

## Franco's Market Grand Opening



CLARISSA ARCEO

**Franco:** The grand opening of Cerritos College's Trader Joe's inspired food pantry occurred on March 1, where folk gathered to be the first group of people to visit Franco's Market.

Clarissa Arceo  
Community Editor  
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Cerritos College invited the community to witness the grand opening of The Falcon's Nest on March 1 at the Student Center on campus.

At around 11 a.m., about 100 community members, college staff and board members from surrounding cities as well as the organization, gathered to be the first groups of people to visit Franco's Market.

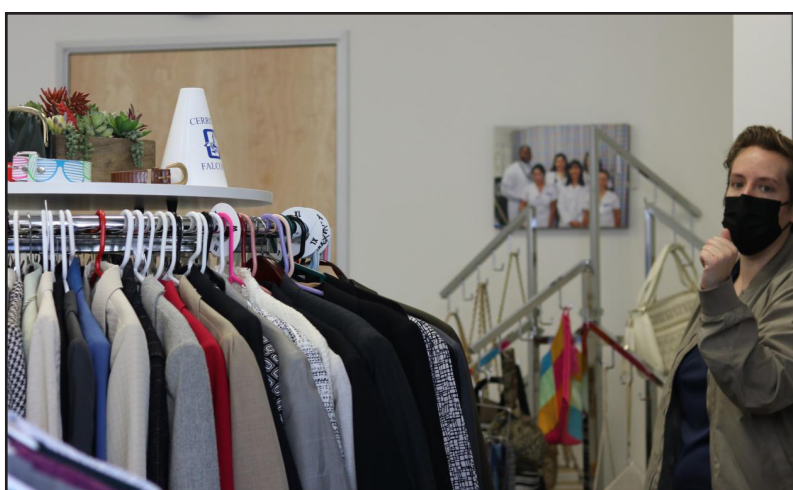
The ceremony began with introductions and speeches from Dr. Jose Fierro, the

The ceremony lasted about an hour and a half, and ended with a ribbon-cutting to the entrance of Franco's Market, where students in need can now access food and

“ Students are capable of performing at the highest levels but oftentimes lack the correct support

Dr. Jose Fierro  
President of Cerritos College

”



CLARISSA ARCEO

**Clothes:** The Student Center building starts with Franco's Closet where a variety of clothing items are available for free to students in need at the College.

president of Cerritos College, and Dr. Dilcie Perez, the vice president of student services.

They thanked the crowd for attending and acknowledged the helping hands that made these services possible.

hygiene products at no cost.

It was noted that over 23,000 local families have been fed through the College's services being linked to CalFresh and the LA Regional Food Bank.

Throughout the ceremony, Fierro talked

about the housing and food insecurity crisis amongst students.

“Our statistics have shown that every time we invest in basic needs for our students they've responded ... by performing incredibly well,” Fierro says.

After years of working and creating, the College decided to invite Pamela Sepulveda, Casa Youth Shelter therapist- who is now Cerritos College's basic needs case manager, to the campus to work on this big project for student.

In July 2020, Sepulveda and the college's board worked together and decided that the College's former game room would be split in half and transformed into a food pantry for students.

“We want this space to feel safe and sacred,” Sepulveda said.

A young man talked about his experience in community college and how this program affects him.

He said, “I thought I did great in college- but then again, I didn't have to sleep in my car.”

Fierro mentioned that Ralph's and Sprouts donated to the program and asked that anyone interested in supporting them, they should do so through the College's food bank programs.

Through Falcon's Nest, students can access food and hygiene products, housing and financial aid, health support, employment and legal advice as well as additional campus resources.

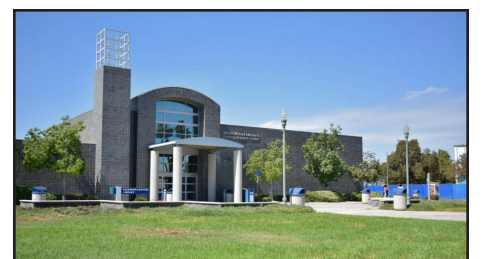
“We want students to be able to pop their heads in our offices and... read more at [Talonmarks.com](#)

### TRENDING THIS ISSUE

Community pg.3: Protest



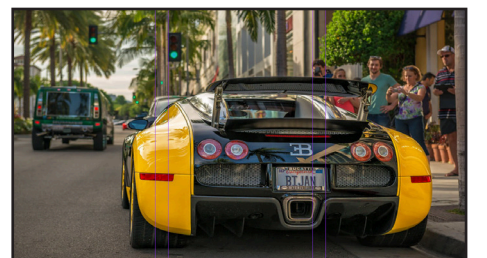
Life pg.5: Life hacks



Arts pg.7 : Norwalk



Opinion pg.9 : Los Angeles



## Brenda Berkman, first female firefighter in NYC

Samuel Chacko  
News Editor  
@talonmarks

During Women's History Month zoom on March 10th, Brenda Berkman, the first female firefighter in New York City talked about her experience as a firefighter, the lawsuit that she won and what she does as of today.

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## Cerritos may demote Africana Studies department

Samuel Chacko

News Editor

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Dr. Natalie Sartin, the department chair of Black/Africana studies, talked about the possible demotion of three departments and their updated resolution, which will be in the senate agenda.

The three departments that she mentioned were Africana studies, Chicano studies and Women's & Gender studies.

"The union shared, with the three interdisciplinary department chairs, that the district wanted to demote the departments to a program," Sartin said.

By demoting these three departments, and moving them into a program, "they lose status, ability to make decisions themselves and lose department chair," Sartin explained.

"That there is a suggestion that we reduce these departments at a time when ethnic studies have become a requirement for students ... wanting to transfer to a CSU," Sartin said.

Sartin is referring to the AB 1460 law, which EdSource Burke explains, "requires CSU students to take a class in one of four ethnic studies disciplines."

As a result of those three departments possibly losing status, "we created a resolution in support of the three departments," Sartin said.

"There were claims that we didn't perform departmental tasks," Sartin said, "like creating a unit plan or hire."

They ended up making a revised resolution and will bring about during the Faculty Senate meeting in March.

"This impacts students' ability to have access to multicultural programs and courses."

Passing this resolution can strengthen the chances of these departments keeping their status. longer be a department.

"By pushing for this bill, it can help Africana Studies, Womens' Studies and Chicano Studies keep their status as a department.



DR. NATALIE SARTIN

**Hands:** This is an image of students raising their hands, which ties back to the article because the three departments are asking for support.



SAMUEL CHACKO/TM

**Handshake:** After Dr. Jose Fierro (president of Cerritos College) formally installed now student trustee Jeremy Ramos, they did a short hand shake. They then took a picture with Ramos' family and Fierro.

## Faculty's Comments during Board Meeting

Lily Marmolejo

Editor in Chief

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The first important item on the agenda was the reports and comments from constituency groups where the three speakers gave reports to the Board of Trustees.

The faculty senate president, Dennis Falcon, explained how the senate passed a resolution claiming, "faculty have the primary role when it comes to scheduling for the betterment (and) for the good of our students."

After Falcon gave his report and comments, Lynn Wang (CCFF president) then shared her comments with the Board of Trustees.

Wang starts by saying the CCFF is here, "to urge you to support our economic proposal and continue to negotiate with CCFF in good faith."

The CCFF president then explains, "During our negotiation meeting on Oct. 20th, 2021, vice president Lopez indicated that, 'we're coming off a strong year. We have [a] 7 million dollar surplus made up by decreasing in expenses.'"

Wang pointed out that even though the college had a down year in the 2021-22 school (in enrollment), the college is still projecting a surplus.

"It's clear that the college is doing quite well financially," Wang said, "Why does the district think faculty are only worth off-schedule stipends for the next three years?"

"The college is not committed to equity compensating our most diverse workforce," Wang explained, "the college is holding state-provided cost of living increases hostage."

Wang then ended on a good note by talking about the improvements that were

made, which were protected healthcare for all employees, sick leave, improving the collective bargaining agreement and agreeing to ten MOUs.

We then heard some of the voicemails that were sent. In total there were 50 voicemails but only 11 of the voicemails were played.

Most of the voicemails that



SAMUEL CHACKO/TM

**CCFF:** This is a picture of the CCFF president, Lynn Wang. She was one of three physical speakers who gave reports and comments (being constituency group leaders) during the March 9th Board of Trustees meeting.



SAMUEL CHACKO/TM

**CESA:** This is a picture of Irlanda Lopez, president of the California School Employees Association, giving her report and summary (since she's also a constituency group leader) during the March 9th Board of Trustees meeting.

To learn more information on the CCFF Presiden and the negotiations, check out the article talking about the Union Negotiations.

The last constituency group

“How can we support our students where we ourselves ... need to use your foodbank services?”

Irlanda Lopez

California School Employees Association president

leader, Irlanda Lopez, (CESA president) gave a powerful speech about the increase in gas prices, food and also talked about on-schedule raises

were played talked about COLA+, cost of living adjustments due to inflation when asked for the district to act in good faith bargaining.

After those voicemails, Jeremy Ramos was then installed as Student Trustee for the remainder of the school year (2021-2022), Ronda Gartell, Administrative Clerk III, retired and shared a legislative update.

The AB 316 provision, was rejected by the Board of Trustees, which allows for virtual meetings and not having the majority of the board in-person.

