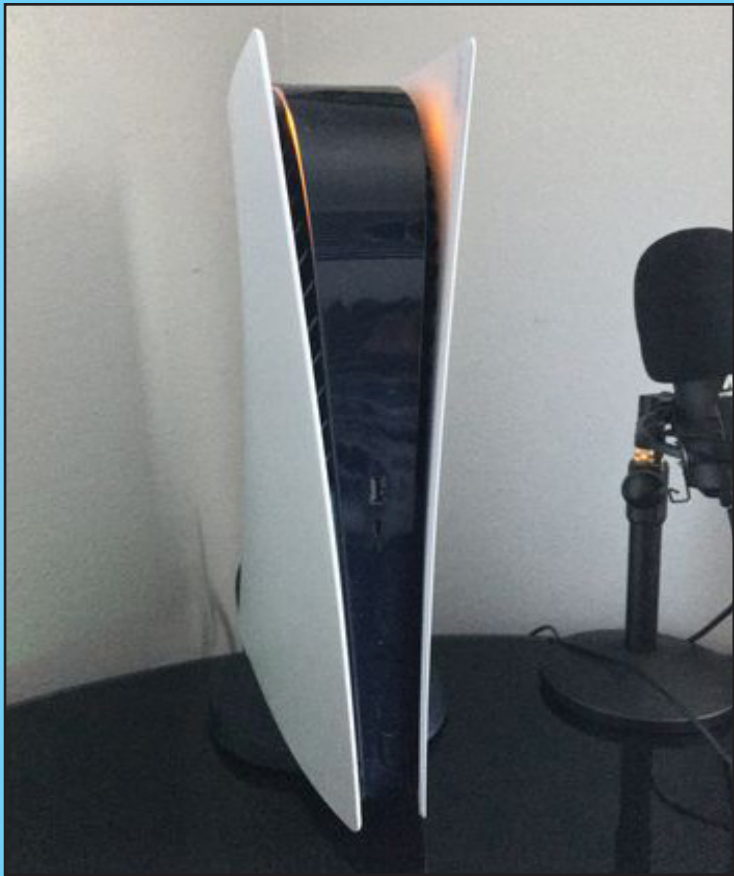
At launch, the game provides players with plenty of content, and will only grow as time goes on.

"Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War" is a game with tremendous replay value and is a worthwhile addition to your collection.

Black Ops Cold War gets a four out of five stars a solid inclusion in the series.



# PS5 impressions: A very great console that has minor issues



RAFAEL MAGANA/TM

**The PS5 unit viewed from the front:** The vents in there allow for the console to be quiet. A USB port is available in the front, and since this is the digital version, there is no disc drive on the side. Note: The front USB port is the port that did not allow me to charge the controller.

Rafael Magana  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

Sony's latest console is a worthwhile purchase, but beware of some issues.

I spent the weekend with the Sony PlayStation 5, and I was left impressed.

The first thing I noticed was the size of the unit.

The version I purchased was the Digital Edition, which has the same specs of the disc version but lacks the disc drive.

Despite this difference, they are the same size.

The speed that the console boots up and gets you into games is incredible. Launching into "Demons Souls" or "Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War" is practically instantaneous. This is thanks to the PS5's new SSD unit, which allows for the speedy bootup of the unit.

You're given about 825GBs of SSD storage out of the box, and while it's possible to remove the SSD, Sony has not allowed for SSD expansion at this time.

Demons Souls was about 66GBs, and "Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War" was about 133 GBs. Keep in mind, Call of Duty games typically get larger as time gets on due to patches and content that dropped for the game, so this small amount of storage on the SSD may be problematic in time.

The PS5 also supports external HDD units to allow additional storage for PS4 games (99% of which are backward's compatible), but I had some issues with the PS5 booting up in safe mode while my external storage was connected. Removing the external storage fixed this issue. Be wary of utilizing external storage until Sony releases a firmware update addressing this issue.

The PS5 DualSense controller boasts a new function known as Haptic Feedback, which essentially utilizes an advanced version of rumble to simulate what's happening in the game. There's also the new Adaptive Triggers which simulate tension and vibration.

A good example would be in "Call of Duty Black Ops Cold War", where the 1911 Pistol is simulated through the Adaptive Triggers by having a sense of tension when you press down on the triggers. The controller vibrates differently depending on which weapon you use as well, with machine guns and shotguns feeling noticeably different from each other.

The controller has a much sturdier feeling compared to Sony's previous controller, the DualShock 4. While maintaining the same general layout, the buttons and do not feel as loose as those on the DualShock 4, giving

it a much more premium feel.

One thing of note was an issue I had when attempting to charge my DualSense controller. The controller charges utilizing a USB-C connection, and I noticed that I was not getting a charge when utilizing the USB connection at the front of the console. It charges utilizing either of the two USB connections at the back of the console, but potential buyers should be aware of this issue.

