

College debates ways to improve sinking enrollment

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As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, students have been struggling academically nationwide, which led to a decline in enrollment trends throughout community colleges.

In comparison to previous years, spring 2021 stood as an area of most decline in student enrollment within community colleges, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. Faculty and staff expressed their concern of how important it is to be there for students during tough times.

Rick Miranda, vice president of academic affairs along with Dr. Dilcie Perez, vice president of student services at Cerritos College collaborated with a zoom meeting of about 200 participants aiming to tackle the enrollment issue.

“Overall, spring enrollment fell to 6.9 million from 17.5 million [nationwide],” said Yvette Tafoya, the dean of enrollment services at Cerritos College. “We had about 150 people at the start and now 200, so clearly this is an important topic for us.”

Cerritos college had 43,553 students enrolled in spring 2020. The college predicts that for spring 2022 only 33,163 students will enroll for classes, resulting in a 16% decrease.

“The purpose of us sharing is really to understand the magnitude of this issue,” Tafoya said. Miranda added that the purpose of the enrollment forum is to educate the community about current enrollment trends and how it largely affects students, faculty and staff.

During the meeting, students shared their personal experiences of why they had to drop out of classes, most of the reasons being how stressful life was academically and outside of school.

Briana, a student taking Math 112 and Math 5, expressed how she lost motivation for school to the point where she feared taking classes in the hopes of not failing any. She said that her and her entire family suffered greatly after being diagnosed with COVID-19.

Another Math 112 student named Angel said he couldn't keep up with his class because of his extremely busy schedule, and that his professor dropped him for being absent 3 times due to poor



FATIMA DURRANI/TM

Enrollment: Dr. Jose Fierro, president of Cerritos College, expressed how important student retention is. Dr. Fierro said that it will take a long, collaborative effort to address the concern of enrollment decline.

internet connection.

To support students, Miranda and Perez explained how student services such as communication campaigns, financial resources, workshops and food distributions are offered to students in need. Cerritos College offers housing for homeless students with the help of the 2.1 million grant they were given, as well as resources like tutors, application assistance, Franco's Market and counseling services.

“Our school relations team is focused on ensuring that every student has the support that they need to finish their applications,” said Perez. She said that Cerritos College's placement team is also making huge efforts to connect with students and understand

their struggles.

Edward, a student who appealed for financial aid, mentioned that the fall semester was very tough for him because of the pandemic and how difficult it was online. He said that working eight hour shifts at work were very draining, making it hard to balance academics.

Faculty and staff were moved into breakout rooms on Zoom to discuss goals for enrollment challenges. They highlighted how students felt a decline in motivation, had a lack of access to technology, financial insecurities and a demanding work schedule.

Short term goals by faculty and staff included adding wifi/laptop/lib resources

to Canvas, flexibility in hybrid courses, a more lenient late work policy and simply listening to students' concerns.

A group of faculty members also expressed how long-term goals include an expanded dual enrollment, smaller class sizes for faculty & student interaction and even hiring more faculty. Overall, the enrollment forum discussed how important it is to communicate with students in order to address their needs and utilize tools such as surveys to get input from them.

Dr. Jose Fierro, president of Cerritos College, said we need to work hard to find new techniques for student retention within enrollment and that it's due to hardships from the COVID-19 pandemic.



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COVID-19 cases on campus this fall

Lily Marmolejo
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Despite campus efforts to minimize covid cases at Cerritos upon return to campus there have been 64 known cases recorded from students and college employees.

Current trends suggest that the implementation of the vaccine mandate has helped reduce the amount of covid cases on campus.

"I feel really comfortable with the mask and vaccine mandates," said Maliah Lopez, a student part of the teacher track program.

Students are required to wear a mask and maintain social distancing while on campus to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Upon entering the campus students are required to complete a mandatory covid screening by OptimumHQ and present themselves with a verification screen so that they may receive a colored wristband and attend class.

On the digital screening participants will be asked if they have had a fever of 100.4 F or higher without fever-reducing medications in the last 24 hours;



VINCENT MEDINA/ TM

Campus: Cerritos community college has been experiencing a decline in covid-19 cases since the vaccine mandate has been enforced.

a cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, or a headache; a sore throat, congestion, or running nose; nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea and any new loss of taste or smell.