The final main agenda item was when the nominee for Chancellor's Office 2022 classified Employee of the Year Award, America Amado, was officially verified by the Board of Trustees.

Continued from Page 1

On Women's History Month zoom on March 10th, Brenda Berkman, the first female firefighter in New York City talked about her experience as a firefighter, the lawsuit that she won and what she does as of today.

Berkman was barred from playing Little League when she was a young girl, which was a sport she loved playing. Berkman then explains she wanted, "to do something to change the disparity that was in inequity between women and men."

"My parents instilled in me a desire to give back to my community," Berkman explained, "they knew that there was always somebody less fortunate than we were."

Berkman then told her catchy mantra, "you are not on earth to take up space" and talked about inspiration from the social movements in the 60s and 70s.

While Berkman was in graduate school studying for her Ph.D. in history, she took a law class and began working for a law firm over the summer.

In her third year of law school, she met fire officers and explained that they loved their job, which she felt like was the perfect job for her.

Women were not allowed to apply to take the firefighter entry exam until 1977, which changed because of Title VII.

When applying for the job, Berkman explained that while all of the women passed the multiple-choice exam, none of the women passed the physical exam.

The YouTube channel called HISTORY explains how the applicants had to climb over an eight-foot wall and carry a 120-pound duffel bag over their shoulder of three flights of stairs, among other grueling tasks.

Berkman met with Laura Sager (professor at NYU Law School) and ended up suing the New York City Fire Department.

The NYC firefighter explained that when the lawsuit was happening, people were sending porn, death threats and stalking her.

As a result of Berkman winning the lawsuit, over 40 women wanted to take the second exam and passed the brand new exam.

Berkman then talked about the harassment she and other female firefighters endured from many of the men firefighters.

After being promoted to being an officer, Berkman became happier because she loved training, mentoring and leading.

Berkman continued in the FDNY for 25 years and still helps out ... [read more at Talonmarks.com](#)



# 33 days of protest for Frederick Holder

Clarissa Arceo  
Community Editor  
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The family of 28-year-old Frederick Holder, who was shot and killed by LASD officers last year in June, protested outside of the Norwalk Sheriff's Station for 33 consecutive days in accordance with the 33 bullets that were shot at him.

In efforts of demanding accountability and transparency for the tragic death, Holder's family staged a 5-week long protest outside of the Station, 12335 Civic Center Dr, every day at 3 p.m. from Feb. 4 - March 8.

Outside of the station, a crowd joined Holder's loved ones daily, holding and waving signs, chanting and prompting bystanders to honk their horns in solidarity with the activists.

The Holder family had sent a letter to Norwalk sheriff Alex Villanueva in the past requesting a meeting, audio and video footage of the shooting, an update on body-worn cameras by Norwalk police officers, and the employment status of his murderers.

Holder's family shared that sheriff Villanueva ignored their letter and has refused to meet with them for the past nine months; they said that he also recently stated that he believes most police shootings are justified.



COURTESY OF: KNOCK LA PHOTO CREDIT: CERISE CASTLE

**Protest:** Frederick Holder's mother, April, sits with her grandchildren outside of the Norwalk sheriff's station in protesting for justice after Holder's death last year in June.

None of the officers who murdered Holder were wearing body cameras.

Car dash camera footage was released only after claims were made that there was no footage of the encounter with no evidence showing that Holder was armed.

"Fred would do everything he could to see a smile on your face before you left his presence," Hali Holder, Frederick's younger

sister, said. She shares that he had a beautiful bond with his nieces and nephews and had just become a father.

Family members said that they will continue to protest and demand justice for their beloved family member who was wrongfully killed.

On June 23, 2021, just after 9:50 a.m., a LAPD helicopter was called to monitor a reckless driver

traveling on Studebaker Road and Rosecrans Avenue.

Norwalk Station deputies then chased Holder, who was driving a utility box truck, southbound on the 605 freeway in pursuit of stopping him.

The helicopter operators stated that the truck was 'not wanted' for anything but would still follow the truck in the air.

Holder was soon stopped at

a red light during heavy traffic and surrounded by four sheriff deputies' vehicles drawing their guns.

When the sheriff's approached his door, they were prompted to open fire at the man after he was holding what they believed to be a firearm at the time[which was later said to be a lighter].

Deputies Jackie Rojas... [read more at Talonmarks.com.](#)

## ABCUSD refuses equal pay amongst teachers

Fatima Durrani  
Opinion Editor  
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The ABC Unified School District has been avoiding a contract update that will enable certified CTE teachers to have equal pay compared to core subject teachers. Updating the contract will allow CTE teachers to adjust for California's cost of living, give financial stability and help them have a solid job security.

After multiple, ongoing board meetings at ABCUSD, CTE teachers only have a salary of \$61,035 after working more than 20 years with the same amount of experience as single subject teachers. For the same amount in years, single subject teachers get paid according to their degree ranging from \$69,536 - \$108, 926.

Many pathway students, single subject teachers, parents etc. are

left feeling enraged and shocked at how the ABCUSD doesn't address this topic at board meetings.

"ABCUSD has decided that every year their CTE teachers are temporary employees," said Joel Duer, a CTE teacher at Cerritos High School. "There's no equity in pay. It's hard to build a program knowing you might not actually be there the next year."

The pharmacy technician teacher explained how every year, CTE teachers are let go with a letter saying their services are no longer needed, which makes them go through an endless cycle of being rehired. He compared it to a handshake symbolizing letting go of the CTE teachers.

"When it comes to money, job, and your family, that's not very assuring," Duer said. "I feel ABC, especially with their CTE coordinator or office in general, could do a much better job

with community relations and building real partnerships." Duer mentioned that he loves teaching, but that this situation has made being a CTE instructor a hit or miss.

CTE teachers have emphasized that they have the same exact factors as single subject teachers, but are still denied equity by the ABCUSD. These factors include the same training, professional duties, union fees, and credentials to teach in California.

Viki Yamashita, a ceramics teacher at Cerritos High School, explained how she's very sad and disappointed that the district she's been working with for a long time fails to respect CTE teachers.

"Their income after taxes makes it impossible to live in southern California without a supplemental income, (from) either a spouse or a second or third job," said Yamashita. "No teacher in the ABC Unified, no teacher period, should have to work a second job."

\*Sean Baker, a teacher within the ABCUSD, stated that the district is receiving a 4% surplus for operating funds, but refuses to use that towards the 18 CTE teachers within the district.

"The worst part about all of this," said Duer, "(is that) they're

COURTESY OF: ABCUSD

**Flyer:** Two anonymous supporters of CTE teachers created a flyer in efforts of re inequity amongst teachers who have the same credentials. Another attempt to convince the ABCUSD will take place at a board meeting on March 1.

bringing people into the district through the school of choice, but they're not backing up the teachers, and the programs are

bringing in all these students too," he said referring to the CTE program... [read more at Talonmarks.com.](#)



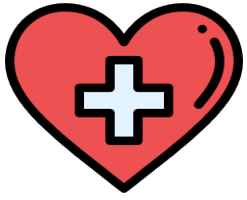


## \$2 million grant to South-Central Family Health Center

Darryl Linardi

Staff Writer

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The South-Central Family Health Center has been selected to receive a \$2 million grant meant to help improve virtual health care. The grant was awarded from Congresswoman Roybal-Allard, the representative of California's 40th congressional district.

On Feb. 14th, nearly \$55 million was awarded to several health centers funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

"Today's announcement reflects the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to advancing health equity and putting essential health care within reach for all Americans," said the HHS Secretary, Xavier Becerra.

SCFHC is publicly recognized as being diverse in its health care providence, where they geographically and economically help disadvantaged individuals by

assisting them in getting the care that they need.

Hospitals and health centers across the country have suffered from being understaffed due to the pandemic; Many workers felt overburdened with work, feared catching the virus or contracted COVID-19 while working.

The money is being awarded to fund the SCFHC's virtual care program, which will allow the Center to improve their services and further assist their patients.

Virtual care programs allow increase the number of patients eligible to be assisted and further increases health care accessibility and providence.

A recent study from the Department of Health and Human Services shows that from 2019 to 2020, the number of virtual visits to health centers rose from 478,333 to 28,550,608.

The 40th congressional district of California includes Downey, East LA, Commerce, Paramount, Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Huntington Park, Maywood and other neighboring cities to South Los Angeles.

This geographic area is historically recognized as the 'most Latino district' in the nation with 86.5% of the population

being of Hispanic and/or Latino descent.

The HHS Press Office announced that as of late January, health centers have delivered over 19.2 million vaccine doses, with 68% going to racial or ethnic minority patients.

HRSA-owned clinics and centers are striving to foster a community of inclusivity and solidarity by helping minorities.

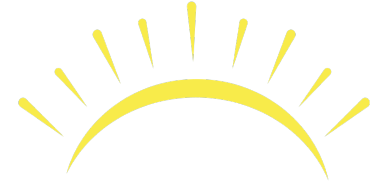
The SCFHC makes it their

goal to provide affordable and high quality assistance to those struggling financially.

Virtual care is essential to keeping patients, visitors and employees safe, while also monitoring their health-especially during the pandemic.

"I am thankful to the 240 staff members and clinicians at the South-Central Family Health Center who have patiently and courageously helped our

community throughout this pandemic," said Congresswoman Roybal-Allard. "I am proud of their commitment to providing direct medical services, treatment and care to members of our beloved community."