As previously stated, 99% of PS4 games are backward's compatible. I tested Red Dead Redemption 2 on my console to see if I'd notice any noticeable improvements when it came to performance and was, unfortunately, a bit disappointed. RDR2 is notorious for having some ridiculously long load times, and I, unfortunately, did not notice much of a difference when it came to the load times.

I did not notice a bump in the FPS in the game either, it seemed to still be locked at 30 FPS. It should be noted that Rockstar Games has not released

an optimization patch for the game, which could make a solid 60 FPS in the future.

Despite this, other games do receive a bump in FPS. Games like "Sekiro: Shadows Die Twice" and "Ghost of Tsushima" run at a solid 60 FPS on the console. Results vary depending on the game, but most do benefit from a bump in resolution.

Overall, first impressions of the console are quite positive. While it's not a must-buy at the moment if you're interested in purchasing a PS5 and want the convenience that the speed that the SSD brings, it's worth a purchase.

Just try to get a PS5 as soon as possible as it quickly would be sold out during the holidays.

While Sony still has to fix a couple of issues through some firmware updates, the DualSense controller alongside the enhanced graphical power of the console makes it a worthwhile addition to your collection. The Playstation 5 is an recommended to give to people this Holiday season.



RAFAEL MAGANA/TM

**The DualSense controller:** It has a much weightier feeling than the DualShock 4 and it's adaptive triggers/haptic feedback give it a sense of tension and immersion that cannot be found in traditional controllers.

## Pillars of Horror III: 1980s



GABBOT

**Jason Cosplay:** 2014 Wizard World Chicago cosplay competition in which the Jason costume won Best Male Villain. Jason continues to frighten to this day.

Rafael Magana  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

Hello, and welcome back to Pillars of Horror!

Each week we will be taking look at a different decade of horror movies and examine what made them so iconic.

This week, we'll be looking at the 1980s!

### 1980s

The 1980s has been somewhat romanticized in recent years with series such as Stranger Things introducing the decade to a whole new audience. The 1980s was an interesting time, with Reagan in office as president and artists like Michael Jackson dominating the music charts.

This was also the decade where horror was king at the box

office and gave rise to two iconic franchises: Friday the 13th and A Nightmare on Elm Street.

### Friday the 13th

It's impossible to imagine the slasher genre without Friday the 13th. Released in 1980, and directed by Sean S. Cunningham, the film follows a group of counselors at Camp Crystal Lake who are being brutally murdered by an unseen person. Despite Friday the 13th being well known for its trademark killer, Jason Voorhees, the killer in this movie is his mother, Pamela Voorhees.

The film was notable for its low budget and the graphic nature of the kills. This film would only be the beginning of a long-standing series, with it getting 8 sequels in the 80's alone. The subsequent sequels established Jason Voorhees as an icon in the horror genre and ingrained his trademark hockey mask in the minds of all who ventured into a theater in the 1980s.

### A Nightmare on Elm Street

One of the most important horror movies ever made is A Nightmare on Elm Street. Released in 1984 and directed by the late Wes Craven, the film



PETE SHEFFIELD

**Freddy Krueger cosplay:** at MCM London Comic Con 2015. The outfit and hat is on point but the mask doesn't look real, would be better with make up instead.

follows a group of teens who are tormented by a killer named Freddy Krueger who stalks and kills them in their dreams. If they are killed in their dreams, they're killed in real life.

The film is notable for the performance put on by the actor who played Freddy Krueger, Robert Englund.

Read more at [Talonmarks.com](http://Talonmarks.com)



# Decriminalization: an alternative to incarceration

## EDITORIAL

Oregon voters just made history by becoming the first state in the U.S. to decriminalize personal possession of all drugs, and it's about damn time.

This means people convicted of drug possession for personal use won't receive jail time, but will instead be given a \$100 fine or the choice to complete a health assessment at a recovery center. The state will also siphon their cannabis tax revenue into a new state grant fund dedicated to addiction treatment.

It's time the United States accepts the fact that drug addiction (severe substance use disorder) is a brain disease, and people that suffer from it need help, not time behind bars. Addiction is treatable and rehabilitation makes it possible to rebuild lives, providing the means to prevent relapse.

According to The National Institute on Drug Abuse, people with addiction face stigmas from their communities or health care providers.

"People showing signs of acute intoxication or withdrawal symptoms are sometimes expelled from emergency rooms by staff fearful of their behavior or assuming they are only seeking drugs. People with addiction internalize this stigma, feeling shame and refusing to seek treatment as a result," said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the NIDA.



FARMER DODDS ON FLICKR.COM

**End of Drug War:** *Psilocybe Cubensis*, otherwise known as 'magic mushrooms', is finally decriminalized at the ending of the United States 2020 Election. Oregon became the first state to legalize remedial use of psilocybin mushrooms on Tuesday, November 4, 2020.

Since President Richard Nixon initiated the war on drugs in the 1960's, the US has spent almost \$1 trillion in a nationwide campaign that has been unsuccessful in curbing drug use or the drug trade. For decades, the answer to addiction was simply throwing people in prison. As the largest consumer of illegal drugs, it's no wonder that the US also leads in the number of incarcerated individuals.

