



L.A. Opera principal performer and teaching artist Miki Yamashita as legendary character Princess Turandot and Chavez students bask in the limelight between performances.

## Chavez Elementary joins L.A. Opera for live performance

**NORWALK** – For one day the cafeteria at Chavez Elementary School in Norwalk was transformed into an opera house, with dozens of Chavez fourth- and fifth-grade music students joining professionals from the Los Angeles Opera to tell a story of immigrants struggling to overcome discrimination in a new world, with two performances of “Legends of Cannery Row,” on Monday, Feb. 22.

The 30-minute opera, inspired by Puccini’s “Turandot,” concludes a five-week residency program in which world class L.A. Opera teaching artists instructed Chavez students in the intricacies of performing opera, while Chavez fourth- and fifth-grade teachers Sandra Montoya, Gina Townsend and music coordinator Penelope Barron integrated the opera into studies of history, geography and human rights. Chavez is one of only 13 L.A.-area elementary schools to participate in this year’s residency.

“The opera brilliantly blends creative expression with the actuality of the immigrant experience, which resonates greatly within our community,” Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said. “We are extremely grateful to the L.A. Opera for providing our students with the opportunity to participate in such a joyous and significant production. Bravo!”

A packed house of students, parents, faculty and administrators delighted in the humorously thrilling tale of an elementary school class field trip to the famous Cannery Row in Monterey to learn the history of Chinese immigrants, where the sudden appearance of Princess Turandot begins a discussion – in song – bringing to life the plight of those who came from abroad to work in the mid-19th century Bay Area fishing trade.

“This is our fifth year presenting a student opera, which we have found is an excellent way to engage students in a collaborative educational experience, then present what they have learned to their schoolmates, parents and the community,” Chavez principal Gabriela Galvez-Reyna said. “We truly value the tremendous work done by our exceptional teachers in preparing the students, especially our music coordinator Penelope Barron.”

The L.A. Opera provides the “learning-by-doing” in-school opera program as a way to teach music and theater fundamentals to students who, in the process, learn self-discipline and cooperation while working as an ensemble. In addition, teachers receive an opportunity to support student exposure to the arts and integrate the themes of the opera into a comprehensive lesson plan.

“Norwalk-La Mirada is committed to providing every available academic resource to our students to ensure they grow up to be life-long learners,” NLMUSD Board President Karen Morrison said. “Not all educational opportunities will come in conventional forms. By encouraging our kids to explore their creative sides, they gain confidence in their ability to challenge themselves in new ways.”

### Upcoming events at the library

**NORWALK** – An adult coloring club, Color Us Happy, meets at the Norwalk Library every Thursday at 1 p.m.

Supplies are available, but participants can bring their own. The program is free.

•Norwalk Library is hosting a smart gardening workshop this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Learn backyard composting, water-wise gardening, worm composting, and grass-cycling.

Compost bins will be available for purchase (cash or check).

•Norwalk Library, in partnership with the South Asian Network, will host a citizenship clinic Thursday, March 10, from 5-7:30 p.m.

Participants will receive application support, legal advice, study materials, and a fee waiver application.

Call the library at (562) 868-0775 to register.

•In celebration of Teen Tech Week, Norwalk Library will host a scavenger hunt throughout the library Saturday, March 12.

The tech and internet-inspired scavenger hunt begins at 4 p.m. It is intended for teens in grades 6-12. Participation is free.

•The “holiday bunny” will visit Norwalk Library on Tuesday, March 22, at 4 p.m.

Children and their parents can take a photo (bring your own camera), and also participate in an art activity.

### ‘ARTastic’ returns to Norwalk March 18

**NORWALK** – Norwalk’s annual “ARTastic” event will take place Friday, March 18, from 6-9 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center.

“ARTastic” features free art activities, multiple art exhibits, live entertainment, a Ferris wheel, book fair, art competition, a street fair with food trucks, an art walk, open mic, and a chalk art competition.

Local artists are invited to participated in the art competition, art walk and chalk art contest.

For more information regarding “ARTastic” or the art competition, call (562) 929-5521. For questions about the chalk art contest, call (562) 929-5518.

## Legislators rally behind light-rail line from Artesia to downtown LA

**By Christian Brown**  
Staff Writer

**PARAMOUNT** – In the hope of easing traffic congestion and spurring economic development, state legislators and local city officials last month called for renewed efforts to construct a 20-mile light-rail system from Artesia to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles.

