

Associated Collegiate Press  
Two-year reporter of the year writing portfolio

**Ethan Cohen**

The Union  
El Camino College

Resume link: <https://tinyurl.com/3sxbs265>

Headlines on the five entry items in this portfolio of pages

1. Feature: Nation sees increase in mass shootings
2. Column: Choosing between my faith and school
3. News story: New holidays could add class days
4. News story: Local jobs prioritized for students
5. News/feature story: Nursing students, employees dissatisfied with program

## Campus lacks electric vehicle chargers

No plans in place for additional ports despite other colleges and universities having more

**Anthony Lipari**  
[@eccunionAnthoL](https://twitter.com/eccunionAnthoL)

Colleges and universities around Southern California have more electric vehicle chargers on their campuses compared to El Camino

College; and so far, officials say there are no plans to add more.

This comes as a new law banning the manufacturing of gas-powered vehicles in California by 2035 and semi-trucks by 2040.

Campus security and access

technician Mitchell Kekauoha said there are no "official" plans to add more electric vehicle chargers.

"There has not been any talk about it," Kekauoha said. "It has been a thought of mine recently; realizing how many people kind

of depend on it right now."

Senior Sales Representative at Scott Robinson Honda Randy Lee said there will be a lot more electric vehicles by 2035, but believes California won't be able to supply the energy needed.

SEE [VEHICLE](#) PAGE 9 →

## Nation sees increase in mass shootings

**Ethan Cohen**  
[@itsecohen](https://twitter.com/itsecohen)

It was a late fall night when Alicia Chaires received a news alert about an active shooter in Redondo Beach.

Chaires' thoughts immediately went to her sister, a police officer, who was on duty that night.

Her stomach dropped.

"[I] had this realization about what could have happened," the former El Camino student said. "You go through this flood of thoughts because you're happy that your family member is safe, but you're also absolutely conflicted with the possible scenarios."

In this situation, Chaires' sister came out safe and was able to return home to her family.

However, tens of thousands of Americans are not able to come out unscathed from mass shootings.

Since the start of 2022, the U.S. alone has gone through 620 mass shootings and an overall 41,234 deaths from gun violence, according to the Gun Violence Archive. Gun violence occurs daily with the highest rates being suicides followed by homicides, according to Gun Violence Archive.

SEE [SAFETY](#) PAGE 5 →



Francisco Esqueda presents an AR-15 rifle at a weapons expo on Friday, Nov. 18 held inside of the North Gym. Ethan Cohen | The Union

## Nursing students, employees dissatisfied with program



From L-R: Stacy Estabillo, Somer Boyd, Emily Angiolini, and Juliana Alba before the fall 2022 nursing cohort's Pinning Ceremony at El Camino College on Dec. 5. Greg Fontanilla | The Union

Khoury Williams [@williamskhoury](https://twitter.com/williamskhoury) [@itsecohen](https://twitter.com/itsecohen) Ethan Cohen

A student strides through the audience at the Board of Trustees meeting and steps behind the podium with poise and confidence.

She brushes her hair out of her face and takes a deep breath before speaking.

"Hello, I'm Emily Angiolini and I'm here on behalf of the fourth-semester cohort," she said. "I am here to discuss issues that we've had with the semi-newly appointed director of the

[nursing] program Dr. Joy.

Angiolini looks across the room, giving direct eye contact with each trustee member and compares the current state of the nursing program to that of a living horror.

"She [Dr. Jeny Joy] has been in office as of two semesters and since that time, it has been an absolute nightmare for us as students working under her," Angiolini said.

Although focused on the challenges


that she and her graduating class have faced, Angiolini said many students and faculty members in the program are faced with numerous issues as well.

Angiolini is one of at least 30 nursing students and employees who have reported disorganization and negligence issues with the nursing program in addition to issues with its current director.

SEE [NURSING](#) PAGES 6 & 7 →

**EDITORIAL**

**Future of EV's**  
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**NEWS**

**Free Parking**  
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**FEATURES**

**Sneaker culture**  
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**SCAN ME**





# Campus remains safe and secure, officials say

→ SAFETY FROM PAGE 1

What garners the most media attention are mass shootings, which are defined as four or more people injured during an incident, as well as mass murders, classified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as four or more people killed.

“We’ve normalized [mass shootings] and we have become numb,” Chaires said.

In Los Angeles County, there were a total of 3,840 deaths from gun violence between 2016 and 2020, with an average rate of 7.4 deaths per 100,000 people, according to Everytown for Gun Safety, a national nonprofit tracking gun violence data.

Officials overseeing many areas accessible to the public, including El Camino College, have taken steps toward improving community safety. Those steps include police reform legislation including Assembly Bill 481, which aims to increase funding transparency and create a public forum for the acquisition of military equipment and weapons by local departments.

“I’ve been in this profession 48 years and it just pains me that we got to do this but the reality of life is this is the world we’re in today,” said El Camino Police Chief Michael Trevis at the Nov. 16, Academic Senate meeting, where the assembly bill was discussed. “It’s not the world I started my profession in [but] I need to keep people informed so they can make informed decisions.”

Detective and firearms instructor Gary Robertson, a 28-year veteran of the El Camino Police Department, spends his time making sure the campus is a safe and secure place so students can focus on learning and educators can focus on teaching.

“For the most part this campus is very safe, I’d have no



El Camino College senior rangemaster Francisco Esqueda fires one of the less lethal weapons that the police department has in its arsenal. Esqueda has been with the department since 1996. Ethan Cohen | The Union

problem with my family going here,” Robertson said. “[We] are trying to have a safe environment that’s conducive to learning.”