The drug war painted users as criminals, which hurt their chances of getting real treatment for their illness. If the war on drugs hadn't stigmatized people with addiction, there might have

been less people suffering from it today, not to mention decreased demand for illegal drugs nationwide.

What the drug war was effective at was ravaging communities of color with over policing, racial profiling and mass incarceration.

The war on drugs has left long-lasting, negative effects on communities of color, including disproportionate incarceration and voter disenfranchisement. Black people are almost 4 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites, despite their using marijuana at similar rates.

Many states have voting restrictions on people who are on parole, probation and even post-sentence. According to the ACLU, more than ten states have disenfranchised over 20% of their male Black citizens. Today, out of the 2.3 million people incarcerated, 38% of the population is Black.

This unchecked racism rampant in our criminal justice system breathes life into the foregone institution of slavery.

Having 2.3 million people in prison isn't cheap, in fact, mass incarceration charges taxpayers \$80 billion a year according to the Bureau of Justice statistics.

That figure doesn't even include underlying costs that burden prisoners and their loved ones, who are billed for phone calls, emails and packages sent to prisoners.

Larger prison populations means larger payouts from American taxpayers, siphoning money that could be put towards education, healthcare, transportation or alternatives to incarceration.

Additionally, overloading jails and prisons comes with unforeseen consequences as we've seen with the Coronavirus pandemic. Prisons are so overcrowded that the spread was almost impossible to contain. Now local governments have to use more resources to find temporary holding facilities.

The decriminalization of drugs not only puts an end to the unnecessary spending and imprisonment of people who suffer from drug addiction, but also addresses the root cause of the drug problem in America.

We need to stop treating people suffering from drug addiction like criminals, and instead use the momentum of Oregon's decriminalization to continue looking for alternatives to incarceration, whether it's healthcare or community building programs. Dedicated support is critical in rehabilitation for those with drug addictions, so let's emulate that support and finally reform the criminal injustice system.

## ACB: Unfit for the biggest role in our country's highest court

Oscar Torres  
A & E Editor  
@talonmarks

On Oct. 27th, 2020, Amy Coney Barrett was confirmed as an Associate Supreme Court justice to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Despite those hoping that the court seat would be filled by a progressive justice after the Presidential election, Barrett was rushed through to the court by a Republican senate and Donald Trump.

She is unfit to be in the position that Ginsburg held because Barrett only has a measly two-years experience in the courts, with her serving as a judge since 2017. Hell, she doesn't even know the five freedoms of the First Amendment. How does someone take a spot on the most powerful court in the

land without knowing the First Amendment?

Even though Ginsburg stated that when she died she wanted her spot filled. After the election, her dying wish was broken immediately because the Republican Party is fundamentally rooted in selfishness and power.

They even chose a person against LGBTQ+ equality and "pro-life," someone who even considered giving women the death penalty if they decide to get an abortion. She and her husband are members of the right-wing Catholic community, with her politics clearly influenced by her religious beliefs.

She's unfit to decide cases and might consistently rule against not only women, but immigrants, poor people, and others who can't defend themselves. She is likely to always support the wealthy rather than the working class.

One reason why Republicans appointed her is because they need a court justice to approve of a recount, like Trump has openly threatened. He made it clear that's why he appointed her in the first place. He knows he's going to lose so he's trying his best to rig everything in his favor.

That is a dirty move and the President shouldn't have been able to do this just days before the election. It'll make things work in his favor, putting Joe Biden at a disadvantage if the election has to go to court.

We responsible citizens should take into account that Barrett is in the court position until the day that she dies or retires, and that's not good. There should be an exact number of years that they can stay until they have to be...

[Read more at Talonmarks.com](#)

## Struggle with endometriosis shows we need better education on women's health

Mirella Vargas  
Opinion Editor  
@talonmarks

That's what I asked myself on the day I was diagnosed with a menstrual cycle disorder called endometriosis earlier this year, and it felt as if a weight was finally lifted off my shoulders to know there was an actual medical condition causing all my pain and suffering.

Being diagnosed with this disorder made me aware of the gap in education and medical care that still exists when it comes to women's health and the need to hold open conversations about these topics without shame.

I had always suffered painful cramps during my period, but over the years, they progressively grew worse and the pain which I felt only during my periods started to show up even when I wasn't menstruating.

This constant pain went on for about three months, and I quickly learned to ignore it and took over-the-counter pain killers when the pain was too intense to ignore but soon the pain grew worse and the painkillers stopped working.

I decided to visit a gynecologist, who first treated me for another condition and prescribed some medication and told me to return in a week after finishing my medication, but the pain did not subside.

This happened for another month and I even saw another gynecologist, but they all seemed to not consider my condition serious and sent me home because the regular lab tests showed no abnormalities as the cause of my pain.

Was this really in my head?

It was not until I saw a YouTube video by a famous Korean vlogger, Gabie Kook, ...

