

Cerritos reports nine COVID-19 cases



EDGAR MENDOZA/TM

Excused absence: Cerritos College first closed in-person instruction in March and will remain mostly online for the Spring 2021 semester. Since closing, the college has discovered nine COVID-19 cases on campus, most recently on Dec. 4, 2020.

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As Fall classes move into their final weeks, the Cerritos College has reported a total of nine cases of COVID-19 between Mar. 27 and Nov. 17. Seven of the cases were employees, with one student and one child from the Child Development Center on campus.

The school contacted all those who were in close contact with the people who tested positive in accordance to LA County public health guidelines. It is still uncertain if initial transmission actually occurred on campus.

President and Superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro writes updates for the College's COVID-19 page. There he announced that the eight people who tested positive, whose names can't be revealed due to security reasons, have been ordered to self

quarantine at home.

"Cerritos College will continue to diligently follow recommendations of public health officials and infectious disease experts to further reduce community transmission of the virus," Fierro said in an online statement.

Even with tightly limited classes on campus, with screenings, mask and social distancing guidelines, cases were still discovered on campus as recent as November, including one child from the Child Development Center as reported by Talon Marks.

Cerritos College Faculty Federation President and counselor Dr. Lynn Wang addressed her concerns to the Board of Trustees at their Nov. 18 meeting, asking for help in protecting staff on campus.

"Now more than ever, we need help from the Board of Trustees," Wang said, "I'm asking you to not cancel classes, reduce the requirements to receive part

time medical reimbursements to those who are only teaching one class... provide appropriate PPE beyond face masks and keep faculty involved in decision making on campus."

The last reported employee who tested positive for COVID-19 was announced on Dec. 4.

As of Tuesday, the Los Angeles Times has reported that cases and hospitalizations have reached record highs with 14,120 cases per day with more than 8,200 hospitalized in California.

This spike in cases comes right as two potential vaccines, created by pharmaceutical giants, Pfizer and Moderna, are expected to get emergency approval in the United States by mid-December.

The vaccine has already rolled out in the United Kingdom, raising concerns over the Trump administration's ability to compete with other nations, as they all rush to secure doses.

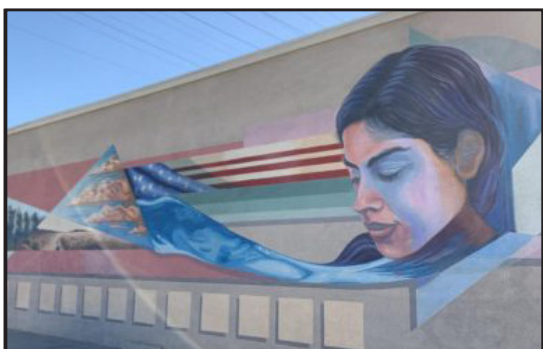
It is unclear if Cerritos College or other institutions will require all students to take the vaccine before returning to campus.

With the exceptions of certain hands on courses, online and remote learning will continue through the Spring 2021 semester as the college awaits further updates from the Los Angeles County Department of Health.

Cerritos College has preemptively rolled out their 'Return to Campus' plan, which uses public health recommendations to create guidelines and protocol for students, staff and faculty on campus.

"Everyone must answer and complete daily health question survey prior to their visit," said Assistant Superintendent and Vice President of Business Services Felipe Lopez.

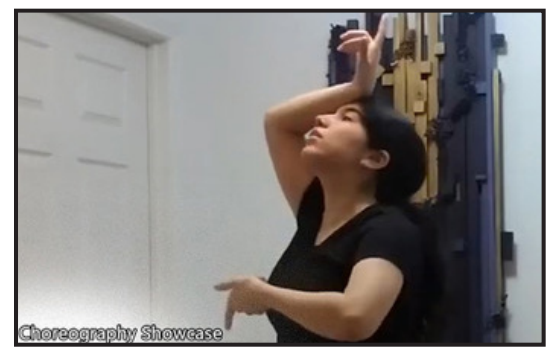
"Upon a successful temperature check you will be given a color-coded wrist band. That wrist band [will] get you clearance to enter your classroom lab or study hall."



Community-page 5: Funding for artistry in LB



A & E-page 7: "The Silence" book review



Sports-page 12: Dance dept. reflects on 2020

Child development center reopens amid three possible COVID-19 cases

Eileen Osuna
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“The motivation to reopen was to support and aid our Falcon community of working parents and our students, who we promised to serve to be successful and remain enrolled in their classes,” Director Debra Ward said in regards to the Aug. 24 reopening of the Child Development Center.

Despite COVID-19 health and safety protocols in place, such as the daily screening of staff, children and their families, the Cerritos College Child Development Center has reported three possible exposures to COVID-19.

Ward said the cases consisted of two children who were exposed outside of the center and later tested negative as well as a staff member who was exposed within the same week.

“The children and staff were self quarantined,” she said, “Our families and staff that may have been in contact with the children and staff were immediately alerted.”

According to Ward, both the college and the center reported the cases to Community Care Licensing and the Department of Public Health to help guide them in the next steps to not put any of the community members at risk. These steps included closing two of the classrooms that were



DANIEL SUAREZ/TM

Outbreak: The Cerritos College Child Development Center reopened as of Aug. 24. The center is located at 11110 Alondra Blvd Norwalk, CA 90650.

affected for two days and a deep cleaning of the classrooms and outdoor play areas conducted by the facility maintenance crew.

Moreover, there are a number of protocols that the center has implemented, even before the reported exposures.

The indoor learning environment has been extended to the outdoors to keep the classroom outside as much as possible and when indoors, or even before and after the children arrive, the doors and windows are open to ventilate the classroom.

The furniture and play space in the center maintain a separation of six-feet whenever possible, all touched surfaces are

cleaned and sanitized frequently and after each use including the toys children play with and children are given individual totes with their materials to limit the amount of sharing.

As far as parent interactions, drop offs occur outside of the classroom at different locations for each age group, one family at a time, where parents are required to wear a face mask and are screened for COVID-19. To avoid new visitors, the center asks that the same parent drop off and pick up their children.

In addition, the center aims to keep children from the same family, the same teacher and the same teachers assistant in the same

group, with Ward and teachers arranging developmentally appropriate experiences for smaller group activities.

Before March, Ward said they were providing childcare for 96 children full-time in four classrooms along with providing breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack as well as naps.

There have been many modifications to the curriculum and center environment to support the children in maintaining safe social distancing focusing on health and safety, including hand washing.

“We have scaled down our group sizes, serving about half of our families in person while

engaging with the other half virtually doing distance learning,” Ward said, “We separated the outdoor tables into four areas where we serve one snack to children.”

Ward has also modified program hours of operation to serve families in two part-time sessions with a ratio of one to five teachers and assistants for a group of 10 children.

Ward said they also provide distance learning for those children and families not ready to come back to the center. “We have three morning sessions Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and one afternoon session from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.,” she said.

Even with all these changes and protocols in place, there have been concerns from parents and the community over everyone’s health and safety with the reopening of the Child Development Center.

Ward said they gave parents a choice of whether they wanted to remain virtual or return to school in person.

“We established community agreements to ensure everyone returning to school was aware of the risk and the responsibility they had in collaborating with us to keep their families and others’ health and safety a priority,” she said, “These measures helped make our return to school feel less scary for our families and staff members at the Center.”

ASCC Senate inaugurates new associate justice

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The Associated Student of Cerritos College held a senate meeting on Nov. 18 to discuss funding requests, Geography Club budget, and inaugurate a new associate justice.

In attendance were Vice President Armando Avila, Senator Omar Gutierrez, Senator Jose Hernandez, Senator Ethan MacLaughlin, Senator Grace Medrano, Senator Rebekah Montes de Oca, Senator Sarah Orellana, Senator Jay Perez and Senator Lesly Rodriguez.

During the public forum, the Accounting Club’s faculty advisor, Professor William Tsang, advocated for the club’s budget to be approved by the senate.

He addressed that the budget has been reduced from \$1,092 to \$1,053.

“The revisions I have made reflect the times we are in,” Tsang said. “They are revised to help the club better serve the community and build camaraderie amongst the officers themselves.”

Linda Ramos represented the

LINC program and asked the Senate to strongly consider their budget requests to help students who struggle with food and basic needs.

Once the public forum finished, Brisa Nino was sworn in as an ASCC Associate Justice.

She says she plans to become a lawyer and defend inmates on death row after law school. Nino also has ambitions to serve on a high court or work as a politician.

The main item on the agenda was budget and funding approval, beginning with Cheer Club who asked for a budget of \$8,091.37. Senators Gutierrez and Montes de Oca moved to approve their budget.

The International Student Services’ budget was also discussed. Their revised budget of \$4,200 was approved by Senators Montes de Oca and Rodriguez.

The Umoja Success Program had a budget proposal of \$10,800. Senators Rodriguez and Hernandez approved the budget and moved to approve.

Senators Gutierrez and Villalobos moved to approve the English Department’s budget of \$2,199. The department needed

the funds for their visiting writer series and the English Department Literary Journal.

Black History month is planned to have a college expo, black entrepreneurship and career and job panel. Their budget of \$2,700 was motioned to be approved by Senators Montes de Oca and Senator Hernandez.

The Veterans Resource Center requested a budget of \$5,400 for the end of the year celebration. Senators Hernandez and Montes de Oca moved to approve their budget.

The LINC program’s budget of \$3,775 for graduation regalia, programming, and academic supplies was motioned to be approved by Senators Hernandez and Rodriguez.

Phi Theta Kappa’s budget proposal included funds for their annual conference, induction ceremony and California/Nevada regional conference for a total of \$3,650. Their budget was also approved by Senators Villalobos and Hernandez.

Career Services’ budget included funds for virtual affairs and a campaign connecting students to majors for a total

of \$1,890. Their proposal was approved by Senators Montes de Oca and senator McLaughlin.

The CARE program’s budget of \$1,188 for programming and events was approved by Senators Hernandez and Rodriguez.

The Photography Department’s budget included funds for student awards for the student art exhibit for a proposal of \$1,755. Their budget was motioned to be approved by Senators Hernandez and Orellana.

The UndocuALLY Taskforce requested a \$3,510 budget. However, due to a lack of information, Senators Rodriguez and Hernandez moved to postpone the Taskforce budget approval.