While El Camino has not faced any immediate threats, it typically sees instances of assault, drug violations and motor vehicle theft. There have been fewer than five weapons violations from 2019 to 2021. There was also a mass shooting threat in 2014 where a student threatened to create a “Santa Barbara-style massacre” on campus.

“The lowest level of crime or potential crime that we deal with is simply disturbances of the peace,” Robertson said.

Robertson said the campus community is El Camino’s eyes and ears, recommending if students and employees see something that concerns them, they can report it through campus police.

Despite the presence of El Camino police, Chaires’ first impression when she walked to her classes a few years ago was the vast number of entrances that led from the outside into

the heart of campus.

“When I first saw that, I was like OK, this is kind of alarming because anybody can walk onto campus,” Chaires said. “If [people] can walk onto campus so willingly, that means they can walk into the buildings the same way.”

Chaires is not alone.

Many people who work or visit public locations worry about their safety. The El Camino College community is no exception and as a result, conducts active shooter training for employees.

In response, a growing number of consulting services are offered to various institutions including Vince Osorio’s safety firm Shield Assets.

“Wherever you go, whether it’s the mall, going to school or anywhere that has a high population, always keep an eye on what’s going on around you, maintain your situational awareness,” Osorio said. “If you feel the need, go out and seek training on how to respond to an active shooter or an emergency situation.”

Osorio, who is also the current captain of operations at the Gardena Police Department, highlights the importance of preparation for the unknown. One of his main teaching methods, which was developed by the FBI, is “run, hide, fight,” which is intended to be a short, simple concept on how to respond to mass shootings.

“We want to give people options so that they have an understanding of how they should respond to these types of situations,” Osorio said.

While fear does exist, students like Chaires feel there is always more that can be done by those in authority to make them feel safer in their environment.

For example, she would like to see El Camino increase the presence of patrols and officers walking around campus to ease the fears of students and employees.

“It kind of gave me a new perspective on the world,” Chaires said. “Because anything can happen at any given moment.”

## ECC's Arsenal

x1

**Ford Expedition Watch Commanders Vehicle** (Mobile Command Post)

x2

**Heckler & Koch MP5** (Special Rescue Equipment, lethal)

x2

**40mm Foam Round Launcher** (Lewis Machine & Tool Company, less lethal)

x2

**Pepper Ball TAC 700** (Less Lethal Pepper Ball Projectiles)

x3

**Colt 6920 AR-15 Patrol Rifles** (Special Rescue Equipment, lethal)

x4

**Remington 870 12 Gauge Shotgun** (Less Lethal Beanbag Rounds)

21

Stalkings

## El Camino Crime Statistics

The El Camino College District Police Department provides an annual police report compiling all the crimes of the last three years as well as safety information

El Camino Police Department: 310-660-3100

15

Car Thefts

4

Sex Offenses

3

Robberies

3

Assaults

Source: Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act)



## Choosing between my faith and school

### Schools should strive to accommodate their religious students

Ethan Cohen

[@itscecohen](#)

For many students, the fall season means the start of school, catching up with old friends, football games, and pumpkin spice everything.

But for me, it's the most sacred time of year.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the two most important and observed holidays in the Jewish faith.

Rosh Hashanah means more than just the Jewish New Year, but a celebration of the world's creation. The following ten days symbolize reaching out to those we have wronged in search of their forgiveness leading up to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, which is observed by fasting and reconciliation with God in reflection of the past year's sins.

As a Jewish college student, observing these crucial holidays means I will miss two days of school during the first month of the semester.

Is there a project due that day? Will I miss an important test or exam? How do I approach my teachers? Will I be accommodated?

I have asked myself these questions countless times and have to explain my reasoning for my absences from class constantly.

As a young child, I never understood why I was never given these days off.

The Torah teaches us that "work" is prohibited during the High Holidays, which includes writing and using technology. These are not simply "days off," which we can use to complete

homework or study for a test, but intend for us to connect ourselves closer to our religion.

I felt compelled to choose between my faith and being present at school.

I resented listening to the announcements of students that would be receiving awards for perfect attendance.

I rushed to email all my teachers about my absences, turned in schoolwork earlier than the deadlines, and rescheduled tests to take on later dates.

Sometimes, I was left to fend for myself, texting classmates for notes on the day's lesson. While on other occasions, I was met with kindhearted instructors who made accommodations.

When I was a senior in high school, Rosh Hashanah fell on the second day of school, posing a significant challenge for both parents and students as we all struggled to acclimate to the new school year.

Missing two days out of the first month of school interrupts one of the most fundamental times of the academic year: getting back into the rhythm.

Experts say that the opening days of the school year are the most critical to student success.

"The first days of the school year are a time when students establish their initial rapport with teachers or professors and learn about their educators' expectations for the coming year or class," according to the Anti-



Photo illustration (Ethan Cohen | The Union)

Defamation League, an anti-hate organization focusing on issues of antisemitism and bias.

In an era where the Jewish High Holidays are featured on every calendar, the expectation would be that school districts and administrators would strive to accommodate their religious students better.

Through the years, Jewish community leaders have asked local school district officials to grant student holidays so that students and faculty may observe the day without feeling the pressure of missing class.

In 2010, the Redondo Beach Unified School District became the first school district in the South Bay to add Jewish holidays to their yearly calendar as "local holidays," which grants students and faculty time off.

Redondo Unified was followed by Palos Verdes, Torrance, and Manhattan Beach school districts, which now grant one or both student holidays.

More school districts, including college districts, must follow their lead.

By granting district-wide holidays for the two most important days of the Jewish calendar, local school officials can ensure that their campuses are inclusive places where students, regardless of their religion, race, ethnicity and creed, are given the best possible opportunities to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

So as I enter the Jewish year of 5783, I hope that change lies before me and for the many other religious college students who share my struggle.