[Read more at Talonmarks.com](#)

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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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# Biden's win won't change the world, we will

## EDITORIAL

Joe Biden has been voted president-elect, but there is still plenty of work left to be done.

While many are celebrating and applauding Biden's success, there are others who had to settle for Biden and feel that they are still not represented. This includes people of color, younger voters, and individuals that did not wholly support Biden, but felt that he was the better of two bad options.

While Biden — if he were to follow through on his campaign proposals — would be the “most progressive” president ever, Biden's longtime career as a politician means he is more than capable of running on empty promises (remember Obama?).

Biden has already peddled the “work with Republicans line” despite a decade of evidence that conservatives are unwilling to cooperate with Democrats on anything other than increasing military budgets.

The Biden-skepticism is clear when you see the “Settle for Biden” campaign, a grassroots effort ran by supporters of Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders.

According to their About Us page, they believe that “He (Biden) will be a president for every American, not just those who voted for him. Joe Biden will be a president who won't keep us up at night. And right now, that's



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/THE WHITE HOUSE FROM WASHINGTON, DC  
**Back to the White House:** President-elect Joe Biden defeats President Donald Trump in the 2020 election. Biden served as vice president under the Obama administration from 2009-2017.

the least the American people can possibly ask for.”

The “Settle for Biden” folks may not wholly support Biden and his past actions, but they do believe that he is a better alternative to another four years of President Trump. They insist that removing Trump comes first

and having a plan to hold the Biden-Harris administration to their promises, second.

Despite Biden's presidency being a good first step away from Trumpism, the battle isn't over.

Biden's insistence that “nothing will fundamentally change” once he is president, isn't



THE UNITED STATES SENATE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS  
**“I won't be the last”:** Vice President-elect Kamala Harris is the first female, first Black and first South Asian to be elected vice president. Harris is currently a Senator of the state of California.

the clarion call for justice and progress that many were hoping for.

Real change comes at the local level. Voters need to stay engaged locally and continue to push for reform from their local leaders.

It's important for people to continue pushing and advocating

for change. The election showed that every vote truly did matter, with it coming down to the wire in states like Georgia, North Carolina, and Michigan.

Propositions like Prop 22 were passed in California, and allow for big name corporations like...

[Read more at Talonmarks.com](#)

## Trump is leaving, QAnon is here to stay

Mirella Vargas  
Opinion Editor  
[@talonmarks](#)

Despite Trump's election loss, QAnon believers are still clinging on and believe that this is all part of Trump's grand plan

to defeat the left. His false claims of election fraud after Biden's win, may serve as further validation of their belief in the “corrupt left”.

Trump may be leaving the Oval Office, but don't be surprised if QAnon and its followers give Trump enough fuel to launch a

political campaign in the future.

QAnon has evolved from an online Frankenstein of conspiracy theories to a far-right political agenda which undermines the safety of American democracy and its citizens.

The QAnon conspiracy theory

grew out of the obscure online forum, 4chan, in 2017 and has wormed its way into prominence ever since. It is an unfounded conspiracy theory that claims President Trump is secretly battling an undercover network

supporters said they believed the false claim was true, while 33% said they were unsure.

In recent months, QAnon has increasingly become more of a social and political issue and has even inspired multiple violent incidents. As of 2019, the FBI has designated QAnon as a “domestic terror threat” because of its potential to incite extremist violence.

And incite violence it has. In June 2018, an Arizona resident blocked a bridge near the Hoover Dam with an armored vehicle. They later pleaded guilty to a terrorism charge.

One of the most disturbing incidents involving QAnon ended in a murder when a 24-year-old man in Staten Island allegedly murdered a boss in the Gambino crime family, because according to him, he was a prominent member of the “deep state”. According to the suspect's lawyer, the suspect claimed he “was enjoying the protection of President Trump himself, and that he had the president's full support.”

Most recently, two Virginia men were arrested after driving to Philadelphia to “deliver a truck full” of fake ballots because, without evidence, they were concerned of fraud in the ballot-counting taking place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

The police found AR-style rifles and 160 rounds of ammunition inside the suspect's...

[Read more on Talonmarks.com](#)



“IMG\_1591B” BY BECKER1999 IS LICENSED UNDER CC BY 2.0

**Domestic Terrorists:** Followers of QAnon are mostly conservative, extreme far-right groups that can be seen at Trump rallies. QAnon conspiracy believers claim Trump is the savior to defeat the “satanic elites” and “pedophile Democrats”.

“I heard that these are people who love our country.”

Donald Trump  
45th President of the United States

of Satan-worshipping elites who run a child trafficking ring, often referring to it as the “deep state”.

Followers of QAnon are mostly conservative, extreme far-right groups, who see leftists and democrats as not only the opposition, but an enemy that needs to be defeated and guilty of these unsubstantiated child trafficking claims.

In a Yahoo poll released last month, only 17% of registered voters who intended to vote for Trump answered “no” when asked “Do you believe that top Democrats are involved in elite child sex-trafficking rings?” An alarming 50% of Trump



# WNBA fight for equality despite being silenced

Keanu Ruffo  
Sports Editor  
@talonmarks

## Sports Opinion

WNBA players' voices should not be forgotten or silenced when it comes to fighting against inequality and systemic racism.