Gathered inside a conference room in Paramount, state Senator Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia) reiterated his support for the light-rail Eco-Rapid Transit line, formerly known as the Orangeline.

“I am pleased with the tremendous support shown from statewide and regional leaders for this project,” said Mendoza. “We must ensure that the ‘Gateway Cities’ receive their fair share of funding to complete the Eco-Rapid Transit light-rail line.

“The project will transform our region and provide much-needed transportation options for the ‘Gateway Cities’ residents.”

Michael R. Kodama, executive director of the Eco-Rapid Transit, thanked Mendoza for his commitment to the rail line.

“With his support, we were able to bring together the largest and most influential gathering ever of local and statewide officials to support the project,” Kodama said.

Ultimately, officials hope to connect over four million residents along an old Union Pacific Railroad route via the new regional transportation system, but finding funding is the biggest hurdle.

While the Eco-Rapid line was approved as a Measure R project, Los Angeles County is considering a bond measure to raise the remaining funds. Last week, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority Board (MTA) officially released \$18 million in Measure R funds for the predevelopment and planning stages.

Overall, \$240 million from Measure R will go towards the project, which estimated to cost upwards of \$4.3 billion and will created an estimated 52,000 construction jobs. But officials maintain the transit line

will eventually serve a daily ridership of 75,000, generating \$6.68 billion in economic growth as redevelopment spreads around every station.

Mendoza praised the MTA’s decision to kick start the project last week.

“This investment of resources brings us one step closer to ensuring that the necessary funds are available to develop and build the light-rail line to completion,” Mendoza said in a statement. “I look forward to continuing to work with all our partners to build a 21st century transportation system that will benefit the Gateway Cities’ residents for generations.”

Slated to open in 2027, the Eco-Rapid Transit will run along the West Santa Ana Branch Transit corridor, an abandoned Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way from Artesia north through Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Cudahy, Downey, Gardena, Huntington Park, Maywood, Paramount, South Gate, and Vernon before heading along the northwest side of the L.A. River to Union Station.

## Cerritos College signs new pathways deal with high schools

**NORWALK** – Cerritos College and ABC, Downey, Lynwood, Norwalk-La Mirada, Paramount, Pasadena Unified School Districts, and St. John Bosco High School have signed new articulation agreements that will allow qualified high school students to earn college credit at Cerritos College.

These agreements create seamless pathways in advanced manufacturing and engineering technology for high school students to earn their certificates of achievement at Cerritos College while in high school, officials said.

“These agreements represent opportunities for future engineers and other careers related to STEM,” said Marco Antonio Firebaugh High School Instructor John Ude. “Students who enter college under these agreements will have a clearer path and focus for a successful college experience.”

High school students can earn up to 12 units of credit through

the new articulation agreements at Cerritos College.

The Engineering Project Lead The Way (PLTW) classes articulated are:

- Introduction to Engineering Design (IED)
- Principles of Engineering (POE)
- Aerospace Engineering (AE)
- Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA)
- Computer Integrated Machining (CIM)
- Digital Electronics (DE)

To view the complete list of articulation agreements at Cerritos College, go to <http://goo.gl/Umhzry>

College credits earned through articulation agreements are placed on the Cerritos College student transcript with the course number and course title. The credits may be applied at Cerritos College, may be transferred to other colleges that

accept the course for transfer and may be accepted by the armed forces as proof of advanced education.

“In 2015, six students from Lynwood High School followed this process and received certificate of achievement in engineering design technology or new product development at Cerritos College at the same time as they graduated from High School,” said Cerritos College Instructional Dean of Technology, Dr. Nick Real. “These new agreements offer a great opportunity for students interested in a career in engineering technology and/or advanced manufacturing to earn their certificate of achievement while they are in high school.”

The development of the articulation agreements stemmed from the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Technology Linked Learning grant, part of the California Career Pathways Trust.

### Weekend at a Glance

|          |     |  |
|----------|-----|--|
| Friday   | 67° |  |
| Saturday | 66° |  |
| Sunday   | 63° |  |

### THINGS TO DO

**Pippi Longstocking**  
*Sunday - The Regent in Los Angeles, 7 p.m.*

A celebration of Pippi Longstocking, including rare films and a costume contest. \$15

**Spook Show**  
*Saturday, Halloween Club in La Mirada, 12-7 p.m.*

An outdoor, all-day festival featuring horror vendors, artists, collectors, cooks and more.