## Filters are changing the way beauty is seen

### How filters changed how I view myself and the change we need to see

Samantha Quinonez

[@eccunionSamQ](#)

I remember one afternoon I was swiping through TikTok, uninterested.

Every trend is the same.

It was one of those days that every swipe was the same thing.

I swiped into a video of a woman speaking about a filter.

At first, I didn't understand what filter she was implying. The video looked like any other video.

She started talking about how this filter made her feel beautiful, so beautiful that she asked the filter, "Please don't make me look so beautiful, it's going to make me leave my husband."

This video stuck with me for a while. How can a filter make someone feel so beautiful that they would have thought like this?

There was a study conducted by Consumer Reports asking people if they found filter usage troubling or not. They reported that 59% of people said that beauty filters are "troubling."

I didn't understand what it meant for beauty filters to be "troubling." Troubling can be translated in many ways.

One of the most recent troubling events that filter has caused was the recent lawsuit where Texas and Illinois sued Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, temporarily restricting certain filters.

Certain restricted filters were the virtual makeup and add-ons like sunglasses and different hair colors. Filters that younger audiences still use.

Texas and Illinois claimed that Meta was breaking the Capture or Use of Biometric Identifier Act, learning people's faces and biometrics without people's content.

Since the temporary ban on filters, it made me start to

wonder if other places should consider restricting filters as well.

Filters have started to bleed into our everyday lives. It allows the user to alter the world around them.

But even worse, it allows users to alter themselves into whatever they want.

At a young age, I still remember when filters started to become a new trend. The puking rainbow filter was on everyone's feed.

I still remember trying it out with my friends from my choir class. We laughed quietly in the back of the class. Scared Mrs. Chong would catch us.

Little did I know that it would shape the way I saw myself.

I don't remember taking a picture that doesn't have a filter.

I always thought my photos looked better with a filter on.

I relied on a filter that made me feel beautiful.

Knowing this scared me.

Another thing that scared me was I

**"I relied on a filter that made me feel beautiful."** wasn't the only one who felt this way.

To know that other people feel this way is both troubling and comforting.

Comforting to know that other people feel this way but troubling to know that something as small as filters allowed us to justify ourselves.

I should've known this would shape me, and I should've known I relied on a filter to make me beautiful.

I didn't know until I started constantly using filters in my photos.

I look back, and all I see in pictures of myself are red horns on top of my head, the one with the pink hearts on top of my head, or the one that made my voice a few octaves too high.

I think there should be restrictions on filters. I think it will help people become more confident in themselves.

The only way people accept something is when they realize that they are not alone.

I felt alone in this troubling thought, and for a long time, I thought I was alone.

I kept it to myself and didn't tell anyone what I thought.

To know that 59% of other individuals feel the same way makes me realize that even amid everything, we can allow ourselves to be understood.

I don't think this problem will be solved overnight, and it will take years to unlearn this issue that took years to develop.

I believe if we allow Meta to continue evolving into what it is becoming, we will fall further into the cycle of not allowing ourselves to be our authentic selves.



# New holidays could add class days

Debate over calendar puts college officials in a bind over missed sessions

Ethan Cohen

@itsecohen

In an attempt to observe more multicultural holidays, the Academic Senate is in the midst of settling the debate over adding extra days to future semesters.

The discussion, which took place during an Academic Senate meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 15, debates the proposal of adding Indigenous People's Day, Cesar Chavez Day and Juneteenth as holidays during the 2024-2025 academic year.

The hurdle for the Academic Senate and the delegated body of the Calendar Committee is the required course hours for classes taken during the academic semester.

"The biggest discussion point in the last five years of the Calendar Committee is why all of our vacation holidays always land on Mondays," Vice President of Student Services Ross Miyashiro said during the meeting.

Miyashiro said the biggest impact would be Monday-only classes and specifically those in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

"We don't want to shortchange students, so we need to create more faculty-student contact time by either adding hours or days," Miyashiro said. "By adding days, we mean three hours in one day or out of that six [course] meetings, 10 to 20 minutes each medium."

However, this only affects

short-term and Monday-only classes as the normal 16-week semester already accounts for the addition of Monday holidays.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Carlos Lopez told The Union after the meeting the addition of extra holidays to the academic calendar would be "a little bit tricky" because it involves changing the calendar to fit the needs of course time requirements.

"Those holidays take out instructional time," Lopez said. "If we have a 16-week semester like we have here at El Camino, and we have Monday-only classes that are scheduled for the full term [including] two Monday holidays, that class only gets to meet 14 times."

Lopez, however, is not a proponent of adding little time to the end of every Monday



Academic Senate President Darcie McClelland believes that adding an extra 10 minutes to each lab would result in her having to teach less curriculum. Ethan Cohen | The Union

President of the Academic Senate and biology professor Darcie McClelland said the

giving me an extra 10 minutes spread apart by multiple weeks doesn't really help me get that lab in. I would absolutely need another class period to be able to teach that last lab or I would just have to teach less curriculum."

McClelland said adding these holidays to the calendar is important and that no one on the Academic Senate is disputing that idea.

However, McClelland believes the major concern is ensuring students have enough time in the classroom to move on to the next level.

"Every time you put in a holiday, that's less hours that we are teaching our students," McClelland said, "so there's just this concern and making sure that we have the time that we need to be able to give our students what they need to be successful going forward."

**"The biggest discussion point in the last five years of the Calendar Committee is why all of our vacation holidays always land on Mondays."**

— Ross Miyashiro, vice president of Student Services

class due to the potential of students missing whole lab sessions.

