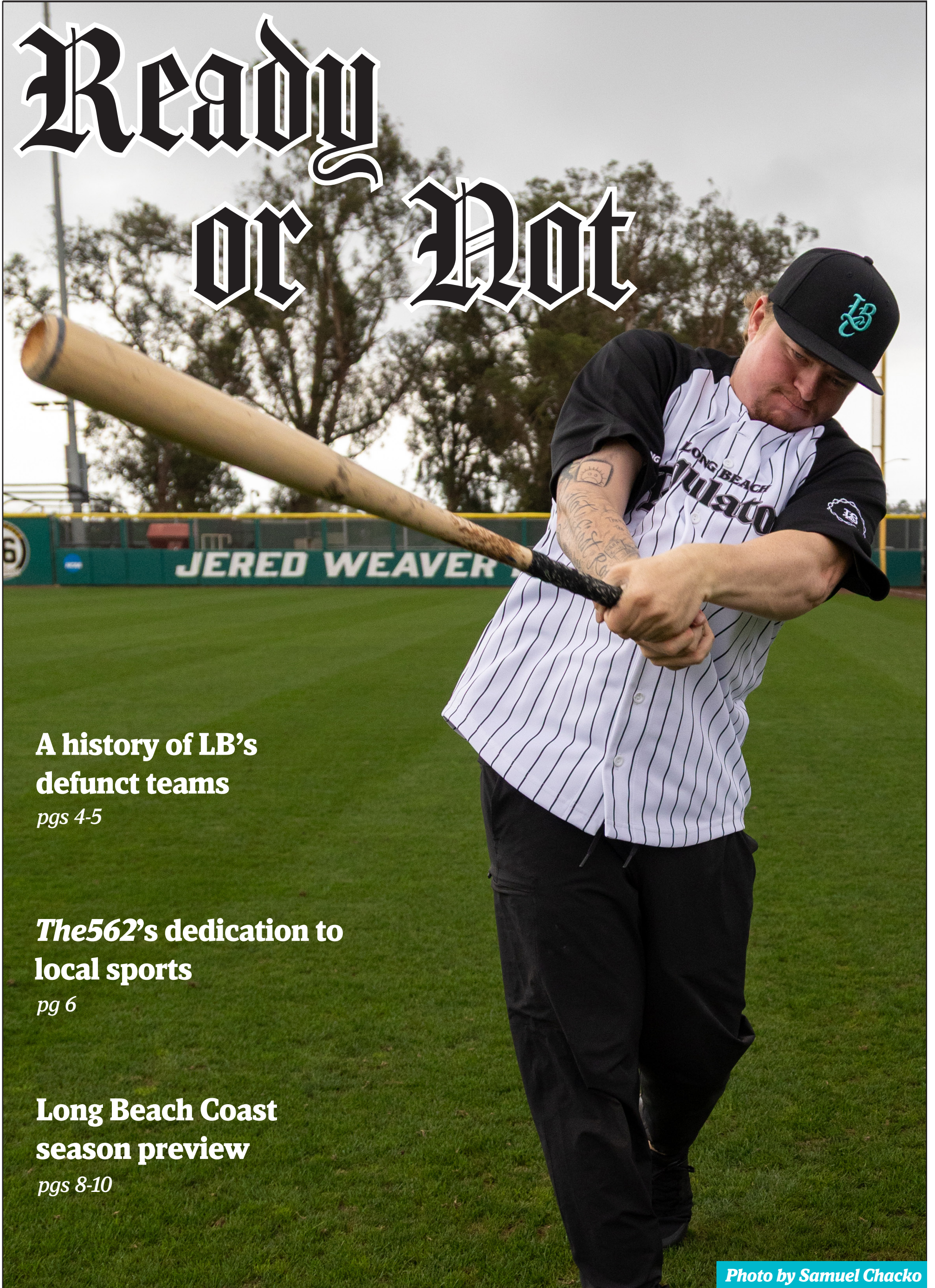




Ready or Not



**A history of LB's
defunct teams**

pgs 4-5

**The 562's dedication to
local sports**

pg 6

**Long Beach Coast
season preview**

pgs 8-10

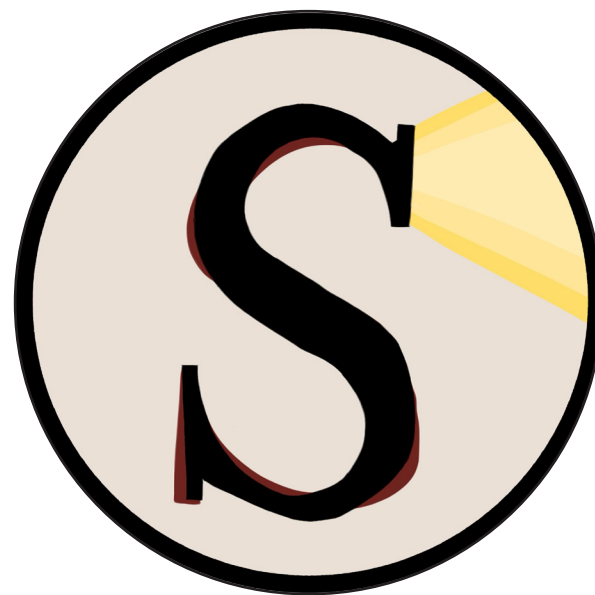
Photo by Samuel Chacko

Allow us to re-introduce ourselves

Over the last few months, we've been discussing what role we want to play in our community. We've been reaching out to our readers more often, asking what they want in their newsletters and inviting them to be a part of our newspaper, which is really *their newspaper* — *your newspaper*.

When we cover issues, it's usually because our readers pointed us in that direction. Through emails, messages and comments on social media, or during interviews. We can't call ourselves a community newspaper without the community, and we take pride in how much we listen to our audience.

So, what's our role if you, our reader, guide our coverage? That's where our new logo comes in. Just like the smoke signals used by Native tribes atop Signal Hill, just like the lighthouses scattered amongst Long Beach's beaches, we want to be a spotlight and a beacon for our community.



We aim to be a beacon for people who need help locating resources in their community such as food, clean water, affordable housing, clothing and basic utilities. We'll also highlight affordable fun, sports, free ways to connect with their neighbors or a safe place to just hang out and exist.

We also pledge to make this newspaper work for our community, giving power to those who cannot use their voice due to legal, racial, economic or environmental injustices, corruption or inequalities of power. We aim to shine a light on systems in Long Beach and Signal Hill that are not serving the people the way they are intended to by pursuing answers to our readers' questions, sharing information, and amplifying resources to empower people to fight these corrupt systems.

We will use this beacon wisely, carefully considering in what ways we cover various neighborhoods. Not every crime warrants a story detailing the victim's name and location — that's not public safety. Instead, we'll aim to analyze the root of the different types of violence in our community and how we might fix it, without exploiting survivors or those already suffering. We'll highlight those already fighting harmful systems and share their expertise until it's common knowledge.

We also aim to be a beacon for the community to use as they see fit, welcoming collaborations to reach more residents, promoting local businesses, nonprofits and resources, and inviting people to publish their ideas and beliefs in our Opinion section.

We hope our new logo embodies that promise.

By picking up this paper, you're already an important part of the *Signal Tribune*. Want to get involved? Have a story or news tip to share? Just want to get something off your chest? Reach out to us at Newspaper@SignalTribune.com. We look forward to meeting you.

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RESOURCES

Easter egg hunts, giveaways and a donation drive to celebrate the holiday



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A volunteer for the Local Hearts Foundation poses for a picture with some of the Easter baskets the organization gave away at the Baskets and Pancakes event at MacArthur Park on April 16, 2022.

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

Many families stress themselves out trying to coordinate the perfect Easter egg hunt for their children and family members. Others struggle to put together an Easter basket for a much-deserving child.

Luckily, Long Beach has plenty of events to help out, either with Easter egg hunts throughout the city or giveaways for parents and children. There's even a donation drive for those who want to help someone else out this holiday.

All events take place on Saturday, April 4 and are free unless stated otherwise.

Egg Hunt in the Heights: 9 a.m. The Belmont Heights Community Association is hosting its annual egg hunt for kids at the Red Car Greenbelt (Sixth Street and Tremont Avenue). Thousands of eggs will be hidden along the greenbelt, with separate areas for very young children and older kids. This hunt also features a dozen golden eggs with special prizes inside. Belmont the Bunny will be available for photo opportunities. The egg hunt begins at 9 a.m. sharp. Free.

Bunnies on the Bay: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Residents are invited to dress up in their favorite bunny costume (inflatable costumes are highly encouraged) for a .4-mile fun run along the bay. The starting line is at Claremont Boat Launch (5300 E Ocean Blvd.) at the beach pedestrian path and will proceed across Ocean Boulevard and onto the sand to Second Street and finish at Second Street and Bay Shore Avenue. There will be photo opps and a few fun surprises. Free.

Easter Basket Giveaway: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Hood Santa is giving away free Easter baskets and serving up warm pancakes to local families at MacArthur Park (1321 E. Anaheim St.). First-come, first-served for both pancakes and baskets. Those who want to volunteer to help with this event should show up at 8 a.m.

The Great Egg-Scape: 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Downtown Long

Beach's PanIQ Room (237 Pine Ave.) is hosting its second annual egg hunt for kids 8 and younger. RSVP online. Free.

Spring Egg Hunt: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Long Beach's Partners of Parks will be hosting three separate egg hunts at Admiral Kidd Park (2125 Santa Fe Ave.), Good Neighbor Park at El Dorado East Regional Park (2800 E. Studebaker Road) and Ramona Park (3301 E. 65th St.). Kids can enjoy egg hunts, candy, crafts and more. An adaptive-friendly egg hunt and sensory friendly activities will take place at Admiral Kidd Park. Families should bring their own baskets. Free.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Two Local Hearts Foundation volunteers hold plates of pancakes at the Baskets and Pancakes event at MacArthur Park on April 16, 2022.

Easter Keg Hunt: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The inaugural Great Bixby Knolls Easter Keg Hunt brings the nostalgic hunt for eggs to adults in the form of a scavenger hunt that supports local businesses. Teams will travel through Bixby Knolls solving clues, completing quick bar games and making stops at local businesses. Each stop includes optional discounted drinks, challenges and clues. Teams can have up to four people, with all members 21 or older. Teams that complete all the challenges will find the hidden keg and earn bragging rights. Each team's enrollment fee is \$108.55 and can be purchased on Eventbrite.

Eggstravaganza Kids Art Festival: Noon to 2 p.m. The historic St. Anthony Neighborhood Association and Councilmember Mary Zendejas is hosting this sec-

ond annual event at Gumbiner Park (880 E. Seventh St.). This kid-friendly festival will feature a bouncy house, live DJs, free Easter egg gift bags to the first 100 kids (register early to receive one), Long Beach Coast giveaways, an egg scramble hunt with prizes, skateboard demos and deck art from Love Crew, face painting, a community chalk mural, an Easter art coloring station and art tees. Kids are encouraged to bring their skateboards. Free.

Egg Hunt and Book Fair: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The annual Mark Bixby Memorial Easter Egg Hunt and Book Fair will feature egg bag decorating, face painting, popcorn, a bounce house, photo opportunities, an egg hunt and free books at Rotary Centennial Park (1729 E. Junipero Ave.). Photos will begin at 1 p.m. and the egg hunt will take place at 1:30 p.m. Free.