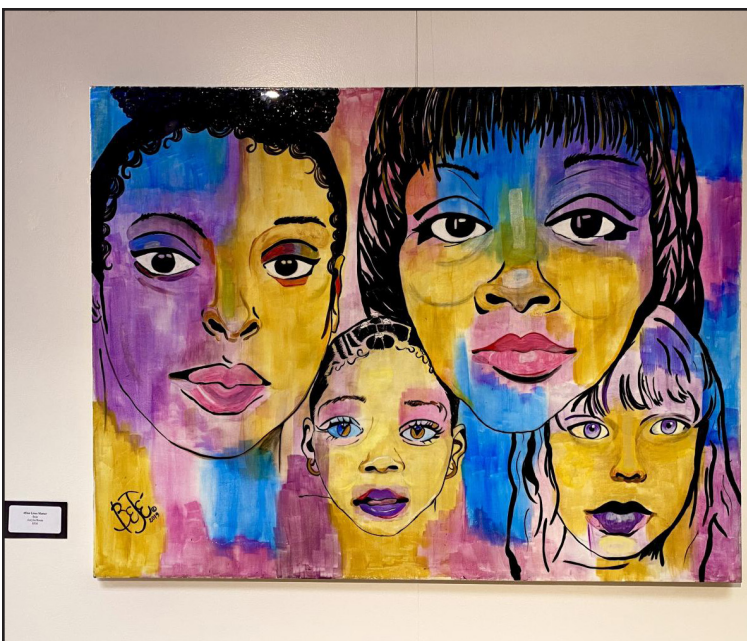


DARRYL LINDARI/TM

**Medical Center:** The SCFHC building, located on S Central Ave in Los Angeles, provides health care to ethnic minority and struggling families.



## Successful return for ARTastic festival



JAELYN DELOS REYES/TM

**Painting:** A colorful, abstract painting of women displaying their beauty.

Jaelyn Delos Reyes

Staff Writer

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After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the city of Norwalk was able to bring back their famous art festival to the community. At the Cultural Arts Center, 13200 Clarkdale Drive, ARTastic was held on March 18 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Art Festival shows different kinds of artwork where participants can submit their creations to win a scholarship contest.

The city of Norwalk's award-winning art festival supports local artists and a variety of vendors all in one day at the Cultural Arts

Center, 13200 Clarkdale Avenue. Photo credit: Jaelyn Delos Reyes

ARTastic is an art festival dedicated to displaying the works of local artists. The festival consisted of a chalk art contest, an art walk with vendors and a scholar art competition for local high school students.

The festival catered to provide an immersive experience for guests of all ages and artists of eight years old and up.

Planning the festival since 2021, coordinators were excited to announce the return of the award-winning city event; it consisted of live performances, art walks and competitions as well as a line-up of vendors selling food and artworks.

People from surrounding cities were invited to show their support to local artists and purchase individual art works.

Beautiful art paintings of three different types of women. Two in flowers and one dark and mysterious theme.

Beautiful art paintings submitted of two women covered in flowers and one in a mysterious theme. Photo credit: Jaelyn Delos Reyes

At the entrance of the festival, various food vendors were lined up and ready to sell freshly made carnival foods ranging from kettle corn, pupusas, agua frescas and funnel cakes.

On the left side of the festival, the city's annual chalk art competition was held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. displaying vibrant and colorful pieces of superheroes, celebrities, locations and more.

Remembrance painting of

Kobe and Gigi Bryant in art festival with bright colors.

An artists at ARTastic paints a memorial piece of former basketball player Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gigi, in vibrant colors. Photo credit: Jaelyn Delos Reyes

Tables and chairs were set up in a spread out layout throughout the festival inviting people to eat food while watching artists create or sell their work.

Towards the right side of the festival, a variety of small businesses vended a variety of artwork including jewelry, potted plants, portraits, clothing and more.

Colorful painting of women that expresses that everyone is the human regardless of color.

Colorful painting of women that expresses that everyone is the human regardless of color. Photo credit: Jaelyn Delos Reyes

Chalk work of Cat Woman with beautiful bold and vibrant colors.

Chalk art of the fictional hero Cat Woman in beautiful bold and vibrant colors. Photo credit: Jaelyn Delos Reyes

In the parking lot of the center, various activity booths were set up for folk and their families to ... [read more at Talonmarks.com.](#)



JAELYN DELOS REYES/TM

**Cultural Arts Center:** The city provided a colorful seating area for guests to eat, rest and enjoy the entertainment of the art festival.





# Life hack: community college

Fatima Durrani

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Many people with big egos consider community college to be for students who aren't smart. However, nothing is dumber than emptying out your pockets for an education that's harder to earn a strong GPA in and fails to help students pick a major.

First and foremost, students can obtain an Associate's Degree in two years of community college, while it takes four years to complete a Bachelor's Degree at a university.

By going to community college, a student is given the option to choose whether they wish to start practicing their career in two years, or to continue in their education towards a Bachelor's Degree (two options means more freedom to choose).

Oftentimes, community college is referred to with a negative outlook, but community colleges allow a student to explore different classes with a fraction of the cost, which helps them find out what they want to major in. Most university classes are sink or swim ones, and that makes it very difficult to find out what your heart truly wants to do.

Students also establish a deeper bond and connection with their professor at community colleges rather than universities. University professors are more

focused on research rather than teaching, while community college professors generally care about their students more due to class sizes.

Hearing negative connotations about community college is something that needs to be stopped.

Just because a student prefers to go to an academic place that's more personal rather than a traditional four-year doesn't mean they should hear negativity about it.

It truly doesn't matter where you start, but rather where you finish. Community college is an affordable option that helps you reach whatever level of education or degree you desire, while a traditional university only hands out a Bachelor's Degree after four years of rigorous work.

It's no one's business where one goes to school, whether that's starting at a community college and transferring to a four-year university, or starting off at a four-year university.

People also neglect the fact that there are many talented people in community colleges, and that not every one of them was lucky enough to get a scholarship to a university or had the funds to go directly to one.

For example, going to community college during the COVID-19 pandemic that started in March 2020 helped those



VINCENT MEDINA

**Falcons:** If one chooses to go to a community college and transfer to a university, they shouldn't get backlash. Community college is a blessing to education, and a wiser move.

students save on aspects such as housing and other finances. Everything switched to an online format, which resulted in four-year university students to pay thousands of dollars just to sit in their small dorm and take their classes online.

Although many people made fun of others for taking the community college route, the pandemic was a perfect example of community college being the wiser auction because it helps

students continue a less rigorous education with a fraction of the cost.

Society needs to stop shaming people for taking the community college route, because it makes no sense to make fun of people who choose an option that has more pros and cons in comparison to a four-year university.

There's also a stereotype that one is not able to get a college life experience when going to community college – but this is

false. Community colleges have many clubs ranging from honor societies to student interests on campus, and there's many ways to make the best out of your experience at one.

The truth is, there's not many upsides to jumping into a traditional four-year university. Breaking your back for a factor as big as finances (without any clue of the future format of classes, hence the pandemic) is just dumb as hell.

## Father Raymond CEO of ST. John

Matthew Espinosa

Staff Writer  
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Father Raymond Decipeda of the Saint John of God Church is the type of man whose faith in his teachings has held him firm as he restores and improves upon the little church sitting down in Norwalk Square.

Coming from the Marian Missionaries of the Holy Cross in the Philippines.

His time at St. John isn't the first time he has devoted himself to a task; for example, he was responsible for the teaching of MMHC youth back in the Philippines.

"Everybody can preach; not everybody can consecrate to become the body of Christ and that's why we need the priest," said Decipeda.

This kind of familiarity is what Norwalk's Catholic residents lacked since Father Pius Pareja, the pastor before Decipeda, passed from complications with COVID-19 last year.

One quality of his person that attendees like Ada Harder admire is the fact that he enjoys assisting staff and enthusiastic churchgoers in maintaining a smooth operation.

More specifically, it is his willingness to help out with menial tasks such as fixing the air conditioner, tending to the garden, or fixing the speakers.

Harder said, "He's not only

helping out the parish but [also] he's very approachable whenever we have some concerns."

One part of the education required to assume the role of pastor, said Decipeda, was obtaining a Master's degree in clinical psychology.

Amongst his work at St. John, some include erecting a collection of marble shrines—which hadn't been built when he arrived in 2016—of religious figures like Saint John himself.

As well as teaching the inmates of both Terminal Island Federal Bureau of Prisons in San Pedro and the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles find some measure of control in religion.

He also makes a yearly effort to raise thousands of dollars for the homeless of Norwalk; an effort that Decipeda said he enjoys.

All the while, he is paid \$1,300 per month despite the fact that 7,000 families are contained within this particular parish, with a significant portion of donations going to the payrolls of other staff, according to Decipeda.

Something surprising about this fact is that he makes an effort to raise thousands of dollars for the homeless of Norwalk

However, Decepeda feels that there is something more implicit to receiving donations.

"Where do we get the money?"

Trust; what do you mean by trust?" said Decipeda. "When



MATTHEW ESPINOSA

**Father:** Decipeda had to attend a conference held by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. After returning, he spent a considerable amount of time finetuning the church's speakers with Harder because no one else was knowledgeable enough to fix them.

people see that their money goes where it's intended."

Given that what is done with the donations is recorded carefully, most—if not all—of the funds are directed to the

improvement of the church.

Decipeda confessed that he would like to think he has had a positive impact on his parish and increased the level of trust between pastor and churchgoer.

