Counseling appointments have been difficult to obtain, students say

Omar Rashad
News Editor
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Ahead of its demolition in December, the Peet's Coffee located near the old Student Activities Center was replaced by a new food truck Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Options include smoothies, açai and sandwiches

Omar Rashad/The Union
The Coastal Coffees food truck sits adjacent to the Student Activities Center on Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Two alliances go head-to-head during the elimination rounds of the VEX Robotics Competition on Saturday, Nov. 9, hosted by the El Camino Robotics Club. 32 teams formed alliances after the initial 56 qualifying rounds earns slots in the elimination rounds.

Juan Miranda
Staff Writer
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It’s a robot block party
Day-long competition ‘lifts the spirits of middle schoolers’

Mikayla Schwartz
Staff Writer
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staying awake past midnight: students seek academic guidance

Counseling appointments have been difficult to obtain, students say

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@omaran rashad

Making an appointment with a counselor at El Camino College has been a difficult process for computer science major Nick O’Brien. He has tried using the online counseling appointment system located on the ECC website but never found any openings to see a counselor. One day, he went to the counseling office’s front desk and was told that appointments become available online every night at midnight.

“The seems like you have to make an appointment with yourself to keep a space open to make an appointment with a counselor,” O’Brien said. “It’s very hard to

is a traditional way to obtain academic guidance, special programs also have their own counselors, including the Honors Transfer Program (HTP), First Year Experience (FYE), Expanded Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), CalWorks, and the Guardian Scholars Program, Patel said.

However, appointments with general counseling become available at midnight for openings one week ahead. To be the first to book an appointment, students have to be awake at midnight and visit the ECC website.

Patel said the program ECC currently uses to book appointments with academic counselors was piloted in January and said it is not perfect as her department, from the beginning, has told the vendor, ConexED, who provides the program that appointments being made available at starting at midnight would not work for students.

However, ConexED is still assessing requirements necessary to make these changes, Patel said.

If students are unable to make an appointment with a general counselor, Patel said they should try to seek appointments with special programs counselors if they are part of one. The counseling department also holds workshops for students who are simply in need of making an educational plan.

“I think we need to market it a little more strongly, the drop-in advising sessions, because if what [students] really want is just counseling, Patel said.

Another factor in general counseling is when students do not show up to counseling appointments after scheduling them. If students do not show up to counseling appointments after booking them, their appointment time slot is blocked from another students who may need counseling.

Patel added.

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A new voting system

Officials launch new voting system in advance of the presidential election.

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Student wishes to one day ‘change the world’ with her many talents.

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One hospital-stay helps student appreciate the smaller things in life.

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Professor leads a surfing class at El Porto’s beach community in Manhattan Beach.

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New food truck replaces Peet’s Coffee on campus

Omar Rashad
News Editor
@omaran rashad

Options include smoothies, açai and sandwiches

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One hospital-stay helps student appreciate the smaller things in life.

“Juxtaposed on children’s faces, as well as the nimble curiosity and fascination on the faces of supportive parents and mentors, filled the room as El Camino College’s South Gymnasium hosted the VEX Robotics Competition on Saturday, Nov. 9.

The event hosted 35 teams, representing middle schools with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) organizations across Southern California, and scheduled 56 matches to take place, according to event organizers.

‘It’s really cool to see potential future leaders of the STEM field help encourage others and prioritize their education outside of the classroom,’” Inter-Club Council (ICC) Director of Diversity Giancarlo Fernandez said.

Participants competed in Tower Takeover, an objective game in which alliances, comprised of two different teams, attempted to place cubes in towers or on goal zones located at the four corners of a competition field.

[See Robotics, page 3]

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[See Robotics, page 3]
Accessing counselors should be easier

Counseling is a fundamental part in guiding students to success in college

El Camino College implemented a new counseling appointment system located on the ECC website last January that was supposed to help ease the difficulties that came with making appointments.

Before the online counseling appointment system, students were only able to make appointments in person one day out of the week, which was a big inconvenience.

The online counseling appointment system was said to allow students to make appointments for the following week any day of the week at any time.