Easter Distribution: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Mutual aid group Home-spun Long Beach is hosting its monthly distribution event at Orizaba Park (1435 N. Orizaba Ave.), featuring Easter supplies for anyone needing help putting together a basket. Supplies will include brand new stuffies, Easter baskets, filled eggs, handmade bunnies, toys and Easter-themed books. Additional items residents can pick up include diapers, baby hygiene items, baby clothes, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste and toothbrushes, hair brushes, pantry staples, toilet paper and bottles of water.

Donation Drive: Long Beach Rapid Response Mutual Aid is collecting donations to make Easter baskets for local children. Items needed are baskets, candy, small toys, stuffies, books, basket items for teens and anything that can go into an Easter basket. Donations can be dropped off at the Home Depot on Cherry Avenue and Willow Street or the Home Depot on Spring Street and Atlantic Avenue between 8 and 11 a.m. Reach out to @lbrmutualaid on Instagram to inquire about other donation drop off times or if you need donations yourself.

EYE ON CRIME

CRIMES REPORTED BY THE SIGNAL HILL POLICE

Wednesday, March 25

- 6:39 a.m., Auto burglary, 3300 block Brayton Ave.
- 7:40 a.m., Identity theft, 2700 block Cherry Ave.
- 10:30 a.m., Identity theft, 2000 block Junipero Ave.
- 11:32 a.m., Injury traffic collision, 1600 block E. Willow St.
- 12:22 p.m., Grand theft, 2500 block E. Willow St.
- 2:44 p.m., Elder abuse, 900 block Vernon St.
- 5:47 p.m., Grand theft - motor vehicle, 2600 block Junipero Ave.
- 6:02 p.m., Petty theft, 900 block E. 33rd St. (citation issued)
- 6:32 p.m., Intoxicated person, 2100 block Cherry Ave.

Thursday, March 26

- 7:42 a.m., Battery, California Ave./E. Spring St.
- 7:45 a.m., Identity theft, 2600 block Panorama Dr.
- 2:35 p.m., Battery, 600 block E. 27th St.
- 3:20 p.m., Petty theft, 900 block E. 33rd St. (citation issued)

Friday, March 27

- 3:30 p.m., Grand theft money; petty theft w/2 or more priors, 2400 block Cherry Ave. (suspect arrested)
- 6:44 p.m., Injury traffic collision, E. Willow St./Junipero Ave.
- 9:13 p.m., Intoxicated person on drugs, 900 block E. 33rd St.

Saturday, March 28

- 4:24 a.m., DUI; injury traffic collision, E. Willow St./Orange Ave. (suspect arrested)
- 7:29 a.m., Injury traffic collision, Cherry Ave./E. 21st St.
- 10:07 a.m., Grand theft - motor vehicle, 2200 block E. 21st St.
- 12:19 p.m., Grand theft, 1800 block Junipero Ave.
- 1:14 p.m., Grand theft, 900 block E. 33rd St.
- 4:25 p.m., Petty theft, 900 block E. 33rd St. (citation issued)
- 4:19 p.m., Intoxicated person, 1800 block Temple Ave.
- 5:18 p.m., Identity theft, 2300 block Amelia Ct.

Sunday, March 29


- 2:16 a.m., Child abuse, 1800 block Raymond Ave., (suspect arrested)
- 1:09 p.m., Inflict corporate injury on spouse; child abuse, 2300 block Lemon Ave. (suspect arrested)
- 5:59 p.m., Auto burglary, 3300 block Lewis Ave.

Monday, March 30

- 7:13 a.m., Grand theft, 1100 block E. 32nd St.
- 7:45 a.m., Burglary, 2500 block E. PCH
- 11:45 a.m., Fire, E. 21st St./Walnut Ave.
- 3:10 p.m., Battery, 2200 block Walnut Ave.
- 4:25 p.m., Injury traffic collision, Rose Ave./E. 28th St.
- 9:20 p.m., Petty theft w/2 or more priors; unlawful possession of tear gas; obstruct/resist Peace Officer, 1600 block E. Willow St. (suspect arrested)

Tuesday, March 31

- 11:11 a.m., Battery, 3300 block Olive Ave.
- 11:37 a.m., Burglary, 1800 block Molino Ave.
- 1:11 p.m., Grand theft - motor vehicle, 700 block E. Spring St.
- 5:13 p.m., Injury traffic collision, Olive Ave./E. Spring St.
- 7:08 p.m., Petty theft 900 block E. 33rd St. (suspect arrested)



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HISTORY

Long Beach sports: Gone, but not forgotten

Alfredo Menjivar & Ryan Hardison

Reporter | Design Editor

With the Long Beach Coast set to play ball beginning this May, and the 2028 Summer Olympics readying on the horizon, the *Signal Tribune* decided to revisit the pro sports teams of the city's past.

Rich sporting traditions, including the vroom of the annual Indy-Car Grand Prix, sailing competitions, the Long Beach Marathon and several college and high school sporting powerhouses have become staples of Long Beach's sports culture over the years. But many teams were not so lucky.

Here you'll find tales of ghosts, underdogs, and a 42-year-old Dennis Rodman causing havoc on the hardwood. Now, let's toast to the teams who came and went.

Hockey

For the first stop on our trip down memory lane, we're hitting

the ice.

The **Long Beach Ice Dogs** were without a doubt the most popular and memorable team to call the LBC home. Established as the San Diego Gulls in 1990, then rebranded as the Los Angeles Ice Dogs, the team played from 1995 to 2007 and hosted their home games at the Long Beach Sports Arena. Seating 13,500, the Ice Dogs would have an average attendance of 4,000 throughout the '90s and 2000s.

The Ice Dogs played in multiple leagues such as the International Hockey League (IHL) in their inaugural season, West Coast Hockey League (WCHL) and the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL). In the 1997-1998 season, the Ice Dogs made it to the Turner Cup Finals in the IHL, but fell to the Detroit Vipers in a 4-2 series defeat in Michigan.

Former Ice Dogs player Daniel Kim immigrated from Seoul, South

Korea to Koreatown, Los Angeles when he was 3 years old. Kim played as a forward with the Ice Dogs during the 2002-2003 season when they were in the WCHL until being waived from the team in December of that same season.

The Ice Dogs used to hold open tryouts every season, where Kim attended every one of them. "I was a local kid so I basically tried out every year," Kim told the *Signal Tribune* on March 13, wearing his LMU shirt and getting ready to suit up for the daily stick time. Kim reminisced on his key memories as he he skated atop the ice at Edge Ice Arena in Harbor City.

His favorite memory while playing in Long Beach was opening night at the Long Beach Arena on Oct. 12, 2002 against the San Diego Gulls in a 6-0 loss. He proved to himself that he truly belonged in the league.

"That pretty much solidified all the hard work I put into it and be-

ing at home in front of my friends and parents who were very supportive of me, that was probably the best moment for me," Kim said.

During Kim's time with the Ice Dogs, they had 22 wins and 46 losses leading to missing the playoffs.



Courtesy of Daniel Kim

Daniel Kim played for the Long Beach Ice Dogs during the 2002-2003 West Coast Hockey League Season.

In the National Hockey League (NHL), the **Los Angeles Kings** called the Long Beach Sports Arena their temporary home for six games in their inaugural season on Oct. 14, 1967. In the Kings' first game, they defeated their expansion cousins, the Philadelphia Flyers 4-2 until moving to the Forum in Inglewood later on that season.

Going back even further, the California Hockey League (Cal-HL) operated from 1954 to 1963 as a semi-professional league. This league contained four teams from Long Beach along with three other California teams throughout the years that were constantly rebranding, folding or establishing.

The first-ever hockey team to take the ice in the LBC were the **Long Beach Hornets** in 1959. The Hornets lasted one season after having a record of nine wins, five losses and one tie as well as losing in the finals to the Los Angeles Canadiens. The Hornets rebranded to the **Long Beach Paramounts** in 1960. The Paramounts had a record of 15 wins, two losses and two ties eventually losing in the finals again to the LA Canadiens.

The Paramounts once again rebranded to the **Long Beach Buccaneers** in 1961 with a record of nine wins, six losses and one tie as well as losing in the finals to the Canadiens. The Buccaneers rebranded one last time to the **Long Beach Gulls** in 1962 in which they lost in the semifinals and folded soon after in 1963. All of these teams called the Long Beach Polarink their home.

Another hockey team that briefly

existed in Long Beach was the **Los Angeles Sharks**. The LA Sharks were members of the NHL's rival competitor, the World Hockey Association (WHA) from 1972 to 1974. The Sharks began at the L.A. Memorial Sports Arena until moving to the Long Beach Sports Arena. They folded after the 1974 season after having poor attendance due to the Los Angeles Kings qualifying for the playoffs and attracting more fans.

Baseball and Softball

While the city has deep roots in hockey, baseball is the pioneer sport for Long Beach.

Dating back to 1910, the **Long Beach Clothiers** were the first recorded professional team in the LBC. They played in the Southern California Trolley League Class D at the Belmont Park Grounds. After just a few seasons, the Clothiers rebranded to the Long Beach Beach-combers of the Southern California League then folded in 1913 with no trace left behind.

The **Long Beach Nitehawks** were a professional men's fastpitch softball team established around 1946 in the International Softball Congress (ISC). The Nitehawks played their home games at Joe Rodgers Field at Recreation Park, across the street from where Blair Field stands today.

The Nitehawks were a fastpitch powerhouse as they dominated their league, winning ten ISC World championships from 1953 to 1975.

The Nitehawks also had a bitter rivalry with the neighboring Lakewood Jets, known as the greatest rivalry in men's fastpitch softball history. This rivalry went on from the 1970s to the 1980s. Both teams went hand in hand as the Nitehawks won championships in 1971 and 1975 while the Jets won theirs in 1973.

In 1988, the Nitehawks folded due to a massive decline in attendance in the 1980s as well as financial issues.

Former Nitehawks player Jerry Flory was named the most valuable player of the team's 1975 title-winning effort. His series-winning double against the Sun City Raiders stands out as a career highlight in a league that teemed with athletic talent.

"I played with some of the best ballplayers that never made it to the majors... [the Nitehawks] were by far the best softball team in the world," Flory told the *Signal Tribune* on March 23.

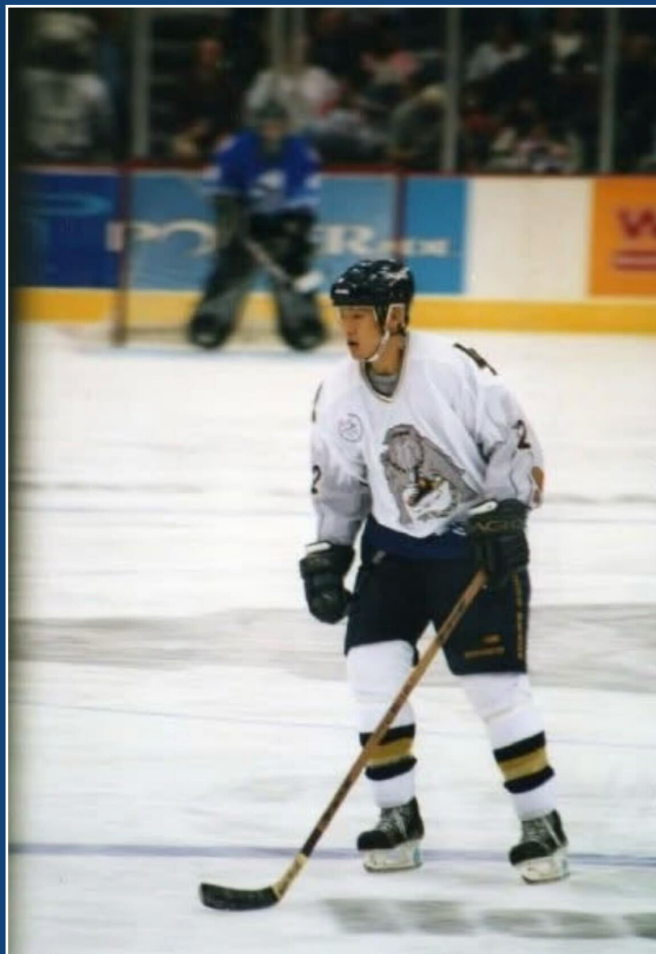
Flory fondly remembers playing with legends of the league like

Daniel Kim

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Courtesy of Daniel Kim

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pitchers Bob Todd and Don Sarno, as well as shortstop Nick Hopkins. Plus, no Nitehawks history is complete without beloved player and manager Red Meairs, a Long Beach native and alumni of both Wilson High School and Long Beach City College. Meairs was “a character,” as Flory puts it, known as much for his chewing tobacco habit as his undying love for the Hawks.