"Losing a single day can have a major impact on classes and therefore cause us to add time to [the rest of the available sessions]," Lopez said.

biggest impact would be on lab classes because adding an extra 10 minutes at the end of every class does not benefit the students or the faculty.

"I teach labs and each lab is an entire section, that takes three hours," McClelland said. "So

and even with that I think we've still managed to put out some of our greatest work that I've seen in my time being on The Union," Williams said.

The Union's senior staff writer Kim McGill was honored with two awards, including second place for Two-year College Reporter of the Year.

McGill has been a reporter for the program since the fall

of 2021 and said being honored was a surprise to her.

"Winning this award was due to the professors and editors and the people who share their stories," McGill said.

Student media adviser and journalism professor Stefanie Frith has been in the adviser role for the journalism department since 2014.

Frith said one of the highlights was being able to

take students to conferences and the ability for them to meet with other college journalists and industry professionals.

The journalism program has a selection of their awards on display in the hallway outside of the newsroom location in the Humanities Building.

Dean of Humanities Debra Breckheimer said when the team returns from award ceremonies like this, she feels

like a proud mom.

"It gives me bragging rights when reporting to bosses and colleagues," Breckheimer said. "It legitimizes all the hard work [the program does] and brings more recognition to the campus."

To read more, visit The Union website at [eccunion.com](http://eccunion.com)

## ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### 1800:

Congress holds its 1st session inside Washington, D.C., in an unfinished Capitol Building

### 1863:

Abraham Lincoln begins first draft of his Gettysburg Address

### 1869:

Suez Canal in Egypt opens, linking the Mediterranean and Red seas

### 1913:

The first ship sails through the Panama Canal, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans

### 2003:

Britney Spears, at 21 years old, becomes the youngest singer to get a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

#### → AWARDS FROM PAGE 1

"[I am] just real happy, real proud of our team, proud of everyone's work ethic this semester," Williams said.

Williams continued to praise The Union staff by reflecting on the obstacles that they have been able to overcome during the fall semester.

"This semester has been a tough one because we've lost editors, we've lost a reporter

## JOURNALISM AWARDS

### Associated Collegiate Press Best of Show Awards:

Two-year College Website: First Place

Two-year College Digital Newsletter: Second Place

Two-year college feature magazine: Third place

Two-year college newspaper: Ninth place

"The Pacemaker 100" honors.

### Associated Collegiate Press Individual Awards:

Reporter of the Year: Second place – Kim McGill

Editorial Cartoon: Fourth place – Mackenzie Matt

News Story: Honorable mention – Delfino Camacho

Feature Photo: Honorable mention – Gary Kohatsu

### College Media Association Pinnacle Awards:

Two-year college Website of the Year: First Place

Best Diversity Coverage of the Year: Third Place

Best Column: Third place – Kim McGill

Two-year Best College Media Outlet of the Year: Honorable mention

Best Magazine Sports Page/Spread: Honorable mention



## Local jobs prioritized for students

College officials to work directly with area businesses to develop partnerships

**Ethan Cohen**  
[@itsecohen](https://twitter.com/itsecohen)

In an effort to create more jobs and opportunities for students, El Camino College is working with local businesses and employers to foster

partnerships and pipelines into the workforce.

Aiming to build on the last 75 years of achievements, President Brenda Thames spearheaded the 5th Annual State of the College event by highlighting the college's

commitment to serving the community.

"We are creating change," Thames said.

The president said the hope for the future is to collaborate with local businesses in creating relationships to help provide

more opportunities for students including job fairs, work experience and internships.

"[We are] providing pathways, not only into college but also into the workforce," Thames said to The Union.

SEE [JOBS](#) PAGE 4 →

## The Union brings home national awards

**Eddy Cermeno**  
[@eccunioneddy](https://twitter.com/eccunioneddy)

Journalism students from El Camino College brought home top honors from two nationally renowned college media organizations, including two first-place awards for best college website and a second-place award for best digital newsletter.

Both Warrior Life magazine and The Union publications were honored at "MediaFest22," a convention hosted by The Society of Professional Journalists, Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Association. The event took place in Washington, D.C., between Oct. 27 and Oct. 30.

Some notable awards the journalism program received were in the Associated Collegiate Press "Pacemaker 100" award for the top 100 colleges and multiple College Media Association Pinnacle awards, including first place for two-year College Website of the Year.

The Union's editor-in-chief Khoury Williams said these awards meant a lot to him because they are reflective of his time put into the leadership of the program.

SEE [AWARDS](#) PAGE 5 →

# Tobacco ban will harm local businesses



Cashier Danial Alrabdi showcases "Grabba Leaf" one of J'S Smoke Shop's top selling flavored tobacco products. Alrabdi said that the flavored tobacco ban is bad for businesses because the shop will lose a lot of revenue their products make. *Khoury Williams | The Union*

**Igor Colosso** [@ECCUnionIgor](https://twitter.com/ECCUnionIgor)

As a smoke shop owner, Rakan Abdul makes a reasonable percentage of his revenue from the sale of flavored tobacco products and e-cigarettes.

After a 2020 law went into effect banning stores from selling most flavored tobacco products and tobacco product flavor enhancers, Abdul was afraid that it would hinder his business in the community.

The referendum was put up to a vote

and officially passed during the Nov. 8 midterm election with over 60% of early voters favoring the ban stay in place. The final results will be certified by Dec. 16 and will go into effect no later than Dec. 21.

"One, it's killing my business," Abdul said. "menthols [are] the same for flavored and regular cigarettes... it's people's decision on whether they want to smoke."

According to CalMatters, Proposition

31 gave voters the choice to either rescind the 2020 law prohibiting the legalization and sale of flavored tobacco products or uphold the current ban on the products.