On-campus students are also asked whether they have had contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

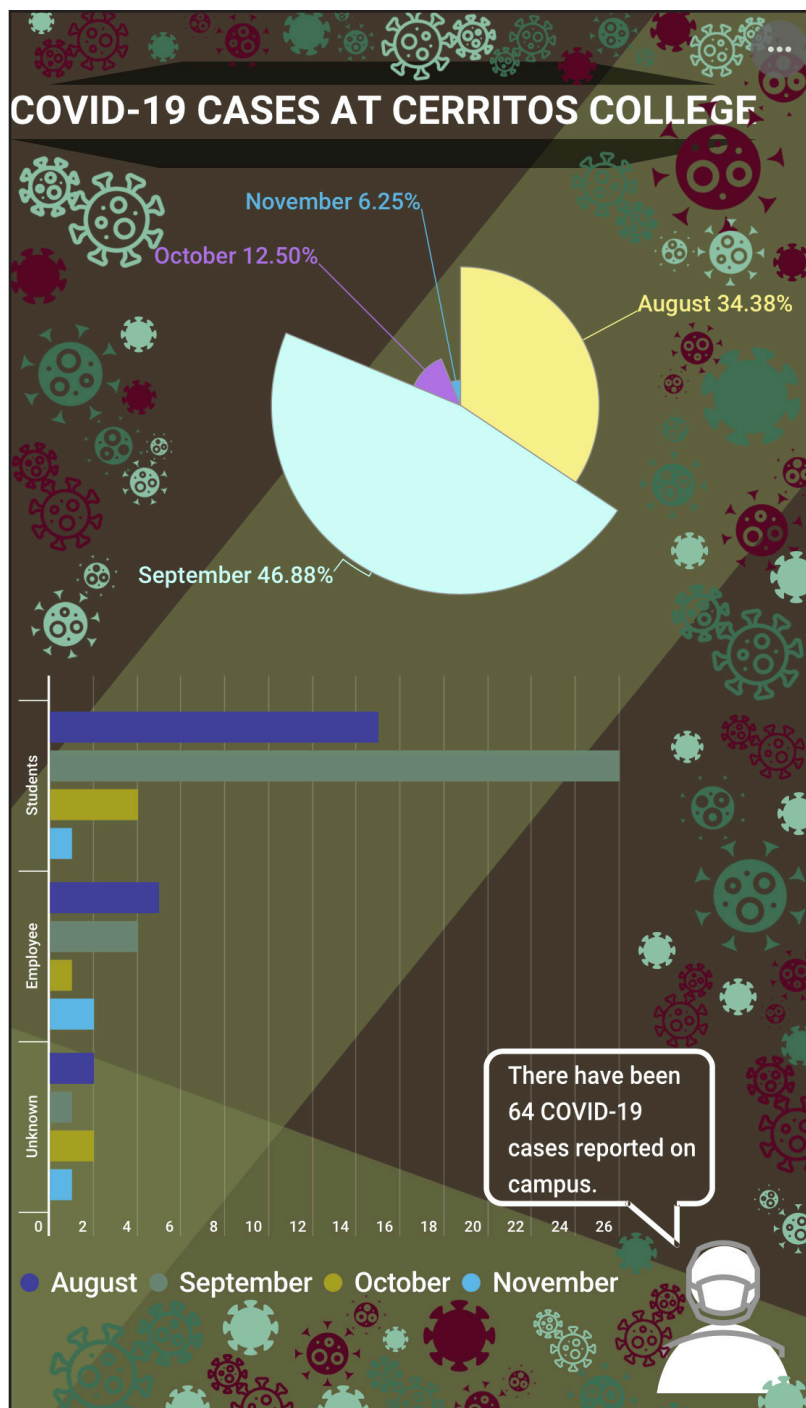
If a student has traveled outside of California to another state or out of the country and plans on attending campus they must be vaccinated and receive a negative covid test three to five

days after traveling. Upon doing so they must self-quarantine for seven days if they travelled to another state.

If a student traveled to another country, they must self-quarantine for 10 days.

Maliah expressed, "The school has done a lot to minimize the number of COVID-19 cases on campus, but I do not feel comfortable coming back and taking in-person classes.

"There are too many cases and I'm constantly getting emails about new cases [on campus]."



LILY MARMOLEJO/TM

Community form gave updates on parking lot

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The College has planned to continue making improvements to the parking lot on 166th and Studebaker, aesthetic and security enhancements that have been made in the area.