“One thing I’ll always remember is how he chewed tobacco and if you hit a homerun or a base hit to win the game, he’d be standing there and half the time he’d spit tobacco on you,” Flory chuckled.

Though he also spent time with the Jets and the nearby Hawthorne Hustlers, all in all racking up two championships and five All-American honors, there was nothing like his time with the Hawks.

“The Hawks, they were the team I loved. It was a great team,” he said.

The **Long Beach Barracudas** were part of the Western Baseball League established in 1995, winning the league title in their first season. In 1996, the Barracudas rebranded to the **Long Beach Riptide** as they also won their league title and called Blair Field home. After just two seasons, the Riptide folded due to severe financial mismanagement, poor relations with the city and low attendance.

In the Ladies Professional Baseball League, the **Long Beach Aces** were one of the original teams of the league in 1997 to take the field. In 1998, the league faced a decline in attendance as well as a decline in revenue, forcing the league to cease operation.



Jorge Hernandez | Signal Tribune

The **Long Beach Armada** played from 2005 to 2012 at Blair Field. The stadium’s new baseball tenants will be the **Long Beach Coast**, whose home opener will take place June 2.

The **Long Beach Breakers** operated from 2001 to 2002 – playing their home games at Blair Field. The Breakers were a part of the Western Baseball League and won the league championship in their inaugural season. Due to the league being completely independent, the Breakers ran into financial instability and were forced to fold after two seasons.

The **Long Beach Armada** began play in 2005 and were part of several baseball leagues such as

the Golden Baseball League (GBL), Arizona Summer League and Arizona Winter League. In 2007, the Armada famously changed their name to the “Long Beach Armada of Los Angeles of California of the United States of North America Including Barrow, Alaska.” This was to humorously mock the name confusion of the “Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.”

The Armada played their home games at Blair Field and folded in 2012 due to many reasons such as a permit dispute with the City of Long Beach, a stadium dispute with the university and financial pressure.

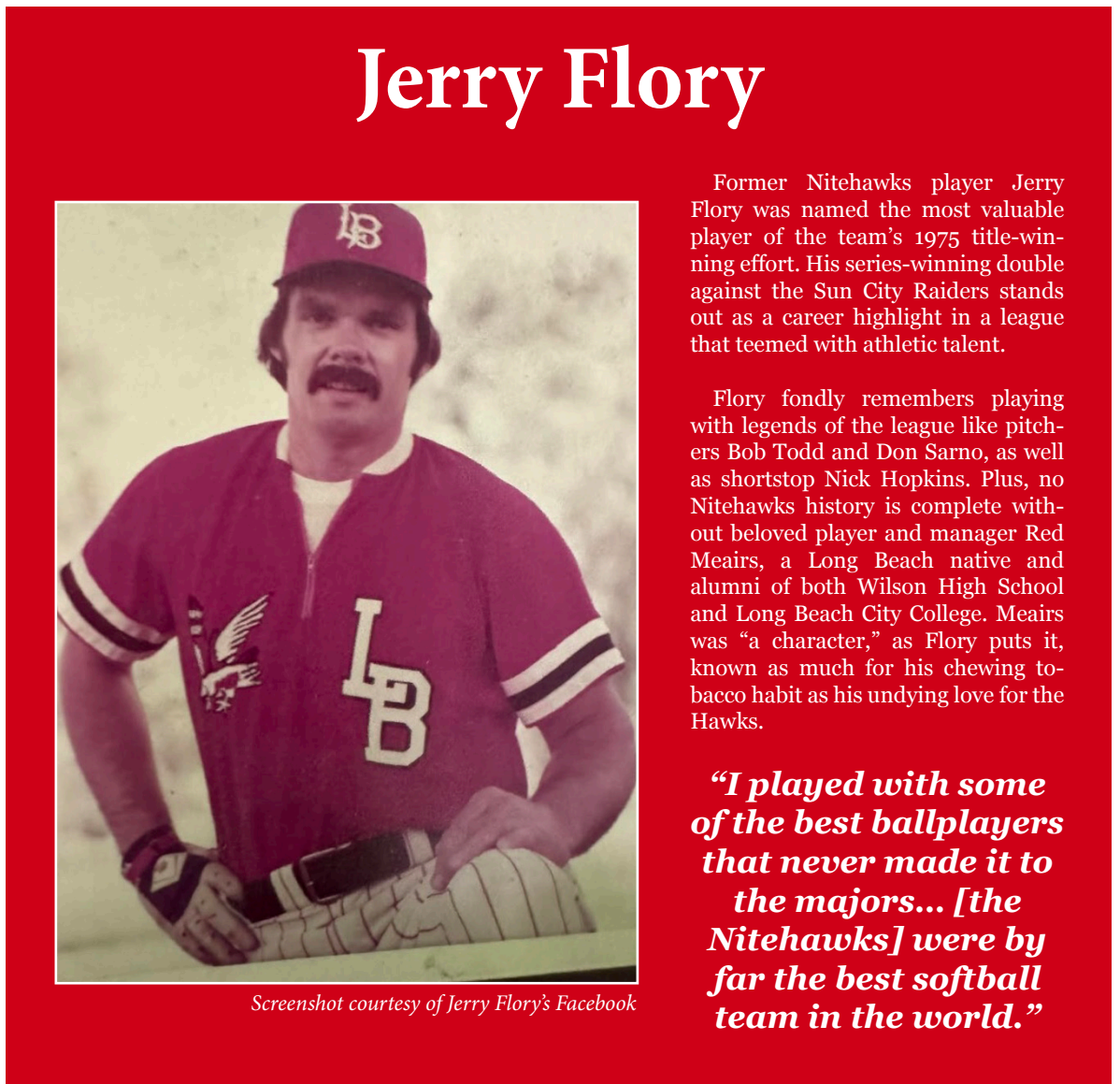
Basketball

The history of pro hoops in Long Beach dates back six decades, yet there are few teams, and seasons, to show for it.

After one season in Honolulu, Hawaii, the **Long Beach Chiefs** made their home in the Long Beach Arena for the 1962-63 edition of the American Basketball League (ABL). Coached by Wilson High School alum Al Brightman and featuring Long Beach Poly standout Jim Hanna, the team started their season 10-0 before the ABL announced it was folding on the eve of 1963. Though Brightman is nowadays regarded as more of a ‘what if?’ type of coaching talent due to his combustible personality and alleged alcoholism, the Chiefs’ abrupt ending merits questioning what could have been.

After bouncing around a handful of regional locations from 1969 to 1994, the **Southern California Summer Pro League** began playing at Walter Pyramid in 1995. A prelude to the annual NBA Summer League in Las Vegas, this tournament showcased NBA teams’ newly signed and drafted players. Before it shut down for good following its 2007 edition – which solely featured amateur rosters – future legends like Kobe Bryant and Tracy McGrady kicked off their pro careers in the Pyramid and hall of famers such as Isiah Thomas, Moses Malone and Magic Johnson teamed up for special exhibitions.

The city’s only pro women’s basketball team, the **Long Beach Stingrays** of the derivatively named American Basketball League (ABL), played just one season at Walter Pyramid in 1997-98 and nearly won the league’s championship in their sole campaign. With future WNBA MVP Yolanda Griffith as the team’s center (and centerpiece), the Stingrays won the first two games of the best-of-five series against Columbus Quest, but dropped the final three matchups on the road to finish runners-up. The Stingrays folded in August



Screenshot courtesy of Jerry Flory’s Facebook

Former Nitehawks player Jerry Flory was named the most valuable player of the team’s 1975 title-winning effort. His series-winning double against the Sun City Raiders stands out as a career highlight in a league that teemed with athletic talent.

Flory fondly remembers playing with legends of the league like pitchers Bob Todd and Don Sarno, as well as shortstop Nick Hopkins. Plus, no Nitehawks history is complete without beloved player and manager Red Meairs, a Long Beach native and alumni of both Wilson High School and Long Beach City College. Meairs was “a character,” as Flory puts it, known as much for his chewing tobacco habit as his undying love for the Hawks.

“I played with some of the best ballplayers that never made it to the majors... [the Nitehawks] were by far the best softball team in the world.”

1998 and four months later, so did the ABL.

Led by a pre-NBA Matt Barnes and a past-his-prime, but still effective, Dennis Rodman, the **Long Beach Jam** began their brief tenure at Walter Pyramid in 2003 as part of the American Basketball Association (ABA). In the team’s inaugural season, they won the league title, defeating the Kansas City Knights 126-123. The Jam only played two seasons in Long Beach before being shipped to Bakersfield (2006-16), Arizona (2016-21) and Michigan (since 2021), where they’re now known as the Motor City Cruise of the G-League.

After three up-and-down seasons in The Basketball League, the **Long Beach Blue Waves** have joined the revived United States Basketball League as the revamped Los Angeles Blue Waves for the 2026 season. The Blue Waves previously played at Garden Grove’s Santiago High School; their new home is Washington High School, located in the Westmont neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Football

Despite Long Beach being the breeding ground for future NFL

stars Willie McGinest, DeSean Jackson and Mercedes Lewis, all Long Beach Polytechnic alumni, the city’s biggest university hasn’t had a football team since 1991.

Many local residents may not remember—or weren’t alive for—the **Long Beach State 49ers football team** (1955-1991). Across their 37 seasons, the 49ers won three conference championships, and their only postseason bowl berth came in 1970 against the Louisville Cardinals in the Pasadena Bowl, a game which ended in a 24-24 tie.

In the program’s twilight years, Pro Football Hall of Famers George Allen and Willie Brown coached the team and the 49ers’ final season featured running back Terrell Davis, who went on to eventual enshrinement in Canton. The program eventually folded, and despite regular calls from community members and students to bring back football, CSULB has marched on without a team on the gridiron. One thing that is for certain is Davis looks back very fondly on his time as a 49er.

“We always ask the question, ‘If you could go back to any year, what year would it be?’ For me it’s always

1990, my freshman year at Long Beach State,” Davis told CSULB’s Beach Magazine in 2018. “That was the best time of my life.”

For those who missed out on Long Beach State’s football era, nearly three dozen of the team’s games have been preserved on DVD and are available for purchase.

As opposed to the 49ers, the **Long Beach Admirals** disappeared without much of a trace. Even worse, they never won a game. The Admirals’ first and only regular season matchup in the similarly ill-fated Continental Football League (1965-1969), a 37-13 defeat, occurred on Aug. 26, 1967 at Veterans Memorial Stadium. Citing a lack of attendance, the team’s general manager Bob Spitler tried to force a move to Portland, which the league quickly nipped in the bud. Spitler then tried to take the Admirals fully independent, failing once again in the process. By Aug. 30, 1967, the Admirals were dead in the water.

