

Cerritos College enshrines 8 into Hall of Fame

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Hall of Fame inducted its 2016 class on March 3 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Norwalk.

Cerritos College President/Superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro welcomed more than 300 people to the dinner. Steve Richardson, executive director of the Cerritos College Foundation and Community Advancement, served as master of ceremonies.

Attendees enjoyed a special meal planned and prepared by students and staff in the Cerritos College Culinary Arts Department. Associate Professor of piano/choral Dr. Christine Lopez and retired Vice President of Student Services Dr. Fran Newman entertained guests with a two-piano medley during the program.

The eight inductees received special crystal awards and proclamations from the offices of Assembly Member Ian Calderon (District 57), California Senator Tony Mendoza (District 32), and Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (D-Calif.).

Inductees included:

Teresa Velazquez-Ortega - Distinguished Female Athlete (Volleyball)

Arguably one of the best volleyball players in Cerritos College history, Teresa Velazquez-Ortega was the school's first All-American, a two-time selection (1989-90), while earning the state's Player of the Year honor her sophomore season. Upon completing her sophomore year, Teresa spent the remainder of her playing career competing in international tournaments. In 1991, Teresa was hired at Cerritos College in her current position as Locker & Equipment Specialist. She joined the Falcon coaching staff in 1993 before taking over as the head coach in 2000. In her 15 seasons as the head coach, she posted a 189-154 record and led her teams to the Southern California Regional Playoffs eight times.

Dr. Danny Garcia - Distinguished Male Athlete (Water Polo/Swimming)

The most prolific goal scorer in Cerritos College men's water polo history in his era, Danny Garcia scored 199 goals in his career (2001 & 2003 – since broken), which included a school record 103 goals (since broken) in his freshman season. He was a two-time All-American selection and parlayed that into a scholarship to California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). Upon graduation from CSULB, Danny took on the position of strength and conditioning coach with the Falcons and also served as an assistant coach. He continued his education at the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic and graduated with honors four years later. Dr. Garcia is currently a successful chiropractor and has his own practice, Garcia Chiropractic, in Costa Mesa.

Jack Bogdanovich - Distinguished Coach (Basketball)

Jack Bogdanovich was the Cerritos College men's basketball head coach from 1983-1998. In addition to serving as a basketball coach, Jack was a full-time professor at Cerritos College from 1971-1998. In his first season as head coach, Jack guided his team to their first of three state championships. During his time as head coach, 98 of his student-athletes earned scholarships to four-year institutions. Jack was named the conference's Coach of the Year six times, was inducted into the Community College Men's Basketball Hall of Fame, and was inducted into the San Pedro Sportswalk to the Waterfront Hall of Fame in 2011.

Tony Rodriguez, Jr. - Distinguished Alumnus (Class of 1969)

Tony Rodriguez Jr. attended Cerritos College after graduating from Artesia High School. After earning his associate degree, Tony transferred to California State University, Fullerton. Tony is a great example of what it means to give back to the community. He has taught, coached and been a guest speaker at the College. In 2013, Tony and his siblings established the Dr. Antonio and Providence Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship in memory of their father who was also a Cerritos College alumni and taught at Cerritos College for 30 years as a speech communication professor and their mother who supported their father's journey to become a college professor. Tony owns and operates AJR Consulting Services in Long Beach.

Debbie Thomas- Distinguished Classified (Staff development)

Debbie Thomas began working at Cerritos College in 1972 as a student hourly employee. She was subsequently hired full-time in 1975 until her retirement in December 2013. She served in a variety of capacities including Typist Clerk, Intermediate Typist Clerk, Media Services Clerk, Program Assistant I/II, and Staff Development Assistant. Debbie was also very active in CSEA and served as an elected officer in several capacities on the executive board including president. Well respected by her colleagues, Debbie was voted as the Classified Employee of the Month in July 1993 and November 2003 and as Classified Employee of Year in 2004. Since retirement, Debbie stays active by volunteering for the football booster club and Hall of Fame Steering Committee.

Jon Fults - Distinguished Faculty (Business computer information systems)

Jon Fults began his teaching career at Cerritos College in 1968. During his tenure, Jon served as an instructor, department chairperson, and interim assistant dean of business education. Jon modified and added curriculum to keep pace with the needs of the computer industry, even authoring numerous textbooks. He was instrumental in obtaining grants and establishing training for faculty and students. After his retirement in 1993, Jon worked several semesters as an adjunct faculty member. He joined the Cerritos College Retired Faculty Association and has served as President for the past 20 years keeping retirees informed and active on campus.