**Tea Time**  
*Sunday, Sproul Museum in Norwalk, 1-3 p.m.*

Enjoy a tea or hot chocolate while touring Norwalk’s Sproul Museum. Free admission.



**Gardening Workshop**  
*Saturday, Norwalk Library, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*

Learn backyard composting, water-wise gardening, worm composting, and grass cycling. No reservations needed.



**Inflatable 5K**  
*Saturday, El Dorado Park in Long Beach, 8:30 a.m.*

A 5K run/walk unlike any other, with inflatable obstacles along the course. Details at [insaneinflatable5k.com](http://insaneinflatable5k.com)



**Abbey Road**  
*Friday, La Mirada Theatre for Performing Arts, 8 p.m.*

The Beatles tribute band performs. Tickets start at \$36

### TWEET OF THE WEEK

@Principal Lancer: Installed new digital signage in the main office and Career Center! Awesome way to greet our community.

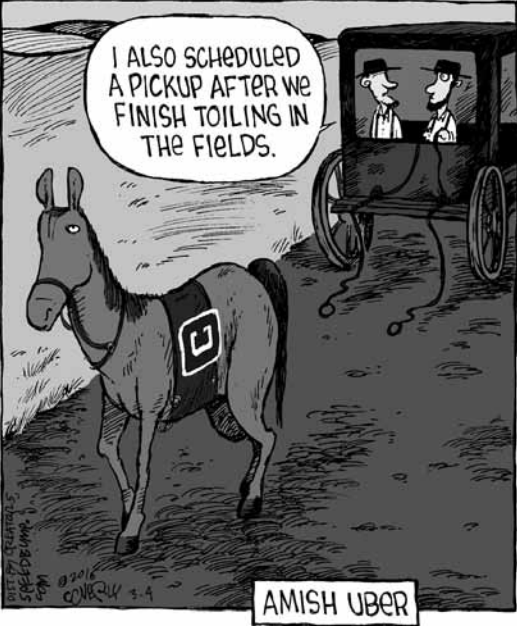
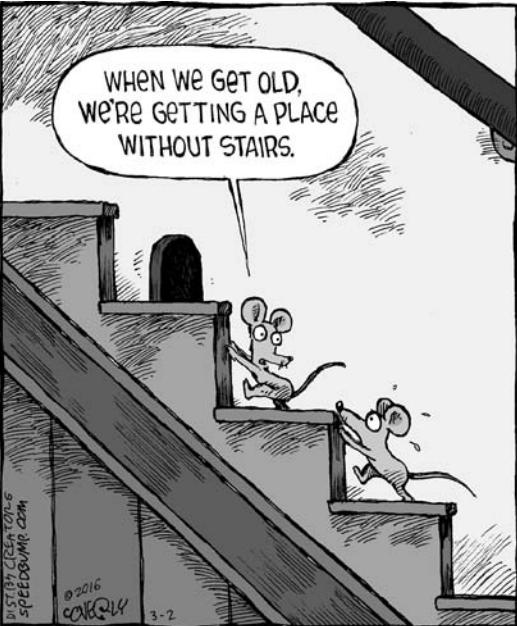
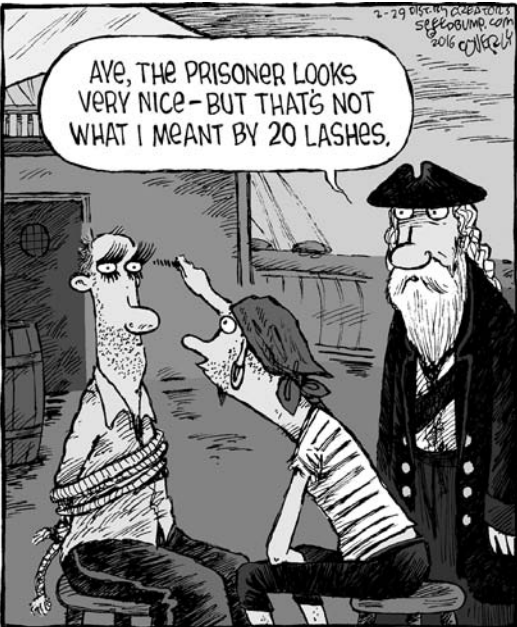
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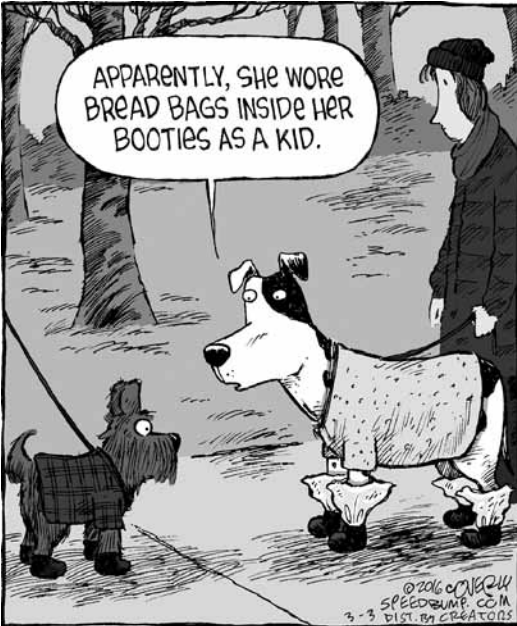