The Accounting Club proposed a budget of \$1,050 for volunteer income tax assistance, club meetings, career gear and race for falcon futures. Their proposal was approved by Senators Hernandez and Orellana.

Phi Beta Lambda business club proposed \$5,102.60 for fall and spring leadership conferences, graduation essay and virtual banquet. Their proposal

was motioned to be approved by Senator Hernandez and Rodriguez.

Alpha Gama Sigma Honor Society requested a \$4,393 budget for regional and state conferences, essay winners and banquet prizes. Senators Medrano and Hernandez moved to approve their budget.

The Women’s History Month had a budget proposal of \$2,700 for their essay contest, women with English degrees panel and guest speakers. Their budget was approved by Senator Montes de Oca and Senator Rodriguez.

Cerritos College Model United Nations budget of \$2,291.57 for their conferences and technology package was approved by Senator Rodriguez and Senator Hernandez.

The Transfer Center’s budget proposal was moved to be postponed until the next meeting by Senator Montes de Oca and Senator Hernandez.

The Geography Club’s budget request of \$594 for event prizes, end of year awards and their virtual watch party was approved by Senator Hernandez and Senator McLaughlin.

CAMPUS LOGO CONCEPT 1



Miya Walker



DANIEL SUAREZ/TM

A fresh look: The winning design for Cerritos College's new logo. It was presented before the board of trustees on Wednesday Nov. 18.

Board of Trustees reveal new Cerritos College logo concept

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For the first time in 16 years, Cerritos College will adopt a new design for its official logo and retire the one that has represented the school since 2004. Implementation will follow a logo and branding transition scheduled for 2021 according to the administration, but the winning results of a student survey were presented to the Board Of Trustees during their meeting on Wednesday Nov. 18 via Zoom.

The announcement, made by Public Affairs director Maya Walker, also mentioned that the college has also redone the official seal, a correction to the 1956 year

aspect.

"The seal says 1956, but the College was officially founded in 1955," said Walker. Classes at the college began on 1956.

Cerritos College just recently celebrated its 65th birthday in September.

The design was also tweaked, but only slightly, removing outlines and white backgrounds.

The original 2004 logo was intended to show the college's 'most iconic building' which at the time was the main library at the center of campus.

The new logo is simply the letter C, with three feathers across the opening, all in the original navy blue color. 'Cerritos' is written in a lighter blue than 'college.'

"I think it's really great," said

Clerk James Cody Birkey, who represents Trustee area 3.

"The color, it's a strong look and shows who we are. Very clean."

Trustee Zurich Lewis said the new logo was "welcoming" which is a key word that showed up often in the feedback.

Walker also showed the other concept design, which was a more structured Falcon design with crossing wings.

"Truth gives wings to strength" is the quote that reads along the bottom of the college's seal. Board president, Marisa Perez, asked about the quote's origin and Walker revealed that no one in public affairs actually knows that information.

"It is a mystery," Walker said.

Second stay-at-home order in place to relieve So Cal hospitals

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A second stay-at-home order will begin 11:59 p.m. on Sunday as Southern California's ICU capacity drops to 10%.

The rapidly growing wave of COVID-19 put two of the five regions in California, San Joaquin Valley and Southern California, under sweeping lockdowns for the second time as part of a government mandated stay-at-home order. State health officials said the order will be reinstated when the region's available ICU capacity dips below 15%.

In efforts to not overwhelm the state's health care system, California's governor Gavin Newsom will put the order into effect Sunday night. It will last for at least three weeks, while The California Department of Health observes the continuing trends of case numbers and hospitalization

rates.

The order will restrict salons and in-person shopping for retail businesses, while barring patrons from dining in restaurants and bars. L.A. county, among others, had already restricted outdoor dining as well.

It will be the heaviest set of restrictions since the original stay-at-home order in March, which closed non-essential businesses, parks and schools statewide. November saw an 80% increase in new cases, pushing the ICU capacity into concerning numbers by Dec. 1.

COVID-19 has surged in California, with current cases at almost 1.4 million and at least 9,000 reported hospitalizations. Northern regions, such as the Bay Area, implemented stay-at-home orders before reaching capacity.

Newsom receives criticism from many who say the lockdowns are too strict, saying businesses should be allowed to

stay open if they follow mask and social distancing procedures.

Since the first stay-at-home order, anti-lockdown protests broke out across the state, refusing mask, mandates, socials distancing and other safety procedures put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19.

In response to Newsom's stay-at-home orders, local law enforcement such as Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes, have said that deputies will not be enforcing any of the safety protocols within the stay-at-home order.

"Orange County Sheriff's deputies will not be dispatched to, or respond to, calls for service to enforce compliance with face coverings, social gatherings, or stay-at-home orders only," Barnes said in his Dec. 5 statement.

In Newsom's Monday morning announcement, he announced CA Notify, a government sponsored

[Read more on Talonmarks.com](#)

Catching up with Student Trustee Johnny Wallace

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Since the campus closed in March, Cerritos College students have attended lectures, meetings and even their own graduations from their makeshift home offices, some on their kitchen tables, others in . The new obstacles and challenges added on to students' workloads was the cherry-on-top for what is perhaps the worst year in decades.

Talon Marks reached out to student trustee Johnny Wallace, one of the college's most distinguished persons, to see how this semester has treated him and what advice he may have for students to handle this unprecedented time.

"If this year has taught us anything, it's that everything we thought was certain is quite uncertain, in fact," said Wallace, who is currently studying political science.

Despite the blues many students are feeling off-campus, Wallace remains optimistic about the situation, believing that there is a take away from the challenges of online and remote learning.

"Every problem that I see is an opportunity in disguise," he said, "I've kind of seen it as that right now. I'm working with, you know, a few nonprofits and I'm also working in the financial aid department and all of that from my home."

His advice for students stressing over finals week is to finish strong and resist slowing down at all costs.

"You gotta keep that foot on the gas, keep applying the pressure. 2020 is coming to an end, and it has been a tumultuous year, but I see a lot of people starting to relax a bit and say, you know, that the holidays are here," Wallace said.

The Student Trustee serves for one academic year, meaning Wallace will remain in his position through the Spring 2021 semester. Needless to say, he is also involved in several extra curricular activities on campus.

"I have to show love to Umoja (success program). They have always been a great supporter of mine and really opened my mind up to so many principles of African thinking," Wallace said

He was also the president of the Cerritos College Toastmasters and was involved in the Geography club, ASCC and the United Nations club.

"There are so many support systems on campus."

"All throughout high school, my dad and I would talk politics, so when I actually saw the opportunity to learn more in depth about the political process

and democratic process, I chose to go that route."

Wallace did reveal that the student trustee position was not what he always had in mind, but was encouraged to go for by a fellow colleague in ASCC.

"A fellow cabinet member suggested it to me and I was like, 'Well I never thought about it but I'm always open to trying,'" he said.

Wallace volunteered under civic leaders such as the mayor of Artesia, Ali Sajjad, and the deputy mayor of his home town of Long Beach, where he tried to make connections with elected officials and others with influence in local government.

"I was already trying my best to rub elbows with people who were maybe where I wanted to be politically."

Wallace had originally intended to go to a Cal State or HBCU out of high school, but instead looked at Cerritos as a 'point of reflection' to find what he really wanted to do for higher education. He said he was drawn to Cerritos College because of his older sister, Darcy, who also attended Cerritos before him and liked her experience.

"I applied to UC's and cal states and received acceptance letters from quite a few universities I applied to but I decided that community college route was the best way and I came straight from high school for a degree in political science," said Wallace

“Every problem I see is an opportunity in disguise.”

Johnny Wallace
Student Trustee

on why he first chose to attend Cerritos.

In 2020, we witnessed one of the greatest movements of modern American culture after the police killing of George Floyd and Brianna Taylor, which stoked preexisting anger nationwide, with calls to prosecute killer cops and defund the police.

Wallace, who himself is a mentor and tutor to underserved youth, weighed in on this topic, arguing that change is generated from the grassroots. He says it's why he is diligent in his community service.

"Voting in a new President won't effect, the change that we want. We want to happen in our daily lives on it that's up to us, that's up to every city every citizen in every county throughout the United States to make that change

[Read more on Talonmarks.com](#)

Norwalk's random acts of kindness

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The City of Norwalk is spreading random acts of kindness during the COVID-19 pandemic. The small acts of kindness are extremely meaningful to families and Norwalk residents.

In the spirit of World Kindness Day on November 13, the city of Norwalk is performing random acts of kindness for residents throughout the month of November.

The Norwalk Recreation Department looked through their database of people who participate in city activities and sports and randomly selected families to receive a surprise gift. It is all part of their "Rec in Motion: Spreading Kindness" program.

"We wanted the program to lift the community's spirits," said Elizabeth Rock, recreation superintendent for the City of Norwalk. "Staff would randomly pick a family from the database and went to their home to drop off some goodies and treats for the family.

We wanted to spread positivity during the COVID-19 pandemic."

The baskets that Norwalk provides varies with the kind of goodies, but the purpose is to give the families something to do during the pandemic.

"We included some decorations and board games," said Rock. "We did chalk art in front of their house as well."

"It was such a surprise to receive the call from the city saying they were dropping off a present," said Jocelyn Yanez.

"They coordinated a time to drop off their present. I was so surprised, and my kids were so excited, too."

"I received a text from Blanche Grove telling me they would be by sometime this week, and we didn't hear when they came," said Cassandra Lozano, who also received the present. "My family and I were so excited and emotional when we saw the gift basket in front of our door!"

"Our basket had some board games and notebooks," said Lozano. "It also included these 'Slime Hands' which the kids really loved."

It is reported that other residents received baskets that included pan dulce, tamales, chocolate, as well as board games, and lawn ornaments.

During the pandemic, it is vital to social distance and wears masks in public, a rule Norwalk city staff and residents follow seriously.

"Families stayed inside while staff put up decorations and lawn ornaments outside," added Grove. She said that if any pictures wanted to be taken, they were taken from a distance.

"All of the city staff had their masks on," said Rosario Bazaldua, a recipient of the gift from the city. "When we went outside, they backed up. We all had masks on."

"This package is really great because my family and I have been trying to keep the kids occupied," said Yanez. "We were going to try hiking, but the fires kept us from doing that. Our next idea is to set up an area in the backyard, so we can get some fresh air and relax outside."