Union Bank - Distinguished Corporate Partner

Union Bank began its partnership with the Cerritos College Foundation in 1985 and continues to be well represented on the Foundation Board of Directors by Victor Villegas, Managing Director & Regional Manager, Central Orange County Region. The Union Bank Foundation, through its grants program, has supported the LINC (Leaders Involved in Creating Change) program to offer valuable academic resources and services to foster youth at Cerritos College; the Math Future Teacher Intern Program; and equipment and technology for the Veterans Resource Center. In addition, Union Bank supports the Foundation's annual golf tournament fundraiser as a corporate sponsor. Victor was on hand to accept the Hall of Fame award on behalf of Union Bank.

California Assembly Member Anthony Rendon – Distinguished President's Award of Excellence

Assembly Member Anthony Rendon was elected to office in 2012. He represents the 63rd District. One of his legislative priorities is to work to ensure that no-cost publicly funded pre-school services for income-qualifying families and high-quality, low-cost public community colleges and universities are made available for all Californians. He was elected the 70th Speaker of the Assembly and assumed the position on March 7. Rendon attended Cerritos College before earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from California State University, Fullerton. As a recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside and completed his post-doctoral work at Boston University.



Mike Mendez, right, took over as mayor of Norwalk on Tuesday, taking over the gavel from Leonard Shryock.

Mendez was first elected to the Norwalk City Council in 1988. This is his seventh stint as mayor. Photo courtesy city of Norwalk

At Festival of Colors, a message of spirituality among the fun

By Alex Dominguez Contributor

NORWALK – Hundreds gathered at Excelsior High School on Saturday for the 4th Annual Holi Festival of Colors Los Angeles.

The event took place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Festival attendees were treated to various performances by dancers and musical acts alike, as well as multiple food and merchandise vendors.

The festival was held in celebration of the ancient Hindu religious festival Holi. Traditionally, Holi is celebrated in regions of the world with rich Hindu and Indian ties and populations, such as India and Nepal.

Festival Coordinator Charu Das described Saturday's festival transcending nationality, race or gender.

"We're presenting it in a spiritual way so that it addresses itself not just

to the body, or the country or the culture from which it took birth, but it addresses itself to the living force – the soul within you," said Das. "So it's unique and it has a much broader appeal than an ethnic event."

The festival was highlighted each hour with a "color throw," where attendees would huddle together and throw colored powder up into the air, often times resulting in each individual being covered from head to toe in muddled shades of greens, blues, oranges, and pinks.

Das explained that each color was representative of individuality within diversity.

"The colors are to indicate that while we're all one spiritually, we're also different. There are no two of us that are alike," said Das. "Every one of us is created with unique talents and abilities, and we're meant to make our mark, make a difference, and leave the world better than when we came."

Many of the festival's performing

acts also shared in the spiritual vibe.

The Luminaries, based out of Los Angeles, described themselves as a "conscious hip hop group."

"We're not Christian devotees," said J Brave of the Luminaries. "But our music is very positive, conscious, and high vibe."

"Hip Hop has many traditions, and we come from the tradition that really wants to raise awareness, speak positive and create the future," added Daniel Konsconscious Krieger, also of the Luminaries. "Such as similar to mantra. [In] Mantra...each chant has its own meaning and you chant it with a purpose. So we make sure that our music has a purpose, and that's to uplift and to raise consciousness, which is in contrast to rap music you may hear on the radio..."

This was the fourth year that the event was held in Los Angeles, however the event has been held in Utah for 15 years, where the event sees 50,000 people over two days.

SHARED STORIES: THE TIES THAT BIND

Shared Stories: Fat Lady Sings

Sabreen Adeeba recounts her memories as a four-year old of her mother's funeral at a Southern Baptist church in Los Angeles. Shared Stories is a weekly column featuring articles by participants in a writing class at the Norwalk Senior Center. Bonnie Mansell is the instructor for this free class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. Curated by Carol Kearns

By Sabreen Adeeba

It was a warm California summer in 1957. I was four years old when my mother Nell passed away. My mother was special to me and my father; we loved her very much.

Although the sun was shining through our windows, it was a gray day for us. Through his tears, I remember my father bathing, then dressing me for my mother's memorial service at our Southern Baptist church on Avalon in the city of Los Angeles.

The church was so colorful as I and my father stepped through the doors. There was an arrangement of flowers of assorted varieties; lilies were the most abundant.

On the far side of the church stood my mother's coffin. It was beautifully carved of wood and a rich color of brown. The lining was gold-colored silk. I recall my mother's stillness and the beautiful floral dress that she wore. Each strand of her hair was in place.

The next day my father would have my mother's remains flown back to Arkansas where she was born and raised until her family moved to Texas. She would be buried in

Arkansas. At the age of four, I could not understand the total meaning of loss or grief. However, I do recollect the sadness and gloom that spread, akin to a thick fog engulfing us, as we viewed my mother's body.