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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Gardening Workshop - Norwalk Library

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. - Tea Time - Sproul Museum



MONDAYS

1st, 6:00 p.m. - Public Safety meetings - Council Chambers

TUESDAYS

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Farmers Market - Excelsior High School

1st & 3rd 6:00 p.m. - Toastmasters Meetings - Registrar Recorder/County Clerks Office

2nd & 4th, - Toastmasters Meetings - Norwalk Library

1st & 3rd, 6:00 p.m. - City Council - Council Chambers

3rd, 5:45 p.m. - Housing Authority - Council Chambers

WEDNESDAYS

10:30 a.m. - Woman's Club - Masonic Lodge

12:00 p.m. - Rotary - Doubletree Hotel

1st, 12:30 p.m. - Soroptimist International - Soroptimist Village

1st & 3rd, 7:00 p.m. - Lions Club - Bruce's Restaurant

2nd & 4th, 1:30 p.m. - Alondra Senior Citizens - Social Services Center

2nd & 4th, 7:30 p.m. - Planning Commission - Council Chambers

4th, 11:30 a.m. - Coordinating Council - Arts & Sports Complex

THURSDAYS

7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts Troop 924 - Norwalk United Methodist Church

2nd, 7:30 p.m. - Golden Trowel -Norwalk Masonic Lodge

3rd, 8:00 p.m. - American Legion Post No. 359 - 11986 Front St.

SATURDAYS

2nd, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast - First Christian Church of Norwalk

Have an event you want listed? E-mail [news@thedowneypatriot.com](mailto:news@thedowneypatriot.com)

On This Day...

**March 4, 1681:** England's King Charles II granted a charter to William Penn for an area of land that later became Pennsylvania.

**1789:** The Constitution went into effect as the first Congress met in New York City.

**1997:** President Bill Clinton barred spending federal money on human cloning.

**Birthdays:** Actress Patricia Heaton (58), retired basketball player Kevin Johnson (50), reality star Chaz Bono (47), singer Ivy Queen (44), soccer player Landon Donovan (34) and R&B singer K Michelle (32).

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

HERE'S TWO YOU: Pairs that can precede a certain word  
by Fred Piscop

ACROSS

- 1 Sore spots  
6 Squander, as cash  
10 Ottoman Empire title  
15 Actress Moore  
19 Main thrust  
20 Corn Belt state  
21 In accordance with  
22 Mary Kay rival  
23 Major real-estate deal  
25 Coffee time at the office  
27 Biblical shepherd  
28 Likewise not  
29 Chamber group  
31 Swoons  
32 Be penitent  
34 Refusals  
35 Assemble, as a music CD  
36 Nectar source for bees  
39 Software's drop-down list  
40 Old West-era message  
44 Mythical abductee  
45 Repairer's installation  
48 Diminutive suffix  
49 Says further  
50 "... Vikings"  
(NFL fight song)  
51 Paris' Palais Sports  
52 "Pipe down!"  
54 Phone bk. listings  
55 3, 5 or 7  
59 As a result  
60 CNN sister channel  
61 Foldaway furniture  
62 In very short supply  
63 Less trusting  
64 Done dozing  
66 Woodch's assembly  
67 Witches' component  
68 With good judgment  
70 Wilson of Midnight in Paris  
71 Oil drilling equipment  
72 Family MDs