"The fact that the city keeps us in mind during this terrible time means so much to my family and me," said Bazaldua. "We are so grateful to the city of Norwalk."

The city of Norwalk has many programs to help residents stay involved. For more information about the City of Norwalk and other programs, please visit their website www.norwalk.org.



CASSANDRA LOZANO

Season of Kindness; The Lozano family received a generous gift from the city of Norwalk. A basket of games and treats for their children. The city delivered baskets like this to families in the city to promote acts of kindness during the pandemic.. Nov. 16, 2020

Safely celebrate holidays and remain virus free

Jacqueline Cochran
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Carve the turkey and sing Christmas Carols, but with some modifications. There are ways to conduct holiday activities that will help slow the spread COVID-19.

Whether it's baking holiday goodies, decorating every inch of your home, or wrapping those special presents you can't wait to give out, holiday traditions need to be modified according to the CDC in order to help keep COVID-19 cases from continuing to rise.

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years are almost here and people look forward to these holidays because it's a time of merriment and fun but most importantly it's a time when families get together.

"We look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving almost all year," said Carmen Guerrero, a Garden Grove resident.

Unfortunately, getting together in large gatherings while COVID-19 is spreading is not recommended.

The CDC suggests limiting the numbers of guests and having the gathering outdoors. If the celebration has to be indoors then open the windows for air

circulation.

Wear masks, social distance and limit the number of people who prep and serve the food. When possible, use disposable utensils. The CDC also says to consider bringing your own food, drink and utensils if you intend to celebrate with people in person.

"I have six children and I placed each of their names in a basket and drew it out like a lottery.

Three of my children will have Thanksgiving with me and then the other three will join me for Christmas.

We have decided not to have a family celebration for New Years, especially if the virus continues to spread," said Melissa Smith, a resident and grandmother of Long Beach.

"My children are angry with me for the way we are doing the holidays, but it's the responsible thing to do," Smith said.

"My mom and dad have five children and each of us have children," Guerrero said. "There are also the spouses and boyfriends and at least one or two cousins that celebrate with us. We have decided to rent a tent for outside."

"The last thing we want is to end up with all of us sick. The virus is very real and we will take

as many precautions as we can," said Guerrero.

This time is also a popular time for people to travel.

By plane, train or automobile, the airways and highways are filled with millions of people moving about the country from state to state and city to city to celebrate with family and friends.

The CDC suggests that if you travel it will increase the chances of getting or spreading the virus but if you do travel you should wear a mask, get a flu shot, wash hands often with soap and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

It is important to guard and protect yourself as much as possible from getting sick while using public transportation.

There are some basic tips and tricks that you can follow that will help slow the spread of the virus.

Enjoy fun activities at home with your immediate family to bring in the holidays. Host a virtual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner.

Decorate and set the table in the same way you would if everyone was going to be together.

You can even have virtual holiday dessert bake-offs. Compete with your family members for the best looking baked goodies.



CREATIVE COMMONS

Holiday's and COVID-19:: Enjoy holiday traditions while remembering to stay socially distant. Some families are choosing alternatives to their usual traditions in order to stop the spread of the virus..

There are games that you can play together through Zoom or watch a game together.

Another crowd gathering draw for the holidays is Black Friday.

Instead of standing in long lines at the mall the evening or early morning after Thanksgiving to shop for the limited quantity featured item, check out the many online specials.

Some stores such as Target and Walmart are offering some pre-Black Friday deals now. click here to see all the store ads.

"We usually make tamales as a

family for Christmas. We do them in large amounts in an assembly line fashion.

Although we love to do it, it's more important that we don't help this virus spread.

We probably won't make them this year and perhaps we will buy some instead.

The good thing about that is at least buying some will also help out a local business as well," Guerrero said.

For more information about the holiday season during this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic visit the CDC's website.

Long Beach gives artists stipends

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Long Beach will provide stipends for artists struggling due to COVID-19. The artists are a vital part of the community and the funds will help them to continue to live in the city.

The city of Long Beach will establish an artists fund to provide \$500 monthly stipends to 150 artists across the city who have been impacted by COVID-19.

The program, which is intended to provide financial support for basic needs for a period of six months, will be funded by the CARES Act Community Block Grant Funds.

The measure was proposed by Mayor Robert Garcia and approved during the Long Beach City Council meeting held on Nov. 17 with support from Councilwoman Mary Zendejas; Councilwoman Jeannine Pearce, Vice Mayor Dee Andrews, Councilman Al Austin, Councilwoman Suzie Price, Councilman Daryl Supernaw,

Councilwoman Stacy Mungo, Councilman Rex Richardson, and Councilman Roberto Uranga.

Garcia said artists are struggling to find work with special events and live music cancelled and museums and galleries closed since the safer at home order for control of COVID-19 was issued by the City's Health officer in March.

"We know that the arts have been one of the areas hardest hit by the pandemic," Garcia said of his proposal, "...this new guaranteed income program would help our artists support their basic needs and make it through this difficult period."

Garcia also said that artists are a crucial part of the city's economy, bringing color, culture and a vibrant spirit to Long Beach's urban fabric.

Various forms of art showcasing the rich diversity of Long Beach have been displayed within the community over the last five years including murals on walls, music played at theaters and dance throughout the city.

Since the pandemic began, the



EILEEN OSUNA/TM

Pandemic help: "12 Steps" mural by artist Jose Loza at the "Intercity Fellowship Hall". Located at 5589 Cherry Ave Long Beach, CA 90805. The city of Long Beach commissions murals in various places throughout the City. Dec. 01, 2020

City of Long Beach has launched programs to provide support for businesses, nonprofits, landlords, and tenants. However, Garcia believes that it is also important to support artists.

"As a city, our artists and our cultural workers are the lifeblood of our community. They make our city strong, diverse," he said.

"Many of them are already lower income folks who do the work because they love it, not because it's highly paid and so anything we can do to bridge their ability to stay in our city

during this difficult time is really important."

Garcia acknowledged and thanked all of the arts organizations that have been involved in working on this initiative, such as the Musical Theater West, Long Beach Opera, Long Beach Symphony, Long Beach Playhouse, musicians from the Municipal Band, International City Theater, Long Beach Museum of Art, Museum of Latin American Art and the Arts Council of Long Beach.

In addition, Garcia

emphasized that this new artists program is in line with the guaranteed income work that is being done all across the country by the Mayors for Guaranteed Income as well as "An extension of the tenant assistance program that this council already adopted," he said.

Long Beach City Manager Tom Modica has been tasked with reporting back on the creation of this one-time artists fund program in which the City Council is expected to make a final vote.



CITY OF DOWNEY

Calls from Santa: City of Downey children can receive a call from Santa and the North Pole. Downey has continued to host COVID friendly events to keep residents involved.



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

Safer at home: City of Signal Hill Virtual Tree lighting Ceremony will be held via facebook live. The little ones can talk to Santa by appointment only.

Local communities kick off holidays with virtual festivities

Jacqueline Cochran
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A nationwide pandemic has changed the way we celebrate events but some virtual events attempt to restore some sense of normalcy.

COVID-19 has altered every aspect of our lives, from how we conduct business to how we celebrate the holidays. Various cities hosted holiday kick-off celebrations that usually included photos with Santa, food for purchases and holiday drinks and even fake snow to get you in the mood for the holiday season.

This year, many communities went virtual with some of their celebrations and there are a socially distant and responsible in person activities.

City of Lakewood

Lakewood hosted a virtual Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Friday, Dec. 4, at 6:30 pm. The live broadcast was viewed by tuning into Lakewood's City TV Channel 31 on Spectrum and Frontier or Channel 99 if you have AT&T. It can also be viewed online at www.lakewood.org/CityTV.

This online event included holiday carols by a Mayfair High School choral group, a special message from Santa Claus for all the Lakewood children and a raffle of five \$100 gift cards as a thank-you for those who generously donated to Project

Shepherd between Oct. 1 and Dec. 2.

In addition to the tree lighting, Lakewood is also sponsoring a Holiday Fireworks show. This part of the festivities took place at three location across the city: Holmes Elementary, Lakewood High School and Artesia High School.

For more information visit <https://www.lakewoodcity.org/services/recreation/events/tree.asp>

City of Norwalk

Norwalk hosted its virtual tree lighting ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 6-8 pm. Held on Zoom, it included a visit from Santa Claus and some local dignitaries to help light up the huge Christmas tree. If you logged on you were able to see some other holiday characters. The zoom meeting log in information is 998 589 9090.

City of Downey

Downey hosted a Candy Cane Lane drive-thru event on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Downey Civic Center, 11111 Brookshire Avenue. You can see Santa and get some free holiday treats.

Downey also has phone calls from the North Pole. For your child to receive a phone call from Santa register before Dec. 7 at www.downeyca.org/PR. Santa will call on Dec. 8, 9, 10 and 14th.

Visit <https://www.downeyca.org/our-city/departments/parks-recreation> for more information.

City of Paramount

Paramount hosted a virtual tree lighting celebration on Dec. 2, at 7:30 pm, via YouTube. Residents had an opportunity to see the Sequoia tree light up and hear greeting from City Officials.

Paramount will also host Santa Train. Santa Train will follow a traditional route through neighborhoods in Paramount. The train will roll through the neighborhood without stopping giving onlookers an opportunity to take pictures and wave at Santa.

On Dec. 5 and 6 from 11 am - 4 pm, Paramount residents will had an opportunity to take photos with Santa.