The College hosted a forum on Dec. 5, for the Cerritos college community representatives with feedback regarding the changes that have been made.

The lot has funded a total revenue of \$275,000. These funds have been used to fund student programs such as the Student Study Abroad Program (TEEP) and the Cerritos Complete program.

"The study abroad program hasn't been in effect for the past two summers but we plan to open this up and reinstate this program [with these funds]," said Felipe Lopez.

This site is operable Monday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The lot entrance will be accessible from the eastern gate on campus connecting to parking lot 10. said Felipe Lopez, Vice President of Business Services.

"Access is only through or between the purchasing building and CDC, you must access the lot off lot 10 because there is no direct access to the lot," said Felipe Lopez.

After the college had been granted a temporary use permit, changes were made including; the addition of asphalt, the installation of vertical green slats along the fence perimeter, trumpet vines and irrigation.

The sidewalk was replaced along 166th street and 10 already existing trees were

removed and replaced with aristocrat pear trees.

Security cameras have been installed for monitoring the lot. The college police department also surveys this area. Including it in its regular rotation addressing all potential security concerns at the college.

Improvements on lighting fixtures include installing light fixtures matching the color standards of lot 10, vertical shields to direct sunlight downwards, dimmable light fixtures and agreed on site illuminance not exceeding more than 1.03 foot-candles.

"We're required to provide a chorally update forum to get some feedback and input from community members regarding the corner lot on 166th and Studebaker," said Felipe Lopez.

The City of Cerritos granted the college permission to the parking lot Dec. 18, 2017 and completed all the requirements specified in the temporary use permit March 9, 2018.

The temporary use permit duration was begun in 2017 and ends Dec. 18 2021.

A temporary use permit was refilled and for community residence to continue having access to the lot until Dec. 19, 2026.

Meetings regarding the parking lot will be held annually instead of quarterly.

The meetings will most likely be held the first Monday of the month of December. Miya Walker, Director of College Relations, and Felipe Lopez gave participants their contact information so that the community has the ability to express any concerns they might have regarding the property.



VINCENT MEDINA/TM

Cross streets: The parking lot at this intersection 166th and Studebaker in Norwalk is currently undergoing renovations. The forum held a Q&A for members of the community to voice their concerns.

Norwalk tree lighting ceremony returns



VINCENT MEDINA/TM

Santa: Norwalk city council celebrates the return of the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony after it was cancelled last year. The council welcomes Santa Clause to the celebration on Dec. 4, 2021.

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Residents and community officials gathered at the Norwalk city hall lawn on Saturday to resume the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

Norwalk canceled the ceremony in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Officials deemed the tradition could continue safely as approximately 65.8% of Norwalk residents are vaccinated.

"It's great for family, friends, and neighbors to come together and acknowledge that we are fighting COVID and making progress, that's why we are asking everyone to get their shots," said Archuleta.

The senator joins other state officials as calls for people to get vaccinated are rising as the new COVID-19 variant, Omicron, appeared in San Francisco earlier last week.

He hopes that the event will encourage people to continue obeying safety restrictions and exercise caution during the holidays.

"This tree lighting ceremony is important because it shows that we have a future. If we work together and stay safe together, we will continue to prosper as Californians."

The night began with a performance from Imperial Dance Studio's new competition team.

Christine Roberto and her daughter bought the studio in



VINCENT MEDINA/TM

Dance: Imperial Dance Studio's competition team performs at the Norwalk Christmas tree lighting. They performed several dance routines on Dec. 4, 2021

July and plan to enter the team into regional competitions in February 2022.

"I work for [Norwalk], and recreation knew I owned the dance studio and asked us to come out," said Roberto.

"The team loved the event today, some of them performed for Relay for Life, so this is good practice."

Families and children anxiously waited in the 54-degree weather for Mayor Jennifer Perez to light the Christmas tree and for Santa Clause to arrive.

"This is the kick-start of the

holidays. I'm grateful that we get to be together," said Perez.

The mayor continued to ask families to stay safe during the Christmas season and protect themselves from the COVID-19 virus by getting vaccinated if they are eligible to receive the shot.

Perez, Archuleta and the city council counted down to 6 p.m. when they lit the tree and snow reigned down on the audience.

When Santa jumped on stage, kids cheered and ran to get in line for a picture before he left in an hour. Parents were happy that their kids could see Santa

after COVID-19 hindered their holiday celebrations.