DOWN

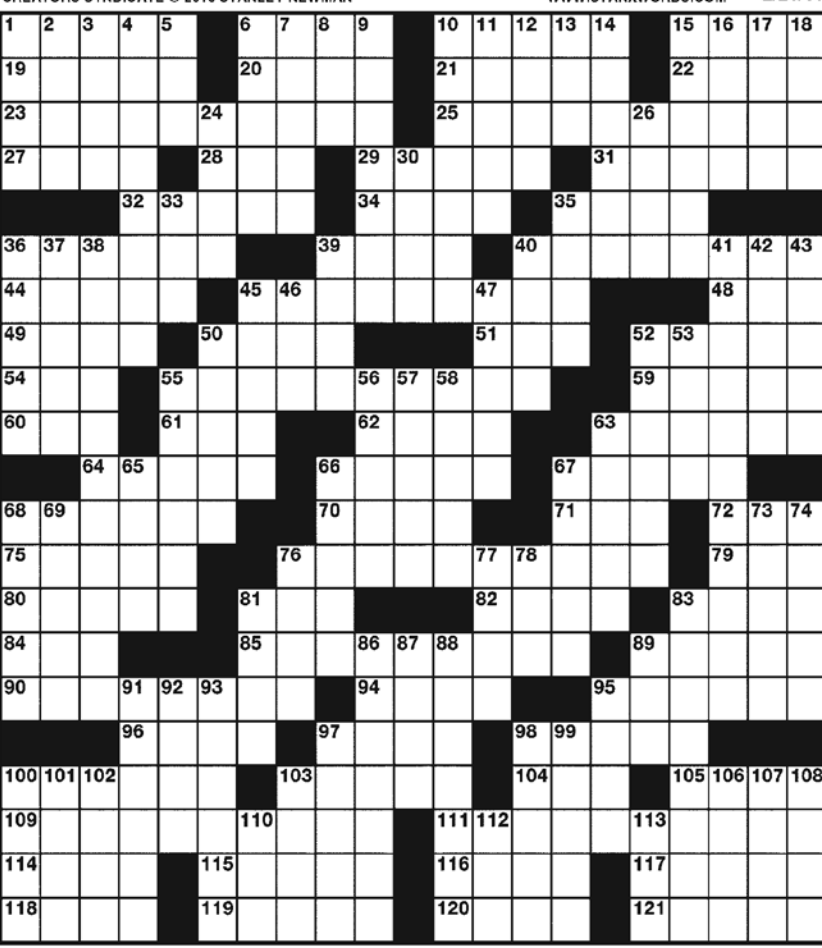
- 1 "Dancing Queen" group  
2 Bed with bars  
3 Massive  
4 Isolated regions  
5 NL Central team  
6 Returning beast on a 2005 nickel  
7 France's longest river  
8 Hold title to  
9 Old West driver  
10 Prepare a printed page, old-style

- 11 Cookout residue  
12 Catch a glimpse of  
13 Yonder yawl  
14 Crafty  
15 Afraid of nothing  
16 Level off  
17 Water under the drawbridge  
18 Cartoonist's supply  
24 ... about (approximately)  
26 Unembellished  
30 Highway marker  
33 Lacrosse team complement  
35 Takes the odds  
36 Utter repetitively  
37 Strung along  
38 Great American Songbook tune  
39 Complex with anchor stores  
40 Sloth's home  
41 Needing cutting, as a sitcom script  
42 Queen of Hearts irker  
43 Utility reading  
45 Ride on a board, perhaps  
46 Certain seat seeker  
47 Guys who write promos  
50 Dull gray  
52 Seat seeker's common promise  
53 Prefix for nautical  
55 Only inanimate zodiac symbol  
56 Move like mountain lions  
57 Get tangled  
58 Rachel, in recent  
63 Outlandish  
65 Shoe strip  
66 Cheese akin to Cheddar  
67 More sincere  
68 Musketeer's weapon

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2/28/16



- 69 Be mad about  
73 Analyze critically  
74 Wine category  
76 Share a border with  
77 Roadhouses  
78 Catch a glimpse of  
81 River of Aragon  
83 Column support  
86 Widely varied  
87 Enduring symbol  
88 Everybody Loves Raymond employer

- 89 GMC Terrain, for one  
91 Reebok's corporate owner  
92 All baloney  
93 Consumer application  
95 Weep and wail  
97 Highly skilled  
98 Played badly  
99 Places for earrings  
100 French Toast waffle brand

- 101 Emulate eagles  
102 Battery part in physics  
103 Actress Watson  
106 Slightly leavened flatbread  
107 Solemn assent  
108 Battery part in psychology  
110 NL Central team  
112 ... case-by-case basis  
113 Precognition, for short

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# NEWS BRIEFS FROM CERRITOS: Landscape contracts awarded

**CERRITOS** – The Cerritos City Council recently approved several contracts to maintain arterial, center median, public landscape areas and trees.