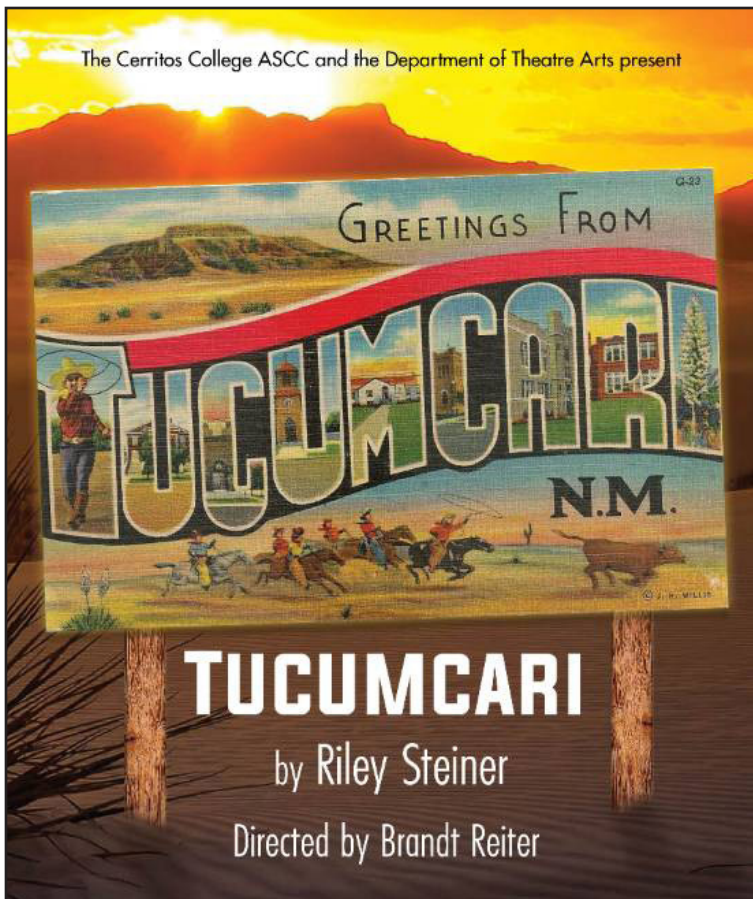
Paramount's annual breakfast with Santa will be held on Dec. 11 with a few COVID-19 modifications. Because of the pandemic this will be a drive-thru event and breakfast will not be served. The event will be held in the evening at 6pm in the Bianchi Theatre parking lot. Participants will receive treats and crafts.

Visit the city's website <http://www.paramountcity.com/community/events> for more information.

City of Signal Hill

Signal Hill hosted its hilltop tower tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 2, at 6:30 pm. Login to Facebook live to watch the tree light up virtually. Both before and after the tree lighting, Signal Hills young residents can have virtual sessions with Santa by appointment only.

'Tucumcari' preview with Director Brandt Reiter



BRANDT REITER/ CERRITOS COLLEGE

Tucumcari: This is the Theater's Productins latest play for 2020, working during the pandemic the team, actors and director Brandt Reiter have worked hard being able to get this production to the viewers who are interested in it.

Oscar Torres
A & E Editor
@talonmarks

With Tucumcari approaching its first show of the semester, Talon Marks was able to get in touch with the director of the play Brandt Reiter about not just the play, but the process of working on it.

Reiter began working as an actor and director in New York before coming here to Cerritos College to teach and write and direct plays.

"I directed a few pieces in Graduate school. When I got out, the first play I directed was a play by Austin Pendleton called "Uncle Bob" that was in I think 2007 I believe."

With the pandemic affecting many of the college's activities and events, Reiter explained that the Theater department was no different. All of his classes are training based and depend on a dynamic that many actors are used to. He doesn't know if many theater classes have been doing online practices like his.

Most practices are done on Zoom and have doing really well, according to Reiter.

The crew of "Tucumcari" have worked through these conditions to produce a "three-character play that takes place in the late 1920s into the 1930s in Tucumcari, New Mexico, a very small town on Route 66... when Route 66 is being constructed."

The plot of the play, according to Reiter, is the love triangle, both comic and tragic, of two men and one woman on Route 66.

The play is centered around a Latina woman who grew up on a ranch in New Mexico and is married to a ranch hand she grew up with. Both characters have a deep love for each other even though one is rich and one is not.

However, that bond gets disrupted when another character appears. Reiter describes him as a drifter and dreamer, poetic by nature, but very similar to her husband. The play is centered around that attraction.

Reiter thinks a three-character play will be easier to follow than multiple actors and actresses on

Zoom.

The process of creating this play on Zoom was a learning curve. With limited communication, Reiter has faced new challenges for creating engaging theatrical productions for an online audience.

This lovely play, with a small number of actors, seems like a great option for the unique circumstances faced by the Theater department.

The theme of the play is to be determined by the audiences that see it, with the director letting the viewers pull their own meaning from the production.

Overall many people should go out and see this play not only to support the theater department for their hard work but going to see it and enjoy themselves with friends or family members alike. I feel this as a good time to watch it if many people have the time to.

The play will be shown on Brandt Reiter's with first showing on Dec. 4. with other shows being available as the month goes on, though the last day to watch the show is the 13th.

Demon's Souls: A great launch title



SONY INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT & BLUEPOINT GAMES.

Demon's Souls remake Landscape: A photo from one of the game's areas, the Stonefang Tunnel. Sights like these are not a rarity.

Rafael Magana
Staff Writer
@talonmarks

Review

I began my journey in "Demon's Souls" by navigating the dilapidated ruins of the Boletaria Outpost Passage, and was left in awe at the sheer beauty of what I was seeing.

I spent my time in the game's tutorial area re-familiarizing myself with the controls, which felt exactly the way I remembered when I played the 2009 original.

This didn't stop me from dying to the game's first boss, however. As I died, the game informed me that I was now bound to the Nexus (the game's hub area) and my soul couldn't escape it.

It's not like I'd want to if I'm being honest.

Developer Bluepoint Games has knocked it out of the park

when it comes to the game's graphical capabilities. There were times in my playthrough where I was left awestruck at what I was seeing. It's incredible to see Boletaria the way FromSoftware likely expected the player to see it.

Gameplay wise, the game feels very similar to its 2009 counterpart. Many weapons still feel the same way they did in the original while adding new animations to give the game a polish and flair that it did not originally have.

The game's musical score was redone by developer Bluepoint and was much improved. The musical score was an immensely important part of the original game and has only improved with Bluepoint's involvement.

Players are still able to make whatever build they like, and the mysterious world tendency system makes a return. Bluepoint has added very little new content

to the remake, preferring to produce as genuine a remake they could. There is a hidden

door that was added to the game, however, with a lock on it that has remained an enigma for the community since launch. There is apparently a new item beyond this door. Content like this proves that Bluepoint has a grasp on what the Souls community likes, and is willing to take risks.

The game maintains the hub-like area, The Nexus, where the player can level up using the souls that they gain from defeating enemies. The Nexus offers players a respite and a place to relax after venturing into any of the game's 5 areas.

Demon's Souls was FromSoftware's first attempt at making a Soulslike game and lacks the open-world nature that "Dark Souls" and its sequels offered. It does have a non-linear nature when it comes to its progression, however, and players are allowed the freedom to tackle levels in any order that they see fit.

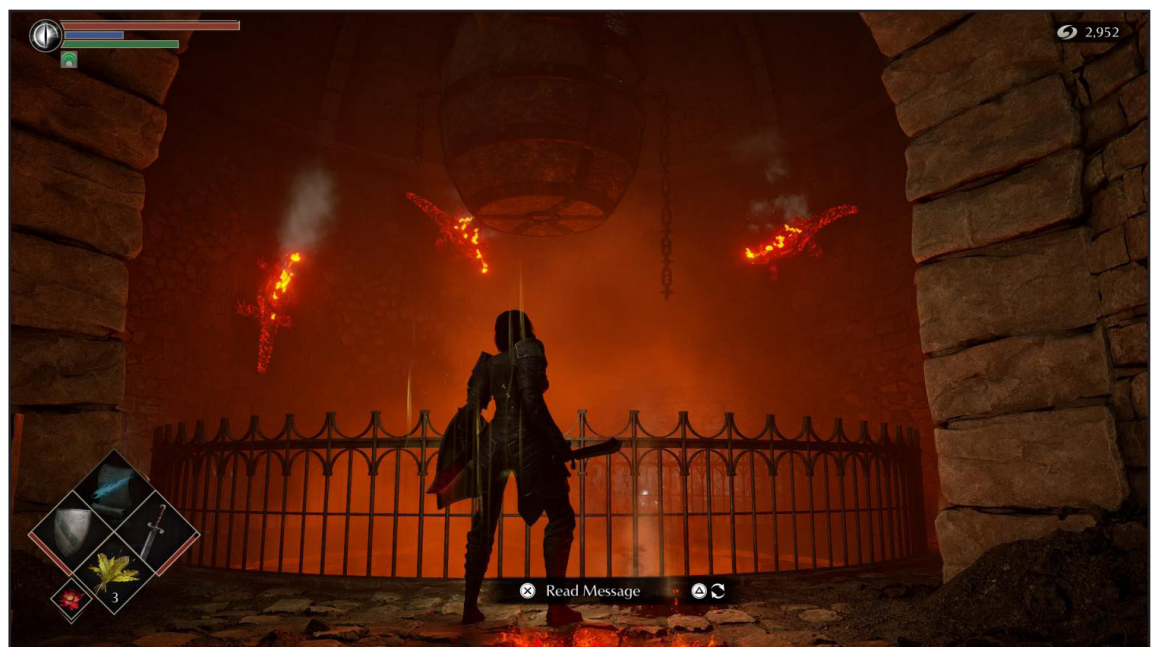
In my playthrough, I became stuck in an area that was very muddy swamp area that was full

of enemy ambushes. I kept on dying and became a bit frustrated. I remembered my options, however, and realized that I had the freedom to tackle another level and that I could simply return when I leveled up a bit more and had better gear to tackle the area that was getting the better of me.

Online functionality is still available as well, with players being able to invade each other's worlds and engage in combat with each other. Players, in classic Souls fashion, can also leave messages for each other that will help other players progress through the game's areas.

"Demons Souls" is as hard as many remember it. There were times where the game left me frustrated after dying to a boss for the 5th time in a row. Yet this difficulty was what kept me going, alongside the sheer beauty of the game.

"Demons Souls" is the PlayStation 5's killer app, and the first truly next-gen experience.



SONY INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT & BLUEPOINT GAMES

Interior Beauty: Another area in the Stonefang Tunnel archstone. The game, while lacking ray tracing, makes the most mundane areas look beautiful.

'Age of Calamity': a must-play Musou game from Koei

Oscar Torres

A & E Editor

@talonmarks

Review

With the game finally here, let's see if the game has the same positive style that the demo gave players.

It's finally here, after months of anticipation the next Nintendo X Koei Tecmo partnered game is finally here "Hyrule Warriors: Age of Calamity".

Having been very positive with the demo and with the full game at my disposal let's see if that positivity holds up.