"We are trying to bring back the holiday spirit after not having it last year," said Gloria Mesa as her family waited in line for a picture with Santa.

Despite the new Omicron COVID-19 variant, Mesa was confident her family would be safe during the holidays.

"We are all vaccinated and we are staying safe during the holidays with a small celebration," she said.

Other families like Nancy Martinez, her husband and three

kids, are confident the vaccine and observing safety precautions will protect them during the holiday season.

"Most people are vaccinated and taking precautions," said Martinez.

"I'm not concerned about the variant because it hasn't spread a lot."

Mayor Perez reassured everyone that Santa would return to Norwalk the following Monday, Wednesday and Friday at various locations for people to get a photo with him if they were unable to that evening.

Benny Amesquita YouTube family man



COURTESY OF BENNY AMESQUITA/YOUTUBE CHANNEL: BENNY NO

Content Creator: YouTube content creator Benny No shares his love of sports and video games online. His passion for making content has brought his channel success for six years.

Isaiah Lonvelin
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Benny Amesquita, 40, is a YouTuber and family man that loves to share his love for sports, video games and family with thousands of people on the internet.

Amesquita started his YouTube channel 'Benny No' in 2015 when his friend and YouTuber Bobby

Crosby told him he should start one for video games.

Both of them are annual season ticket holders for the Los Angeles Dodgers which is how they met.

Amesquita says, "Right from the start I jumped in and I really had no idea what I was doing."

He gained a massive following when he started as he already had a fan base on his Instagram account and quickly gained 10,000

subscribers on the channel.

He does say, "If you watched my older videos there was very little talking, I played the game horribly because I just didn't know."

Over the years he has accumulated 249,000 subscribers on his channel with his gameplay of MLB the show and daily vlogs of his life experiences with his family; mainly with his son Benny whose nickname is "Lumpy."

"My son loves to play baseball he is at an age now where he is playing good enough to film and put up for you guys to watch."

He continues to say, "I film his practices and games, whenever we go out and do something and most of the time I film it and share with you the fun we have in our lives."

His videos range to mainly MLB the Show and are seen playing with his son and friends he has met over the years.

But mainly will see his son and him playing together.

He says, "It is awesome, I'm literally filming with what me and my son doing in our spare time and, you know putting it on YouTube so it doesn't feel like work, it feels like I'm just living my life."

Continues on, "I'm very fortunate that I have the time to spend it with him."

In his spare time, he does what any dad would do and spends most of his time with and wife and son. He loves to play golf and go to Dodger games to support his home team.

"My family, my dad was a huge sports fan. So, as a kid, it was natural that I follow the Dodgers."

Amesquita is a die-hard Dodgers fan and is a fan of all the L.A. teams ranging from when the Raiders first started to play in L.A. all the way to the Lakers and Trojans.

Filming videos does not feel like work to him as only the editing process does when he is done.

He has gotten used to making videos for his channel that some times he can upload up to three videos a day.

He says, "my time is divided, it's very hard to find time to manage everything, and the work is really in the editing."

"When filming I just talk how I normally talk and its hard at first but you get used to everything."

Since he has a big fan base with his YouTube channel and Instagram he does get recognized.

Whether it be at Dodger games or anywhere else while out on the town. To him, he loves to say hi to everyone and interact with fans.

"It's very humbling and it never gets old. I love it when they come up and say hi."

Not that I am looking for the attention but it just feels really good when someone says they appreciate watching you."

He does try his best to interact whether it be talking with his fans in person or trying to answer all the questions on his phone.

When he sees someone come up to him he tries to give him his time because it's special.

With six years of making YouTube, it has been an experience for him, and he believes that's the beauty of YouTube that you don't know what's going to happen.

"The plan is to make as many videos as I can and enjoy, and give as much as I can, you know, as long as I can that's the plan. I love making videos with my son, like I said I enjoy what I do so as long as I can do it I'm gonna do it."

Podcasts available on Spotify

Tea Time Therapy:
Karen discusses vaccine
mandate



CREATIVE COMMONS

The type of therapy session where tea is spilled, truths are told and reality is unveiled.

In today's therapy session with Karen, Dr. Johnson offers words of wisdom and guidance. This is a satire podcast on the vaccine mandate being implemented Spring 2022.



Sidechat:
Halo 5 overwhelms
players with lore



MATTHEW ESPINOSA/TM

Game view: In terms of movement and gunplay, Halo 5 felt the most fluid. The player felt like a Spartan who acted with a sense of urgency as they went about saving the galaxy from a malfunctioning AI.