These women have been at the forefront of these protests, speaking out against police brutality and gun violence.

All 144 WNBA players stood together in their pandemic-induced bubble in Bradenton, Fla., masks on, arms linked, wearing the same black T-shirts with the same bright lettering saying "Arrest the cops who killed Breonna Taylor."

It will be one of the lasting visuals of a historic week in sports, as professional athletes across North America left the courts, the fields and the ice to protest racism and police brutality.

It's hard to understand why WNBA athletes aren't receiving much credit or attention their way for being just as if not more politically outspoken as any other professional athlete in another league.

The WNBA, as a main driver in recent years, have long been at the forefront of the sport's push for social change, setting



CHRIS O'MEARA/STAR TRIBUNE/TNS

**Equality:** Lynx forward Napheesa Collier gets fouled by Chicago Sky guard Diamond DeShields during the first half of a WNBA game Thursday in Bradenton, Fla.

new standards for activism despite a risk of professional and financial backlash that rocked the foundation of women's games.

Amira Rose Davis, a professor of history and African American studies at Penn State and co-host of the podcast Burn It All Down, quoted in an interview on why not WNBA players and black female athletes overall are being left out of the conversation regarding

activism.

"It is hard to generate the same level of interest, respect and engagement with Black women in sports or Black women overall."

The WNBA's unification against systemic racism has forever been long-standing.

Black female athletes and black women overall should not be overlooked because their voice isn't loud enough to create change

or grab people's attention.

A lot of the WNBA athletes are braver and more courageous than some of these male athletes and celebrities who won't even speak on the problems happening in this country.

Black female athletes have to fight for space in ways that men don't have to.

Female athletes who are lesbian or athletes who identify

themselves as nonbinary or gender-nonconforming, are going to have to fight for endorsements or a platform even more rather than other women athletes who are heterosexual.

The WNBA has fueled and inspired the gains women have made and keep reminding people why they keep pushing for equality and respect.

Keep fighting ladies!

## Take a load off with Mindfulness Mondays & Virtual Coffee Hours

Keanu Ruffo  
Sports Editor  
@talonmarks

The student health center at Cerritos College offers Mindfulness Mondays, a drop in Zoom meeting for students to take a moment to breathe and learn how to detach from challenging thoughts and emotions.

Cerritos College's psychologist, Dr. Humberto Hernandez, is one of the therapists that attends Mindfulness Monday's Zoom meetings and describes how it has been going for him and his team so far.

"Lately we've been slow. We average a couple of students every Monday, but the students that we've talked to, Mindfulness Mondays have been helpful for them."


Mindfulness Monday's first started this fall on Sep. 14th as a way for students to apply mindfulness to their daily lives according to Dr. Hernandez.

"We want to teach students how to stay in the presence and learn to accept things along with being less self-critical," Dr. Hernandez said.

For students, we've all faced and are still continuing to face challenges in our lives during this pandemic.

For Dr. Hernandez, it has taught him a sense of flexibility.

He believes that by attending




## Mindfulness Mondays

A drop-in mindfulness group for students to take a moment to breathe and learn how to detach from challenging thoughts and emotions.

- Mondays @ 2 p.m. beginning September 14
- Facilitator: Humberto Hernandez

For more information contact [studenthealth@cerritos.edu](mailto:studenthealth@cerritos.edu)

Reasonable accommodations and/or alternate formats of this document are available upon request. Please contact us at (562) 860-2451 Ext. 2321 (press 3) a minimum of 7 days in advance.



COURTESY OF STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

**Mind Flow:** Let your thoughts and emotions flow with Dr. Hernandez and the student health team. Mindfulness Mondays and Virtual Coffee Hours happen every Monday, Tuesday's, and Thursday's.

Mindfulness Mondays, we can learn to adjust, adapt, and overcome our problems and learn how to make the most of our opportunities that come our way.

Dr. Hernandez went on to explain that every Tuesday and Thursday at 10am, Student Health provides a support group called Virtual Coffee Hour which is similar yet different from Mindfulness Mondays.

Virtual Coffee Hours focuses on the difficulties students have with managing anxiety, coping with physical distancing, and loneliness in the time of the COVID-19.

The possibility of the two workshops collaborating could be something to look into according to Dr. Hernandez.

"We can explore that. I think it would be good to spend time with our other group offerings."

Once the pandemic is over, Dr. Hernandez would like for Mindfulness Mondays and the other workshops to continue to grow and thrive.

"We want to continue this once everything goes back to normal so we can get off the ground and start doing in-person groups instead.

It was something we started this semester and it is something we hope to continue for semesters to come."

For more information regarding Mindfulness Mondays and Virtual Coffee Hours, visit the Student Health section at Cerritos.edu.

## Win big on the FoxBet Super 6 betting app

Isaiah Lonvelin  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

### Sports Opinion

The FoxBet Super 6 app is a new quick and easy way for anyone to start betting on games of their choosing.