However, this semester has been a challenging one for ECC students seeking counseling appointments for academic guidance as appointment availability fills up quickly.

Many ECC students have struggled to book and find counseling appointments through the online counseling scheduling system and even in person.

ECC students are encouraged to seek counseling from counselors through special programs such as First Year Experience (FYE), the Essential Opportunity Program and Services (EOPs), and CalWorks if they are having trouble booking an appointment with a general counselor.

But let’s not forget about the students that aren’t enrolled in any of those special programs and don’t have access to these counselors.

ECC students that aren’t enrolled in those programs still have to plan their schedules for future semesters at ECC or might even be in the process of figuring out if they’re eligible to graduate and transfer to a university.

ECC strives to have its students transfer out to a university within two years, but are unable to provide students with timely academic guidance.

Students cannot go to express counseling to get some of their more minor questions answered, but in-depth information cannot be given to a student within 15-30 minutes.

If students are looking to make an appointment with a counselor than it’s probably because they need more one-on-one time with a counselor to figure out whatever it is that they need.

The ECC Counseling Department found that students are more likely to complete their education if they book counseling appointments and plan their coursework with the help of counselors, Dean of Counseling and Student Success Dipte Patel told The Union.

Since counseling is a fundamental part of a student’s success in college, it should not be as difficult as it is for students to get an appointment with a counselor.

ECC students that are unable to book an appointment to see a counselor in person, on the phone or through the online counseling appointment system are instructed to check the website again at midnight because that is when new appointment dates and times are made available to students.

Though it’s understandable that the ECC Counseling Department is hesitant in opening up more appointment times because of the increase in no-shows, they cannot expect students to keep going in every day asking if there is availability.

Students cannot and should not waste their time going in to the Counseling Department on the days that came with making appointments.

Opening up more appointment dates and times would give students a better chance of booking a counseling appointment which is in turn help ease their mind knowing that they will get the help and guidance that they are in search of.

The ECC Counseling Department could also do better in areas of advertising the different types of counseling that they offer.

Communicating to students that every department at ECC has specific counselors would give them a go-to person for anything that they need.

Going to the same counselor to work on an educational plan would reduce the confusion that a student might feel when going to multiple counselors and hearing different instructions or suggestions from each counselor and would ensure that the student stays on track to complete their education plan.

Having more counselors can also be a way to ensure that there are more appointment availability.

According to the ECC Facebook 2017-2018, ECC averaged about 1,350 transfers every year between the years 2013 and 2018. As of fall 2019, there are only five free transfer counselors available to students.

If the same average of students graduate during this school year, then that would mean that each transfer counselor would have to accommodate about 317 students in their schedules.

That number isn’t even taking into consideration the number of other students that these counselors might have to see if they offer counseling in other special programs.

The Union acknowledges that there are things that the ECC Counseling Department cannot control, like the system only opening up appointments at midnight, but there should be other procedures in place to make up for those complications.

Students should never be turned away from counseling and should never be left to feel confused and hopeless about scheduling an appointment for something that could potentially affect their entire lives.

Editorials are assigned and are written and voted upon by the editorial board.

Express Counseling
Students can visit express counselors to answer any general questions or obtain prerequisite clearance.

Express counseling is available in the counseling office.

Students must bring their ECC ID to sign in.

Express Counseling is on a first come, first serve basis.

Source: El Camino College website

The Union is published on designated Thursdays by El Camino College, 12500 Cherry Blvd., Torrance, CA 90509 and is free to the student body and staff.

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College Media Association Newspaper of the Year Award 2015, 2016 (2nd)


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The Union is free to the student body and staff.
One hospital stay helped him appreciate the small things in life

Logan Tahlier
Senior Staff Writer
eCCCUnionLogan

Music can be used as an outlet for many people. It can be used as a stress reliever, a mood booster, or even a way to connect with people they’re working with. Log in on discord and you will find servers ranging from music to gaming to just hanging out. I find it especially helpful when I feel like I bombarded with stressful things and need to take a break from it all.