Complete Landscape Care, Inc. of Whittier was awarded a \$374,440 contract for landscape and irrigation maintenance of the center medians and arterial planters.

Landcare of Santa Fe Springs received a \$320,800 contract for landscape and irrigation maintenance and freeway landscape.

A \$53,114 contract was awarded to Valley Crest Landscape Maintenance, Inc. of Anaheim to maintain landscape and irrigation at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, the Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park and other City-owned property.

Each contract is for three years, with provisions for two one-year extensions.

A multi-year contract was also approved for Golden West Arbor Services Inc. of Pomona for City-wide tree-trimming and maintenance in the amount of \$1,162,400.

•The Cerritos City Council recently awarded a \$184,700 contract to Petra CPS of Placentia for the resurfacing of the main stage at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts.

The project includes resurfacing the main stage, the main theater floor and seating storage areas. The project also includes repairing the seismic anchors for the storage of the theater's movable towers and relocating the anchors to maximize the main stage's usability.

The work will be completed in June when the theater is closed for

maintenance.

•The Cerritos City Council recently expanded its existing ban against medical marijuana by prohibiting the cultivation and commercial delivery of medical marijuana within city limits.

Medical marijuana dispensaries are also prohibited within the City of Cerritos.

Under the modifications, commercial deliveries of medical marijuana in the form of wholesalers, transporters and dispensaries are prohibited.

•Verizon has informed the City of Cerritos that its landline telephone and FiOS cable television operations in the City have been purchased by Frontier Communications. Verizon also reported that according to Frontier Communications, transitioning customers' services and pricing will not change.

Verizon is sending notices about the sale of its operations to Frontier Communications to customers by postal mail, email and via bill messages through March 2016. Before the transfer, Frontier Communications will send transitioning customers via postal mail a Welcome Kit with information about their transition to Frontier. The company will also send these customers a follow-up email message with the information.

The transaction is expected to be completed after Thursday, March 31, 2016. At that time the company will begin operating under the name Frontier Communications. (Verizon Wireless customers and services are not affected by this transaction.)

The advance information that will be sent to customers by Verizon

and Frontier Communications before Thursday, March 31 will address customers' questions leading up to and following the transition to Frontier.

If, after reviewing these materials, a customer wishes to contact Verizon Customer Service prior to Thursday, March 31, the number to call is (800) VERIZON. After this date, these customers can contact Frontier Customer Service at (800) 921-8101.

•The Cerritos City Council recently approved rehabilitation and repairs for one of the City's wells.

General Pump Company, which has been maintaining the City's wells and water infrastructure, was awarded a \$423,434 contract to repair and rehabilitate Well C-2, which provides about a third of the water pumped by the City. The work is underway and is expected to be completed in April. Water customers will not be affected.

The project consists of removing the motor, column pipe, drive shaft and pump. The casing will also be examined to see if it needs to be replaced, repaired or modified.

The well, located at the Corporate Yard, is approximately 45 years old and was last rehabilitated in 2004.

•Have you always wanted to become a ham radio operator? Are you interested in learning disaster communications? A two-day Amateur Radio Technical Level class will be offered at the Cerritos Sheriff's Station from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20.

The course prepares students for the technician level exam. It includes theories, demonstrations, hands-on activities, videos and lecture.

There is a \$75 course fee. An additional \$14 test fee applies to each FCC exam. The test will be administered on Sunday during class time. Test results will be available immediately.

Class size is limited to 25 people. In order to receive course materials in advance, pre-registration is mandatory. To successfully complete the class, home study (including pre-class homework) is required.

For more information, visit cerritosradio.org, contact markchung@cerritosradio.org or call (562) 708-3893. To register for the class, call the Community Safety Division at (562) 916-1266.