Going to the plot as it was previously mentioned in the demo impressions that it starts off with a Little Guardian getting sent back in time 100 years before the calamity strikes to help and prevent it. From there Link, Impa and Zelda travels all around Hyrule in hopes of recruiting the four champions who control the Divine Beasts.

this in turn would lead them to face many monsters, the Yiga Clan and this mysterious new foe mane Astor. who tries to stop them in the Korok Forest but is ultimately defeated by Link who gets the Master Sword earning him the hero who'll seal the

darkness.

After that, they continue to prepare to set up sheika towers with Zelda trying to unlock her powers that would seal calamity Ganon forever which she fails to unlock.

On her 17th birthday, she heads to the spring of wisdom with Link, Impa, and the little Guardian to try to unlock her power but before she can go Calamity Ganon awakens and takes over all the sheikah technology and corrupting the divine beat ultimately taking over Hyrule.

She grief and cries as she tells herself that everything that she did fail when the small guardian shoots a beam of light in the sky looking up to see that divine beasts haven't been totally corrupted yet so they reach to all the four champions to save them.

the player can rescue them in any order they want but the main takeaway is that they get saved by a person for the future either relatives or the current leaders or champions from 100 years into the future. Likely thanks to the little guardian.

after that, they head to Hyrule castle with all the tribes and species banding together ending Ganon's reign and making Hyrule safe again.



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OSCAR TORRES, KOEI TECMO & NINTENDO

Boss Encounters: Bosses will appear at the end of a level or in a boss rush like this Hinox. Its weakness is its eye hit it and it'll stagger.

The story was I'll say pretty disappointing but exciting as I was hoping that this was an ACTUAL prequel to BOTW showing more of the story that lead to link being asleep for 100 years. But what I got was a what-if story of them beating Ganon 100 years before.

Still, though I enjoy seeing the characters from BOTW come here and it was an interesting way to change the story and introduce new characters.

The gameplay I already talked about it in the demo impressions but essentially it's the player vs an army on a giant map where you travel to take over an outpost and complete the objective. Inside missions, it's different for each mission from protecting captains and bases to defeating specific enemies and bosses. There's a lot

of variety to do and many combos and characters to choose from.

As for characters, there's a wide variety of them so it's better to just talk about a few of the characters that players can experience.

Urbosha is a character that uses lightning in her attacks, she runs out of it after the players use all of it but is able to charge up more and refill it.

Revali as the champion of the Rito tribe. Though not as good in the ground he makes up for it with air combos making him more useful

Mipha is considered the healer type character as her special attack next to allies not only hurts enemies but heals all allies as well making her the healing mage of the warriors games

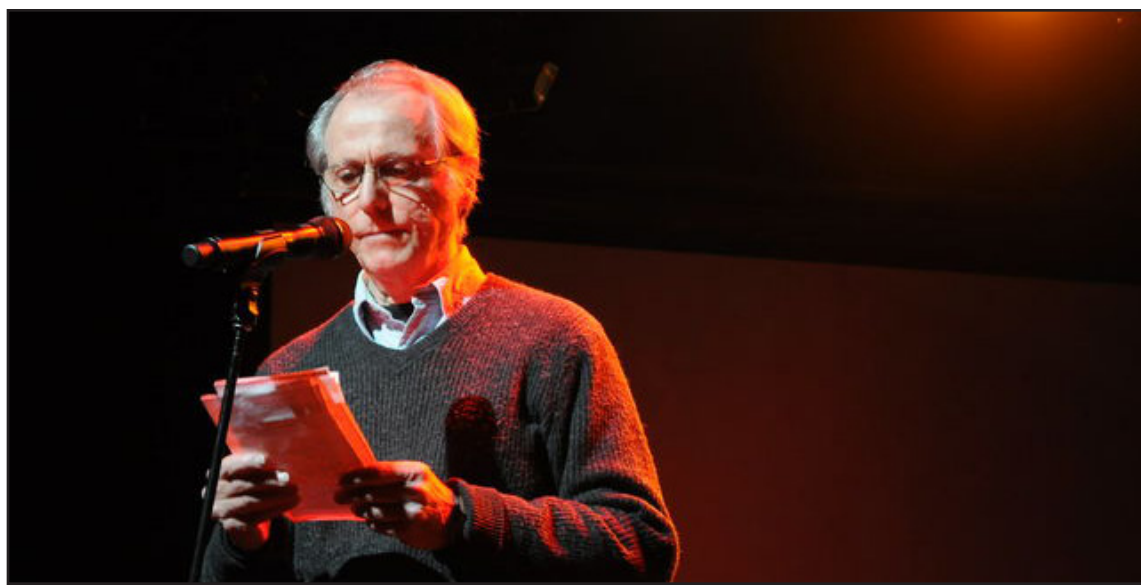
Daruk is the heavy hitter of the group with attacks that hurts a lot and can break enemies guard stances really easily.

that's what's good about each character is that their gameplay reflects on their personalities and traits that they have its honestly amazing to see.

Frame rate wise its pretty good. many would see some slowdown or frame drop but thats due to the special attacks hits so its supposed to reflect that but other than that its a minor issue.

Graphics and audio looks amazing as it looks and sounds like Breath of the wild and that's what's amazing. Much love for the developers to replicate what made Breath of the Wild great in a warriors style game just pure amazement.

'The Silence' shows what a tech apocalypse can do to civilization



THOUSAND ROBOTS

Don DeLillo: He is one of the most influential authors in modern American literature. 'The Silence' is his first book in four years.

Sean Davis

Managing Editor

@talonmarks

'The Silence' is a novella by renowned novelist Don DeLillo that turns a keen eye on the human brain hooked on technology. A quick 117-page read, DeLillo's depiction of shock and adjustment to a world-shattering event rings true, especially in the COVID-19 era.

The plot of 'The Silence' is minimal. A group of five friends are planning to meet for Super Bowl Sunday in the year 2022.

Jim and Tessa are flying home from Europe and will taxi over to

Max and Diane's apartment where Diane's former student Martin has already arrived. Just before kickoff, all digital devices seize up and fail. Jim and Tessa's plane has an emergency landing, but all survive. The couple make their way to the apartment where they all must face this new, uncertain future together.

That about sums up the action, as it were. The book focuses mostly on the dialogue between the characters.

The characters don't communicate well. The speech and thoughts of these five people seems like a representation of our

brains with too many hours of internet under our belts. Jumping from topic to topic, incomplete thoughts, and non sequiturs rule.

From the very beginning, Jim struggles to sleep on his flight, thinking "He wanted to sleep but kept on looking" at the display screen in front of him, reciting the inane information as if he were scrolling through Twitter. "Sleep was the point. He needed to sleep. But the words and numbers kept coming."

The entire book seethes with a dazed, surreal malaise, with the protagonist's reactions to the tech apocalypse being subdued.

Even Max, the sports gambler with a lot riding on the outcome of the Super Bowl, drinks whiskey and stares at the blank screen, waiting for a return to normalcy.

There are references to riots and unrest in the streets but Max, after leaving the apartment to clear his head, tells the group "You don't want to know."

Martin, Diane's former student and now a teacher himself appears the most disturbed by the situation, but this is more due to his established concerns over the increasing reliance on unaccountable systems and powerful tools of state control like mass surveillance and AI drone warfare.

He is not shocked by this cataclysm. He has been expecting it.

At the end, each character breaks from their shifting, undirected thought patterns and gives a heartfelt monologue.

Diane comes to terms with this new reality.

Jim recalls the confusing and scary plane crash he is still grappling with.

Max describes his march up the eight flights of stairs back to the apartment ("I don't think I have to apologize for this long dumb description... because the current situation tells us that there's nothing else to say except

what comes into our heads").

Tessa both recalls her past through her many notebooks and wonders about the future ("Is it natural at a time like this to be thinking and talking in philosophical terms as some of us have been doing? Or should we be practical?").

Martin, the prophet of the apocalypse, continues to struggle with his mental health and his technophobia ("The world is everything, the individual nothing. Do we all understand this?").

'The Silence' is not for everyone. It borders on pedantic or overly obtuse. But the painfully accurate themes shine through in surprising ways. The dialogue feels like a disjointed chatroom. Single lines hold profound truths and observations on our collective reliance on technology.

This book, in a roundabout way, is a great book for our diseased times. Humans react to disaster in interesting ways. Some lash out in anger or fear. Some band together and strive to survive. Others still are frozen in shock, unable to face the reality confronting them. The Coronavirus has exposed all these variations and more. 'The Silence' takes this uniquely human phenom and points it squarely at another disaster soon.

'The Mandalorian' review: Shocking events unfold

Oscar Torres

A & E Editor

[@talonmarks](#)

With Robert Rodriguez in the director's seat for this episode how would it fair to compare to the other directors that either returned or were introduced to direction Mandalorian?

This latest episode has shocked the audience with impactful emotional scenes and hardcore action presented by Director "Robert Rodriguez" for "Sin City" and Spy Kids Fame.

The episode kicks off with the Razor Crest heading to Typhon with Mando and Grogu having a kind of father-son moment with Din having the kid use the force. They make it to the planet but had to use the jetpack to head to the temple.

Once they get there Mando puts Grogu in the middle of the rocky area with him confused on what to do. Suddenly the Slave I enters the planet, before Mando could leave the child starts to meditate with a protective force surrounding him, with no choice Din leaves Grogu to continue meditating with him going down to see who the person who landed was.

Once he gets there he's greeted by a cloaked man who turns out to be Boba Fett along with Fennec Shand who survived her wounded back in Tatooine thanks to Boba.



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

Boba makes a deal with Mando that if he can give him back his armor then he'll guarantee the safety of the child. But as Mando was about to answer they get ambushed/attacked by imperial troopers.

Din goes back to Grogu to leave the planet but failed as the force pushes him down leaving him unconscious leaving both Shand and Fett to fight off the oncoming Stormtroopers.

Unfortunately, all of that was just a distraction as Gideon sent out his dark troopers to get the kid, and to make sure Mando won't get in his way he destroys the Razor Crest and successfully

escapes to hyperspace with the child.

Determined to get Grogu back he heads to the destroyed ship and obtained the spear. Boba and Shand agree to help him get the child back, they go to meet with Cara Dune to help them break out Mayfeld to get back the child. All the while Gideon sends the child to the doctor to get its blood.

The plot was pretty amazing even though it was short the way they portray the scenes was emotional with Mando and Grogu acting more and more like a family while also giving us the return of the classic Bounty Hunter and a character from season one

turning from antagonist to a character that teams up and helps the main character.