Near the coffin stood a small table covered with white lace. On the laced table sat a framed portrait of my mother smiling, as if she was watching us.

Many members of the congregation walked up to my father to offer their condolences, starting with the pastor, Reverend Speaks, a stocky, brown-skinned man wearing a black suit. The organ player, a tall, thin man, began to play and everyone took their seats.

My father and I sat on the front side of the pew. Four ladies in black sat on the opposite side of us. I learned later that they were mourners. They began to cry softly.

Suddenly the organ player stopped playing. The pastor, Reverend Speaks, had prepared a written eulogy that started with him praising my mother for being a devout Christian, and a caring and loving wife and mother. At that moment, my father's eyes filled with tears. I tried to comfort him by rubbing his hand. I felt so sad.

The pastor spoke of my mother's generosity and the countless Sunday dinners and tasty desserts he had eaten at our home, and how she always made him feel welcome. The mourners grew louder.

After his eulogy was finished, he introduced a singer he called

Miss Maybles. I turned to see a tall fat lady thudding down the church aisle. As she passed us, I could smell the strong scent of her perfume. It was so strong that I began to cough, hard. Once she reached to podium, the pastor coughed slightly, stepping back.

The fat lady had a big bosom and a belly that shook like jelly every time she moved. I watched the woman with childhood wonder as she began to sing. She had a massive voice, loud and strong.

Every time she hit a high note, her bosom would raise to her chin and her belly would shake harder. I had never seen anything like it. She squatted and swayed from side to side as she sang. Excited, I pulled on my father's arm to get his attention, but he put his finger to his lips to shush me.

My attention turned to the lady. Beads of sweat ran down her forehead to her neck. Again she squatted and swayed.

At last the fat lady finished. The pastor said, "Amen, and thank you. Sister Maybles." He looked relieved. She nodded; grabbing the pastor's handkerchief, she wiped her face. My eyes followed as she thudded back to her seat.

Epilogue. I don't remember everything that occurred on that sorrowful day, but there is one thing that I will never forget. I will never forget that fat lady who squatted and swayed as she sang at my mother's funeral.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 74°

Saturday 75°

Sunday 74°

THINGS TO DO



Artastic

Friday - Norwalk Cultural Arts Center, 6-9 p.m.

Art walk, chalk art competition, book fair, ceramics, ferris wheel, music and dance performances, and more.



JR Castro

Friday - Club DB Lounge, 9 p.m.

The R&B singer, who gained attention last year for his hit "Get Home," performs live.



Persian Parade

Saturday - Grand Park in downtown L.A., 11 a.m.

A celebration of Persia's 2,500-year history. A party at Grand Park follows the parade.

FROM OUR FACEBOOK

Sheriff's Department releases sketch of kidnapping suspect

Marisela Cervantes: Norwalk Sheriff's Station and City Hall, we shouldn't be finding out three weeks after the fact, and no location listed. Are you serious about catching this person and keeping residents safe?

Jei Enn: Why wasn't anyone notified until today and why hasn't he been caught by now?

Steve Hernandez: Took a month to draw the sketch?

Jennifer Fuentes: I live on that street it would have been nice to know sooner not 3 weeks later smh.

Veronica Brewer: Is there a reason we are hearing about this almost a month after it happened?

Evanelly Carranza: Exactly! And what is the city and sheriff's doing about all this crime in our city?



Reach us on Facebook at: [Facebook.com/DowneyPatriot](https://www.facebook.com/DowneyPatriot)

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@DonKnabe: Touring our new health clinic in Norwalk. Strong partnership with #JWCH to bring medical care to the community.



Follow us! [@DowneyPatriot](https://twitter.com/DowneyPatriot)

Sen. Mendoza names his Women of the Year



NORWALK – State Sen. Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia) honored eight distinguished women from the 32nd Senate District as his 2016 Woman of the Year award recipients during a gala event March 4 at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts.

The women were recognized for their work in the following fields: business, community service, education, government, health, and non-profit.

Congresswoman Janice Hahn (CA-44) delivered an inspirational keynote address.

“I think it is important to recognize and honor women in our communities who have demonstrated the dedication and commitment to improve our neighborhoods and have made a positive impact through their work,” said Mendoza. “All of these women are role models for their family, friends, and the communities they serve. I am humbled and inspired by their personal stories and their professional achievements.

“I know that they will continue their great endeavors to make a difference in the communities of the 32nd Senate District.”

Every March, in a tradition dating back to 1987, the California State Senate celebrates Women's History Month by honoring women throughout California whose contributions improve their communities.