Read about the city’s by-gone history with Bruce Lee, bull riding, celebrity softball games and more online at SigTrib.com.



Courtesy of Rob Kerr

A fan’s favorite Ice Dogs memory

Reader submission from Rob Kerr:

“I was an Ice Dogs season ticket holder and big hockey fan. My rock band, Barefoot Planet, played at select home games through the years at the Long Beach Arena. My best memories are seeing and taking photos with the real Stanley Cup when the Ice Dogs were a Montreal Canadiens minor [league] team. The Canadiens won the Cup the year prior and had a special night at the LB Arena with the Stanley Cup on tour. Another great memory was sitting next to the LA Kings HOF captain Rob Blake at an Ice Dogs playoff game. The Ice Dogs were an LA Kings minor league team that year and he came to see some of his friends playing the game. We were stunned to see him there, but he was friendly and a great ambassador of the sport! My big wish would be to bring back minor league hockey to the LB Arena!”

FEATURE



Courtesy of John Napalan

Mike Guardabascio interviews a player from Long Beach Poly High School's football team following a game.



Courtesy of John Napalan

Left to right: The562 staff members Matt Simon, Mike Guardabascio, Tyler Hendrickson and Eli Aquino pose for a photo.



Courtesy of John Napalan

Mike Guardabascio converses with a man in Oakland Raiders gear on the sideline of a Long Beach high school football game.

The city's first nonprofit news outlet dedicated to local sports: *The562*

Turning lay-offs into opportunity, The562 was created by and for Long Beach, with a passionate focus on the city's sports community.

Angelina Azcué

Reporter

Local sports reporters Mike Guardabascio and JJ Fidler turned their newsroom friendship into a sports empire, creating the city's first nonprofit news outlet in 2018. *The562* represents more than just a scoreboard; it is a community-driven outlet built around a love for the city of Long Beach.

The562 was early to the nonprofit model that many newsrooms now survive on, but community has always been a part of its core. Guardabascio and Fidler met at Long Beach State's student newspaper *Union Weekly* in 2004, where Fidler started the paper's first-ever sports section. Together at the *Union*, they covered men's basketball, men's volleyball, and more.

After graduating, they found themselves in stable, well-paying jobs that lacked a sense of fulfillment. Driven by a desire to do something new and youthful flexibility, in 2008 they once again launched a new sports section, this time for the recently-established *Long Beach Post*.

"We just kind of thought, we're young and we can be poor right now, let's do something fun and try something different," Guardabascio said.

At the time, the *Post* was heavily focused on politics, but Guardabascio and Fidler saw an untapped market. Long Beach was a city filled with passionate sports fans who lacked a dedicated digital home. When they pitched the idea to Robert Garcia and Sean Labaski, the founders took a chance on the then-23-year-olds, leading to the creation of the *Long Beach Post's* sports page.

The duo's career trajectory initially followed a traditional, though varied path through Long Beach publications. They eventually took over the sports section at the *Grunion Gazette* and were later hired to run sports coverage for the *Press-Telegram*. However, the unpredictability of the industry caught up with them when the *Press-Telegram's* parent company laid off their entire local sports staff in 2018.

Without Guardabascio and Fidler, a vital source of local sports coverage vanished. It was during this period of uncertainty that the idea for *The562* originated.

"It became very clear to me when we got laid off, that as a city, we are going to have to do this for ourselves or it's not going to happen," Guardabascio said.

The562 launched a little over eight years ago, built on the radical idea of local control. Publisher Andy Kerr volunteered to handle the complex 501(c)(3) paperwork, when the team decided to pursue a nonprofit route to ensure the outlet's longevity and independence.

Guardabascio's role has evolved into a more traditional 9-to-5 schedule, where he focuses on features, breaking news, fundraising and business management, while the rest of the staff handles nightly game coverage. The organization is powered by Long Beach natives who truly care about the community and who are dedicated to their long-term success. This local connection is the outlet's greatest strength; the staff understands the city's desires because they were born and raised in the area.

"It's cool for me to have gone from covering this awesome community and obviously being born and raised here ... now getting to see how great the sports community is from the perspective of a coach and a father, not just writing about it," Guardabascio said.

Guardabascio has covered everything from global spectacles to intimate local triumphs. One of the high points was when he and Fidler traveled to the 2012 London Olympics to cover roughly 30 athletes from Long Beach, a three-week assignment funded by their boss at the *Gazette*, Simon Grieve. He has also witnessed local history, covering three Long Beach State men's volleyball national championships.

The most emotionally satisfying part of the job for Guardabascio is often the stories that don't make national headlines. He has served as the beat writer for the Long Beach Poly High School football team for nearly 20 years, covering future NFL stars and kids who stop playing after their senior year with equal gravity.

One story that stands out to him during his time at *The562* is a feature on Ray Graham, a running back for Long Beach Poly. Graham's spirit remained undiminished through all the hardships he endured, a trait that Guardabascio described as a daily inspiration for himself. The feature eventually received national recognition, validating the importance of deep, empathetic local reporting.

The562 is not just documenting the present; it is actively building the future of journalism through its high school internship program. This program was started by Tyler Hendrickson, initially under a five-year agreement with the Long Beach Unified School District, but has since flourished into a successful program that is funded at a level that allows all student interns to be paid.

The high schoolers receive professional training from *The562's* staff photographers and writers. Guardabascio notes that this program has produced an incredible talent pool, with many students returning to work as freelancers after their internships conclude or continuing to pursue journalism in college. Guardabascio considers this program one his favorite parts about the job.

Guardabascio emphasizes that the future of *The562*, remains tied to the people it serves.

"The truth is... we won't have any news media at Long Beach if people don't support it," Guardabascio said.

He said the era of relying on outside corporations to tell the city's story is over. Fittingly, *The562* thrives off the support of monthly subscribers and donors. The mission remains clear for Guardabascio and his team: Long Beach is a city that must tell its own story, and as long as the community stands behind them, there will always be a story to tell.

"It became very clear to me when we got laid off, that as a city, we are going to have to do this for ourselves or it's not going to happen."


- Mike Guardabascio, co-owner of The562





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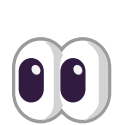
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FEATURE



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

(From left to right) Long Beach Coast pitchers JJ Almeda and Brett Wozniak show off the Pioneer Baseball League baseballs with Long Beach Regulator/Coast merch, which they debuted to the public in March. The Regulator's first game of the 2026 season will take place May 19 against the Yuba-Sutter Free Birds in Marysville.

HERE COMES THE COAST

Samantha Diaz & Joshua Min

Managing Editor | Reporter

If baseball is chess, pitchers are king. The pitching mound, both a place of power and vulnerability, is the beating heart of a baseball game, and how a pitcher executes their moves — a slider, a curveball, a fastball — decides the battle.

Long Beach Coast has anointed 13 players with this responsibility. It's the most fleshed out part of the roster that Manager Troy Percival and Assistant Coaches Jerome Williams and Troy Glaus have been assembling over the span of five months.

Most of the pitching staff didn't have to travel far to get here, with the majority boasting a California background. Others are coming from Texas, Louisiana and Nevada to round out the Coast's bullpen.

JJ Almeda

For right handed pitcher JJ Almeda, it was a 10-minute drive down the 710 from Lynwood to Long Beach to tryout in December. His journey has spanned much further over the last decade. The 26-year-old spent last year pitching for the Major Baseball League (MLB) affiliate team Trenton Thunder in New Jersey.

Two years earlier, he was throwing fastballs at Colorado Mesa University. Still, he remembers learning to play in the East Long Beach Pony leagues and participating in Long Beach State summer skills camps on Bohl Diamond at Blair Field.

"It's definitely a full circle moment, kind of coming back to where my baseball career started," Almeda told the *Signal Tribune* on March 23.

Like many ball players, Almeda started playing when he was young — just 5 years old. Unlike many players though, he took up pitching at 18 years old, and made his debut on the mound at 21. Under the guidance of his coach Hector Zamora at Cerritos College, he made the transition from outfielder to pitcher his freshman year, a move he called life-changing.

One month before he was primed to make his pitching debut in 2019, Almeda tore his UCL and needed Tommy John surgery. A global pandemic shortly followed, and three years passed before he was able to throw his first in-game pitch. With the support of his family, coaching staff and strength training team, Almeda said he was able to fight through what he refers to as the "dark days."

"It was almost 2 years of rehabbing and then just kind of waiting, waiting my turn to get on the mound and being able to showcase the work that I've been putting in day in and day out," Almeda said. "Those dark days just kind of turned into light after it all."

What kept him grounded during that time?



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

(Left) Long Beach Coast relief pitcher JJ Almeda poses at the Blair Field dugout, where he used to train as a kid in Long Beach State baseball camps. (Right) Long Beach Coast starting pitcher Brett Wozniak stares at the Blair Field stadium, the same stadium they'll be calling home for the 2025-2026 season. The Regulator's inaugural home opener is on June 2 against the RedPocket Mobiles.

“My grandfather,” Almeda quickly answered, though fighting back tears. “He passed away my first year at Mesa from liver cancer, but he was always pushing me to be the best person possible. He always wanted me to graduate college with a degree, he wanted me to be the first male of my family to earn a degree and be able to pitch in college ... he always had my back, no matter what, and even when he was going through his chemo and everything he always supported me.”

Almeda’s grandfather passed away before he got to see his grandson make his pitching debut, but his spirit is what motivated Almeda to keep fighting. Not only through his injury, but through the culture shock and homesickness he felt in Colorado, heightened by him being the only Latino player on the team.

He didn’t have to wait long to know he made the right decision. Almeda’s second year as a pitcher earned him spots on the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association all-region second team and the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference all-tournament team. He learned from Colorado Mesa alum and three-time World Series champ Sergio Romo to use his off-speed strength to throw batters off his scent, that not every pitch has to be 99 miles per hour to be dominant. Almeda honed his low-90s pitches, his sliders and curveballs and built his arsenal of approaches over his two years in Colorado.

Almeda spent last year pitching with the Thunder, where he threw 20.1 innings without allowing a run, breaking the league’s single-season record. He also tied for second in saves with 3. He was ready for a new chapter, perhaps coaching or scouting, when Oakland Ballers coach Aaron Miles offered Almeda a spot on their team a few months ago. He opted for a Long Beach homecoming instead.

Since returning to SoCal, Almeda has taken on a new role as coach of the junior varsity baseball team at his alma mater Warren High School in Downey. With inner city pride, an immigrant background and fond memories of learning to play in Long Beach fields, Almeda was damn near destined to play for the Long Beach Coast/Regulators.

The June 2 home opener will mark the first time many of his family and friends are able to see him pitch.

“It’s definitely a privilege and honor to be able to come here,” he said. “Just being able to represent my community and all the Hispanic kids, and kind of let kids know that they also have a chance to do the same thing I’m doing.”

Zach Voelker

For right-hander Zach Voelker, his homecoming is of the collegiate persuasion. It’s been four years since Voelker’s last outing at Blair Field, back when his jersey read “Dirtbags.”

Although he transferred after one year in Long Beach to the University of Iowa, Voelker is looking forward to reuniting with his old college venue.

“I love Long Beach,” Voelker said. “It was great to be a Dirtbag so I’m super excited to come back and play in Long Beach again and play at Blair.”

Voelker remembers what a Long Beach fanbase is capable of and anticipates a lively crowd during Coast home games. Familiar territory will be a nice turn of events for the right handed pitcher, who has played for independent league teams for the Evansville Otters, Yuba-Sutter High Wheelers and Great Falls Voyagers in 2025 alone.