As "Halo: Infinite" release date approaches, players should be familiar with the controversy concerning its predecessor, and why it fails to ruin the story of the franchise.

Harry Styles melts hearts of fans during performance



FATIMA DURRANI/TM

Concert: Singer Harry Styles performed in Los Angeles for three sold out nights from Nov. 17 – 20. Styles' fanbase was moved by the way he performed his incredible falsettos, choreography and with his hard working instrumental team.

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If you're ever curious who the dream man is, the answer is Harry Styles.

Starting off his tour in Nevada, charming Harry Styles concluded his Love On Tour with three sold out shows at The Forum in Inglewood, CA, with a supportive and fully masked audience complying with COVID-19 guidelines.

Starting off in the British music competition The X Factor, Styles has proved to the world how powerful of a singer he is, ranking 82 in the top contemporary music artists.

Indie star Jenny Lewis performed her opening to warm up the crowd with an amazing vocal and guitar performance at The Forum, which left fans ecstatic to hear every song she had to offer.

The moment Styles rose from the middle of the stage at The Forum, fans shook the stadium with their screams.

It was the most beautiful experience to see the singer who means so much to them right in front of their eyes.

Fans of Styles, called Harries, have emphasized how Styles has positively impacted their life through his music, personality and heart.

On Nov. 17, Styles helped a fan for the second time on his tour by the name of Brenda come out to her mother. Styles left the fan emotional at The Forum and in tears, considering it was a moment of freedom for her.

Styles is a selfless person with a heart made of gold, which is

clear to see because of how he takes approaches in helping his fans feel free and love themselves.

During his performance of Treat People With Kindness, Styles was given a Black Lives Matter flag that he waved passionately across stage.

Treat People With Kindness contains lyrics that emphasize how important it is to love people regardless of who they are and what they believe in.

Styles encourages people to wear what they feel beautiful in and not label themselves, the same way he's dressed in ways to break the shell of toxic masculinity and social norms.

Fans attending Love On Tour showed up in stunning outfits with bright colors, glitter and whatever they felt the most beautiful in.

The moment a fan walks into a show of his, they automatically feel comfort and peace because they know how Styles would do anything for his fans.

There's abundant proof of him constantly establishing a connection between himself and his fans throughout the tour.

Styles ensures to maintain eye contact as he looks into the eyes of his adoring fans, leaving them with a memory they'll never forget.

There's not a single ounce of negativity in the venue where he performs.

Styles is the reason why some fans even get out of bed in the morning.

He brings hope to the souls of those who need it with his aura, his charity work and appreciates the love and support he receives.

At The Forum, charming Styles gave his 100% as he

performed songs from his album Fine Line and One Direction.

As Styles gave an encore, fans screamed for him to come back on stage as he surprised them by performing his song called Medicine.

Styles wore attention-grabbing outfits that consisted of flare pants, a glittery black coat and the perfect shade of green in corduroy.

The vocals throughout his performances were absolutely beautiful to say the least, and his fans were moved by the amount of talent he has.

Fans enjoyed themselves in the presence of Harry Styles.

On behalf of the Harry Styles fanbase, I'd like to say two sentences. One, we love you forever and always will.

Two, thank you for existing and being the reason why we exist.



COURTESY OF SAMANTHA BEDOLLA

Fan: Samantha Bedolla, resident of Los Angeles, has been a fan of Harry Styles for over six years.



FATIMA DURRANI/TM

Forum: Fans of Harry Styles show up to the concert in stunning bright outfits to see the man that changed their lives. Prairie Avenue was completely full with cars going towards the venue on Nov. 20, 2021.

Surviving family toxicity during holidays

EDITORIAL

Politics, left versus right, and all things politically correct: how do you survive the dark side of the family drama during the holiday season.

The phrase “don’t talk politics at the dinner table” and how it affects the whole family.

Family gatherings during the holidays can sometimes be a disaster, so who is to blame for when conversations start to heat up involving politics.

Nobody wants to hear your hardcore liberal relative who just won’t stop talking be politically correct about every discussion that comes across the family dinner table or bonfire. Hardcore conservative conspiracy political discussions get old pretty fast as well.

The holidays are to remind us of what’s really important, family. The time of giving and being grateful that you are able to gather up for holidays this time of year rather than worry about a family member who’s practically on life support due to COVID-19.