The fights were the best parts of the episode and it was amazing to see Temuera Morrison as Boba Fett and him in the armor made Star Wars fans jump for joy getting a badass Boba Fett moment with both Robert and Jon giving the character justice.

and some of the other characters did really well with Shand going all John Wick on the stormtroopers never hesitating and facing an entire platoon of them by herself. and Mando thinking outside of the box with him being used as a shield thanks

to his armor.

The acting was really good, as Morrison gave off how Fett and in some cases Jango while loving the new direction Favaru and Filoni are taking this character.

Along with Gideon, Giancarlo Esposito does a fantastic job playing the villain showing off how chaotic and evil Gideon can be. He was made to play this role and I couldn't think of anyone else to play Giden than Esposito.

Also we get more interaction with both Mando and Grogu as we see more of their bond together which hurts, even more, when the child gets taken and we see Din get the small orb that Grogu likes under the rubble it just tears him in the inside knowing that the kid who is kind of like a son to him is gone and would do whatever it takes to get back.

Overall the episode "The Tragedy" does deliver an action-packed and emotional feel with previous episodes but this episode, in particular, made residences both shocked and excited for what would be instore next time.

Chapter 14 gets five stars another perfect score making this best episode but we'll have to wait until the final two to see if it can top season one.



'Lego Star Wars Holiday Special' review Fanservice that makes it a great time



WALT DISENY COMPANY & LUCASFILM LTD.

Lego Star Wars Holiday Special Key Art

Vincent Medina

Social Media Editor

[@talonmarks](#)

Set after The Rise of Skywalker, the sequel trilogy characters try to enjoy a peaceful Life Day while

Rey sets out on a quest to learn more about the force.

The Lego Star Wars Holiday Special may not be considered canon, but the 48-minute film provides fan service and nostalgia that fans had failed to see in

episode IX.

The special is set after Episode IX. Viewers find the characters from the sequel trilogy celebrating "Life Day," the Star Wars version of Christmas.

"Life Day" was introduced in the Star Wars Holiday special in 1978, but the special has since been removed from Star Wars canon. "Life Day" was reintroduced in the Star Wars live-action series "The Mandalorian."

When starting the film, the bar was set very low. From past experiences with lego movies, it was expected to be a silly children's movie.

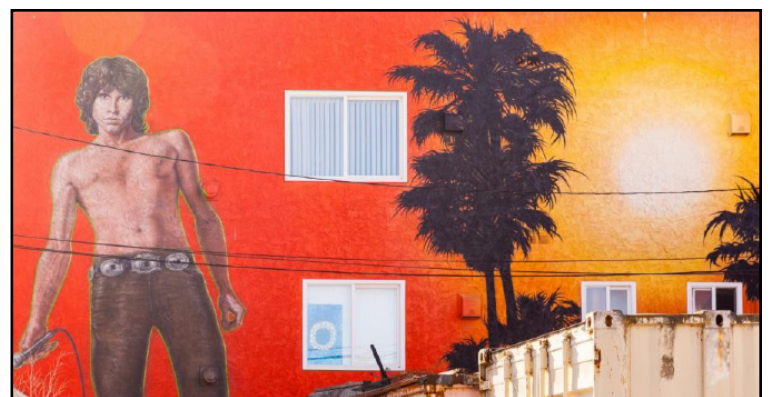
When it started, however, the movie proved haters wrong with an exciting story and motivation.

The film provides a look back at the prequel and original trilogies, with comedic humor to feel like a family holiday movie. While it may be animated and lego, it provides a sense of nostalgia that star wars fans love.

From Obi-Wan Kenobi's iconic "hello there," to Luke and Darth Vader's final battle, to Anikan pod-racing on Tatooine, the holiday special reminds fans of the "Golden Age" of Star Wars, when the movies had a storyline that made sense.

Rose is even given a more ...

[Read more at Talonmarks.com.](#)



RUSSELLSTREET ON FLICKR.COM

On this day, James Douglas Morrison was born to mother, Clara, and, father, George Morrison. Jim Morrison would soon be the lead singer and songwriter for the psychedelic rock band, The Doors.

The life of Jim Morrison, the Lizard King

Rebecca Aguila

Multimedia Editor

[@talonmarks](#)

A poetic and cocky artist who knew what he wanted and how to perform it.

James Douglas Morrison, a cocky and very expressive human being that continues to make every generation swoon with his deep lyrics and euphonious sound. His death was sadly cut short at the prime of his music in 1971, but his legacy continues to live on inspiring man artists to express themselves in any way they feel is right.

Born in Melbourne, Florida, Jim was born into a traditional

American family. His mother, a homemaker, and his father a naval aviator who was ranked up to rear admiral. Jim's father, George, was skilled in piano and always had a crowd around their piano once he started to tune away. This must of been the start of Jims' interest in writing and music at the start of his adolescent years.

If you're a fan then you probably heard one of his famous quotes in The Doors 1970 release, 'Peace Frog', in which Jim sings: "Indians scattered on dawns' highway bleeding/Ghosts crowds the young child's fragile eggshell mind". This actually did in fact happened when Jim was a boy.

[Read more at Talonmarks.com](#)

Don't repeat mistakes this second wave of COVID



UNSPASH

COVID-19: Cases hit record highs on Dec. 3, 2020 with 7,713 new cases. The state is expected to implement new stay-at-home orders as a vaccine is still underway.

EDITORIAL

Thursday marked the single-day record for COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County, with 7,713 new cases, pushing the total number over 420,000 cases. Governor Gavin Newsom has already released new guidelines for a second wave of lockdowns, as the hospitalizations and new cases spike into the Winter flu season.

Cases are up nationwide, and the second wave is expected to be just as widespread as the first one, unless federal, state and local governments can pull resources together to support small businesses and provide stability to anyone who was affected by COVID-19.

We know more than what we did at the beginning of this year, but we have to use what we learned to make sure it doesn't happen again.

The second stay-at-home order becomes effective when the Southern California region, which includes L.A. County, falls under 15% ICU capacity.

As of December 3, the region is at 20.6%. A pair of vaccines are rapidly moving through development, possibly becoming available in late December.

When the pandemic first began, little was known about how it spread and what factors

might make people vulnerable. The late response by the Trump administration put the country behind in dealing with this pandemic, and it is still being felt to this day.

No testing was readily available for the general population, there was little to no tracking done to see how the virus was spreading and how to stop it.

With more data and testing available, we now know that 60% of new infections in the United States are now in people under the age of 50.

Those between the ages 18-65 and children have a lower chance of dying from the coronavirus, but can still spread it without knowing. Soon it was clear that people who were over the age of 80 or those with underlying conditions such as diabetes or obesity, had a higher risk of dying from COVID-19.

We also learned that COVID-19 most often spreads through tiny particles suspended in the air and one can become infected if those particles are breathed in.

A recent CDC study supports the effectiveness of wearing a mask, and combined with avoiding indoor or crowded areas such as bars and restaurants, and washing their hands to reduce the risk of contracting the virus, these measures can help stop the

spread.

This is vital information to know because it allows local and federal governments to take steps to protect those who are most vulnerable through preventative measures, preventing hospitals from being overrun and avoiding unnecessary deaths.

276,000 Americans have already died from COVID-19, and if the federal government wants to prevent more, they have to make a deal to end the bipartisan gridlock that keeps people from getting the relief they need.

In the 10 months of restrictions put on Americans to reduce the spread of COVID-19, Congress has passed but one relief bill with one crumb size stimulus check.

There are essential workers and others who can't afford to stay home for a lockdown without steady income.

The government has an absolute obligation in ensuring that people can stay in their homes, with food to eat and money for expenses during the pandemic.

Proposals for the second wave of Coronavirus relief do not include checks, and when a \$908 billion package was introduced, Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell rejected it and presented one only half the size.

Going to work and making

essential trips to the grocery stores or pharmacies are appropriate and should always be done with proper caution. However, some have given up on trying to stay home or maintain social distance altogether.

This Thanksgiving weekend saw over three million travelers at airports, and with recent record-breaking new cases all over the country, it is clear that this is going to be devastating in the upcoming weeks for hospitals and families who will be affected.

With the holiday season here, people should put off those large gatherings until next year and instead celebrate in their own homes.

Christmas shopping will also be affected this year, with the new stay-at-home order limiting retail shops to a 20% capacity limit.

It is best to do any Christmas shopping online to avoid waiting in crowded lines, and if you are going to visit any shops, remember to always wear a mask, and follow social distancing protocols.

Now that we know better, it's important that we do better. For this second wave, it's critically important that people practice preventative measures and keep the spread and hospitalizations down.

A vaccination is coming, but with high demand and first responders and healthcare

workers first on the list, we could be waiting for an untold amount of time for universal access.

When people and their families have the security they need to stay afloat in this economic crash, staying home will become a viable option, helping everyone in limiting the spread and returning to normalcy.

Wearing a mask works, and could protect everyone you might encounter on a daily basis, so wear it.

Caring for one another doesn't stop there, however, since we absolutely need the support from our government to protect small businesses and people who are enduring food, health care or housing insecurity.

If everyone does their part, we will prevail from this second wave and get out of this crisis together.

The best we can do is hold our local politicians accountable. If they fail to provide for their constituents, then show them we remember at the polls when their time comes. No office is permanent or guaranteed to anyone.

The nation wants to return to normalcy, getting back to work and getting kids back in classrooms, but you have to put the work in, whether by limiting how much you go out, or demanding better from our leaders.

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Don't let political division ruin your holiday gatherings

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We are currently living through divided times, especially in the wake of the 2020 election, where family ties are cut and friendships that have lasted for years are ended due to political rifts. Since Donald Trump was elected president in 2016, many people feel they cannot express their disapproval of policies or their stance on issues without being called derogatory names and called blatant insults by opposing supporters.

This presidency has also caused many people to use the 'block' button more than ever on social media platforms, and it might be one of the greatest coping mechanisms that exists to dismiss someone who won't have an open dialogue.

A real-life block button does not exist, and we can't simply swipe someone into the online abyss when we disagree in real life. The political commentary and crude arguments that have become so common online, often make their way into the family dinner table and friends' birthday parties.

Nowadays, most political disagreements have little to do about a tax policy or budgets and more to do with basic human rights and core values. People now see political differences as those of basic morality and issues that cannot be overlooked, where a middle ground does not exist.