“It’s been a lot when you’re bouncing around like that in-season, just having to travel and move to a new spot and meet a whole new group of guys, but I think it’s helped me a lot,” Voelker said. “I’ve got to work with a bunch of different coaches and see different mindsets on things, and I’ve taken a little bit from each spot to help shape my game and turn me into the player I am today.”

Lucky for Voelker, Long Beach Coast’s front office and coaching staff has accolades that speak for themselves. Managing the Coast is Percival, a former four-time All-Star in the



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

Long Beach Coast relief pitcher JJ Almeda plays catch with Brett Wozniak, one of the team’s starting pitchers, at Blair Field on March 31, 2026.

Meet the Team

JJ Almeda: “It’s definitely a full circle moment, kind of coming back to where my baseball career started.”

Zach Voelker: “It was great to be a Dirtbag so I’m super excited to come back and play in Long Beach again and play at Blair.”

Kristofer Bow: “There’s nothing better than pitching in a place like California,” Bow said. “The elevation is perfect, the weather in the climate is perfect for it.”



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

Long Beach Coast pitching coach Jerome Williams talked about his journey as an MLB pitcher, and his time playing for the Long Beach Armada, during the LBC Executive Luncheon on March 26, 2026.

big leagues with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Williams spent 11 seasons in the Majors, as well as one season coaching Voelker last year with the High Wheelers.

“That was a big reason for coming to Long Beach,” Voelker said of his connection with Williams. “So excited to work with him for a full season here and get to learn as much as possible.”

Voelker’s focus this year will be striking hitters out. In 2025, Voelker recorded 42 strikeouts in 32.1 innings, or 11.7 strikeouts per nine innings, which was a considerable increase from his 9.24 rate in 2024.

“Whenever I get to two strikes, I’m always trying to put them away and get a strikeout, so that’s definitely a point of emphasis,” Voelker said. “This year, I want to continue to strike guys out and limit the walks a little bit.”

One part that helps Voelker send batters back to the dugout is his pitch speed. He’ll need all of his skills functioning in harmony for the Coast’s inaugural season, as he said he expects the team to compete right away despite being an expansion franchise.

“We’re going to give it everything we got everyday, and hopefully bring a championship back home to Long Beach in the first season there,” Voelker said.

Kristofer Bow

It’s no small feat to be drafted by one of the MLB’s premier organizations. Relief pitcher Kristofer Bow experienced that high when the New York Yankees selected him in the 14th round of the 2022 MLB Draft.

Baseball can be fickle, though. Bow pitched 76.1 innings for the Tampa Tarpons, the Yankees’ Single-A affiliate, and had multiple stints on the injured list before the organization ultimately let him go.

Bow said the time spent in a Major League organization was a learning experience.

“I went through some adversity, for sure,” Bow said. “There were times where I was humbled, and there were times where I saw success, and it taught me a lot.”

Those lessons have culminated in new approaches to taking care of his body, especially after coming off rehabilitation from injury.

“I’ve definitely done some work on diving into certain training methods and kind of getting into more of the diet side of things,” Bow said. “I’m taking a holistic approach to everything that I’m doing. Over time, you learn more and more things and get to meet new people who are giving you more advice and mentors who are allowing you to open your mind to new things.”

Bow’s position with the Coast marks the first time he’ll pitch for a West Coast team since his collegiate days at the College of Southern Nevada. Bow embraces the friendly pitching environment California provides.

“There’s nothing better than pitching in a place like California,” Bow said. “The elevation is perfect, the weather in the climate is perfect for it.”

Another selling point for Bow was the Coast’s coaching staff, namely Percival.

“[Percival] has got fire to him that I like to add to my own game,” he said. “I’m a fiery type of guy and I like to compete, and he’s the same type of dude so it’s good to be under somebody who’s relatable.”

One of Bow’s positive attributes on the mound is his ability to strike out batters. In 81 innings with the Yankees’ minor league system, Bow recorded 85 strikeouts. Although he can get at least one batter out on three strikes per inning, he is more focused on contributing to winning baseball.

“I think strikeouts are important but that’s more of an individual stat,” Bow said. “Helping the team win is the most important thing... So strikeouts are important, yes, but getting outs and limiting walks are huge.”

FEATURE

Anchored by strong community support, the Long Beach Coast is ready to compete

Samantha Diaz & Ryan Hardison

Managing Editor | Design Editor

The leadup to the Long Beach Coast’s inaugural season has felt like a rapid race to Opening Day.

Since the Pioneer League baseball team was announced in July 2025, things have steadily fallen into place. They were granted a home at Long Beach State’s Blair Field, and quickly assembled a roster of baseball legends to lead the team. There have been missteps too — the name decision and its alter ego, which fans are still complaining about — but as the Coast creeps closer to its June 2 home opening, excitement feels palpable in the city of Long Beach.

Kids donning the black and blue Long Beach Coast hats have been spotted playing in their neighborhood. Long Beach Regulators hats and T-shirts are sold out on the team’s website. A stacked promo calendar has been released, promising nights of both culture

and pop-culture. And the roster isn’t even filled out yet.

“I’ve been selling air to some extent,” said Long Beach Coast President Ena Patel. “People have bought in without even experiencing a single thing.”

Corporate buy-in has been a slower rollout: Long Beach rapper Warren G is a minority owner of the team and the Long Beach Airport has been named a founding partner. But community is meant to be the guiding ethos of Long Beach’s new professional sports team, not million dollar investments. When Oakland Ballers co-founder Bryan Carmel first pitched the idea to the Long Beach public at a July council meeting last year, he spoke about a team based on community values.

“Long Beach has a long history, this field has a long history, it’s had quite a few teams come in, but I think that we’re going to be a different brand of baseball that they can be proud of,” Long Beach Coast Manager Troy Percival said.

Part of instilling that identity is acknowledging the sense of pride Long Beach residents already have in their city. From music and art to sports and cultural significance, there is no shortage of the joy residents feel claiming Long Beach. And the bar is high to be included as part of that community.

“I think just given Long Beach, how different of a city it is, how much pride it has, and such a rich sports history and specifically in baseball too, we couldn’t think of a better market to launch a team in,” Patel said. “And I think that the support from the city and the people of Long Beach have kind of validated that for us. They’re very supportive and on board once you’re able to kind of build their trust and they really get a sense of who you are, what you’re



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

Long Beach Coast Team President Ena Patel speaks with representatives from local companies during the LBC Executive Luncheon on March 26, 2026.

LONG BEACH COAST
continued from page 9



“I think we’ve got good enough players in place to contend right out of the gate.”

- Troy Percival,
Long Beach
Coast manager

Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

(From left to right) Long Beach Coast pitchers JJ Almeda and Brett Wozniak show off the Pioneer Baseball League baseballs they’ll be using during the team’s inaugural season.

trying to do and how you want to actually create something that belongs to the city and the people.”

Patel’s background is one of community-building and culture-defining — not culture creating, an important distinction. She has helped bring two soccer clubs to anticipating fans: Los Angeles’ Angel City FC in the National Women’s Soccer League and Charlotte FC in Major League Soccer. Just like in Los Angeles and Charlotte, her approach is to “create something that is reflective of Long Beach, not redefining it.”

A large part of that is affordability, ensuring no one is priced out of Long Beach Coast games. Prices for the June 2 home opening range from \$13 behind first and third bases to \$47 field level seats. There’s also seven \$2 Tuesday nights on the 2026 calendar, sandwiched between Filipino Heritage Night, Native American Heritage Night, a Sublime celebration and scattered Regulators Nights.

The West Coast rap and G-funk-centered evenings are still in the works, Patel said, but on the table: block parties, live performances and limited edition merchandise. Coast and Regulators games should feel like they’re for everyone, from North Long Beach residents to those living along the shoreline. That means a lot of pivoting.

“It’s like we’re trying to build a plane and fly it at the same time,” Patel said. “That means being able to be flexible, being nimble, and being able to kind of learn about what the community wants and being able to kind of pivot and execute on that.”

Patel knows firsthand the community-building power of sports. She was raised by immigrant parents and bonded with her father over various American pro sports leagues. Her passion led to a scholarship to play soccer at USC. Patel fondly remembers every weekend consumed by collegiate sports, either playing or attending.

She was at USC during the Pete Carroll era, when the now-NFL coach transformed the Trojans into a national powerhouse.

“For a long time it was like, ‘I don’t know what it feels like to lose,’” she recalls.

The winning mindset endures throughout the front office. Since retiring from Major Baseball League (MLB), Percival has instilled his



Samuel Chacko | Signal Tribune

Long Beach Coast starting pitcher Brett Wozniak stares across Blair Field, the stadium will be calling home beginning with the 2026 season.

brand of baseball — which his players have called “fiery” — in the Pioneer League’s Idaho Falls Chukars.

He ended his first season with the Chukars with a 40-56 record, third-worst in the league. Percival admits now he underestimated the talent across the league, but made quick work of learning. With a nearly identical roster the following year, Percival brought the Chukars to a championship showdown against the Oakland Ballers, where they lost 3-2 in the best-of-five series.

Percival aims to be back in championship contention at the end of the Coast’s inaugural season. For the first time, he has a roster made up mostly of players who have experience in the Pioneer League. Many have already been coached by himself or his assistant coaches Jerome Williams and Troy Glaus.

“We didn’t want to be an expansion team that, you know, was scraping the bottom of the barrel for the first year and then trying to fight our way up,” Percival said. “I think we’ve got good enough players in place to contend right out of the gate.”

This feat has been made more difficult by changes in the MLB draft and the affiliate league. With a smaller draft class, and fewer players on the affiliate league rosters, competition has ramped up in the Pioneer League over the last two years. Players can also be called up to various leagues during their season, meaning a deep roster is integral to success.

“You get good enough players, you’re winning enough games — well two or three of your guys might get taken away and now all of a sudden you’re not quite the same team, and you can fall in the standings,” Percival said. “But in my opinion, that’s the goal of the entire league, is to get as many guys seen and have an opportunity to go into affiliate baseball.”

Both Percival and Patel agree, the ultimate win would be for the Coast to act as a pipeline for local baseball talent to thrive.

“My goal, even over the winning a championship, is to get as many of these players an opportunity to move on and move up in baseball,” Percival said.

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FEATURE



Jorge Hernandez | Signal Tribune

(Left) Customers sit down to enjoy food, beer on tap and sports at Watch Me! Sports bar on March 19, 2025. (Right) Bartender Kolby Lemasney prepares a specialty drink at Watch Me! Sports Bar on March 19, 2026. Watch Me! Is California's first bar to primarily broadcast women's sports.

Watch Me! Sports Bar invites the community to get excited about women's sports

Morgan Barela
Reporter

With the surge in popularity of women's sports over the last few years, fans are flocking to places that both celebrate and center their favorite women's sports leagues.

Having first opened in 2024, Watch Me! Sports bar is California's first bar that puts a spotlight on women's sports.

The bar's owner, Jax Diener, said she was inspired to open the bar as a result of her own lifelong interest in sports. She grew up playing softball and soccer, and said she loves the feeling of camaraderie and togetherness that sports provides.

When asked why she chose to open Watch Me! in Long Beach, she pointed to what she called the city's welcoming nature, and its notability for producing several Olympians and professional athletes.

In the past five years, women's sports have seen a significant increase in interest, proven by view-

ership numbers, attendance at games and higher contracts for athletes. Specifically, a spike in viewership for women's college basketball during 2023 and 2024 was largely attributed to Caitlin Clark's time at University of Iowa, with this rise in popularity being dubbed the "Caitlin Clark Effect."