I spent more time in the music server than I thought I would. I started playing songs that just came into my mind and I was surprised by how much I enjoyed them. I even found a few new artists that I would have never discovered otherwise.

Although I am not a musician myself, I find that music has a power to bring people together. It can be a way to connect with others and to share our experiences. I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to use music as a tool to help me through difficult times.
Omar Rashad/ The Union

Students wait for their counseling appointments outside the Counseling Department Tuesday, Nov. 12. To be the first to make an appointment with a counselor, students need to visit the counseling appointment website at midnights.

E

From left, Warrior Life Editor-in-Chief Kevin Caraparo and The Union’s Managing Editor and News Editor Omar Rashad, Copy Editor Ryan Farrell and Editor-in-Chief Fernando Haro receive awards at the National Medical Association Convention on Saturday, Nov. 2. The Union newspaper and Warrior Life magazine received national awards from the Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Association.

Omar Rashad/ The Union

The Union newspaper and Warrior Life magazine are nationally recognized.
Students build machines for VEX Robotics Competition

[Robotics, from page 1]

The game consists of one initial 15-second round, where both alliances try to score as many points as possible. The next round is one minute and 45 seconds and involves teams’ robots being operated by a driver to complete an objective.

“I think it really lifts the spirits of middle schoolers to get into the STEM field and actually get inspired by this to keep on going in the STEM field because we need more engineers in this world in order to get problems solved,” Robotics Club President Noe Servellon said during the competition.

Servellon added that one of the main benefits of signing up for robotics competitions, such as the VEX Robotics competition, is the fact that young engineers are able to test the durability and usefulness of their robots.

Robots that participated in the VEX competition on Saturday were judged on both design and their respective engineers’ notebooks, which details the manufacturing process of the robot as well as any improvements that had to be made on the robot.

Brandon Marshall, former president of the ECC robotics club and event organizer, said that the competition is the main fundraiser for the robotics club and that the money raised is used to buy robot parts, attend competitions, and for additional items that are used when the club organizes other competitions.

Brinna Lopez, a seventh grader from Jerry D. Holland Middle School, said she signed up for the competition after joining the robotics team at her school due to her interests in building and engineering.

“It’s nerve wracking but it’s also exciting,” Lopez said when asked what the effect of signing up for the VEX Robotics competition is like.

Mely Escalante, a parent who was in attendance supporting her young aspiring engineer, noted that her son Eric has had an interest in robotics since he was five years old when he first started building with LEGO bricks.

“It’s good [to] learn to work with other kids and [different] styles,” Escalante said. “It will prepare them for college and work in the future.”

Upcoming VEX Robotics Competitions

• Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019 at Cabrillo High School
• Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019 at El Camino College
• Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019 at Palos Verdes High School

For more information, visit eccunion.com

A volunteer for the Vex Robotics tournament hosted by the El Camino College Robotics Club in ECC’s South Gym checks Team Village Bot’s robot’s dimensions in the queuing area on Saturday, Nov. 9. Each robot has to fit within certain dimensions, measured by the metal U, in order to qualify for competing.
New Los Angeles County voting system goes into effect
Touchscreen-operated machines speed up process; accommodates voters with disabilities

Merritt Ryan Albin
Copy Editor
@merritt_media

The new Los Angeles County voting system, directed by Voting Systems for All People, debuted around the county on Tuesday, Nov. 5, for special elections including city council seats and ballot measures.

Voting Systems for All People (VSAP) project member Laura Herreras told the Union that the new voting system was launched at 40 different polling places around Los Angeles County with the exception of Rolling Hills Estates who declined to use it.

Dean Logan, a Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder and County Clerk, said that the new change is to provide a voting system that is accessible to all people. This includes, but is not limited to, voters with disabilities, language barriers or hearing impairments.

Logan spoke to audience members at a meeting in the East Dining Room at El Camino College on Saturday, Nov. 2, about the new voting system and how it will be implemented. The system includes the vote centers as well as single-module voting machines that will use QR code technology to make voting easier and faster.

This election will be the final election in which polling places are used in the county for voting. Polling places are set to be replaced by new vote centers in the upcoming 2020 elections, Logan said.