The best thing about this app is all you need is your phone number, then you are on your way to win some money.

The app came out in September 2019 when football legend, Terry Bradshaw, promised whoever picked the right six football teams and their score, will win \$250,000 of his own money.

The app then only had the National Football League for betting.

Now in 2020 they have football, basketball, hockey, baseball, NASCAR and other sports for fans to be able to win up to \$25,000 weekly for guessing all ten questions right for each individual sport.

It has made the app more fun since before all it had was football games. Now you can pick from three different sports to have a chance to win

They had even added one for the presidential debate for you to bet on what were the candidates going to talk about

during the debate or what was the first question going to be for \$25,000.

For the NFL Sunday Challenge, Terry Bradshaw has raised the prize up to \$1 million of his own money to the person who guesses correctly in the challenge.

In retrospective if you are a sports fan or not, download this app immediately. It is free!

Weekly, your chances of winning \$25,000 dollars are high and even winning the Sunday challenge is still high for anybody who gets the right picks.

You do not even have to put in your money to be able to participate in any of the challenges. That best thing anyone wants is to save money.

When told about this app from a family member, it was suspicious since half of the betting apps you have to pay for.

But seeing that it had 4.8 stars in the app store and is free, you cannot put a price on that making a simple decision that this app was worth it.

The process is super easy. You have to be at least 18-years old to play.

After you confirm your age, type in your phone number to get the verification code

All it took was at least a ...

[Read more on Talonmarks.com](#)



Keanu Ruffo  
Sports Editor  
@talonmarks

## Sports Opinion

Unlike the NCAA or the NFL, the Ivy League will continue to play it smart and cancel their sports for the winter to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As much as it hurts to see this, the safety and health of the student-athletes matters most rather than risking everything for a simple game.

Winter sports that are cancelled include men's and women's basketball and hockey.

Fall sports competitions will not be rescheduled for the spring as had been announced when they were postponed in July, the council said in a release.

"With the health and well-being of student-athletes and the greater campus community in mind, The Ivy League Presidents decide to forego athletics competition in fall and winter sports, postpone competition in spring sports through February 2021," the league wrote in a statement Thursday Nov.12.

The NCAA could never cancel their season. Too much money would be lost and student-athletes futures to go pro would be slim which is understandable.

At the same time, COVID-19 is running rampant through locker rooms and facilities infecting players and coaches while all the NCAA could do is just postpone

## Ivy League presidents cancel winter sports due to COVID



JENN VARGAS/FLICKR

**Cornell Dominance:** Cornell wrestler Jordan Leen taking care of business against his opponent on the mat. Ivy League Presidents have cancelled winter sports for the 2020-2021 season

games or cancel them.

How about limiting players to only certain areas of campus instead of letting them go free after practice.

All student-athletes need to be in a bubble or some type of quarantine method afterwards so their chances of catching the virus aren't high.

The Ivy League Council of Presidents recognized the extraordinary adjustments its member schools have been

asked to make in the wake of the pandemic.

"Regrettably, the current trends regarding transmission of the COVID-19 virus and subsequent protocols that must be put in place are impeding our strong desire to return to intercollegiate athletics competition in a safe manner," the council said.

The Ivy League includes Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth

College, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University and Yale University.

In the last week, the nation has seen a record breaking number for COVID-19 cases coming in at 100,000 a day.

Overall, that's 700,000 positive cases of COVID-19 in just one week.

At least the Ivy League is trying to stop that number from growing as should we all.

## MLB brings back former Red Sox manager Alex Cora

Isaiah Lonvelin  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

## Sports Opinion

Former Red Sox manager, Alex Cora, has been called back to manage after his one-year suspension for his part in the Astros cheating scandal.

Frankly the baseball commissioner, Rob Manfred, gave out his punishments too lightly to a person who ruined other players lives, like giving a student an A on his test even though the teacher saw he copied another students work.

Before Alex Cora had won the Red Sox a World Series as a manager in 2018, he was the bench coach for the Houston Astros during their dramatic World Series run in 2017.

Two years later he was found as the mastermind behind the sign-stealing scandal where the Astros would bang on a trash can indicating what pitch was coming.

The league gave one-year suspensions to then manager A.J. Hinch and Alex Cora along with a \$5 million fine to the Astros team.

It is frustrating to see as a baseball fan how Manfred gave out his punishment like it is not a big deal, basically making it seem like it is okay to cheat in a professional game.

Manfred just gave Cora a vacation and now he is back managing for a professional



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

**Cheating Coach:** From a close call at third base in the eighth inning to some pitching decisions that were sure to draw a raised eyebrow, Red Sox manager Alex Cora (shown arguing with umpire Ted Barrett) was all in Tuesday night.

baseball team.

People have to realize how Cora and the Astros ruined player lives with what they were doing for three years.

Imagine your a pitcher making your debut against the Astros, you are getting hit off so easily it is not fair. After your start you are sent back down to minor leagues to figure out what you did wrong potentially losing on a million dollars.