Watch Me! emphasizes women's sports across its numerous televisions and various sports bar decor, showcasing leagues such as the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), and more. Along with an emphasis on women's sports, the bar also features men's sports.

"We focus on the women, they get to shine in here," said Diener.

The walls of Watch Me! are lined with accomplishments and pic-

tures of women athletes. Hanging pendants, photos, and jerseys line each wall of the bar, tying together Watch Me!'s sports theme with an emphasis on celebrating women.

While Watch Me!'s opening was a celebratory one, Diener said the initial opening stages brought about unique challenges the team had to overcome.

"We faced probably every challenge you could face," Diener said.

The building on Pacific Coast Highway was originally a Mexican restaurant, which took Diener and her team two months to renovate. These renovations included addressing plumbing and kitchen issues. In dramatic fashion, Watch Me! obtained its business license just one day before its grand opening, which Diener said proved to others they could accomplish ex-

actly what they had set out to do. "So, lots of challenges, but we figured them out. And that's what Watch Me! is about. Everyone said we wouldn't do it in under a year and we proved them otherwise," Diener said.

Nearly two years since opening, the bar has found its groove showcasing women's sports and hosting events that serve the Long Beach community.

During the *Signal Tribune's* interview in mid-March, Watch Me! was playing, of course, March Madness games — and, of course, the women's matchups. With several different screens along the bar's walls, the games are made accessible from every seat in the bar. Guests sat at the bar ordering cocktails and beers, or ordered food to be brought out to their tables.

Beyond playing the games, Watch Me! encourages patrons to participate in a "Battle of the Brackets" competition, which is free to enter and gives participants the chance to win prizes.

Despite being a sports bar, Watch Me! features more than just games. The bar hosts interactive events to connect people in the community, such as a "paint and sip" social mixer, or a "queer line dancing" night. Alongside its slate of March Madness games, Watch Me! simultaneously hosted a women-owned business mixer. As the crowd of business owners mingled, the sound of the basketball game could still be heard all around the bar.

The bar also features other amenities, including a newly-launched podcast studio. Diener said the podcast studio is accessible during daytime business hours, and is free for anyone to book.

Diener said that she was inspired to build a podcast studio within the bar as it provides a space for promotion and celebration of athletes. The studio functions as a part of Watch Me!'s secondary business, Fuel Us! Sports + Entertainment, according to Diener.



Jorge Hernandez | Signal Tribune

Watch Me! Sports Bar owner Jax Diener proudly poses in front of her establishment, California's first female-centered sports bar on Mar. 19, 2026.

"I'd certainly want to sit in on a podcast with a sporty celeb and I think most would want to do the same," said Diener.

Watch Me! also offers a party bus program, and Diener says they will soon be offering rides to the Long Beach Amphitheater once it opens.

Diener emphasized that Watch Me! prides itself on versatility, creating a welcoming space for anyone to enjoy sports and find community.

"We're media, we're innovation, and we're empowerment," said Diener.

"We're media, we're innovation, and we're empowerment."

- Jax Diener,
founder/owner of Watch Me! Sports Bar



Jorge Hernandez | Signal Tribune

(Left) Plaques recognizing trailblazing athletes and media figures in women's sports hang above the entrance to the kitchen at Watch Me! Sports Bar on March 19, 2026. (Right) Various televisions play golf, hockey and NCAA women's college basketball games on a Thursday afternoon.

AROUND TOWN

A WEEKLY LIST OF THINGS TO DO IN LONG BEACH AND SIGNAL HILL



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Celebrate Khmer New Year at a trio of local events this weekend. First the 18th annual Cambodia Town Parade and Festival will take place Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Then, Roxanne's will throw a free Khmer New Year Celebration Saturday at 6 p.m. Finally, Long Beach City College will host its free Sankranta festival Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Several of Long Beach's most beloved traditions take the spotlight this week, with multiple celebrations honoring the Khmer New Year, and the return of the Long Beach County Fair Friday night. The annual Cambodia Town Parade and Festival will run all day Saturday, with an adult-friendly party taking place in the evening at Roxanne's. Throughout Sunday, the festivities will continue during Sankranta at Long Beach City College.

Outdoor activities this week include a nature walk through Los Cerritos Wetlands Saturday morning, queer-centered sports gatherings on Sunday and Wednesday, a community walk on Wednesday night, and farmers markets on Thursday.

Learn new things at several events this week, such as a book signing and history walk at Rancho Los Cerritos Saturday afternoon, Care Culture Collaborative's book club at Vine LB Monday evening, horror trivia at the 4th Horseman Tuesday night or a virtual Pan African study group Wednesday evening.

03 FRIDAY

PET ADOPTION FAIR

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Long Beach Animal Care Services will waive adoption fees during this special event at the shelter (7700 E. Spring St.). Residents can adopt a cat, dog or bunny, all of which are spayed or neutered, micro-chipped and vaccinated. Free.

LONG BEACH COUNTY FAIR

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Bixby Knolls' annual county fair at the Expo Arts Center (4321 Atlantic Ave.) will feature fair food, beer, arcade games, live music, dancing, art, entertainment, a farmers produce contest, shopping and more. Businesses all along Atlantic Avenue will be hosting their own celebrations such as live music performances, deals, fair-themed-treats and more. Free.

04 SATURDAY

NATURE WALK

8 a.m. to 10 a.m. This nature walk in the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands will take visitors on a hike through Gum Grove Park, go to the highest point of the trail and then explore the Heron Pointe cultural trail. Visitors can learn about ongoing restoration efforts and tribal cultural history. Attendees may see raptors, monarch butterflies in the Eucalyptus trees and an endangered Least Bell's vireo in the bioswale. Meet at the Gum Grove parking lot where Avalon Drive ends. Bring binoculars if you have them, plus comfortable shoes, sunblock and water. RSVP on Eventbrite. Free.

CAMBODIA TOWN PARADE AND FESTIVAL

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The 18th annual Cambodia Town Parade will take over Anaheim Street and Orange Avenue, highlighting rich Cambodian culture and tradition. After the parade, a festival will commence at Long Beach City College (1305 E. Pacific Coast Highway). Free.

TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS FAIR

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Residents can learn how to prepare for a tsunami, such as where to go, how to respond and how to protect their families at this fair at Bixby Park (130 Cherry Ave.). The fair will include expert speakers, resource booths and educational materials. Free.

TENNIS DAY

Noon to 2 p.m. Long Beach non-profit Bridge the Gap is hosting a free tennis day for people of all ages and skill levels at the El Dorado Tennis and Pickleball Center (2800 N. Studebaker Road). There will be tennis activities, music, face painting, balloon artists, free food and prizes for those who hit special targets. Attendees are asked to arrive early so court assignments can be handed out to start on time. RSVP online. Free.

BOOK SIGNING

Noon to 3 p.m. Author Dr. Leslie Reese will celebrate the launch of her book "Rancho Los Cerritos: People Who Shaped the Land" at Rancho Los Cerritos (4600 Virginia Road). Visitors can enjoy costumed interpreters, a photo-based history walk and food for purchase from Lola's Mexican Cuisine. RSVP online. Free.

KHMER NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

6 p.m. Celebrate the Khmer New Year at Roxanne's (1115 E. Wardlow Road) for an evening of live music, food from Battambang BBQ, live comedy sets, private hennessy tastings, local Cambodian vendors and more. Free.

05 SUNDAY

SANKRANTA

8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Khmer New Year celebrations continue on Sunday at Long Beach City College (1305 E. Pacific Coast Highway), beginning with a Buddhist ceremony at 8:30 a.m., followed by dancing, music, Southeast Asian food and much more. Free.

SAPPHIC SOCCER

10 a.m. to noon. This weekly soccer meetup is for the local queer community to have fun in sports and make new friends. There's no scorekeeping or competition, just a safe place to play. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own cleats and water. RSVP in the link in the bio of @queersportslb on Instagram. Location will be shared the night before the meetup. Free.

LE BRUNCH

11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Buvons Wine and Homareya are teaming up for a French-Japanese cuisine collaboration at Buvons (1145 Loma Ave.). There will be coffee by So Sentimental, French and Japanese wines, mimosas and food from each culture. Online booking is encouraged, and walk-ins will be accepted from 2 to 3 p.m. unless items are sold out. RSVP through the link in the bio of @buvonswine on Instagram.

06 MONDAY

BOOK CLUB

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Join local mutual aid group Care Culture Collaborative every Monday at Vine LB (2142 E. Fourth St.) for its book club. The current book is Madeline Lane-McKinely's "Solidarity With Children," which argues for politics that see children as comrades in our struggle for a better future, and examines the history of childhood, parenting and education. Free.

SECRET GRINDHOUSE

7 p.m. The Art Theatre of Long Beach (2024 E. Fourth St.) is kicking off its Secret Grindhouse series in 2026 with See It On 16mm. They'll be threading together decaying prints, those in a rights limbo, forgotten titles and off the radar films, with a focus on blaxploitation. General admission tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online.

07 TUESDAY

PAWS ON THE PROMENADE

6 p.m. Dog owners can bring their dog to this socialization event on the first Tuesday of the month at Dog Haus Biergarten (210 E. Third St.). At 6:15 p.m., dogs and their owners will walk around downtown together. Free.

HORROR TRIVIA

7 p.m. Horror film lovers can show off their knowledge, meet fellow enthusiasts and compete for prizes at the 4th Horseman (121 Fourth St.) on the first Tuesday of every month. Competitors can receive gift cards, merchandise and more. Free.

08 WEDNESDAY

COMMUNITY WALK AUDIT

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Residents are invited to walk along Pacific Avenue during the sunset, and to share their feedback about the ar-

ea's walkability, infrastructure and street safety. The 1.3-mile walk will begin and end at Billie Jean King Library (200 W. Broadway). Free.

PAN AFRIKAN STUDY GROUP

6 p.m. The African American Cultural Center of Long Beach hosts this virtual weekly study group on African history and ancestry. Participants can expect scholarly presentations, group discussion, book study, and can engage, ask questions or just listen in. RSVP in the link in the bio of @aacofflb on Instagram. Free.

BOARDGAME NIGHT

6 p.m. Boardgame lovers 21 and older can play different games together at The Wicked Wolf's (2332 Pacific Ave.) upstairs den every Wednesday evening.

09 THURSDAY

FARMERS MARKETS

8 a.m. to noon; 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Shop for locally grown and home-food, as well as unique gifts at two farmers markets every Thursday. In the morning, the 4th Street Farmers Market be at 2000 E. Fourth St. from 8 a.m. to noon. In the evening, the Bixby Knolls Farmers Market will take place at the corner of Atlantic Ave. and E. 46th St. from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Entry is free.

BOOK CLUB

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Long Beach Bookworms invites book lovers to a silent reading party and fundraiser amongst adoptable cats at the Cool Cat Collective (2741 E. Fourth St.). Tickets are \$15 and all proceeds go to Tipped Ears, a cat rescue organization. Purchase tickets online.

IS THAT IT?

NOPE!

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REP ROUNDUP

What did Long Beach representatives do in March?

Kristen Farrah Naem
Staff Writer

This installment of the *Signal Tribune's* monthly series covers actions taken and statements made by Long Beach's federal and state representatives in March 2026.

Elected officials were involved in discussions, debate and legislation surrounding immigration enforcement, the Epstein files and the disgraced César Chávez.

The purpose of this ongoing series is to help the public stay abreast of their elected officials and hold them accountable beyond Election Day.