According to the Pew Research

Center, political polarization is more intense now than at any point in modern history. Nearly 80% of Americans now have "just a few" or no friends at all across the aisle.

Conversations about one's politics can already be intense and a bit frightening to have, especially with family members because — although they are family — they can lead to unwanted tension and words that might be regretted later.

It's okay to have different opinions and reasons to support your beliefs but there is a difference between getting a point across and condescending to someone because they feel differently.

With the holidays coming around, it's not the greatest conversation to bring up, but it's tough to avoid when someone else brings up politics at the dinner table.

Before this Thanksgiving dinner, take some time to figure out and determine your boundaries to guide you on whether you should engage in these conversations or know when to walk away when arguing with someone who does not wish to see eye-to-eye.

Tania Israel, author of "Beyond your Bubble: How to Connect Across the Political Divide, Skills and Strategies for Conversations That Work," believes people should listen more to understand and try less to convince:

"If we cannot survive outside of our bubbles, if we cannot tolerate listening to our friends and families and neighbors, if we cannot see beyond our own perspectives; if we view our fellow citizens as enemies, how can we



PHOTO BY ROSEMARY KETCHUM FROM PEXELS

Family Drama: The holidays are here and that means uncomfortable conversations at the dinner table. Don't let family or friends bully you into thinking your beliefs and opinions don't matter just because it doesn't line up with theirs.

sustain our relationships, our communities, our country?"

In her book, she gives strategies on how to prepare yourself and engage in conversations with someone with opposing political views.

First, one should determine whether or not you want to have this type of conversation in the first place. Then, you need to identify the purpose for having the conversation: do you want to argue, vent, or listen?

Now, let's say you decide to have the conversation and know our purpose, one should also be conscious of how we listen to the other person.

Do not interrupt, raise your voice or quickly point out why someone is wrong.

One must allow the other to communicate their point across first, without interrupting, and listen to reflect back what you hear. If there is a disagreement, be respectful and avoid being patronizing or rude when asking someone a question.

And lastly, you also want to ask yourself whether you even want to understand the other person's perspective or do you want to persuade them?

If the conversation can carry on respectfully, great. If not, it is best to know when to disengage.

To recap:

Are you prepared to have a conversation with someone who holds different political views from your own? What is the purpose or end goal of this conversation? Do you want to argue, vent or listen?

Do you want to understand their perspective?

If someone is being persistent or abusive, it is best to let them know you feel uncomfortable and respectfully decline to participate in the conversation any further.

You can also stuff your mouth with turkey and wine all night, so you physically won't be able to converse with anyone.

Letters to the Editor

Trump not solely to blame for virus

To listen to Joe Biden 220,000 Americans have died of COVID-19, and every last death is the fault of President Trump.

That got me thinking: COVID-19 is a coronavirus, and so are all seasonal flus. Yes, this is deadlier, although now that we've learned more about how to deal with it, and who's most vulnerable so that they can be protected, the death rate compared to the infection rate has plummeted.

For example, according to the CDC, on April 18, there were 17,080 deaths "involving COVID-19" (that includes all other co-morbidities.)

On October 24, there were 1,119, despite a big rise in positive tests. Nobody is disputing that COVID-19 is much deadlier than the typical seasonal flu.

However, that doesn't mean seasonal flus aren't deadly, particularly to the same people COVID-19 is most likely to kill: those with serious underlying health conditions and the elderly (especially those in New York nursing homes.) So I looked up the numbers, again from the CDC: Since 2010, between 12,000 and 61,000 deaths per year can be blamed on the flu.

Some years are much worse than others, but over the past decade, it's averaged about 38,000 annually, depending on the strain, how well that year's vaccine works and other factors.

That means that, on average, during the eight years that Obama and Biden were in office, 304,000 Americans died of seasonal flu. Why? Didn't Obama and Biden care enough to prevent those people from dying of a virus?

If the vaccine didn't work, then should we accuse them of

incompetence or heartlessness for not coming up with one that worked fast enough? Or should we just accept that viruses happen? They pop up and spread far and wide. That's why a video that everyone watches is said to have "gone viral."

Some, sadly, are deadlier than others or more contagious or more resistant to vaccines, but that's how nature works (unless the virus came out of a lab, but that's another issue.) Nobody understands everything about viruses, and it takes time to learn enough about each new one to deal with it effectively.

Even the lockdowns started as "two weeks to flatten the curve," simply so hospitals wouldn't be overwhelmed by the inevitable rise in cases as it spread. That was never meant to drag on for months or even years, until a cure is found. I'm not an epidemiologist, but I do know one thing for certain: nobody ever cured a virus by pointing their finger at someone else.

Covid-19 Pandemic, Effects of Distance Learning

Dear Editor,

As Covid-19 cases continue to increase at an alarming rate, the pandemic has caused Los Angeles Unified School District to make a difficult decision and opted to continue with distance learning for the upcoming Fall 2020 semester.

The district's decision will affect many families in the way that they will manage the demands of work and their children's educational needs.

This will exacerbate strained schedules, create more uncertainty and provoke a colliding of worlds between all family members.

In addition, children's learning routines and peer social interactions may be disrupted. Most families will need reliable childcare, technology, and internet services in order to adequately support their children

with distance learning.

Parents must adjust to rapid changes and today's reality to new platforms of distance learning. Parents must juggle taking care of their children while supporting their educational endeavors.

Communities will need to work together by having socially appropriate interactions through telephone calls, video chats, and writing letters in order to remain connected to their friends and loved ones.

Additionally, because Los Angeles County is one of the largest school districts in the country, the school will need support from the government to be able to achieve their educational goals.

We hope that the COVID-19 cases will subside in the near future and families can resume with their daily lifestyle and routines.

Thank you,

Josie Quintanilla, Jessica Huerta, Yajaira Toledo, Shanay Lucious

Dance looks to bounce back next fall

and movies about immigrants in America," Hathaway explained.

Since moving to online learning, enrollment for Dance has dropped. Hathaway and Christsine Gregory, who is the Dance department's repertory director, have been encouraging students to perform old dances from past concerts at home.

"On Sunday Dec. 6, we're having our student choreography class post their films on YouTube that they have been working on this semester," Hathaway said.

The students' choreography films will be left up for a week and then taken down. Hathaway and her faculty already have a plan set forth for classes, concerts and other events after returning.

"We would consider taking the process slow with stair stepped plans. Instructors would be able to teach outside on grass with a limited amount of students in each class along with blocking off certain areas in the dance studio."

For concerts, Hathaway explained that they would be limited if not streamed live. Despite seeing the unfortunate decrease in enrollment for Dance this semester, Hathaway still has hope once it's safe to go back to campus.

"Once things are safe, I think our students will come flooding back.

The pandemic made us realize that being around people is important and that dance connects us all."

Keanu Ruffo
Sports Editor
@talonmarks

The Cerritos College Dance department lost more than being able to dance in their studios. They lost a lifestyle.

From practicing in a standalone dance building with two brand new studios to practicing in a bedroom, Dance students and faculty have found it difficult to adapt to the new change.

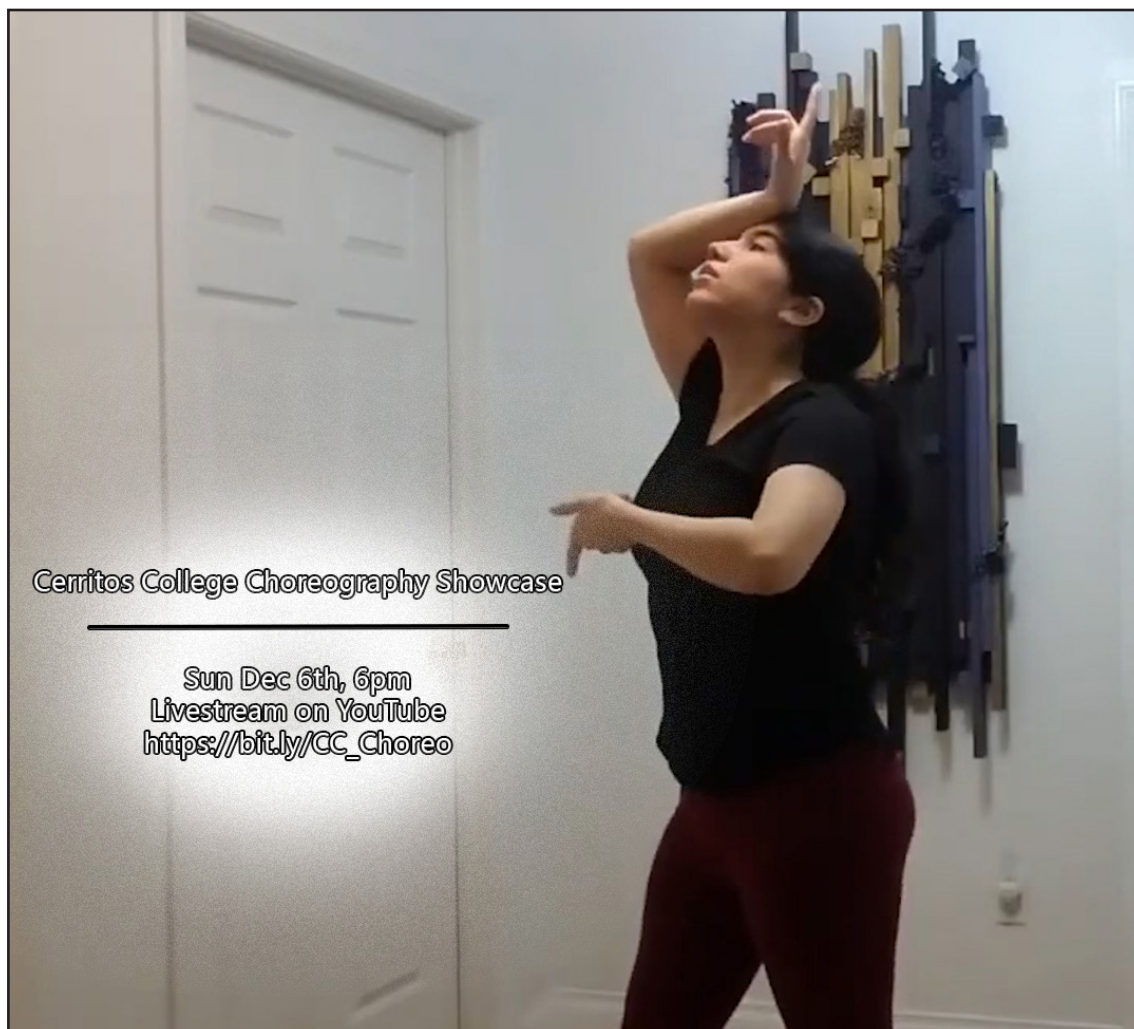
Before the pandemic occurred, Dance students and faculty were preparing for their dance concert that was originally scheduled to take place in March.