With what Cora did, he should be banned from baseball entirely, without any question but unfortunately that will not happen.

Alex Cora should feel ashamed of what he did, and deserves no respect from the fans of baseball.

It is sad to see that the MLB has given a harsher punishment to Pete Rose who just gambled for his team to win, not once betting against them to lose. Manfred is the biggest hypocrite to call himself a commissioner.

Seems like gambling is a bigger problem than sign stealing to win a championship, giving no remorse to those who were cheated out of a job or chance to win a World Series.

It should not have come down to a decision if MLB were to bring

back Cora, it should be final that he has never set foot in another major league stadium again.

The fans of baseball have taken to social media once again to express the feeling of allowing a cheater back in the game with reasons on how Manfred has once again messed up.

MLB has begun to turn into a clown league by not rightfully banning a coach for what he did, but rather give him his job back because it is okay to use technology to steal catcher signs.

MLB is setting a bad example.  
[Read more on Talonmarks.com](#)

## 'The Bubble' is NFL's only option after COVID rise

Keanu Ruffo  
Sports Editor  
@talonmarks

## Sports Opinion

The Nation Football League needs to step up and enforce stricter rules on their teams so the number of COVID-19 cases can decrease.

If you're a player, coach, or team staff member, you should be quarantining everyday to prevent spreading COVID-19.

The first week of November, the league saw a total of 56 employees, including 15 players and 41 staff members, returned confirmed positive tests between Nov. 1 and Nov. 7.

To the team doctors of every 32 NFL teams, aren't you all supposed to test players and coaches everyday?

The way HBO series Hard Knocks: Los Angeles showed it, every player and coach was getting tested everyday.

According to the National Football League Players Association(NFLPA), it's rule for players, coaches, and team staff members is to isolate for five days and then get retested the next day.

What the rule should be is two weeks of isolation. Five days of quarantine isn't enough for players and coaches to completely get rid of COVID-19 in such a small time frame.

The NFL is looking into expanding the playoff bracket to 16 teams instead of 14 in case more games have to be rescheduled for later on in the season.

If we're being honest here, it looks like more games will be rescheduled since the numbers of COVID-19 cases have increased in the last couple of days.

According to the league, the recent increases of infected staff members and players are consistent with the general increases in infections throughout society.

NFL games need to be played in a bubble. Players, coaches, and staff members need to live in a bubble.

The NBA and WNBA did it correctly and so can the NFL. To Roger Goodell(NFL commissioner), don't be ignorant.

An increase in positive COVID-19 cases means an increase in chances of an outbreak.

Everyone associated with each NFL team must do whatever they can to steer...

[Read more on Talonmarks.com](#)



# Transformation of linemen in professional football



PHOTO BY DANNIE WALLS/ICON SPORTSWIRE

**Lineman in the trenches:** CLEMSON, SC – OCTOBER 03: The Virginia Cavaliers offensive linemen make their way down field during the game between the Clemson Tigers and the Virginia Cavaliers on October 03, 2020 at Memorial Stadium in Clemson, South Carolina.

Isaiah Lonvelin  
Staff Writer  
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## Sports Opinion

In the National Football League (NFL) today, lineman are known to be gigantic in size, and can be easily recognized at their position as lineman rather than skilled position players in football.

The average size of a starting lineman in the NFL according to business insider is 6-foot-5, 312 pounds. Now compare that to the average male who is 5'9" 195lbs.

But every now and again some people think that they are just lazy, and are paid to stand there to just block.

But those who believe that,

have never paid attention or played in an actual football game and have no clue that these players are highly athletic for their size.

Yes, even though they are doubled the height and weight they are strong and quick carrying those few pounds against their opponent.

For instance, in the 2020 NFL Scouting Combine, Louisville Cardinals offensive lineman Mekhi Becton, ran an official 5.10 second 40-yard dash. Mekhi Becton was recorded at 6,7", 364 lbs.

Now that is very quick for an offensive lineman, a regular average time for a good 40 yard dash for a lineman is 5.30-seconds.

But that was not the fastest that year for the NFL Scouting combine. Iowa's Tristan Wirfs

had ran the fastest 40-yard dash time among the offensive lineman clocking in at 4.85 seconds.

But they were not always that big in size. According to the Star article in 1970, only one NFL player weighed over 300 pounds.

The numbers of those players only grew during the next decades.

During the 1950s, football players were not one position players, one moment they were lineman then wide receivers the next play.

When they were done playing offense, they would have to do the same thing while on defense.

Later in the 1970s, it was more common to be skilled at one position since the ruling of substitutions changed for coaches to switch players in and out.

In the same year, NFL switched to the rule that you can not block below the waist changing how teams would set up their line using bigger players for a better chance to block for their quarterback.

From then on, more lineman were being scouted throughout the NFL for their size and football knowledge.

Being a lineman, it is known that they are being looked over besides the running backs or quarterbacks.