Aside from overseeing church affairs, he likes exercising and taking in nature by participating in activities such as kayaking and water paddling.



## Women- owned businesses we should be supporting

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Women's History Month is observed all throughout the month of March and recognizes and honors influential women throughout history.

Women play an important role in everyone's lives and take on many roles; moms, teachers, grandmothers, older sisters, babysitters, etc.

Since the start of the pandemic in 2020, many women decided to create their own small businesses-whether it became their main source of income or a hobby on the side.

So, in honor of Women's History Month, we've put a list of 15 women-owned businesses in the 562 area together to show some love to this month.

### 1. Casa Blanca and Co.

Operating in South Gate and remaining exclusively online, this women duo owned business specializes in providing trendy accessories ranging from purses, necklaces, rings, sunglasses, and more!

### 2. CSM Therapy

This small business centers around health and beauty, providing services for cupping, scraping and massages in Corona, CA, which promotes mind and body wellness.

### 3. Chelle's Crystals

Crystals have become more popular with the pandemic and promoted on social media, and this small business sells these raw rocks alongside tumblers and rings at various local pop-up shops.

### 4. Customized by Desi

Located in Los Angeles, Desiree Gonzalez customizes Starbucks-sized tumblers upon request on Etsy to be shipped straight to your home!

### 5. Ecuamex

Located in the city of Downey, this women-owned business serves as a mobile coffee shop offering a dairy-free menu for catering.

### 6. Emma's Vinyl

This teen-owned business specializes in crafting custom, handmade products ranging from business cards, shirts, buttons, keychains and more at local pop-up shops.

### 7. Lau Lira's Creations

This mom-owned business works to decorate balloon bouquets and arches for parties and special events! She also offers services for customized shirts in bulk.

### 8. Lovely Boutique

This women-owned business sells a variety of trendy clothing items and accessories online and at local pop-up shops.

### 9. Mama's Tamales

This mom and family-run business caters to a vegan and gluten-free friendly menu of premium Latin foods.

### 10. Nature's Corner Co.

This woman-owned business in Pico Rivera specializes in selling aromatherapeutic, hand-poured soy wax candles. Sarah sells her candles and wax melts for pick-up or delivery!

### 11. Oopsie Daisy Treats

Located in the city of Downey, Daisy sells chocolate-covered strawberries in a variety of assortments including boxes, bundles and bouquets.

### 12. Pixie Chicks

Pixie Chicks creates and sells a variety of pre-customized shirts, bags and goods on Etsy from La Puente.

### 13. Por Vida Cosmetics

This woman-owned cosmetics shop sells beauty products for eyelashes and sells exclusively online for delivery!

### 14. The Crystal Brujita

This woman-owned business sells high-quality crystals and tools for healing ranging from accessories to apothecary. She works exclusively online and ships worldwide!

### 15. Unforgettable Solez

This family-owned business is based in Whittier and sells a wide variety of trendy shoes ranging from heels, sandals and boots.

## Women that have made history

Clarissa Arceo  
Community Editor  
@talonmarks

There have been many influential women throughout history who have made an impact on our world, today, as we know it; through art, politics, mathematics, activism, science, etc.

Women's History Month is observed annually throughout March and is essential to acknowledging the influence and change women can make.

So, in honor of Women's History Month, we've put together a list of just 10 powerful women who are important in women's history:

### 1. Jovita Idar (Sept. 7, 1885- June 15, 1946)

This Mexican-American journalist is best known for her political activism and fight for women's rights; she encouraged women to pursue an education and fight as segregation laws worsened for all folk of color.

In advocating for immigrant women, Idar centered on utilizing her writing as a tool for social justice even when attempts were made to shut her paper, *El Progreso*, down.

### 2. Rosa Parks (Feb. 4, 1913- Oct. 24, 2005)

Parks is one of the most famous Black activists who helped initiate the Civil Rights Movement when she refused to give up her seat to a white man on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955. Her actions inspired the Montgomery Bus Boycott; she is known for her endless efforts to end racial segregation.

### 3. Katherine Johnson (Aug. 26, 1918- Feb. 24, 2020)

If you've seen the movie *Hidden Figures*, you know that this icon is a big role model for women in S.T.E.M. Johnson was the first African American female to work at NASA; She would calculate flight trajectories for space missions by hand.

After her successful launch for John Glenn's Friendship 7 in 1962, Johnson was known as the woman who made space exploration possible for the U.S. and received the Hubbard Medal.

### 4. Betty Friedan (Feb. 4, 1921- Feb. 4, 2006)

Friedan was a journalist, activist, and co-founder of the National Organization for

Women. She is best known for her book, *The Feminine Mystique*, as it voiced many of the frustrations of women regarding gender roles. Her actions sparked activism for gender equality and centered on career-oriented independence for women.

### 5. Yuri Kochiyama (May 19, 1921- June 1, 2014)

This Asian American political activist dedicated her life to social justice and advocating for human rights. She worked alongside Malcolm X in the Civil Rights Movement and worked to free political prisoners around the world.

After being sent to a concentration camp in 1941 due to the attack on Pearl Harbor, Kochiyama devoted her life to fighting for black nationalism and the rights for minorities.

### 6. Dolores Huerta (April 10, 1930- Present)

This social and political activist is one of the most influential labor movement leaders in the U.S. She is best known for co-founding the United Farm Workers Association with Cesar Chavez and organizing the 1965 Delano grape strike.

She was also a Chicano civil rights movement leader and helped curate the Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975, which recognized the rights of California farm workers.

### 7. Ruth Bader Ginsberg (March 15, 1933- Sept. 18, 2020)

Also known by her initials, RBG, this icon served as the second female Supreme Court Justice in the U.S. Ginsberg spent a lifetime advocating in favor of gender equality and workers' rights.

Not only did she serve as Columbia University's first female tenured professor for Law, but she was the Director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union during the 1970s.

### 8. Princess Diana of Wales (July 1, 1961- Aug. 31, 1997)

Member of the British Royal family and first wife of Prince Charles [of Wales], Princess Diana is best known for her fashion and charitable work. She cared for her people graciously and actively made efforts to support the ban on landmines.

She revitalized the British monarchy and promoted

living life presently; she was so influential that after her divorce she was still considered royal. Many movies have been made in honor of her legacy.

### 9. Malala Yousafzai (July 12, 1997- Present)

This Pakistani activist is best known for speaking out for women's education rights in Pakistan. The world might know her as the girl who survived a targeted attack by Taliban gunmen in 2012 after speaking publicly on behalf of women at her school. From then on, the world knew the 24-year-old's name..

Yousafzai went on to receive a Nobel Peace Prize for her fight in 2014 and graduated from Oxford University in 2020.

### 10. Greta Thunberg (Jan. 3, 2003- Present)

Thunberg is one of the youngest environmental activists best known for her protest outside of the Swedish parliament in 2018 at the age of 15.

While the teen isn't the first to address climate change, Thunberg became an icon in clarifying this abstract danger with outrage. Her actions influenced youth activism globally.



CREATIVE COMMONS  
Royalty: Princess Diana of Wales.



CREATIVE COMMONS  
Co-founder: Dolores Huerta.



CREATIVE COMMONS  
Activist: Greta Thunber.



CREATIVE COMMONS  
Womens rights: Malala Yousafzai.

Women's History  
MONTH



# Art festival returns to Norwalk

Alexia Naranjo  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

The Norwalk Recreation Center announced that the city's chalk art contest would return to the community on March 18 after a two-year hiatus along with ARTastic, an award-winning art festival hosted for local artists.

On Feb. 9, the Norwalk Recreation Center posted a flier on Instagram for the return of ARTastic, a free art festival dedicated to displaying local artists' work, listing activities that would be returning with it.

The 11th annual art festival is said to be accompanied by a chalk art contest, art walk and art competition for local students along with game booths and a book fair.

Live performances by local musicians and groups and vendors selling a variety of food items will also be featured at the family-friendly event.

The day of events will last from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center, 13200 Clarkdale Ave, in Norwalk.

In 2013, the city's event won an Award of Excellence from the California Park & Recreation Society and was honored at the 2013 California and Pacific Southwest Recreation and Park Training Conference.

After the city was unable to



CLARISSA ARECO/TM

Norwalk's ARTastic festival will return to the city on March 18 with a variety of art activities for the community to participate in.

host the festival the past two years due to COVID-19, coordinators are excited to announce the return of the popular community assembly.

Norwalk resident Sonia Cruz said that she intends on taking her children to participate and engage in the art festivities.

"I am excited for this event to return to the community," Lilia Garcia, Norwalk resident, said, "this event was so beautiful in past years."

Artists of all ages are invited to vend and/or display their artwork during the event's art walk from

6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Those interested must register at [tinyurl.com/artwalk22](https://tinyurl.com/artwalk22).

The chalk art contest will also be hosted on the day of the festival from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Chalk art enthusiasts will be eligible to compete in person in different age categories for prizes; 8-13 year olds, 14 and over and professional artists (or those who have sold any work).

A 10-piece set of non-toxic pastels will be provided to all registered participants and only solid forms of chalk will be allowed for use.

Those interested in competing should visit the organization's Instagram account, [@recnorwalk](https://www.instagram.com/recnorwalk), and submit the requested information (as a form of applying) to [afranco@norwalkca.gov](mailto:afranco@norwalkca.gov) by March 5.