A day before the concert, Dance faculty and members received the terrible news that the Spring Concert would suddenly have to be cancelled due to the rise of COVID-19.

Rebekah Hathaway, the department chair of Dance at Cerritos College, reflects on the cancellation of the Spring Concert and Dance classes being moved to online.

"It was an emotional blow. Cast members, faculty, and myself were devastated and sad that the concert had to be cancelled."

Hathaway went on to say that over 300 people were to attend the Spring Concert, along with



Just Dance: Choreographer performing a dance for the Cerritos College Choreography Showcase on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020 at 6pm. The Dance department has been functioning from an online learning format at home due to COVID-19.

REBEKAH HATHAWAY

80-100 cast members being in it. According to Hathaway, this spring concert would've been

different than any other one in the past. "We were actually collaborating with the Music and Theater department, which we haven't done in a while, to create a theme based on old musicals

NFL makes history as leagues first all Black officiating crew is assembled

Keanu Ruffo
Sports Editor
@talonmarks

To see an all black officiating crew for the first time in the history of the National Football League, will be a huge accomplishment for the game and the sports world.

This citing will recognize the league's history and recent practices in diversifying its officiating department.

Jerome Boger, one of the most recognized black officials in the NFL, will lead a group of all black officials to showcase a primetime game between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Los Angeles Rams.

NFL's executive vice president of football operations expressed his thoughts to ESPN about the historical event set to take place.

"This historic Week 11 crew is a testament to the countless and immeasurable contributions of Black officials to the game, their exemplary performance, and to the power of inclusion that is the hallmark of this great game."

Boger will be joined by the following officials: Barry Anderson, umpire, 14-year NFL official; Anthony Jeffries, side judge, 3-year NFL official; Carl Johnson, line judge, 17-year NFL official; Julian Mapp, down judge, 12-year NFL official; Dale Shaw, field judge, 8-year NFL official;

and Greg Steed, back judge, 18-year NFL official.

This tribute of black excellence will be remembered for decades to come not only in the NFL but in all sports.

It goes beyond the professional game, right on down through the college and high school ranks.

Boger is in fact one of the two black men to referee a Super Bowl game and is the third african-american man to officiate a game in league history.

We've come a long way since Blacks were not deemed fit to handle the "thinking" or "decision making" positions on the field.

Just as women weren't seen fit to be a general manager of a baseball team or the Vice President of the United States.

Fast forward years later and you see Kamala Harris and Kim Ng breaking the barrier and setting an example for other minority women that they could accomplish anything and are deemed fit for any job they put their mind to.

Even if it's just a football game, it sends a message that runs counter to so many negative images and video footage in the recent years of police brutality towards blacks.

The NFL continues to change its tune. This shows how far the NFL is willing to go to show that diversity matters.

Youtuber boxers: a joke or entertainment craze?



MICHAEL REAVES/ GETTY IMAGES

Main Event: Jake Paul and AnEsonGib exchange blows during a boxing match in January. YouTubers are finding new ways like boxing to gain clout and boost their popularity in the entertainment world.

Isaiah Lonvelin
Staff Writer
@talonmarks

Youtubers today will do anything to get more subscribers and viewers for their channels, but instead of click baiting it is heading into the world of boxing.

Surprisingly, it is working. With gaining media attention and other professional boxers like Mike Tyson wanting to see more Youtubers fight each other in the ring for entertainment, we may

have more YouTube boxers on the way.

It is certainly different but can be turned into a regular event which can work its way into a pay-per-view fight that brings in more viewers.

The only time it should not go any further is when a creator wants to fight an actual pugilist who fights for a living.

This is actually happening with Youtuber Logan Paul who wants to fight Floyd Mayweather, who is a retired boxer that has a record of

50-0. Yes, a YouTube creator who has only been fighting for a year wants to fight Floyd "Money" Mayweather with an undefeated record.

This is where the line should be cut off. It is not a bad idea for two Youtubers of equal skill to fight each other, as both are equally matched. They will surely gain enough attention out of the two fan bases, along with avid boxing fans.

To actually go in the ring with [Read more on Talonmarks.com](https://www.talonmarks.com)

Cross Country captains pacing through the pandemic

Keanu Ruffo

Sports Editor

 @talonmarks

Antonio Calderon and Valeria Guerra's abilities to excel during a meet and in the classroom are the reasons why they are both team captains on the Cerritos College Cross Country team.

Unfortunately, they haven't been able to exercise their leadership skills and athleticism this fall due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which cancelled all spring and fall sports for the year.

For Calderon and Guerra, the pandemic hasn't stopped them from training at a high level and keeping in running shape.

"I have kept up with workouts by keeping track of my runs and meeting up with one or two friends to stay motivated," Guerra said.

"Everyday a workout is given and I do the best I can to stick to our training calendar," Calderon shared.

Both Calderon and Guerra do their best to hit good times during their workouts to keep their performance level high and consistent.

Being named the team captains was a huge accomplishment for both runners and were looking forward to reuniting with their teammates and begin leading the team.

"I do miss competition, but I miss seeing my teammates and coaches much more. This team is



Falcons Pacing: Valeria Guerra pacing herself during a cross country meet last fall. Guerra and her teammates continue to train while waiting to see if sports will return in the spring.

like my family and I miss doing workouts and having fun together everyday," Calderon said

Guerra mentioned how she was excited about meeting the team and getting to know all the new freshmen runners while also staying in a competitive mindset.

"I look forward to being in the competitive environment and getting into that race mindset that

I miss."

In order to become a captain, you must show your coaches the skill set, the strength of having leadership skills and always having a competitive mindset everyday.

For Coach Brian Ramos, Calderon and Guerra's academics were also a huge reason why he chose them as team captains.

COURTESY OF VALERIA GUERRA

Both student-athletes received the CCCAA Cross Country Academic All-State Scholar-Athlete award last fall for earning higher than a 3.5 GPA.

Calderon earned a 3.87 GPA while Guerra earned a 3.83 GPA.

"I like being focused and organized when it comes to competition and academics so I think that can help my teammates

do the same if they know I am doing it," Guerra said when explaining why she thinks the coaches chose her as team captain.

Calderon on the other hand believes the coaches saw a lot of ambition and heart in him and is the reason he's a captain for the team.

"I'm the type of person that never quits no matter how hard the obstacle is. I give my best everyday and I try to push my teammates to be their best whether it's yelling at them or simply giving them advice."

A topic that has been floating around in all of the minds of JUCO athletes and coaches is what happens if sports don't return in the spring.

For Guerra, she has her backup plans set and ready in case her athletic career is over.

"If we can't return in the spring, I plan to stay in shape and continue running for myself.

In terms of academics, I am going to continue my studies in becoming a future nurse," Guerra explained.

Like the majority of other JUCO athletes, Calderon is still undecided in terms of what he wants to do athletically if sports can't return in the spring.


"If sports aren't allowed to return this spring then I have no idea what I want to do. As for academics, I plan on transferring to a CSU in the fall of 2021."

The deadline for the final decision of sports being allowed back in the spring is Dec.18.

Eat the turkey, punt the pigskin every thanksgiving

Isaiah Lonvelin

Staff Writer

 @talonmarks

Sports Opinion

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching for families getting prepared to spend the day together to share an expression of gratitude with each of their loved ones.

For football fans it is the holiday of Thanksgiving football, a great tradition where two NFL teams, Detroit Lions and Dallas Cowboys, would battle on the gridiron on America's day of thanks every year since 1934 and 1966.

The American football games began playing on Thanksgiving day with college teams back in 1876.

The first two teams were Yale and Princeton who began the long tradition of playing each other on the day of thanks, with many other college teams joining them after.

When the NFL started up in 1920 they had followed college teams with the league playing on Thanksgiving but were not as popular as they hoped it would be.

One team would change that as the Detroit Lions had an edge on other teams because of then owner and former radio station owner Geroge Richards' marketing skills.

When Geroge Richard bought the then Portsmouth Spartans, he moved the team to Detroit renaming them the Lions.

He knew that the city of Detroit's fan base was mainly with the Major League Baseball club Detroit Tigers so he needed a big show to bring fans to support his new football team.

He made a deal with NBC to broadcast the Thanksgiving games on 94 stations across the United States ultimately being a hit bringing fans to the stadium.

This would end up changing football being played on Thanksgiving forever as the Lions were the only team at the time to play on Thanksgiving day.

In 1966, America's team the Dallas Cowboys, would join the Lions in the tradition of playing the game on Thanksgiving day.

The NFL was looking for more teams to play on Thanksgiving as it was only the Lions playing one other team since 1934.

No other team was signing up until the general manager of the



VICTOR ARAIZA/FICKR

Turkey Bowl: Cowboys fans cheer on their team as the Dallas Cowboys battled against the Detroit Lions in the first round of playoffs. The Cowboys and Lions are the only two teams that play every year on Thanksgiving day.

Cowboys' Tex Schramm signed up his team to play on Thanksgiving.

Schramm saw an opportunity to put his team in the spotlight to bring more fans to Dallas to watch his Cowboys play.

There was no guarantee to them that it would help them fill up their stadium like the Lions have been doing for a plethora of years.

The NFL was even concerned about Texans being persuaded

to go to a football game during a holiday that they promised Schramm a gate revenue if no fans would show up.

How wrong the NFL was that on turkey day the Cotton Bowl was sold out trying to squeeze in 80,259 people into the stadium to watch the Cowboys vs. Brown on their first turkey game.

From that day forward the Cowboys and Lions have not missed a Thanksgiving game

becoming the only two teams to play on Thanksgiving day since their teams decided to play.

These two teams no matter their record during their season game play are one of the most popular teams.

They play on Thanksgiving day allowing families to sit together and watch some football, while enjoying a holiday families will cherish the most.