The lineman position is the most unappreciated position in all of sports since the work they do for there team goes unnoticed

from fans. Even if they do not score points they put in a lot of work giving there team the best chance to win.

If you go into the trenches (a term referring to the space between offensive and defensive line) you have to be extremely skilled to go up against players who are twice the size of a normal person for a 2 hour game, hitting each other every single play.

Lineman have had to evolve over the years in football.

Next time you watch a football game pay attention to the athletes on the offensive and defensive line to see what they do for there team.

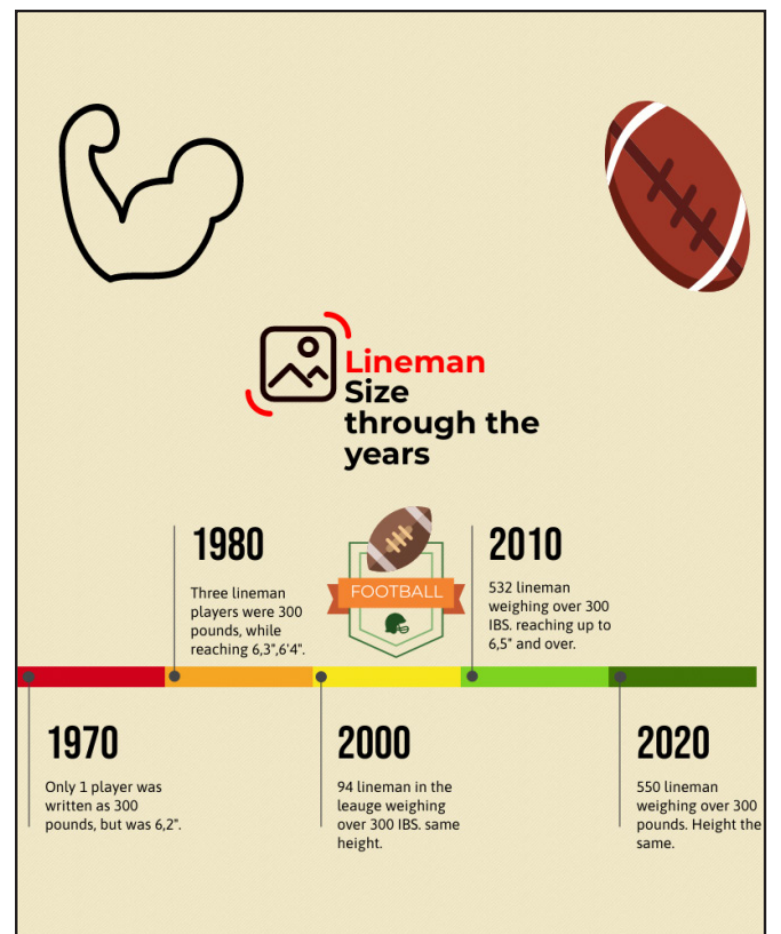


ILLUSTRATION BY ISAIAH LONVELIN/TM

# Pro sports team owners flood Trump campaign with dark money



ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

**Hypocrites:** LAS VEGAS, NV–OCTOBER 08: Controlling owner and President of the Los Angeles Lakers Jeanie Buss stands on the court during a moment of silence held to honor victims of last Sunday's mass shooting before the Lakers' preseason game against the Sacramento Kings at T-Mobile Arena on October 8, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada. On October 1, Stephen Paddock killed at least 58 people and injured more than 450 after he opened fire on a large crowd at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival. The massacre is one of the deadliest mass shooting events in U.S. history. Los Angeles won 75-69.

Keanu Ruffo  
Sports Editor  
@talonmarks

## Sports Opinion

It is unjust how billion dollar sports owners can secretly donate millions of dollars to political campaigns such as Trumps and still support their players who are fighting for justice and equality.

Yes, professional sports team owners are making political donations privately, in ways that not only shield their identity but shield them from backlash from their own players, staffers, and fans.

Any owner who says "black lives matter" and still donates money to the Trump campaign is a hypocrite and a liar.

These political donations exemplify the disconnect that remains between predominantly white owners and their black players, despite steps that have been taken in recent months.

"Dark money" contributions have been a way for team owners to donate large amounts of money to elections and campaigns.

Dark money donations are mostly from non profit organizations who receive money from an owner as anonymous.

According to ESPN analytics, \$45 million disclosed donations were made to federal elections from non profit organizations since 2015.

This route for owners and other popular millionaires has become an avenue that is attractive for high-profile people like themselves who don't wish to be brought to light.

It's time for these avenues to be busted up and bulldozed with.

The outcome of this would be your reputation possibly ruined and every dollar of backlash would be returned back to you.

These league owners that we think are so socially progressive are at the same time republican in terms of where their 'small donations' are going towards.

What we've been seeing for a while now is wealthy people leaning towards being conservative since politicians that are conservative pass laws that help the wealthy people such as professional team owners, stay wealthy.

To all the republican team owners, how much support can you actually give to your players yet you donate thousands and millions of dollars to causes that are actively oppressing blacks and browns?