In the days leading up to the festival, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District high school and middle school students are also invited to enter an art competition where the top artists will win a \$500 scholarship. [Read more at Talonmarks.com.](https://www.talonmarks.com)

## "El Ultimo Tour Del Mundo sold out at The Forum

Alexia Naranjo  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

Bad Bunny and his big rig truck drove to Los Angeles for the first of three shows in the City of Angels after starting his tour in Denver on February 9th. The first was held in the Crypto.com Arena, and the second and third were held at The Forum in Inglewood.

Reggaeton star Bad Bunny sold out all three dates in Los Angeles and filled the hearts of his fans with love. At the start of the performance, he rises from his rig truck and hear the screams and excitement of all his fans.

Seeing him rise in the middle of the forum gave the best concert experience.

Bad Bunny opened the show with one of the songs that describe his career. Statement song "Booker T" gives his fans quotes to live by. He then continues to perform back to back bangers from his best and the very well-loved album "El Ultimo Tour Del Mundo"

Throughout the show, you hear endless chants of everyone singing along with the artist as he performs all the fan favorites. It was honestly the best vibe we could have been a part of.

In a brief pause during the concert, Bad Bunny stated "All night I have you guys this close to me, one on one. So I want to give you guys a big thank you face to face, for the love and support, for supporting all of my ideas and projects. Without you guys, my projects would have never been so once again, Thank you." Fans then continued to scream and show their favorite artist all of their love.

Bad Bunny fan Deireanne Morales, said, "From the very start of his career I've always loved how different his music and vibe is compared to the rest of the artist in his genre. He's not scared to be different and that's what makes him stand out from the rest of the crowd."

Bad Bunny is loved and supported because he is unlike most artist in...[read more at Talonmarks.com.](https://www.talonmarks.com)

## Marry Me Review



Marry Me, starring Jennifer Lopez and Owen Wilson, is the latest romantic comedy to hit theaters and Peacock to check all of the right boxes in making a successful rom-com.

Romantic comedies are usually lovey dovey with just the right amount of humor to get away with the over-the-top cheesiness that makes you cringe as if you're watching another episode of the bachelor or bachelorette.

Marry Me found the perfect match between actor and actress, a home run casting job by director Kat Coiro, (Charlie Gilbert) played by Wilson outkicked his coverage by landing pop superstar (Kat Valdez) played by of course, Lopez, a superstar in her own right.

It helps that Lopez and Wilson are no strangers when it comes to rom-com success. Wilson starred in the unforgettable Wedding Crashers and had a big role in Meet the Parents, while Lopez starred in Maid in Manhattan, and the Wedding Planner (just to name a few classics).

In Marry Me, Charlie is the newly divorced uncool dad, and grade school math teacher who decides to be fun for a change and accepts an invite by his co-worker Parker to attend a Kat Valdez concert where she's supposed to get married live after performing hit single Marry Me with boyfriend/singer Bastian played by actor Maluma.

Then comes the rom-com curveball.

A video of Bastian cheating with Kat's assistant circulates around the internet minutes before the performance, Kat is stunned as she's approaching the stage, so she speaks from the heart about love and decides that she's getting married in front of millions of people anyway.

Kat points to the first man she spots at the concert that just so happened to be holding a Marry Me sign in the first few rows, Charlie.

Over the next three months, Kat decides she wants to stay married to Charlie in what appears to be a PR move to save face after one of the most embarrassing moments of her career.

Charlie wants no part of this, refusing to accept any money from Kat's manager, or to be apart of some PR stunt and in the spotlight alongside the pop superstar.

Charlie eventually gives in and the love story begins.

Kat finds herself spending all of her time with Charlie, and they grow closer and closer even as she's touring the world and becomes lonely without him by her side.

She visits his classroom, meets his daughter, which leads to the most



MATTHEW ESPINOSA/TM

**Apart:** from some character models, others are just relatively untouched—just slightly enhanced. But is a little enhancement being worth \$40 is also a little questionable..

feel-good part of the movie when she helps the class study for the mathalon with the help of some choreographed dance moves.

Charlie and Kat fall for each other.

And then, Bastian reappears in the picture when the two are nominated for a Grammy award for their hit single. They perform together on stage again, leaving Charlie confused, and thinking it was a just a PR stunt all along.

In a shocking turn of events Charlie breaks up with Kat the night of the performance.

Charlie and Kat go their separate ways for a few weeks until Kat realizes after writing another...[read more at Talonmarks.com.](https://www.talonmarks.com)



## The Book of Boba Fett finale recap

Silas Bravo  
A & E Editor  
[@talonmarks](#)

The season finale of the Book of Boba Fett is here and it does a great job wrapping up an exciting series and setting up future shows and characters.

The final episode titled "In the Name of Honor" follows up the bombing of the local bar and the supposed murder of Cobb Vanth.

The Mandalorian, unknowing that Cad Bane had a shootout with Vanth, informs Fett that the people of Freetown are on their way to help.

The trio of Boba Fett, the Mandalorian and Fennec Shand discuss what their next move will be in the ruins of the bar.

The next scene shows Cad Bane meeting with the Mayor and the Pike Syndicate leader. The Pike leader reveals that the Pikes are the ones that slaughtered Fett's Tuscan family.

Cad Bane later uses this information to bait Boba Fett in a duel. He attempts to make things a personal matter between the two gunslingers which is how Bane likes to do his business.

Fett's refusal to play Bane's game reveals how far he's come from just a cold blooded bounty hunter.

The episode also reveals the decision that Grogu makes from episode six. He arrives in Tatooine with R2D2.

Grogu is wearing his foundling armor as he is picked up by Peli Motto.

Back in Mos Espa the mods, Gamorrean guards and Black Krrsantan all patrol their different sections of the city.

Cad Bane then reveals that Cobb Vanth was murdered and that the people of Freetown are not coming.

Their conversations hint at their former history together throughout the Clone Wars run.

The three crime families of Tatooine all attack Fett's guards at the same time successfully killing the Gamorrean guards and almost taking out the mods before Fennec saves them.

The Mandalorian refuses to abandon Boba Fett as the Pikes corner them. Despite his people shunning him

Mando is a true believer in the creed of no Mandalorian left behind.

Fett sends the majordomo to tell the Pikes his intentions. [Read more at Talonmarks.com.](#)

## Uncharted movie review

Alvaro Nevarez  
Staff Writer  
[@talonmarks](#)

On February 18, the Uncharted movie made its long anticipated debut on the big screen after it was postponed from its original 2020 Holiday release due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Uncharted is an action adventure video game with 9 video games in the series and is one of Sony's biggest video game franchises on PlayStation.

Seeing it being made into a movie was a great idea due to Uncharted being known to be a very cinematic type of video game.

One thing to discuss is how impressive this movie's casting is, Tom Holland did an amazing job as the main character Nathan Drake and Mark Wahlberg doing just as amazing as Victor Sullivan and the supporting cast did a great job in the movie as well.

Throughout the movie, we see Nathan Drake get his start in hunting for treasure where he teams up with Victor Sullivan and together they travel to different parts of the world looking for treasure as they encounter a dangerous villains looking for the same treasure for their personal gain.

Where the movie shines the most is the action scenes which I thought were well choreographed as well as amazing special effects along with some interesting locations and set pieces in the movie.

The chemistry that Tom



PHOTO CREDIT: CREATIVE COMMONS

Uncharted has been one of Sony's premier gaming franchises on PlayStation and this is Sony's second attempt at making a video game movie

Holland and Mark Wahlberg's build together in the movie.

The biggest issue with the movie would have to be its pacing. There are a lot of times in the movie where we are supposed to feel emotionally attached to the character but the movie doesn't exactly do a good job giving the viewer enough time to see why the character feels that way.

Instead it would cut right to the next scene or gives the viewer pretty much a throw away line to feel some type of closure for the character.

The movie is sitting at a 41% rotten rating on Rotten Tomatoes by critics but a 90% fresh rating by the audience which continues the debate of whether people should consider the critics or general audience's perspective whenever they want to watch any type of movie.

This was a topic that started

when Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice released in theaters in 2016 with the same gap between critics and fans.

The future for video game movies is bright. Sonic the Hedgehog 2 will be debuting in theaters on April 8th. The movie also got an announcement for another sequel as well as a live action show that will most likely tie-in with the movies.

The Halo show also just started streaming earlier this month, one might say video games are the Hollywood trend right now. Uncharted is fairly good when you ignore its minor flaws and watch the movie for what it is. The general consensus seems to think that as well.

Hopefully this movie among other video game movie adaptations debuting soon will pave the way for a good future for movies about video games.

## Spoiler-free Batman review



WARNER BROTHERS/TNS

DC: Jeffrey Wright, left, as Lt. James Gordon and Robert Pattinson as the Dark Knight in "The Batman."

Silas Bravo  
A & E Editor  
[@talonmarks](#)

DC's Batman has finally hit theaters and has lived up to the hype.

Everyone involved in this movie did their part from script writers, to cinematography, to the amazing portrayal of Batman from Robert Patterson.

Director Matt Reeves does a fantastic job displaying a young Batman in a vile corrupt Gotham City.

One of the main things Reeves

does that other Batman films have not really shown is how terrible Gotham really is. Fans know that Gotham is a crime ridden city but Reeves emphasizes just how hopeless and miserable it can be with the point where even Batman questions if it could be saved.

The majority of the three hour movie takes place at night which means that the audience gets to see Patterson as Batman. for most of the time. Unlike past movies there isn't that much of Bruce Wayne screen time.