Some audience members expressed concerns over the possibility of hacking and data collection due to the electronic aspect of the machines.

“I think it’s important to be very clear that this isn’t electronic voting,” Logan told the Union. “The voting is still a paper ballot and it’s a human-readable ballot. The device itself does not retain any of the vote-cast data.”

Each new machine will be touchscreen operated and will work by accepting a paper ballot into the machine’s printer and print out the voter’s selections before they officially cast their ballot. Logan said. If any discrepancies or issues arise, voters will be able to speak to vote center staff and a new ballot will be given to recast their votes.

Logan was joined by Representative Maxine Waters, who spoke to the audience about her concerns regarding the new voting system.

“I worry that people are not accustomed to change and change is scary. But I’ve walked through the [new] system,” Waters told the Union. “I really do think it is not complicated.”

Logan added that voting by mail will not be replaced by this system but it will have to be personally requested by voters in order to be sent to them. Both Waters and Logan recommended to audience members to return their mail-in ballots to secure drop-off locations inside of the vote centers to ensure their votes are counted before the election is over.

Merritt Ryan Albin
Copy Editor
@merritt_media

Rosemary Montalvo
The Union

Rep. Maxine Waters greets attendees of the Los Angeles County Voting meeting before introducing Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean C. Logan to present the new way people will vote in future elections.

Hamilton Cloud introduces Rep. Maxine Waters before her speech about the new Los Angeles County voting system Saturday, Nov 2 at the East Dining Room above the Bookstore at El Camino College.

Representative Maxine Waters greet audience of the Los Angeles County Voting meeting before introducing Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean C. Logan.
or straight hair flows behind her as it’s caught in the wind. Her eyes resemble pools of honey and are framed by a pair of dark sunglasses that she wears as she heads to her beginning piano class, elegant but back vibes with every step she takes.

Despite attending her dream school and studying a subject she was not passionate about, Padilla said that she was given the opportunity to study microbiology at Virginia Tech for practical reasons, including the fact that it was an emerging field.

“Tough task, but for 22-year-old Leilani Padilla, it is just another challenge to get over in her journey towards her passion,” Padilla said.

Padilla grew up in the quiet and unincorporated area of Del Aire, California, which is situated between the cities of El Segundo and Hawthorne, yet her life has been anything but quiet.

As she continued studying the piano, Padilla is more than capable of playing the saxophone and accordion. Padilla is also an abstract artist, poet, writer, and aspiring scientist, having studied microbiology at Virginia Tech.

“Tough task, but for 22-year-old Leilani Padilla, it is just another challenge to get over in her journey towards her passion,” Padilla said.

“The future is bright, but the road is tough, but for 22-year-old Leilani Padilla, it is just another challenge to get over in her journey towards her passion,” Padilla said.

Padilla said that she chose to study microbiology at Virginia Tech because she wanted to earn a new way of life, having grown up only in Los Angeles.

“What felt like it was time for me to leave is because I just felt like my growth was stunted here, I didn’t really have my world experience and I wanted a new adventure,” Padilla said.

Despite attending her dream school and studying a subject she was not passionate about, Padilla revealed that she asked her subconscious for vivid dreams while setting up to paint, Padilla also noted that she needs to work on her painting process.

“Every time she sees a color, she sees a landscape. Padilla believes that emotions are always trying to tell us something. It’s the same thing with your daily routine,” Padilla said.

“I think that’s something that society is really lacking. People don’t know how to emotionally regulate, certainly didn’t until I left school and had to learn those things,” Padilla said.

One of Padilla’s goals is to publish her poetry book, “a really fulfilling life isn’t go the microbiology,” Padilla said.

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A professor’s role in the movement that made surfing California’s official sport

Giancarlo Cotta, 21, fire and emergency technology major, one of surf instructor Kurt Peter’s students, rides in front of a wave at The Strand Friday, Oct.11. Peter’s surfing class is only available during the Fall semester. “There is just something about being in the water, being on your own, a you’re out there with your own thoughts whether you’re surfing with friends or by yourself,” Peters said.