Abdul, the owner of J'S Smoke Shop on the corner of Artesia and Crenshaw Blvd., said the confirmation of the ban could be extremely harmful to his business and the way people smoke should not be decided by the state.

SEE [SMOKE](#) PAGE 4 →

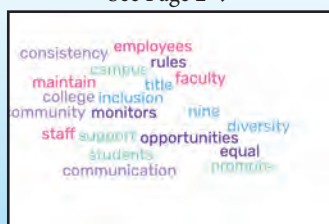


The Union staff flies in to Washington D.C. for MediaFest22. The publication was recognized as a "Pacemaker 100" recipient. *Ethan Cohen | The Union*

**EDITORIAL**

### Title IX

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**FEATURES**

### Japanese incarceration

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**SPORTS**

### Season highlights

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**SCAN ME**





# Voters uphold ban on flavored tobacco

→ **SMOKE** FROM PAGE 1

Owning a total of six smoke shops, Abdul said 20% of his revenue in Gardena comes from vapes and flavored cigarettes. At an average price of \$15 per unit and approximately 30 customers a day, Abdul is losing roughly \$13,500 in flavored tobacco and e-cigarettes revenue per month.

Abdul said that although he is taxed heavily on flavored tobacco products, the high taxes are being invested into programs throughout the state that he sees as a benefit for the community.

The California Electronic Cigarette Excise Tax, enacted on July 1 of this year, imposes a 12.5% tax on all nicotine products for retailers. The funds from the taxes go specifically toward loan repayment grants for California physicians and dentists.



**Rakan Abdul** owner of J'S Smoke Shop says the law would severely affect his business.

Igor Colonna | The Union

Campaigns on both sides are heavily financed throughout the state. However, the campaign to uphold the ban on flavored tobacco leads with large amounts of expenditures made and contributed to its campaign.

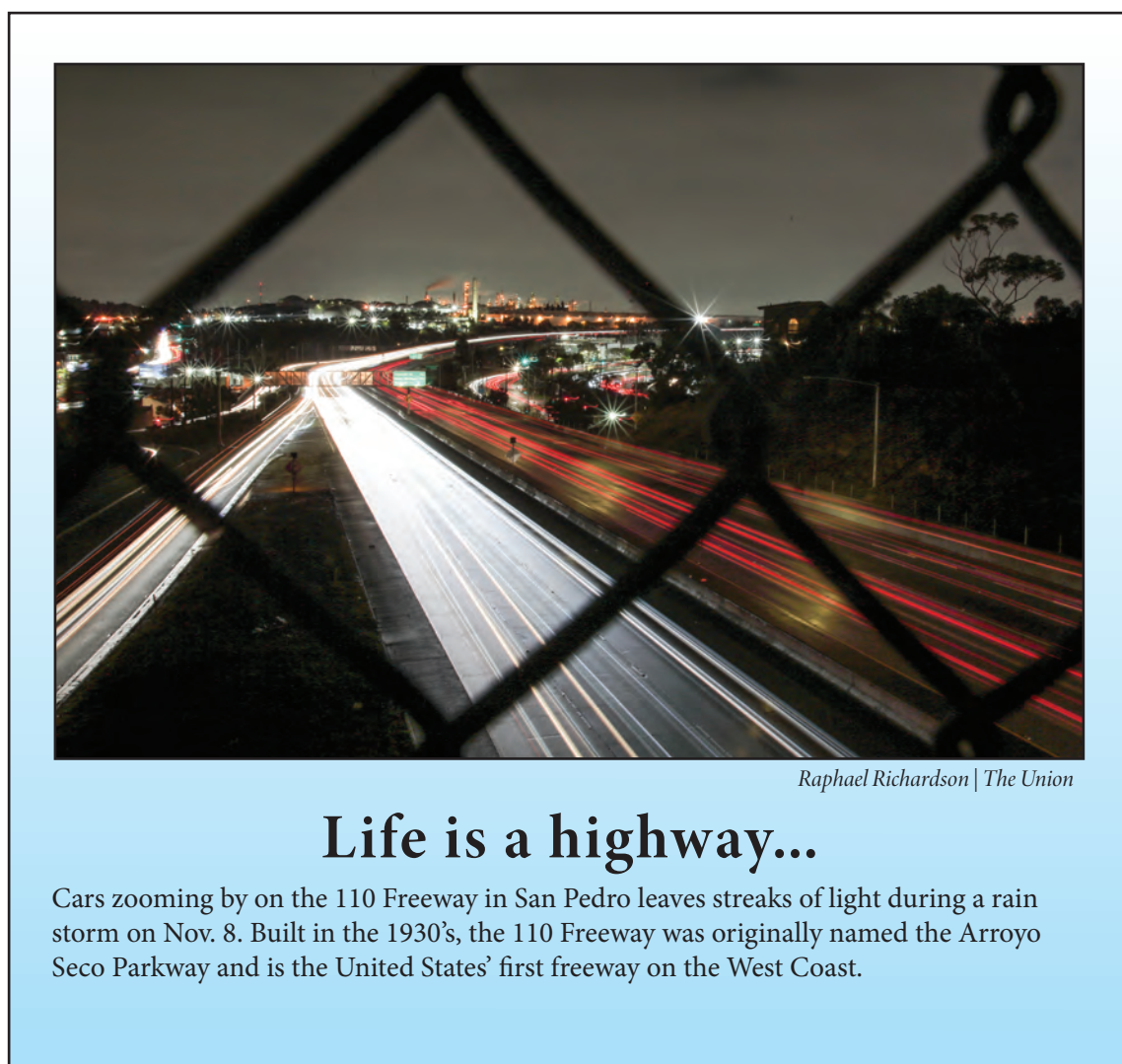
According to the California Secretary of State website, total expenditures for the 'yes' vote used its funds for television and print advertisements, campaign consultants, polling research and other spending was approximately \$29,170,000 in the 10-month period, ranging between Jan. 1 to Oct. 22.