The audience sees him actively trying to make Gotham a better

place but watches him fail throughout the movie. This is where Reeves emphasizes that this is a young and inexperienced Batman who still has much to learn.

Despite only operating for two years, the fear of Batman throughout the criminals of Gotham is displayed perfectly within the first few minutes of the movie.

The rawness of Batman and his mercilessness for criminals is something comic book fans will appreciate while watching... [read more at Talonmarks.com](#)

## Lost Ark a game worth playing

Darryl Linardi  
Staff Writer  
[@talonmarks](#)

Although a shaky and rough start, Lost Ark opens up internationally with fascinating visuals and hours of gameplay to sink your teeth in as you step into the fantasy world of Arkesia.

Lost Ark is a free-to-play massive multiplayer online game made by South Korean company Smilegate, which was initially released in late 2019 to South Korean and Russian servers.

Recently, it has made its way towards the West, where the game has been released internationally for the entirety of Europe and North America. The official release was on Feb. 11, with players also being able to purchase early access for three days earlier.

Available on Steam, the largest video game digital distribution service by Valve, Lost Ark opened up to 532,000 new players as early access began, and sprung to a peak of 1.3 million concurrent players as the game fully came out. This made it the second most played game on Steam, pulling ahead of games like Counter Strike: Global Offensive and Dota 2.

However, with a publisher with Amazon Games, it was bound to get messy. Lost Ark suffered the same release with New World, another game that experienced full delays on launch due to the overwhelming amount of people that they didn't account for.

Fortunately, the launch was not as catastrophic as the previous game, and players were able to experience the game in its entirety soon after.

As a free-to-play game, it has been criticized for its pay-to-win play style, where players who spend extra money are able to gain an advantage over their competition. Players are able to spend real life money in order to gather materials unobtainable by other players, giving them a boost over regular players.

When giving his initial review, popular World of Warcraft streamer Asmongold said, "make your own best decision. You can play the game for free whenever you want. You can do that or not. Don't go beyond your finances."

With so much content... [read more at Talonmarks.com.](#)



# Los Angeles: City of Vanity



CARSHOWSHOOTER/TNS

**Los Angeles:** *The City of Los Angeles fails to acknowledge its problems in life.*

Alfredo Menjivar  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

Los Angeles is ranked number one in the country in vanity according to the CBS Los Angeles YouTube channel.

Many people in Los Angeles, mainly in the Hollywood hills have have such a big ego. One of the reasons why this happens is because LA is such a rich city filled with celebrities, movie industries and more.

What needs to be done is to spread the word about it and have a figure or the mayor of Los Angeles speak up about this

problem. This solution must be done to help change the ways of those who show off in this city.

This makes our city look really bad. Not only does it make the rest of the people look cocky, arrogant, ignorant and more. This has been a problem for a long time and not much has been done.

YouTuber effspot, uploaded a video where his friends and himself are driving through Rodeo Drive recording people showing off their cars, money and expensive items.

People are buying super expensive things and show off to people in public and more often

on social media. People also buy things they can barely afford and are put in debt. There is nothing wrong with having so much money and expensive things until you get obnoxious about it.

It is seen on YouTube where famous YouTuber, RiceGum who lives in Los Angeles, throwing money at a homeless man on the street. This is another problem within a problem. There are so many rich people in LA and so much homelessness to go along with it and it makes the situation look worse.

There is about over 260,000 millionaires and over 20 billionaires living in Los Angeles.

There is also over 60,000 homeless people here too and over 700 of them happen to be veterans.

People in this city have so much money most of them don't even bother to help with the homeless situation. Their money is usually used for beauty supplies, fancy clothes, jewelry and more.

Not only is vanity bad but it's also dangerous. According to A Conscious Rethink a lot of old celebrities died because they tried to make themselves look better with tanning beds, surgeries and other things.

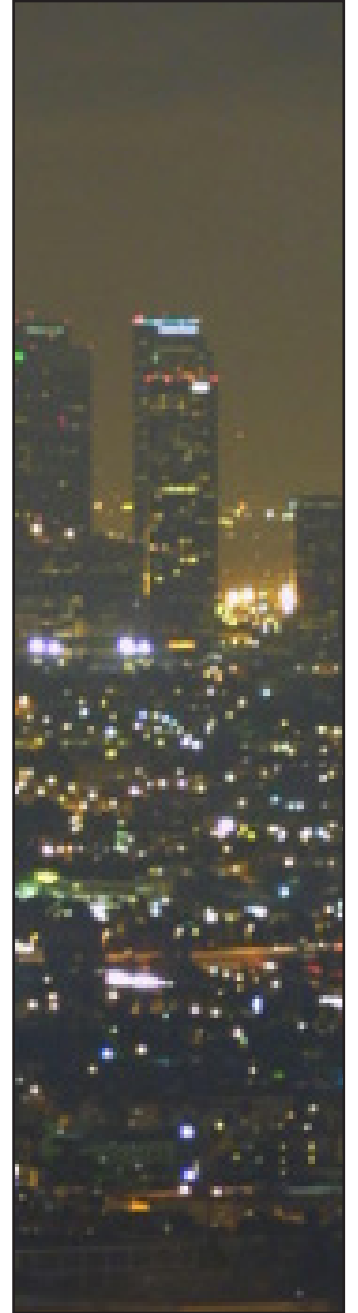
Bullying also ties to vanity because they think look cool just by picking on someone. Most of the time bullying leaves the victim doing the bullying, depressed and even suicidal.

People who are vain can also be untrustworthy. They can be untrustworthy because if the person is obsessed with their self then they are only going to care about their self.

Vanity can also lead to you being more harsh on yourself when failure comes. This is because the person expects perfection and is disappointed when something doesn't go their way.

Here are ways to stop being so vain. Don't compare yourself to others, be humble and be grateful, it's simple as that. When becoming vain you begin to lose yourself, you lose who you really are.

Los Angeles is a beautiful city ... [read more at Talonmarks.com](https://www.talonmarks.com).



CREATIVE COMMONS

**Freeways:** *Traffic, especially in Los Angeles, remains a major issue.*

## Reforming our flawed immigration system

Jaelyn Delos Reyes  
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Issues with the immigration system are still happening after many years, and the government is not acting quickly upon it.

The federal government is making it harder for immigrants to become citizens due to the increase in costs and fees just to apply for an application.

Immigration lawyers are announcing unnecessary strict policies for immigrants to follow who are starting an application or for immigrants that already have a green card and live in the U.S. for more than 10 years.

The government and immigration lawyers are not letting immigrants act humanly and expect them to act like robots and know all immigration policies right away – being expected to follow through with the process.

According to USA Today: 'The cost of applying for U.S. citizenship is dramatically increasing' said, "U.S.

Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency that processes immigration benefits, says the fee increases are needed to offset the higher cost of processing applications for immigration benefits."

"Including the Trump administration's attempt to crack down on fraud and increase the vetting of immigrants applying for benefits," USA today said.

What if the government is the one committing fraud against immigrants?

Why is the government welcoming immigrants to the U.S., when they are making them pay an enormous cost just to apply for an application and then forcing them into a stereotypical and unfair society?

Living in a different country and then entering a new one shouldn't be costly – everyone is the same and no one in the world is 'alien'. Immigrants shouldn't have to pay to find beneficial opportunities in the U.S.



CREATIVE COMMONS

**Citizenship:** *Immigrants face many problems while being in the US, and paying for citizenship is just one of them.*

A reason why immigrants come to America in the first place is to have a better life and provide a future for their family, but the corrupt system is hindering them from it.

According to Vox: 'How Trump administration made it that much harder to become a U.S. Citizen says, "People applying for citizenship have already been vetted at least once to obtain a green card, and often more than once if they first came to the US on a temporary visa."

"Officials typically screen green card applicants, for example, for tax compliance, criminal history, US residence, and family ties," Vox said.

Applying to become a citizen shouldn't have to be strict. Due to these policies, it is making it difficult for immigrants to finish their application process and it's costing them more money.

The immigration system is stripping immigrant finances away. It isn't fair for them to work hard labor in the U.S. and already

pay for taxes, specifically immigrants who are working for companies, and still are expected to pay thousands of dollars.

If the government is finding solutions to make the immigration system work efficiently, people who have family members or friends that are struggling with applying for citizenship should still remind the government of what is the important-the increased cost... [read more at Talonmarks.com](https://www.talonmarks.com).



# California is becoming unlivable

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California is becoming unlivable, and we're not just talking about the traffic.

Minimum wage jobs, the cost of living, housing prices, inflation and climate change are all contributors to what is ailing the state of California.

California's federal minimum wage was just officially increased to \$15 an hour at the beginning of 2022, yet two minimum wage jobs are not enough to cover the cost of living for even one individual. Not to mention the surge in gas prices.

Even when California is that high in the minimum wage, renting and buying houses is still a constant problem.

Inflation is one of the main factors of rent increase, which makes it even harder for anyone

living in California to survive.

The inflation is currently 6.6% and by living in California, compared to other states, you are paying a huge amount for rent and taxes.

The median price of a home in California is over \$6,000 compared to \$3,000 nationally. Paying or renting a home in California is way more expensive compared to other states.

Single families, who only have one revenue stream, feel the burdens of low income in California. The poverty rate for single mothers living in poverty in 2020 was 31%.

Most of these single families have children and it's easy to see that most single families could easily be living paycheck to paycheck.