# Affordable housing complex in Norwalk holds open house

**NORWALK** – Home Ownership for Personal Empowerment (HOPE), a Los Angeles County based nonprofit, hosted an open house on Wednesday for its newest site that is located on Flatbush Avenue. This facility will be home to three tenants with developmental disabilities. Ongoing services will be provided by Life Steps Foundation and the Harbor Regional Center. The event brought together neighbors, community partners, and local officials to celebrate the latest addition of affordable, rental stock in the city.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition states in their publication, Out of Reach 2015, that affordability is measured by rent being no more than 30% of income. They further report, "In no State can a person working full-time at minimum wage afford a one - bedroom apartment at the Fair Market Rent." At this moment, California has the 3rd highest wage requirement in

the country- at \$26.65 per hour to afford a median priced 2 bedroom apartment.

Many people simply spend an outsized portion of their income on shelter. This leaves little savings available to purchase nutritious foods, cover healthcare expenses, pay for transportation, pursue higher education, and ultimately break the cycle of poverty. HOPE's program is exclusively for individuals with developmental disabilities, and they charge no more than 30% of a tenant's income on rent.

At the event, tours were provided by the present residents, proud to show off their new bedrooms to visitors. Later, attendees listened to Norwalk Mayor, Leonard Shryock; HOPE Board President, Bob Irlen; and Executive Director, Kristin Martin, as they gave speeches highlighting the housing crisis in the state and lauding the efforts of the community collaboration

that made this affordable home a reality. A special thank you was given to Kristin Maithonis and Jesus Sanchez in the city's housing department, whose inspired work on this project was critical to its success. The mayor made it a point to warmly welcome the new renters to the neighborhood.

Kristin Martin spoke in particular of the impact this location would have on its tenants. "This is our fifth affordable home in Norwalk, and I'm excited to be a part of the celebration. I am even more excited though for the opportunities the privacy, independence and safety of this house will afford our residents."

The evening ended with the ribbon cutting ceremony. Mayor Leonard had the honors but invited the current tenants to join him as he officially opened the restored house for occupancy.

# Bellflower High earns award for civics course

**BELLFLOWER** – Bellflower High School is being recognized as one of the three top schools in California by California's Civic Learning Initiative, a program run by State Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

The high school was named March 1 as a recipient of an Award of Excellence; two additional winners hail from Sacramento and San Diego counties. Six schools received Awards of Distinction and 78 schools posted Awards of Merit in the highly competitive program."

Bellflower Unified's victory is its second consecutive win. In 2014-15, Mayfair Middle School became the first middle school recognized by the 4-year-old initiative.

"This award is a great validation of the civic-learning efforts that exemplify our social studies programs across Bellflower Unified," Superintendent Dr. Brian Jacobs said. "Our team of educators does an amazing job of connecting the abstract concept of civics to hands-on participation in our community."

A panel of experts chose the winning schools based on depth and breadth of civic-learning courses and programs.

Bellflower High School's civics-

learning program, launched three years ago, engages students in real-world issues. Students are required to frame an inquiry into a community issue, investigate the issue, engage in civil dialogue and capture different points of view before drawing a conclusion they share with teachers and classmates.

All students – from grade seven through 12 – present their findings during the Bellflower Civics Fair in June. Juniors and seniors go a step further, taking an active role in their issues.

In recent years, students have provided homeless residents with toiletry care bags and urged the city to install better lighting on crosswalks to shield pedestrians at night. This year, students are highly focused on elections, especially a push for Bellflower to adopt a district system for electing City Council members. Another group of students obtained city permission to create a mural at a local park. Many students also volunteer at the Bellflower Volunteer Center.

"It's exciting to see these model schools innovating in engaging, real-world civic learning, and I congratulate the awarded schools at all levels," Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye said in a release.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said the winners are preparing students for their roles as citizens.

"Starting with students in elementary and middle school, teachers are engaging their students in mock trials, mock congress and other rigorous and relevant opportunities that develop civic skills. Their efforts make our students and our democracy stronger," Torlakson said in a release.

Mayfair's program incorporates a variety of project-based and collaborative learning efforts to give students a theoretical and practical understanding of civics, from role-playing activities that bring historical elections to life to a public service component that students are required to lead.

"At Bellflower Unified, all of our educational programs are designed to prepare our students for the challenges that follow K-12 education – in the realms of career and higher education," Board of Education President Dr. Paul Helzer said. "This civic-learning program is part of that preparation, giving our students a grounding for how their education translates into how we handle real-world challenges."

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Ryder (ID No. 16-16809), a 14-lb male adult terrier mix, is SEAA's Pet of the Week.

To adopt Ryder, or another animal like him, visit SEAA during animal viewing hours, which are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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