The California Teachers Association, one of the largest and most powerful unions in the state backing the ban on flavored tobacco, said two million middle and high school students use e-cigarettes and four out of five children who have used tobacco started with a flavored product.

In addition, the California Teachers Association added that the majority of youth e-cigarette users say they use e-cigarettes "because they come in flavors I like."

For the 'no' vote, total expenditures are significantly lower at approximately \$2,185,000 ranging from the same time period. However, the contributions received total \$16,577,978 and are mostly from big tobacco companies.

Noe Negrete, 51, who owns



Raphael Richardson | The Union

## Life is a highway...

Cars zooming by on the 110 Freeway in San Pedro leaves streaks of light during a rain storm on Nov. 8. Built in the 1930's, the 110 Freeway was originally named the Arroyo Seco Parkway and is the United States' first freeway on the West Coast.

the smoke shop adjacent to El Camino on Crenshaw Boulevard, told The Union that around 35% of revenue from his store comes from these products.

"If [it becomes] illegal it would cause more uproar and it would release [people's] frustration, and based on the individual it could lead to violence," Negrete said.

Negrete said vapes also help people as a tool for escapism, serving as a relaxant for many.

Political science professor

Joshua Casper said there are positives and negatives to both sides of the campaign.

"If the law stays intact the health of those that are smoking tobacco is generally improved," Casper said. "If we overturn it, we do lose millions of dollars but there are other streams of revenue that make more than that. We still tax a high rate for other tobaccos, [it's] going to keep other tobaccos for adults, but we're not gonna worry more about youth using flavored tobacco."

Casper said states carry the legal rights of people's health, so the state legally holds control over the responsibility of its constituents. However, the populace is still given the right to vote on whether or not they want to ban flavored tobacco products.

The ban will be in place by Dec. 21 and store owners will be expected to comply with California law.

To read more, visit [The Union website at eccunion.com](http://TheUnion.com)

# Internships, job fairs to be made more accessible

→ **JOBS** FROM PAGE 1

"Sometimes that's simultaneously, like with careers in STEM technology, career technical education that also comes with work experience, internships and apprenticeships that students do at the same time [while taking classes]," Thames said.

While the main focus was on featuring the advancements in STEM-related fields, the speech reiterated that providing tools for all students and their educational goals is the central principle of the college.

Director of Public Information and Government Relations Kerri Webb said that the intention for the event was to

iterate the college's goal to equip students with real-world, applicable trades to use in the workforce.

In recent years, El Camino College has been a hub for student innovation, spotlighting the new "Makerspace" in the library.

The Makerspace is a student-led initiative that includes 3D printing, virtual reality headsets, a video recording studio and a podcast studio to name a few.

Student speaker and electrical engineering major Moises Santander said with the guidance of El Camino, he was able to launch a new 3D printing startup with other students that

are now supported by NASA.

"El Camino has a vast array of opportunities," Santander said. "There is so much support for anything and everything that you want to do here."

Santander, hoping to create high-quality, consumer-grade 3D printers that are affordable, explains that the opportunities lay out there, but students just need to find them.

"You just got to reach out, you know, talk to people," Santander said. "Don't be afraid to tell people about your ideas because you will find someone that can support you along the way."

With growing trends in the digital industry, El Camino College officials are developing

pathways, courses and business partnerships that speak to the needs of students and the industry.

Principal Program Manager for Microsoft and speaker Heather Cook Newman said that with her experience in employee engagement, she believes students are looking for programs that support their needs in earning a degree and entering the workforce.

"I think at the end of the day, people are just looking for opportunities that they're interested in, where they can make an impact and then find themselves a career," Newman told The Union after her speech.

The theater major from

Washington University said workplace culture is a significant factor in the future demographic of workers and learning together as a team is what people want.

"[People] don't want to be taken advantage of, you know, they don't want toxic work environments," Newman said. "They want to have a healthy culture... I think people are looking for places that care about them."

"El Camino is one of the premier community colleges in the nation," Torrance Mayor George Chen said.

## Police Beat

Information courtesy of El Camino College Police Department

The Union publishes police beats online with each newspaper release.

Visit [eccunion.com](http://eccunion.com) to read more.

### Monday, Oct. 24, at 9:59 p.m.

A report of a reckless driving incident occurred in Lot L. The driver had no license and was issued a warning.

### Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 9:04 a.m.

A hit and run was reported near 3200 Manhattan Beach Blvd.; campus police had assistance from an outside agency.

### Thursday, Oct. 27, at 10:31 a.m.

A hit and run was reported on Crenshaw Boulevard and 164th Street; the case is now closed.

### Friday, Oct. 28, at 7:08 a.m.

A vehicle trespassing in the Maintenance Yard was reported; a warning was issued and the subject released.

### Tuesday, Nov. 1, unknown time.

A laptop was stolen; the case is still open and under investigation.

### Saturday, Nov. 5, at 10:12 a.m.

A catalytic converter was stolen; the case is open and is under investigation.



## Campus lacks electric vehicle chargers

No plans in place for additional ports despite other colleges and universities having more

**Anthony Lipari**  
[@eccunionAnthoL](https://twitter.com/eccunionAnthoL)

Colleges and universities around Southern California have more electric vehicle chargers on their campuses compared to El Camino

College; and so far, officials say there are no plans to add more.

This comes as a new law banning the manufacturing of gas-powered vehicles in California by 2035 and semi-trucks by 2040.