A study by the California

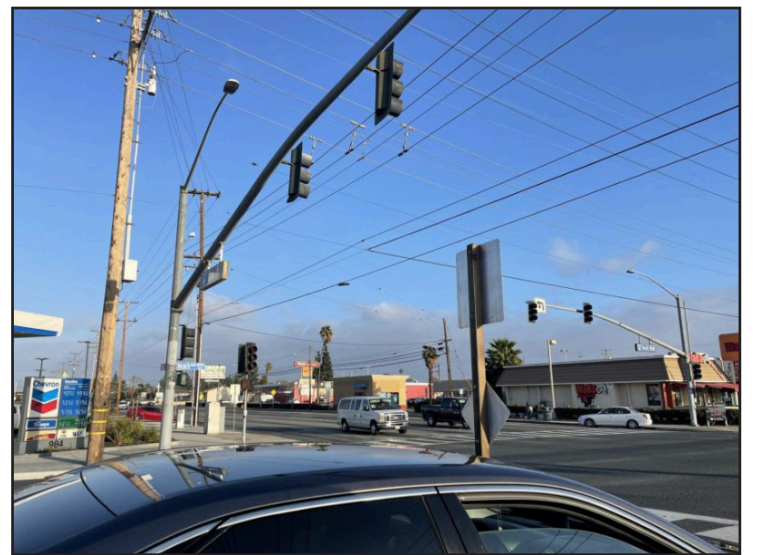
Budget and Policy Center discovered that about four in 10 households have unaffordable housing costs in 2015. More than one in five households statewide spend over half of their income on housing expenses.

A 2022 study showed that California is identified as the third most expensive state in the U.S. following Hawaii and the District of Columbia.

Affordability issues lead to creating a burdensome cost of living, and this has been a clear problem in California for many years now.

What makes things worse, ACA 11, a newly proposed constitutional amendment, will increase taxes by \$12,250 per household.

The state of California upholds income and state taxes that are



FATIMA DURRANI/TM

**A global crisis:** *If we don't do anything to preserve California's climate, it could submerge in 2040.*

way higher than Texas, explaining why more people are moving out of California and fewer people are moving in.

In 2020, a FOX 26 News report said that increasingly more people are paying high taxes, the high cost of living and even politics are making them choose to leave.

Homelessness is a major, ongoing issue in California. NPR said that as of January 2020 alone, about 151,000 Californians experienced homelessness.

Households across the state

are struggling to support their families and continue to capacitate the poverty line. More than a third of Californians live in or near poverty and, eventually, fall into the homeless population.

Unless we consistently advocate for these issues to be resolved and demand change, these issues will grow larger than they already are. The state of California is simply becoming unlivable, and not many people ... [read more at Talonmarks.com](#)

## Proud to be an American despite our problems

Roman Acosta  
Sports Editor  
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ISAIHA658/CREATIVE COMMONS

### Letters to the Editor

Please feel free to send letters to the editor by email to [editor@talonmarks.com](mailto:editor@talonmarks.com) or submit them on our website at [Talonmarks.com](https://www.talonmarks.com).

Talon Marks attempts to publish every letter it receives except those judged to be an invasion of privacy, libelous, obscene, or plagiarized. Letters may be edited due to space and clarity.

America, home of the brave and land of the free. A country that allows freedom of expression, speech, religion and so many other great freedoms we all utilize.

Whether you migrated here legally or illegally the U.S. represents the land of opportunity that was built by people who were never originally from here.

America is stolen land, built off immigrants and other diverse backgrounds who first settled here. Republican or Democrat, being an American is something we all share.

America is not just a place it is the people too. To those who believe and stand for all the great things this country has to offer and pursuing the American dream.

Whoever you choose to be it is all possible because we live in a nation that allows people to do so rather than enforce one standard upon all of us restricting our right to choose.

This is why so many living



PIXABY/TNS

**America:** *United States flags blow in the wind in Malibu, CA.*

here before us have died trying to protect our freedom and preventing tyrannical forces from taking the land we know today.

Even though different cultures won't always see it the same way, many people have their own negative biases based on their experiences living in America which is very well understood.

We should be thankful we live in a country that gives us the freedom to rightfully assemble on issues we don't agree on.

We all have the right to freely express ourselves and be who we chose to be. It is our job to ensure the protection of those who don't feel safe freely expressing themselves to who they are as

Americans.

Embed from Getty Images  
Tyrannical countries that are run by dictators have their own established standards they enforce their citizens to follow. Some would even execute you for trying to be different.

We should be thankful we don't have to experience dictatorship however we must do a better job at protecting and accepting those who choose to freely express themselves.

It's what we as Americans have always stood for, protecting one's freedom and being thankful we live in a nation with a system that allows us to vote for the people responsible for taking action in

office.

Together united the American people have overcome the toughest of challenges and losses this country has ever faced.

Instead of digging a deeper hole of hatred you have for this country every time something bad happens we all should do our part and work together on all the issues we can overcome together and dig ourselves out of this hole we've created.

Using your own words and thoughts can help build a better future for all of us. Protecting those who can't... [read more at Talonmarks.com](#)

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### Spring 2022

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# Russell Wilson Blockbuster trade

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It was reportedly rumored that Wilson was unhappy with the Seahawks after their lack of progress and complaint about the number of times his offensive line allowed him to be hit and sacked.

After weeks of NFL teams showing interest in the pro quarterback, it was only ever going to be one team Wilson would leave the Seahawks for.

Wilson, who played ten seasons with the Seahawks now has a new home in Denver.

On March 8, a trade package was finally agreed that would send the 9x pro bowler alongside a fourth-round pick to the Broncos in an exchange for quarterback Drew Lock, Defensive lineman Shelby Harris, tight end Noah Fant, two first-round picks, two second-round picks, and a fifth-round pick to the Seahawks.

The trade has been confirmed by the NFL and was announced on March 16, 2022, at 4 p.m. Eastern time, which is the official start of the 2022 NFL league.

With the trade it is clear that the Seahawks are now entering the rebuilding stage after giving up on Wilson and releasing All-Pro linebacker Bobby Wagner, who both led them to their first



Denver Broncos quarterback Russell Wilson displays his new jersey after speaking to the media at UCHealth Training Center on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, in Englewood, Colorado. (Justin Edmonds/Getty Images/TNS)

Super Bowl back in 2014.

In a tweet regarding his departure, Wilson wrote, "SEATTLE, I Love You. Forever Grateful. #3."

For a couple of years, the Broncos have had trouble finding a suitable quarterback after Peyton Manning retired and it seems Wilson could just be the guy the team might be looking for. Wilson makes history by becoming the first quarterback to start for both teams that featured in the Super Bowl.

With Wilson joining the

Broncos, the team's odds of winning the Super Bowl have improved by a good amount from 25-1 to 12-1. Currently, only three teams, the Kansas City Chiefs, Green Bay Packers, and the Buffalo Bills have better winning odds than the Broncos.

Along with Wilson, the Broncos have also acquired new head coach Nathaniel Hackett who was recently the Green Bay Packers offensive coordinator.

Throughout the years, notable quarterbacks, Matthew Stafford, Tom Brady, and Peyton Manning

have all gone on to win the Super Bowl after leaving their former teams.

Can Wilson add to that line of greats and cement his legacy as one of the best quarterbacks in history?

The Broncos offense seems to be taking shape after already having wide receiver Jerry Jeudy who was sidelined for most of the season due to an ankle injury but still managed to record 38 receptions for 467 receiving yards.

The Broncos offense also consists of running back Javonte Williams, tight end Albert Okwuegbunam, wide receivers Tim Patrick, KJ Hamler, and Courtland Sutton.

With the regular season closing in fast, can Wilson lead the Denver Broncos to achieve their goal and hoist the Lombardi trophy again.

The AFC West has turned into the toughest division in all of football over the course of this bizzare free agency frenzy.

The Chiefs, Chargers, Raiders and Broncos will all be battling for playoff seeding come Jan.

Broncos fans have long waited and had their prayers heard it was only a matter of time before their team got back to business.

Read more sports stories from Ebube at [www.Talonmarks.com](http://www.Talonmarks.com)

## Welcome Back Brady

Ebube Okoji  
Staff Writer  
@talonmarks

Guess who's back – again. Brady's back, tell a friend. On March 13, 2022, it was officially announced by the NFL that the five-time Super Bowl MVP will return for another season with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Two months after his announced retirement, Brady has decided to lace up his cleats one more time and continue his legacy as one of the greats to ever throw a football.

The question is how long will it take before his legs decide to finally give up?

There is no doubt Brady is one of the greatest if not the greatest. There's not much left for Brady to chase, he has won it all.

The future hall of fame quarterback started his career with the New England Patriots in 2000 leading them to six Super Bowls wins.

Brady spent most of his playing years with the Patriots before signing with the Buccaneers where he spent two seasons.

It didn't take long before Brady made an impact with the Buccaneers after leading them to their first Super Bowl since 2002. The Buccaneers defeated the Kansas City chiefs in Super Bowl 2021.

Brady joins both John Carney and Gary Anderson as the 4th all-time record holder for most seasons played in the NFL as he heads into his 23rd season.

Brady has won many awards and accolades throughout his entire career and he's already a guaranteed future hall of famer but what is the 44-year-old veteran still longing for?

Back in 2014, Brady made it clear that he would retire when he sucks and by the looks of it, he is far from being done.