The half-mile stretch of beach bordered by the El Segundo Chevron oil refinery looms against the northern sky, extending out to the southern pier. Silhouetted figures of surfers scattered outside the beach break can be observed sitting atop their surfboards since the crack of dawn, idling over the swells of El Porto where the Manhattan Beach Air is blanketed by the constant sound of waves crashing and crumbling into a foamy whiteness.

Every Friday morning during the fall semester, Kurt Peters, an adjunct professor and surfing instructor from El Camino College, marks his ECC class for surfing lessons.

While Peters takes attendance in the parking lot, his class slips into their wetsuits as the locals hanging around having a casual conversation with someone sitting in a van listening to Noei Young’s “Out on the Weekend.”

In no time after that, Peters’s students are out in the water jetting toward the onsets.

The class is in session.

While Peters pop up on a right breaking wave and heads south a few yards with little effort, demonstrating to his students how the techniques of prone paddling can facilitate a good take off on a wave if applied effectively.

“Some grab a handful of their losing just long enough to ride a breaker while others patiently studying the water, waiting for the next set as they catch their breath.

ECC students can sign up for the class during the fall semester and experience the sport that has become an emblem of California culture and the state’s official sport after former Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 1782 (AB 1782) into law last summer. “I’m stoked that surfing is now California’s official sport,” the author of AB 1782 Al Muratsuchi, said in a statement following the bill’s passage into law. “No other sport represents the California dream better than surfing, riding the waves of opportunity and living in harmony with nature.”

The law cites the rich cultural history of the sport created and brought to California by the Polynesian people of Hawaii and lists the number of famous surf breaks scoured along the 1,300-mile stretch of coastline.

A number of indigenous people including the Chumash, the Acjachemen (Pomo), the Akam Mutsun, the Ohlone and the Tehuacanans and Tumayoa, still live within their ancestral lands and have embraced surfing as well.

For those who enroll in Peters’ course, a single unit can be earned.

“Surfing has the ability to connect one to that jump-off place in nature that allows for reflection,” ECC history professor, Arthur Verge told The Union.

Its participants can learn to “appreciate the beauty and the value the ocean has to offer as a source for the many things that help us become healthy and happy human beings,” Verge said. “There’s something very humbling about being in the water,”

The students emphasis the importance of ocean safety, understanding weather conditions, wave selection, the handling of surfboards and safe paddling practices.

“ ‘It’s hard work,” Peters said observing his students from the shore where the break is barely reaches his feet.

For the next hour, the students struggle to pop into a standing position as they’re pounded by 4-foot waves that knock them off their surfboards and send them plummeting into the water.

It’s constantly and physically demanding so you’re always ended. “It’s constantly and physically demanding so you’re always

“ ‘I’ve done it all my life so I can see things in the water that others might not,” Peters said. “And I work to keep them out of danger but the ocean doesn’t take any time out, so that’s one of the things that people will learn sail fast when they’re out there but it’s pretty rewarding, it’s a lot of work but it’s fun.”

— Additional images by Rosemary Montalvo and Jose Tobar.

Rosemary Montalvo

The Union

NOV. 14, 2019

FEATURES

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The Union

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It’s constantly and physically demanding so you’re always ended. “It’s constantly and physically demanding so you’re always

“ ‘I’ve done it all my life so I can see things in the water that others might not,” Peters said. “And I work to keep them out of danger but the ocean doesn’t take any time out, so that’s one of the things that people will learn sail fast when they’re out there but it’s pretty rewarding, it’s a lot of work but it’s fun.”

— Additional images by Rosemary Montalvo and Jose Tobar.

Rosemary Montalvo

The Union

NOV. 14, 2019

FEATURES

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ECC students can sign up for the class during the fall semester

The law cites the rich cultural history of the sport created and brought to California by the Polynesian people of Hawaii and lists the number of famous surf breaks scoured along the 1,300-mile stretch of coastline.

A number of indigenous people including the Chumash, the Acjachemen (Pomo), the Akam Mutsun, the Ohlone and the Tehuacanans and Tumayoa, still live within their ancestral lands and have embraced surfing as well.