COVID-19 has shown us how things can drastically change over the course of a year.

Traditional family gatherings took a huge hit all across the nation on how they are spent in the COVID-19 era.



MEL MELCON/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Charles Ellis helps customers Stephen Clark and Melissa Enright of Valley Glen with a Christmas tree they picked out while shopping at Santa & Sons Christmas Trees in Los Angeles’ Sherman Oaks neighborhood.

So, try to get back to what the true meaning of the holidays were meant to be celebrated, with family.

There are plenty of other topics to discuss with family members besides political mayhem going on in the world.

Sports, entertainment and prior events you accomplished that distant family members didn’t get to hear about throughout the year are always worth the topic of discussion.

The best thing to do this

holiday season is to simply be grateful for all that you have and enjoy the moment as nothing in life is guaranteed.

It is always best to stay calm and keep your views out of the equation when such argumentative opinions break out. Being the bigger and more respectful person can mean all the difference before such a catastrophe breaks out.

The COVID-19 pandemic stood to us as a reminder to never take life for granted, and that our

loved ones can be snatched from us at any moment, which is why it’s important to avoid tension especially during the holidays.

Toxic family dynamics are a form of mental abuse, and the best way to avoid tension and toxicity with family members would be taking actions such as avoiding political topics, maintaining a calm mindset and distancing yourself when things get heated.

Although the topic of politics for example is interesting to converse about, it can usually lead

to verbal or even physical feuds at the dinner table.

People who tend to act irrational and toxic even during the holiday season are oftentimes struggling themselves, so it’s important to try and tune them out. Reminding yourself of the positive attributes even of overly sensitive family members can help prevent a feud.

It’s important to remind yourself that you have no control over another person’s behaviors or actions, and that the more you pay attention or feel furious over one’s stupidity that it’ll end up sparking more fire within you.

If members of the family aim to make a good effort to resolve or even prevent issues from arising, it can make a positive difference in the way a holiday gathering goes.

It’s far too irritating to deal with the stress of toxic family members after going through a pandemic that caused anxiety to go off the charts.

Cutting off toxic family members after their refusal to be confronted would be the last and extreme resort if a toxic family member isn’t willing to change their negative traits.

Sometimes it’s the only thing one can do if those member(s) constantly ruin their white Christmas.

More employees, less hours this holiday season

EDITORIAL

It is no surprise that the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the amount of labor being accomplished by the workforce.

As the end of the year approaches with holidays around the corner it is that time of year where jobs are in high demand.

People in need of extra cash in their pockets for the holidays join on board as seasonal workers to help keep up the demand.

Companies are in desperate need to find employees capable of working several hours in labor jobs this holiday season.

The best long-term solution to solving the need for labor workers is to increase the number of workers and decrease the number of hours given to workers during the holidays to prevent employee burnout.

The current unemployment rate is at 6% representing approximately 9.7 million Americans actively seeking jobs. Reasons, why the unemployment

rate is increasing in percentage over the years, is a result of the labor shortage specifically in service industries and in retail.

Some service industries limit their worker’s hours to minimize the amount of time and stress they put on their employees. With mental health being a highlighting concern throughout the pandemic it has proven itself successful due to the company being able to succeed amidst the pandemic.

During the Progressive Era, jobs were created for expanding economic growth in highly populated cities with people in need of work. Henry Ford brought the expansion of mass production in the early 20th century which led to Fordism.

The belief was that eight-hour shifts would lead to more success among the workforce. It seems as if it’s time to touch back on that idea and restructure work hours for physical labor workers.

Businesses all over the country are being affected and there are

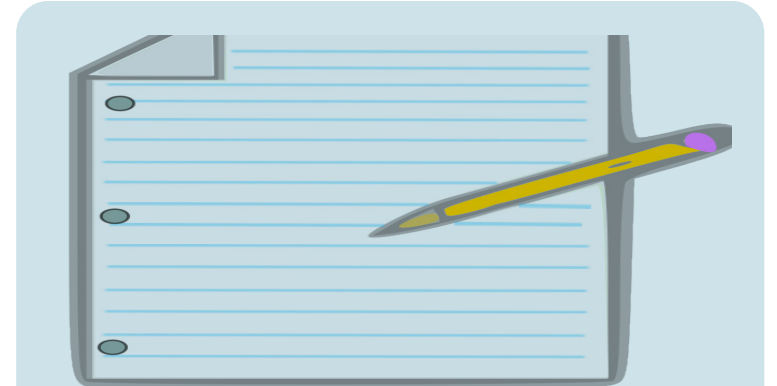
implications that this will affect the economy soon.