In a tweet, Brady said, "I've realized my place is still on the field and not in the stands."

Brady also stated that he wanted to retire at age 45. Given the fact the veteran is only four months shy of it, perhaps he realized that it was too early to call it quits as he was edging towards that mark.

With Brady's second stint at hand, what could this mean for him and the rest of the league?

First off, the Buccaneers are gonna do everything in their power to keep Brady and make him happy for as long as he's playing. The legendary quarterback still has one year left on his current deal.

To read more of Ebube's story on Tom Brady's official unretirement from the NFL go to [www.Talonmarks.com](http://www.Talonmarks.com)

# Fixing the Lakers mid-season troubles

Ebube Okoji  
Staff Writer  
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It has not been the dream start the Lakers hoped for this season. After winning the 2020 NBA championship, it looked as if things were finally turning around for 17x champions.

It took the Lakers ten years to win another championship, with the current rate they are playing at, it seems like it could be another decade before they win championship No. 18.

Shortly after their disappointing 2021 season, the Lakers went out and acquired Russell Westbrook, Kendrick Nunn, Carmelo Anthony, Kent Bazemore, Dwight Howard, and Wayne Ellington during the off-season.

After the Laker's busy off-season, they were the betting favorites to win the Western Conference.

Although the Lakers have been plagued with injuries this season, it still shouldn't be an excuse considering the number of superstars they are surrounded with other teams having to deal with injuries as well.

They have been out of form this entire season, currently sitting ninth in the western conference and a lot needs to happen if they have any chance of making the playoffs. The Lakers have struggled both offensively and defensively averaging 109.3



The Los Angeles Lakers' Russell Westbrook (0) grabs a loose ball against the Washington Wizards during the second half at Capital One Arena on Saturday, March 19, 2022, in Washington, D.C. (Patrick Smith/Getty Images/TNS)

points per game and allowing 112.3 points per game.

For the Lakers to improve and have a shot at making the playoffs, they must get rid of some deadwood, there has to be a game plan change and a different approach in each game.

In order for the Lakers to move forward, they have to come to the realization that their off-season pickups weren't as good as they thought they would be which would mean, players being traded.

Westbrook hasn't quite lived

up to his expectations with the Lakers this season giving the ball over many times and averaging his lowest points per game since his rookie year.

There have been shout's that Westbrook needs to be traded because he is not delivering that spark the Laker's need. His defense and cold shootings have certainly contributed to the team's struggles.

The age of the Lakers is a worrying factor and it is only a matter of time before retirement starts to knock on the doors of the

players. Currently, Carmelo is the oldest player on the roster at 37 seven months older than Lebron.

At 37 years old, Lebron is having one of his best seasons putting up MVP numbers which says a lot about the team. There has been too much reliance on Lebron, he is not getting any younger.

What the Lakers need to do is have a full squad rebuild because it can only get worse from here.

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# Softball rallies against Roadrunners

Roman Acosta  
Sports Editor  
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Cerritos softball rallies in the bottom of the sixth inning scoring eight runs on nine hits to dominate the Roadrunners.

Things weren't looking so great for Cerritos throughout the ballgame as they were shutout for the first five innings against the Roadrunners.

Failing to capitalize on runs hurt the Falcons leaving a total of six runners left on base as Rio Hondo was already up by two runs at the top of the sixth.

Freshman first baseman, No. 5, Richere Leduc started off the bottom of the sixth, flying out to infield for the first out. Freshman pitcher, No. 12, Maddy Guillen singled to right field.

Utility, No. 9, Havyn Marines pinch ran for Guillen at first. Freshman third baseman, No. 3, Brooklyn Bedolla brought the momentum swing the Falcons needed as she doubled as Marines advanced to third.

The Roadrunners call for a mound visit substituting their pitcher in hopes of retiring the inning. Freshman outfielder, No. 27, Negasse Williams grounded out for the second out.

The Falcons were still scoreless with two outs when Ariana Hamilton came into pinch hit for freshman outfielder, No.



ROMAN ACOSTA /TM

**Batter Swings:** Freshman third baseman, No. 3, Brooklyn Bedolla at the plate smashes the ball and doubles to give her team the momentum swing they need. She helps her team put away the Roadrunners in the sixth inning on March. 1, 2022.

2, Angelica Gonzalez. Hamilton singled through the right side.

Hamilton collected an RBI as Marines scored and Bedolla advanced to third. Gonzalez pinch ran for Hamilton at first. Freshman outfielder, No. 4, Alyssa Capps singled on a bunt advancing Gonzalez to second.

Freshman second baseman, No. 24, Alyssa Sotelo singled

through the middle as she brought in Bedolla who was the tying run at third and just what the Falcons needed to take control of this game.

Freshman catcher, No.23, Vicky Najera singled down third base with bases loaded. Gonzalez scored the leading run leaving bases loaded as the Falcons took a 3-2 lead.

Miranda Diaz was walked at the plate collecting an RBI as Capps scored the unearned run. Leduc was struck by the pitch at the plate, scoring another run for the Falcons through an RBI.

The Falcons kept this momentum shift rolling in their favor, the score was 5-2 as Guillen had another plate appearance as she singled up the

middle collecting another RBI as Najera scored.

With bases loaded once again, Bedolla had another plate appearance as the Falcons went over the entire starting line in the sixth inning. The score was 6-2 when Bedolla singled to right field collecting two RBI's as Leduc and Diaz scored putting Cerritos up 8-2.

Williams second plate appearance kept the Falcons in business as she singled on a bunt to keep all the bases loaded. Gonzalez popped up in the infield to end the inning as the Falcons win was just an inning away.

Freshman pitcher, Samantha Islas started the game and was three outs away from another win on the season.

With runners on first and third the Roadrunners were able to score one more run off a single, Islas would pick off the runner at first as Leduc made the tag for the second out

Gonzalez caught the fly ball in right field for the final out of the game and the 8-3 win over Rio Hondo.

Islas finished the game with seven K's as her win record improves to 8-1 on the season. The Falcons are on a Five game winning streak, with an overall record of 13-4, and 5-2 record in conference.

## Falcons get best of series versus Compton

Roman Acosta  
Sports Editor  
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Cerritos falls in extra-inning in game three against Compton.

Cerritos falls 6-4 in the 10th inning at home against the Tartars. Cerritos however finished the series best of three. Cerritos beat the Tartars 8-1 on Tuesday, March, 8, and 6-4 on Thursday, March, 10.

Outstanding performance from freshman, RHP, Justin Almeda who pitched a no hitter throughout the first six innings against Compton recording 4 K's.

Hasan Standifer started off the bottom of the second with an incredible performance after being walked. Standifer would steal second and third base

Second baseman, Delvan Gomez sacrificed flied out to center field for the first run of the game as Hasan Standifer scored.

At the bottom of the third shortstop Andy Vega singled to left field. Alex Bueno was struck by pitch, Moses Dokes reached on a fielding error loading the bases.

Compton felt the pressure building up as the pitcher balked as Vega would score an unearned run to put the Falcons up 2-0. Cerritos ended the inning leaving two on base but kept the Tartars in check.

At the top of the seventh, freshman RHP, Tony Lendvai relieved Almeda from the mound.



ROMAN ACOSTA /TM

**At the Plate:** Sophomore shortstop, No. 15, Andy Vega singles against Compton. Vega would score on a balk to put Cerritos up 2-0 versus the Tartars on March. 12, 2022.

Lendvai would have a solid seventh inning performance as he recorded 2 K's and retiring the inning with no hits or runs.

Cerritos would start the bottom of the seventh hot as Vega and Bueno were walked, they each would steal a base as Vega occupied third and Bueno on second.

Standifer flied out to center field for the sacrifice fly collecting an RBI as Vega scored to put the Falcons up 3-0, Cerritos ended the inning leaving one on base.

Disaster struck at the top of the eighth when the Tartars hit a three run homer to tie the ball game. Braydon Williams relieved Lendvai at the top of the eighth.

After walking a batter and back to back wild pitches Williams was relieved by freshman RHP, Noah Ortega who had to face off with two runners on base.

Freshman RHP, Elias Torres relieved Ortega late in the eighth inning as the Falcons stopped the bleeding being tied 3-3.

In the bottom of the eighth,

Jorge Centeno was walked, Terril Steen Jr. pinch ran for Centeno at first. Steen Jr. stole second, Lucas Iorgulescu doubled to left field and collected an RBI as Steen Jr. scored the fourth run of the game for the Falcons.

Compton scored an unearned run in the top of the ninth to tie the ballgame, in what could have ended in much of a bigger disaster for Cerritos retired the Tartars leaving two runners on base.

**Read more at Talonmarks.com.**

### Baseball and Softball Schedule

Softball versus Mt. San Antonio Thursday, March. 31, at home 3 p.m.

Baseball versus LBCC Thursday March. 31, at home 2:30 p.m.

Softball versus Ventura Friday April. 1, at home double-header 11 a.m. Game two at 1:30 p.m.

Baseball versus LBCC Saturday, April. 2, away 12 p.m.

Baseball versus Oxnard Tuesday, April. 5, away 2:30 p.m.

Baseball versus Oxnard Thursday, April. 7, at home 2:30 p.m.

Softball versus Fullerton Saturday, April. 9, at home 1 p.m.

To see the full schedule please visit the Cerritos College athletics website to keep up with your Falcons Baseball and Softball this season.

[www.cerritosfalcons.com](http://www.cerritosfalcons.com)