Robert Garcia
U.S. Representative
for California's 42nd
Congressional District

Federal Funding: On March 10, Garcia announced that Long Beach would receive \$3.7 million in federal funding for the following public projects:

- \$1,031,000 to create a DNA lab within the Long Beach Police Department, in an effort to expedite investigations, cut down on case backlogs and enhance public safety.

- \$850,000 to improve the Broadway Corridor through improved street safety, public art, lighting and accessibility. These changes aim to bolster small businesses located along the corridor while preparing downtown infrastructure for the 2028 Olympic Games.

- \$850,000 for updates to Colorado Lagoon and Marina Vista Park, including new communal spaces, recreational amenities and recycled water infrastructure.

- \$750,000 to enhance safety and upgrade facilities at Admiral Kidd Park, making sure the community center can continue to host neighborhood activities and youth programs.

- \$250,000 to make improvements to the Washington Neighborhood Youth Center so that it can be used for after-school programs, mental health services, job readiness training and youth development.

"I'm proud to bring federal dollars back home to support projects that make our communities safer, more connected, and more livable," Garcia said in a public statement. "These investments will support safer neighborhoods, better schools, and stronger community



(Clockwise from left to right): California State Senator Lena Gonzalez, Congressman Robert Garcia, Congresswoman Nannette Diaz Barragan and California Assemblymember Josh Lowenthal represent the constituents of Long Beach.

spaces across Long Beach. I can't wait to see these projects come to life and make a real difference for our community in the years to come."



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
Congressman Robert Garcia talks to Long Beach residents during his first town hall meeting in Downtown Long Beach on Aug. 23, 2023.

Epstein: On March 31, Garcia spoke with Long Beach resident Annie Farmer, who was abused by sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein when she was a girl. They discussed the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's efforts to get all the Epstein files released.

"Annie Farmer is a hero who deserves justice and I'm so glad

that so many women are hearing her story," Garcia said in a public statement. "President Trump and Attorney General Pam Bondi need to finally follow the law, release the files, and end this White House cover-up. We will not stop fighting until we get the truth for the American people and the justice these survivors deserve."

Nannette Díaz Barragán
U.S. representative
for California's 44th
Congressional District

Deportation: Barragán joined other legislators in writing a letter demanding the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and State provide further information on the deportation of a mother and her two young children, one of whom is Deaf and was deported without his hearing aids. The family was detained by federal agents after a routine immigration check-in in San Francisco.

The children's mother, Lesly Rodriguez Gutierrez, has since filed for humanitarian parole in hopes of returning to the United States so her six-year-old can continue his medical care and education.

"There is no excuse for ICE to have taken away 6-year-old Joseph's hearing aids. None," Barragán said. "To take away a young child's tools that help him to hear is a cruelty that is both disgusting and pointless. Shame on DHS and ICE. They must work to bring the family back to the US and get Joseph the care he needs and deserves."

César Chávez: On March 18, Barragán released the following statement on César Chávez's reported sexual abuse of women and girls.

"I am heartbroken, outraged, and sick to my stomach. Heartbroken for the young girls and women

who suffered abuse and violations by a man who was lifted up as an icon. I'm outraged that someone could abuse their power and stature to take advantage of young girls and women. [...] I applaud the brave women who have come forward to tell their story. Your story and courage are empowering for women and survivors everywhere. You deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. I offer my support and help, in any way I can.

The farmworker movement is about fighting for better working conditions and immigrant justice. That movement was built by a collective effort of countless workers, organizers, and advocates committed to challenging exploitation and advancing dignity for all. Today, we are reminded of the need to continue that work and to hold people accountable, no matter their title or history. We cannot look away."



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
California State Senator Lena Gonzalez speaks to attendees at Signal Hill Park on Oct. 18, 2022.

Lena Gonzalez
California State Senator
for the 33rd District

Conservation Corps: On March 12, Gonzalez visited the facilities of the Long Beach Conservation Corp. In a social media post, the Conservation Corps stated that Gonzalez was able to "strategize with us around state legislative priorities," during her visit.

Flashbang Grenades: On March 24, the Senate Standing Committee on Public Safety passed a bill by Gonzalez that would restrict the use of flashbang grenades. This bill would revise existing law, to place the same restrictions on the use of flashbang grenades during protests that currently apply to tear gas and rubber bullets.

"Though classified as less lethal, flashbangs have caused life altering injuries to both protesters, journalists, law enforcement, and even innocent people," Gonzalez said to the committee.

If passed, Senate Bill 937 would prohibit law enforcement from using flashbang grenades solely to disperse protesters, however they can still be used to "defend against a threat to life or serious bodily injury to any individual, including any peace officer, or to bring an objectively dangerous and unlawful situation safely and effectively under control."

Additionally, SB 937 would ban law enforcement in California from using flashbangs during immigration enforcement, or near school grounds, parks, or other areas where children can be seen.

Josh Lowenthal
California Assemblymember
for the 69th District

Hate Speech Training: On March 18, the Assembly Standing Committee on Labor and Employment passed a bill authored by Lowenthal, aimed at combatting hate speech in the workplace. Under current law, businesses with five or more employees are required to provide anti-sexual harassment training. If Assembly Bill 1803 is passed, this training would also include information on recognizing and preventing hate speech.

"When hate speech goes unchallenged, it normalizes hostility and emboldens escalation," Lowenthal said to the committee.

The bill has now been sent to the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Nitrous Oxide: On March 25, the Assembly Standing Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection passed Lowenthal's Assembly Bill 2076, which aims to make it harder for minors to purchase nitrous oxide. This legislation would add nitrous oxide to the list of products that requires age verification to be purchased online under the California Parents Accountability and Child Protection Act.

AB 2076 has now been sent to the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

The bill would also increase penalties for large businesses caught selling prohibited items to minors. Under the current California Parents Accountability and Child Protection Act, the fine is \$7,500 per violation. If AB 2076 passes, businesses with over \$25,000,000 in gross annual income could be fined up to \$250,000 per violation.

Read the full roundup online at SigTrib.com

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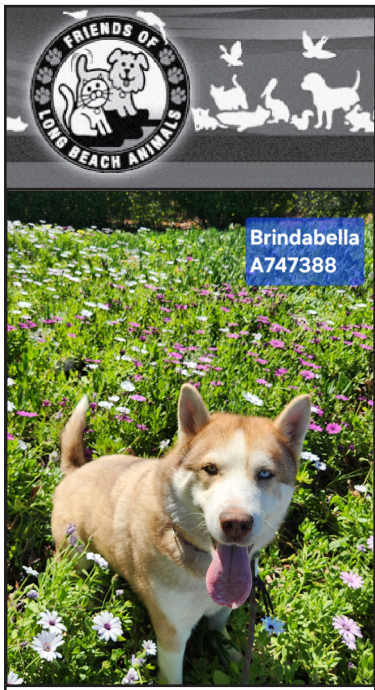
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**Pet of the week:
Brindabella**

Here's Brindabella, basking in the blooming blossoms of spring and wondering where her prince, princess or any forever-loving human is. She's been at Long Beach Animal Care Services since August last year, a very long time for a big, active breed to be cooped up in a kennel for most of the day. Brindabella is a year-old Siberian husky – an odd-eyed girl who loves the outdoors. Her favorite spot at the shelter is the park bench, where she'll take over most of the seating space. She's a leaner, too, and you'd better be seated when she does that, because she's a big girl! You also need to know the husky breed and their quirks and strengths if you want to adopt or foster Brindabella. If you do, come meet her and take her to the ball—or better yet, toss her one! Speed the process to adopt or foster Brindabella or any of our other pets by emailing PetAdopt@longbeach.gov or petfoster@longbeach.gov. You can also call (562) 570-4925. Our shelter hours are Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 7700 E. Spring St. at the entrance to El Dorado Park (no parking fee for shelter visitors. Ask for ID#A747388.

COVERING THE BEACH AND THE HILL

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**TST8057 / 2026 051413
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: EAST 23RD BUILDERS, 13916 CORDARY AVE, HAWTHORNE, CA. 90250. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: LIONEL ROSALES, 13916 CORDARY AVE, HAWTHORNE, CA. 90250. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: LIONEL ROSALES, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 07/2011. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on Mar 6, 2026. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: March 13, 20, 27, & April 3, 2026

**TST8058 Case No. 26LBCP00074
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, GOVERNOR GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN COURTHOUSE, 275 MAGNOLIA AVE., LONG BEACH, CA. 90802 PETITION OF: Jasmine Doxey for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Jasmine Doxey has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Jasmine Doxey Proposed Name: Jasmine Doxey-Santos. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: April 20, 2026; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. S25, Room: . The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755. March 13, 20, 27, & April 3, 2026. //ss// Nicole M. Heeseman, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: March 6, 2026

**TST8059 Case No. 26NWCP00089
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 12720 NORWALK BLVD., NORWALK, CA. 90650 PETITION OF: Liliana Amparo Ramos Rosas for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Liliana Rosas has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Liliana Amparo Ramos Rosas Proposed Name: Lily Ana Ramos 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: April 24, 2026; Time: 8:30 a.m., Dept. C, Room 312. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Or-

der to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755. March 13, 20, 27, & April 3, 2026. //ss// Lee W. Tsao, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: March 2, 2026

**TST8060 Case No. 26CMCP00048
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 200 W. COMPTON BLVD., COMPTON, CA. 90220 PETITION OF: Carlos Antonio Melendez Bejar aka Carlos Antonio Melendes Bejar aka Carlos Antonio Melendes for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Carlos Antonio Melendez Bejar aka Carlos Antonio Melendes has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Carlos Antonio Melendez Bejar aka Carlos Antonio Melendes Proposed Name: Carlos Antonio Melendes 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: May 14, 2026; Time: 8:30 a.m., Dept. A, Room 904. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755. March 13, 20, 27, & April 3, 2026. //ss// Elizabeth L. Bradley, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: March 5, 2026

**TST8071 / 2026 052784
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: COREVIEW STUDIO, 1136 SPAZIER AVEAPT 10, GLENDALE, CA. 91201-1337. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: SAMUEL F SMITH IV, 1136 SPAZIER AVE APT 10, GLENDALE, CA. 91201-1337. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: SAMUEL F SMITH IV, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 03/2026. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on 3/9/2026. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: March 20, 27, & April 3, 10, 2026

**TST8072 / 2026 047597
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: WERK LONG BEACH, 3428 PACIFIC-COAST HIGHWAY, LONG BEACH, CA.