According to the New York Times, “It could act as a brake on growth and cause unnecessary business failures, long lines at remaining businesses, and rising prices.”

Arguably, the increase in unemployment and need for employees during the holiday season is attributed to stimulus payments. In states where the cost of living is very affordable, it is possible to live off of government aid instead of working a minimum wage job.

The younger generation of workers is in no way interested in working eight hours five days a week with only two days off. The best way to resolve this issue is to increase the population of the workforce by giving labor workers flexible schedules.

Although it seems very untraditional for labor workers who have served in the workforce for years. It is finally time to consider that the workforce must



ISAIAH658/CREATIVE COMMONS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please feel free to send letters to the editor by email to editor@talonmarks.com or submit them on our website at Talonmarks.com

work adapt to the aftermath of COVID-19.

The upcoming generation of labor workers must feel a larger sense of motivation and responsibility to get out there and do their part in their community for faster economic recovery this holiday season.

The long-term solution to the shortage of physical labor workers will not be solved overnight. It is important to adapt to this new normal so that we may see hope

soon for the workforce.

Eventually, COVID-19 will not be a reason why you don’t want to work somewhere in the community. There is no better time to start than now with seasonal workers this holiday season.

It’s time we all do our part in our communities like the generations before us have all done. By introducing this solution while it is not as risky we can see how it will result by next year.

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

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Falcon football season review



Offense: Freshman Offensive lineman No. 54, Jonathan Manzo flattens a Tigers defensive lineman late in the 4th quarter. Manzo "pancakes" the defender flat on his back to help the Falcons score in the RedZone on Nov. 6, 2021



Endzone: Freshman running back No. 6, Davon Booth takes the ball 72-yards to the house against the Jaguars for the Cerritos touchdown midway through the second quarter against Southwestern on Nov. 20, 2021.

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The 2021 Cerritos College Football Season has come to an end. The Falcons finish at an overall record of 6 – 5 after Cerritos defeated San Diego Mesa in the Western State Bowl, 32 – 14 in their final game on Nov. 27, 2021.

Cerritos finished with a 3 – 2 record in their conference. The two losses came down to a game-winning goal by Palomar, and Riverside in the final seconds of the game.

This team has proven that they do not make excuses, when down by two or more possessions they have been one of the best at staying in ball games, no matter what the circumstances.

On a heavily stacked defensive consisting of sophomore returners from the 2019 football season, the Falcons defense forced 12 interceptions, 12 fumble recoveries, and 40 sacks.

This season was one to remember, offensive struggles early through the season with a majority of first-year players on the offensive side of the ball led to

the Falcons scoring over 30 points a game in their final five games this season.

Cerritos averaged a total of 27.3 points per game while scoring a total of 300 points this season.

Sophomore wide receiver No. 10, Bailey Torres finished with 46 catches for a total of 747 yards and six touchdowns.

With returners coming back the Cerritos offense is going to leave other team's defensive coordinators struggling to find ways to slow them down. Freshman Quarterbacks, No. 5, Jordan Simpson, and No. 11, Cade McConnell will be double trouble.

Adjusting defensive starters will be the biggest concern for Cerritos going into the 2022 football season.

Cerritos should find their groove early on next season under Head Coach Dean Grosfeld and his coaching staff.

With an incoming experienced young team, Cerritos will be ready to jump into action and win more games.

This next upcoming football season should be just as exciting as it was in 2021.



Run: Freshman running back No. 25, Penieli Lauago takes the handoff from Simpson in the 2nd quarter. Lauago attempts to juke out a Riverside defender to avoid being tackled and pick up the yards for Cerritos on Nov. 6, 2021.



Touchdown: No. 6, Davon Booth rushes to the left and breaks a tackle to score the Falcon's first touchdown of the game against the Hornets on Sept. 11, 2021.



Pocket: Freshman quarterback No. 11, Cade McConnell rolls out the pocket avoiding the sack from a Palomar defender. McConnell looks and throws downfield to a Falcons wide receiver after escaping the pressure against Palomar on Oct. 30, 2021.