Campus security and access

technician Mitchell Kekauoha said there are no “official” plans to add more electric vehicle chargers.

“There has not been any talk about it,” Kekauoha said. “It has been a thought of mine recently; realizing how many people kind

of depend on it right now.”

Senior Sales Representative at Scott Robinson Honda Randy Lee said there will be a lot more electric vehicles by 2035, but believes California won’t be able to supply the energy needed.

SEE [VEHICLE](#) PAGE 9 →

## Nation sees increase in mass shootings

**Ethan Cohen**  
[@itsecohen](https://twitter.com/itsecohen)

It was a late fall night when Alicia Chaires received a news alert about an active shooter in Redondo Beach.

Chaires’ thoughts immediately went to her sister, a police officer, who was on duty that night.

Her stomach dropped.

“[I] had this realization about what could have happened,” the former El Camino student said. “You go through this flood of thoughts because you’re happy that your family member is safe, but you’re also absolutely conflicted with the possible scenarios.”

In this situation, Chaires’ sister came out safe and was able to return home to her family.

However, tens of thousands of Americans are not able to come out unscathed from mass shootings.

Since the start of 2022, the U.S. alone has gone through 620 mass shootings and an overall 41,234 deaths from gun violence, according to the Gun Violence Archive. Gun violence occurs daily with the highest rates being suicides followed by homicides, according to Gun Violence Archive.

SEE [SAFETY](#) PAGE 5 →



Francisco Esqueda presents an AR-15 rifle at a weapons expo on Friday, Nov. 18 held inside of the North Gym. Ethan Cohen | The Union

## Nursing students, employees dissatisfied with program



From L-R: Stacy Estabillo, Somer Boyd, Emily Angiolini, and Juliana Alba before the fall 2022 nursing cohort’s Pinning Ceremony at El Camino College on Dec. 5. Greg Fontanilla | The Union

Khoury Williams [@williamskhoury](https://twitter.com/williamskhoury) [@itsecohen](https://twitter.com/itsecohen) Ethan Cohen

A student strides through the audience at the Board of Trustees meeting and steps behind the podium with poise and confidence.

She brushes her hair out of her face and takes a deep breath before speaking.

“Hello, I’m Emily Angiolini and I’m here on behalf of the fourth-semester cohort,” she said. “I am here to discuss issues that we’ve had with the semi-newly appointed director of the

[nursing] program Dr. Joy.

Angiolini looks across the room, giving direct eye contact with each trustee member and compares the current state of the nursing program to that of a living horror.

“She [Dr. Jeny Joy] has been in office as of two semesters and since that time, it has been an absolute nightmare for us as students working under her,” Angiolini said.

Although focused on the challenges

that she and her graduating class have faced, Angiolini said many students and faculty members in the program are faced with numerous issues as well.

Angiolini is one of at least 30 nursing students and employees who have reported disorganization and negligence issues with the nursing program in addition to issues with its current director.

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**SCAN ME**



# The trials and tribulations of the

→ **NURSING** FROM PAGE 1

During the nursing program's pinning ceremony on Dec. 5, a historic tradition where the graduating class is honored with a wearable pin, El Camino College's President Brenda Thames highlighted the issues the students are facing.

"This cohort of students has had to navigate an exceptionally challenging change within the structure and administration of the program...in the midst of this, we have heard the voices of those individuals who so passionately made their concerns known," Thames said. "We understand that this experience was not the experience that you imagined and it was not the experience [administration] imagined for you."

El Camino's nursing program is currently ranked 37th out of 134 total nursing schools in the state of California and ranked 144 out of 1,700 nursing programs nationally.

The program also boasts a 94% passing rate for the National Council Licensure Exam, 10% higher than the national average of 84%.

The National Council

Licensure Exam is a mandatory test given to all nursing students where they must pass in order to be licensed as a registered nurse in the United States and Canada.

After the previous nursing director Wanda Morris retired, Jeny Joy was hired in September 2021, at which point, nursing students and employees have reported numerous issues since the beginning of her tenure. She previously worked at College of the Canyons and West Coast and Stanbridge universities.

"[The nursing department] has been dealing with this for over six months and it's got to a point... where it's frankly unlivable for us as students," Angiolini said.

The most pressing issue that Angiolini and graduating students said they dealt with was a lack of planning and organization with their pinning ceremony.

When the fall semester began on Aug. 29, the fourth-semester nursing students were sent a mass email informing them of Joy's intention to request one of two venues to reserve for the pinning ceremony on Dec. 12: The Campus Theater, Haag Recital Hall or Marsee

Auditorium.

The venues and dates for the pinning ceremony were also listed in the nursing student handbook which details what students can expect from the ceremony and allows them to plan accordingly.

Even with the email of intent and a plan of action as highlighted within the student handbook, several weeks passed without any confirmation of the fall 2022 pinning ceremony date.

"The first week of school, our Professor Dr. White said 'Dr. Joy is going to be figuring out the venue. You should know by next week,'" Angiolini said. "Weeks go by... like two weeks, three weeks, we haven't heard anything. We're asking what is happening."

With help from Center of the Arts Director Rick Christophersen, Angiolini herself placed a booking hold on the Campus Theatre for Dec. 5 but according to Angiolini, this posed a problem for Joy.

According to Angiolini, Joy had intentions of booking the Haag Recital Hall for the pinning ceremony on Dec. 12, however, the Haag Recital Hall has a maximum capacity of 125 people and approximately 300 guests were expected to be in attendance.

"This was an issue [Joy] created all because of her own shortcomings and because she didn't request and book a venue when she was supposed to," Angiolini said. "This is a bi-annual occurrence and there's a very specific week and day that they do it, so they could book this in advance and I don't know why this wasn't booked annually."