90804. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: GET TO WORK HOSPITALITY LLC, 1957 SAINT LOUIS AVE., SIGNAL HILL, CA. 90755. State of Incorporation/Organization: CA. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: RYAN TOOMIRE, MANAGER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on 3/3/2026. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: March 20, 27, & April 3, 10, 2026

**TST8082 / 2026 055797
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: JC'S CORES, 11230 WRIGHT RD., LYNWOOD, CA. 90262. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: ABIGAIL E CABRERA, 11347 LOUISE AVE UNIT 2, LYNWOOD, CA. 90262. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: ABIGAIL E CABRERA, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 03/2026. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on Mar 12, 2026. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: March 20, 27, & April 3, 10, 2026

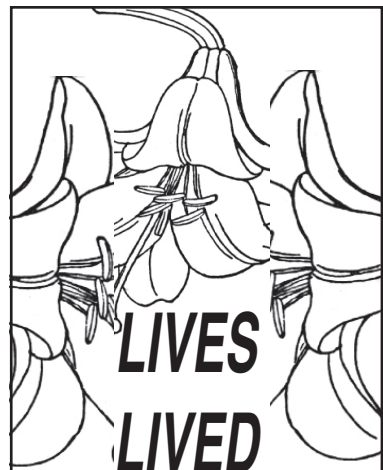
**TST8086 / 2026 064783
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: 1. ALDAN AMERICAN, 2. ALDAN EAGLE SHOCK ABSORBER, 2675 TEMPLE AVE, SIGNAL HILL, CA. 90755. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: ALDAN EAGLE, LLC, 2675 TEMPLE AVE, SIGNAL HILL, C A. 90755. State of Incorporation/Organization: CA. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: APPREE SU, MANAGER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 06/2024. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on 3/24/2026. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: March 27, & April 3, 10, 17, 2026

**TST8084
Notice of Self Storage Sale**

Please take notice SecureSpace Self Storage Signal Hill located at 3177 California Avenue Signal Hill CA 90755 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following

tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 4/22/2026 at 4:30 PM. Raymond Johnson; Roseangel-line Perez; Omar Mendoza; Jean Marmion; Candice Arnwine; Shehonia Robins; Kesairea Nichols; Joselyn Vallecillo; Porsha Walker; April Lee; Stuart Loftin; Daniel Taylor; Masen Bovaird; Sandra Chavarin; Paula Perez; Luther Harris. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. Pub. The Signal Tribune: April 3, 10, 2026



- Christi Thomsen 74
- Kwesi Sarpong 57
- Jean Greyslock 100
- Jean Dennis 93
- Shelley Bancroft 58
- James Kelly, Jr. 82
- Donald Rypinski 90
- Keith Yuhl 63
- Michael Hayes 75
- James Michaelian 83
- Donn Tague 70
- Editha Elbo 83
- William Dreger 91
- Anupam Shukla 67
- Charles Comer, Jr. 81
- Silvano Hernandez 68
- Dale Blome 76
- Nora Borg-Breen 79
- Glen Ripley 66
- Gregory Maday 84
- Francine Brodtkin 75
- Sharon Denham 83
- Robert Parkin 94
- Catherine Robinson 71
- Dorothy Reiner 93
- Jefree Hunt 77

The families were assisted by McKenzie Mortuary. For more details on service dates and times, contact (562) 961-9301

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LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TST8087

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVING AN INCREASE TO STATUTORY SCHOOL FACILITY FEES IMPOSED ON NEW RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION PURSUANT TO EDUCATION CODE SECTION 17620 AND GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65995

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education ("Board") of the Long Beach Unified School District ("School District") will hold a Public Hearing at its Regular Meeting to be held on April 15, 2026 to allow for public comment prior to consideration of its report titled "2026 Fee Justification Study" ("Fee Study"), and considering adopting a resolution of the Board of the School District to increase Statutory School Facility Fees Imposed on New Residential and Commercial/Industrial Construction pursuant to Education Code Section 17620 and Government Code Section 65995. The Fee Study justifies such increases, which is incorporated herein by this reference, and is on file at the School District's main office, located at 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810, and the Facilities Development & Planning office located at 2425 Webster Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90810, and available for public review from April 3, 2026 through April 15, 2026.

The Public Hearing of the School District, to be held April 15, 2026, will begin at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as practicable, at the Community Room of the District Administration Center, located at 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810. These matters will be considered at such time as this agenda item is considered by the Board of the School District.

Any questions regarding the Fee Study or the public hearing should be directed to the department of Facilities Development & Planning at (562) 997-7550 or at BClements@bschools.net.

Published in the *Signal Tribune* newspaper: April 3 & 10, 2026

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EXHIBITION

Follow the rings of Long Beach sports history through ‘Olympics on the Golden Shore’

Ryan Hardison
Design Editor

When 2028 arrives, Long Beach will be one of the most vital locations for that year’s Los Angeles Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. Without the proper context, it may seem as if Long Beach was bestowed a large lineup of events — a total of 18 spread across the two competitions — solely for some combination of its sizable population, waterfront location and proximity to greater LA.

That viewpoint omits the century plus lead up to the city’s most significant date with Olympic destiny, a lineage that’s laid out in sentimental detail through the exhibition “Olympics on the Golden Shore” at the Historical Society of Long Beach (HSLB).

Julie Bartolotto, executive director of the HSLB, says work began on the project in fall 2024, starting with an extensive research paper presented to the city manager. While compiling the report took over half a year, Bartolotto said learning how the Olympics came to the city made it easier to tell the stories laid out in the exhibition. From there, it allowed the team of roughly half a dozen historians and archivists to work on “the fun stuff.”

“Olympics on the Golden Shore” opened in August 2025, marking the Historical Society’s first-ever Olympics-centered exhibition. It consists of archival materials, memorabilia, photographs and physical memories that cover the local connection to the 1932 and 1984 iterations of the Summer Olympic Games, both hosted in Los Angeles.

For those alive during one of the city’s previous Olympic endeavors, the exhibition is a nostalgic reminder of Long Beach’s sporting history. As for locals who’ve yet to experience a SoCal olympiad, it’s an opportunity to learn about past athletic glories and the stories that line the city’s presence on the international stage.

This stroll through history includes a detailed explainer on the formation of Marine Stadium. The waterway played host to rowing during the 1932 Games, in the process becoming the first manmade rowing course in the United States. Declared “the world’s finest course for one of the world’s greatest sports” by then-International Olympic Committee President Henri de Baillet-Latour, Marine Stadium helped put the city, and the entire region, on the global map.

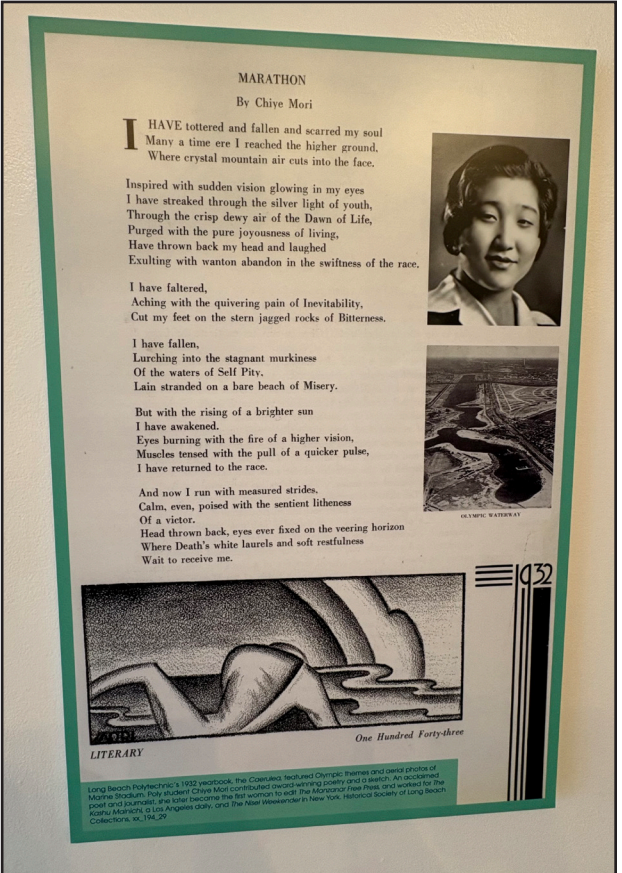
“I think that ‘32 really does put Los Angeles as a meaningful place in the United States,” Bartolotto said.

Visitors can see a large snapshot of the 1932 men’s rowing competition, as well as a diagram of early Marine Stadium and a map that directed fans to the venue’s seating area. This insight places the city’s gradual event infrastructure gains into a grounded context, showing how Olympic history is proudly weaved into Long Beach heritage.

As the ‘32 Olympics coincided with the Great Depression, there was significant criticism about hosting a large sports spectacle while residents experienced massive unemployment and inequality. Similar arguments have popped up yet again since the announcement of LA28. To somewhat remedy the situation, the Olympic committee in 1932 employed several local out-of-work folks as vendors, who then were able to keep a portion of the profits.

Despite the Olympic opposition, local excitement for the Games was palpable. This is evident through “Marathon,” an award-winning poem from the pages of Long Beach Polytechnic High School’s 1932 *Caerulea* yearbook.

Written by student Chiye Mori, “Marathon” vividly chronicles the highs and lows of competition. Mori would go on to become a notable journalist for *The Kashu Mainichi* and *The Nisei Weekender*, as well as the first female editor of the *Manzanar Free Press*, the newspaper operated at Manzanar concentration camp during the United States’ internment of Japanese Americans in World War II.



Ryan Hardison | Signal Tribune
Chiye Mori’s poem “Marathon,” written in celebration of the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, is featured in the Historical Society of Long Beach’s “Olympics on the Golden Shore” exhibition on March 20, 2026.

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With the ‘32 Olympics proving to be a success — and even turning a profit — efforts immediately began to bring it back. Though it took 52 years to make it happen, the groundwork in Long Beach was already laid for an even bigger impact this time around.

“One of the key things for Long Beach for ‘84 is that the Arena already existed, the Terrace Theater already existed, El Dorado Park already existed...they used all of these areas and they didn’t have to build anything from scratch,” Bartolotto said.

While rowing was the only event held in Long Beach during the ‘32 Games, the 1984 edition featured four sports: yachting at Shoreline Marina, archery at El Dorado Park, volleyball at Long Beach Arena and fencing at the Terrace Theater and exhibition hall. This period is where the exhibition gets its most nostalgic touch.

Personal mementos from the 1984 Games, such as banners, pins, booklets and even a flying disc, can be found in or on top of the display cases, while a donated volunteer uniform is prominently shown as well. The more eccentric items include a bottle of 1980 Parducci cabernet sauvignon with the tagline of “Saluting Los Angeles Summer 1984” and a massive sonotube, a wayfinding device with calm yet vibrant rings of teal, purple and orange.

Accompanying these souvenirs are vintage images from fencing, volleyball and archery competition, as well as blown-up articles from the *Press-Telegram* highlighting the likes of track & field icon Carl Lewis, who won gold in the 100m, 200m, 4x100m and long jump at the ‘84 Games.

There’s also a feature on local volunteers such as Long Beach pharmacist Vic Hwang, portrayer of Sam the Olympic Eagle, the ‘84 Games mascot. Eagle-eyed observers may even notice recognitions of Long Beach Olympians like water polo player and 2024 bronze medalist Max Irving or swimmer Susie Atwood, winner of a bronze and silver medal at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany.

One thing that’s evidently felt in perusing the exhibition is the spirit of community, owing from the city’s communal Olympic remembrance. It both adds a poignant depth and properly sets the stage for what’s to come in two years time.

Ninety-six years after Olympic rowing’s first race across Marine Stadium, it will return July 14-30, 2028 as part of a jam-packed event lineup in Long Beach, featuring beach volleyball, water polo, handball, sailing and more. The 2028 Games will also mark the city’s first time hosting the Paralympics, set to take place Aug. 15-27, 2028.

Once those chapters are written, the city’s Olympic connection will readily expand once more. As for how we got here, those answers can be found in “Olympics on the Golden Shore.”

Admission to “Olympics on the Golden Shore” is free and open to the public. The HSLB, located at 4260 Atlantic Ave., is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-5 p.m., Thursdays from 1-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Justin Enriquez | Signal Tribune
Various memorabilia from the 1984 Summer Olympic Games are displayed in the Historical Society of Long Beach’s “Olympics on the Golden Shore” exhibition on Friday, March 20, 2026.

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Romaine lettuce tossed w/ Caesar dressing



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2 tacos w/ your choice of chicken or steak served w/ chips + salsa



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GYRO WRAP

spinach tortilla, gyro, tomato, onion, feta cheese and tzatziki served w/ your choice of soup, salad, or fries



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