Lakers early struggles are nothing to worry about

Silas Bravo

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Sports Opinion

There is no denying the Los Angeles Lakers have been struggling. 20 games into the season and they are barely .500.

With their depth along with their star power it is surprising to see them perform so badly.

They are barely beating some of the league's worst teams and look completely lost against some of the top teams.

Despite the early struggles, there is no need to worry if you are an LA fan.

The Lakers are a brand-new team with a lot of new players. It is going to take more than 20 games for them to gel with one another.

People do not realize how vital chemistry is to a basketball team as it takes time to adjust.

As good as Russell Westbrook is, this is his third team in three years. He has not played with super star caliber players like LeBron James and Anthony Davis in a long time.

James and Russ are both ball dominant and are used to the

offense running and relying on them.

Some of the blame also lands on head coach Frank Vogel struggling with lineups.

Every game he is constantly changing the five on the court, almost as if he is just throwing random players in.

There are certain players that other players seem to play better with and Vogel has not figured that out yet.

What was also hurting the Lakers was the absence of LeBron James. He has missed 11 out of 20 games.

Luckily, after battling an abdominal strain and a 1 game suspension the king is back.

Even though the future hall of famer is aging, there is no doubt the Lakers are a better team with him on the court.

What is needed for the Lakers to continue to improve throughout the season is the play of Anthony Davis who averages 15 to 20 points consistently.

It is tough to see the Lakers finishing a top seed or making a deep playoff run without him being more aggressive on the offensive side.

There are not many people on the planet that can guard him. The



WALLY SKALIJ/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

The Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis has the ball knocked away by the Miami Heat's P.J. Tucker, right, with help with Kyle Lowry, left, in the second quarter at Staples Center on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021, in Los Angeles. (Wally Skalij/Los Angeles Times/TNS)

sooner he realizes this, the sooner the court opens up for the Lakers.

His ability to dominate the paint alongside his mid-range ability really spreads the court offensively. This will also

take some pressure away from Westbrook and James to score as much. It is not a matter of if the Lakers figure it out, it is a matter of when.

With the team playing more

and more with each other along with the return of James will set the squad back on the right path.

Do not be surprised to see the Lakers turn it around and dominate.

Off The Field: Odell Beckham to the Rams is a smart move



LUIS SINCO/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Robert Woods (2) runs out of bounds after making a catch against the Detroit Lions at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, on

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The addition of wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. to the Los Angeles Rams created a lot of speculation throughout the NFL.

At first it seemed like a useless move. The last thing the Rams needed was another wide receiver.

Their receiving core is led by arguably the best receiver in the league right now with Cooper Kupp. Roberts Woods is a very underrated receiver and is having another great year. Van Jefferson is getting better every week and is a great third option.

Not to mention the Rams are struggling heavily in a lot of other spots.

Although their offensive line has been performing well all year, the last few games have really

exposed their lack of depth and talent.

The defensive side is filled with stars but still contains a lot of holes. The linebacker core is weak, especially with the absence of Kenny Young.

Troy Reeder anchoring the backers is not going to get the job done. He is not fast enough to play against most of today's offenses.

The secondary is not perfect as well. Jalen Ramsey is excellent and easily the best cornerback in the league, but the players behind him are average.

Jordan Fuller and Darius Williams are decent but Taylor Rapp has been getting picked on all year. The secondary could have definitely used some help, but instead the Rams' front office went after Beckham Jr.

There were definitely a lot more positions that needed filling

before the wide receiver group.

Beckham is a household name and was a premier talent in the league at point. However we have not seen this version of Odell in a few years.

He has aged and has battled a lot of injuries. There are plenty of other guys the Rams could have picked up that would have benefited the team a lot more.

There is hope that he can turn the clock around and return to his vintage form. Odell Beckham is still Odell Beckham. Hopefully a new environment and a lot of rest and recovery will aid in his comeback to his past self.

Although it is terrible what happened to Robert Woods, the injury could help in getting Beckham more involved in the offense.

Woods is out for the year on an ACL surgery and leaves a big hole in the Rams' offense.

Beckham looks to be the weapon that Woods once was and hopefully can produce as he once did.

Even though Beckham and Woods have very different receiving styles, Beckham opens up the offense a lot more.

It has been a long time since the Rams have a player as electric as Beckham. His deep threat ability spreads defenses vertically and opens up the underneath routes and the run game.

Despite the Rams' needing help in a lot of other positions on the field, Beckham ultimately makes the Rams a better team.

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