After several meetings and email sent between the nursing students and college administration and after a public statement made by Angiolini during the Oct. 17 Board of Trustees meeting,



President and Superintendent Brenda Thames speaks to attendees at a pinning ceremony. Thames said she acknowledges the perseverance of the fall 2022 fourth semester cohort.

the fourth-semester students did not receive confirmation of a venue booking until Oct. 21, almost two months after the original email was sent on Aug. 29.

During an interview with The Union, Vice President of Academic Affairs Carlos Lopez said that due to the difficulties with scheduling, it took more time than anticipated to find alternative options for the fourth-semester students.

"As Dr. Joy indicated, [administration] had some complications with the schedule and the venues we would traditionally use," Lopez said. "And that took some time to be able to find and determine and decide the alternate date and the alternate venue that's suitable for this type of event."

During the same interview, Joy said the order of precedence in booking venues places Marsee Auditorium first, the Campus Theatre second and the Haag Recital Hall last.

Both Joy and Lopez confirmed there was a scheduling conflict with Marsee Auditorium for Dec. 12.

The pinning ceremony took place on Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. where 44 nursing graduates were honored and celebrated.

**"We understand the experience was not what you imagined and it was not the experience [administration] imagined for you."**

— Brenda Thames, president

Although the fourth-semester students prioritized the mishandling of their pinning ceremony, several told The Union they recognize the severity of different issues that the program has endured when concerning the nursing faculty and students outside of the fourth-semester



Emily Angiolini stands by the Campus Theater moments before the pinning ceremony begins on Dec. 5. Raphael Richardson | The Union



# fourth semester nursing cohort



ceremony for nursing program graduates in the Campus Theatre, on Dec. 5. Thames  
ort as they faced several challenges during the semester. Raphael Richardson | The Union

that Joy frequently changes the rules and guidelines set for the program without reason.

"[Joy] makes changes not because they're necessary or because they're proven to be needed by the Board [of Registered Nurses] or because we're not meeting requirements," Angiolini said. "It's a constant of this is just how [Joy] wants it and she doesn't want to hear anybody's opposition to it."

The Union received the 2022 - 2023 handbook directly from the nursing students.

After speaking with at least 32 students and employees about the dissatisfaction expressed with the state of the nursing program, The Union scheduled an interview with Joy on Dec. 1.

Upon arrival at the interview, The Union expected to meet with Joy and Director of Public Information and Government Relations Kerri Webb, however, The Union's editors were also joined by Dean of Natural Sciences Amy Grant, Registrar of Admissions & Records Lillian Justice, in addition to Joy, Webb, and Lopez.

The Union provided the administration members in attendance with documents regarding issues with the pinning ceremony issues, the nursing student syllabus and the handbook.

Whenever The Union provided student and employee testimonies, the college's administration referred to the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as to why they could not speak on individual cases.

"Per FERPA, [Joy] is not allowed to discuss any specifics in regards to the [student] complaint," Webb said.

Enacted in 1974, FERPA is a law that provides protection

for identifiable data kept within a student's educational records.

FERPA not only grants students the ability to access their educational records but also protects a student's record from disclosure to third party sources.

Student Press Law Center's Senior Legal Counsel Mike Hiestand said he believes El Camino College's administration is misguided in their approach.

"I think that [the administration] is probably misguided if [the information] hasn't actually been put into a record. They are misguided in saying that FERPA is the reason they don't have to provide that information," Hiestand said. "They don't have to provide that information simply because they don't have to provide it."

Hiestand said that the administration should not have referred to FERPA when discussing issues concerning college employees because the law specifically covers students.

Similarly to the concerns brought up by the nursing students and employees, The Union was unsuccessful in obtaining information as to why the program has

undergone changes since Joy was hired.

The fourth semester cohort reached out to administration, filed grievances and publicly spoke out against Joy and the nursing program on various occasions. Angiolini said that when the nursing students' issues were ignored, they took it upon themselves to book the Campus Theatre in order to accommodate guests at the pinning ceremony.

Angiolini said the main reason she decided to speak out against the nursing program was to help the current and future students and employees of the program.

"Clearly nobody cares, nobody is doing anything. We've met with people and no one seems to see this as an issue," Angiolini said. For us [students], it got to the point where we can't live like this anymore and we don't want other students to have to deal with this. We don't want our professors to quit their jobs. That's why we're fighting."

To read more, visit The Union website at [eccunion.com](http://eccunion.com)

cohort.

A nursing employee who asked to remain anonymous due to privacy concerns said although the faculty loves their jobs, currently, the department as a whole is not in a good place.

"It's just a sucky situation

that this  
not the experience  
and it was not  
administration]

"  
nt of El Camino College

right now...[instructors] could make a lot more money working as regular nurses within a hospital and we don't do it," the anonymous employee said. "We work at El Camino because we love our job, we love what we do and we want to make good nurses, however, it's really

hard to like what we do, it's just not enjoyable right now."

The anonymous employee said that a lot of the nursing employees in the department are undecided on whether or not they want to stay and endure the challenges that they have to face in their workplace environment.

Asked if there were any extenuating factors affecting the current state of the program, the anonymous employee said it's directly due to Joy.

The anonymous employee said the program is constantly changing its guidelines and expectations upon students, creating barriers between the students and accessing their educational needs.

Students have reported that rules and guidelines listed within the student handbook are constantly changing.

Unlike the previous academic year, the 2022 - 2023 nursing student handbook has not been made available to the public. Several students told The Union



Students walk down the aisle of the Campus Theatre for their pinning ceremony rehearsal on Monday, Dec. Ethan Cohen | The Union