For those who enroll in Peters’ course, a single unit can be earned.

“Surfing has the ability to connect one to that jump-off place in nature that allows for reflection,” ECC history professor, Arthur Verge told The Union.

Its participants can learn to “appreciate the beauty and the value the ocean has to offer as a source for the many things that help us become healthy and happy human beings,” Verge said. “There’s something very humbling about being in the water,”

The students emphasis the importance of ocean safety, understanding weather conditions, wave selection, the handling of surfboards and safe paddling practices.

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— Additional images by Rosemary Montalvo and Jose Tobar.
El Camino College men's soccer midfielder Melvyne Perez-Cortez and Los Angeles Harbor College midfielder run to gain possession of the ball during the first round of the South Coast Conference at ECC P.E. and Athletic Field on Friday, Nov. 8. CCC men's soccer team lost in the semifinals to Cerritos College.

Sophomore pitchers named in SoCal preseason All-American list

Baseball players led South Coast Conference in several statistical categories including ERA, wins

**Kealoha Noguchi/The Union**

El Camino Warriors starting pitcher Jimmy Galicia winds and delivers a pitch on a full count against the Cypress Chargers during Game 1 of their California Community College Athletic Association Super Regional playoff series Thursday, May 9, at Warrior Field. Galicia was second in the state with 13 wins.

**Kealoha Noguchi/The Union**

El Camino College pitcher and designated hitter Aaron Orozco follows through after delivering a pitch to a Pasadena City College hitter during the game against PCC on Saturday, March 16 at Warrior Field. Orozco led the South Coast Conference in strikeouts with 114.

**Mari Inagaki/The Union**

Men's soccer team hopes to surpass conference playoff expectations

**Devyn Smith/Special Staff Writer @deccuniondevyn**

As soon as the Warriors looked comfortable, they began controlling the flow of the game. The tempo remained high while the jitters subsided and the Warriors had no problem playing fast.

Every time the ball entered midfield, a battle ensued due to the physicality both teams were playing with. Passing lanes were closed and space to travel with the ball was rare and rare.

Warriors' forward Kaly Silva substituted for Edwards Gradus in the 27th minute and immediately had an impact.

“From the start we had the mindset to come in strong and stay strong. Be the first to put the pressure on and show them what we’re about to do,” Silva said. “I had all that in my mind and I was ready. I came in ready.”

Silva ran straight to the net, crossing ECC teammate Christo Diaz said. “I was getting my defenders. ‘Mark him. Get a little space between him, because they’re sending long balls. And it was mostly the same thing until we got it down and they started经济学家 the flow of the game."

The Warriors played the Cerritos College Falcons (14-4-4) in the second round of the SCC Championships on Sunday, Nov. 12.

“When you get to playoffs and towards the end of the year the physicality goes up, but you can’t get emotional about these situations,” Warriors’ head coach Mike Jacobson said.

“The Warriors lost to the Falcons 4-2 and their run at the conference title is over. They will play for third place in the conference on Friday, Nov. 15, against East Los Angeles College at the Warriors Soccer Field.

“Both Aaron and Jimmy have learned to get better as the game goes on and that’s really important in different pitches and going to their secondary pitches to do anything to get kids out,” Warriors’ assistant Doug Almonte said.

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El Camino College women’s volleyball middle blocker Ginia Goods, No. 4, and outside hitter Mikayla Clark, No. 11, block a spike from Long Beach City Vikings’ opposite hitter Alanna Shields during their match Friday, Nov. 8, in ECC’s South Gym. The Warriors clinched the No. 1 seed in the South Coast Conference tournament.

Women’s volleyball team No. 1 seed in tournament
Warriors set to play Cerritos College in first round of South Coast Conference playoffs

El Camino College man’s water polo team ends playoff drought
Warriors clinch first berth in 26 years, finish fourth in conference tournament

El Camino College men’s water polo team clinched a playoff berth for the first time since 1993 after finishing fourth in the South Coast Conference Championships tournament.

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