In February of this year, Senator

Mendoza asked his constituents to submit Woman of the Year nominations from members of the community.

The following women were recognized as a 32nd Senate District Woman of the Year:

Ani Samuelian was nominated by Joe Kaprielian. Ani Samuelian is Vice President of her family's business, Nationwide Environmental Services, which provides municipal street sweeping services to over 25 municipalities, many of those in the 32nd Senate District.

Mrs. Samuelian started as a filing clerk and worked her way to Vice President. As the second generation at the helm of the family business, Ms. Samuelian wishes to honor the legacy of her father, Joe Samuelian, who emigrated from Syria to fulfill the American Dream. She works tirelessly, day in and day out, to ensure that the company commits to its mission of providing service with passion and a determination to keep the environment clean.

Mrs. Samuelian has made a tremendous impact on various communities through her business ventures and personal support. She is a benevolent, charitable soul and proud board member of Joe's Organization for Youth, or JOY, a nonprofit organization that assists thousands of underprivileged youth in the 32nd Senate District and beyond.

Vinita Vineet was nominated by

Pat Patnaik. Vinita Vineet started her American Dream by opening the first beauty salon in the City of Cerritos that set the benchmark for opening an additional 7 stores throughout Southern California. Since the inception, this family business paved the way to generate employment opportunities for over 400 beauty and threading specialists in the Los Angeles basin.

Vinita is a founding member of United Federation of Indo-Americans in Southern California (UFICA), and this organization provided her a platform to help in the areas of social cause. As an active member of the organization and past president, Mrs. Vineet constantly engages herself in donating monies to schools for blind children and suppressed woman needing shelter, many of which are based in the City of Artesia.

Rebecca Cline was nominated by City of La Mirada Staff members Tammie Acosta, Susana Hill, and Lisa Montoya. Rebecca Cline has served the La Mirada community for a number of years as a volunteer for several organizations, events and community groups. She performs her service humbly with the goal of making the La Mirada community a better place in which to live and work.

Mrs. Cline currently serves as a member and former President of the Community Services Commission. She is the current President for the La Mirada Meals on Wheels program and is a member of the La Mirada Ebell Club where she previously served as Treasurer.

Mrs. Cline volunteers and participates in the city's Neighborhood Watch program, Citizen Task Force, Spring Beautification, and stays actively involved in city-wide events including the Easter Egg Hunt, Mother-Daughter Tea, Summer Concerts, Halloween Fest, Chili Holiday, and others.

She was also very instrumental in the inaugural and highly successful La Mirada Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Along with volunteering in her city, Mrs. Cline is dedicated to her church.

Carmen Miller was nominated by the City of La Habra Heights Mayor Pro Tem Kyle Miller. Mrs. Miller has been very active over the years at local Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) at Macy School, Rancho Starbuck, and Sonora High School. She also

served on the board of the Lowell Joint School District Foundation where she was actively involved in the District Turkey Trot and with the golf tournament fundraiser.

Mrs. Miller has volunteered for many years at the Hillcrest Art Festival, a nearly 60-year-old event that serves many cities in the 32nd Senate district. Additionally, Mrs. Miller also works with the cities of La Habra and Whittier to connect businesses with nonprofits.

She joined the La Habra Heights Improvement Association as a board member and launched the first annual Community Christmas gathering. Mrs. Miller also joined the board of the La Habra/La Habra Heights Meals on Wheels program; she helps them grow their fundraising efforts and also delivers meals two times a week to clients of the program.

Mary Sieu, Ph.D., Superintendent of the ABC Unified School District, was nominated by Ann Griffio and Dr. Rhonda Buss. Dr. Mary Sieu is the daughter of an immigrant family from mainland China; she learned English as her second language and was the first in her family to receive a college education. Dr. Sieu is the first woman to lead the ABC Unified School District (ABCUSD) as Superintendent.

As a district leader for the past 25 years at ABC Unified, she has held various positions and has been a role model for students and staff. Since 2002, Dr. Sieu has been directly responsible for 15 programs that have received a Golden Bell Award by the California School Boards Association (CSBA).

Dr. Sieu has continuously emphasized that “demographics do not determine destiny.” She has

created a culture of innovation and spirit of collaboration. She has led by example and is an outstanding professional in education, and a beacon of integrity and civility.

Sergeant Maria Ingram, California Highway Patrol was nominated by Captain David Moeller, CHP.

Throughout her 25-year career with the CHP, Sergeant Maria Ingram has advanced through the stages of law enforcement professionals from student, to teacher, to master teacher.

Among her various assignments, Sergeant Ingram was selected and assigned to the position of Field Training Officer, where she was responsible for the training and development of newly graduated officers.

Sergeant Ingram's skills and work ethic led her to an assignment with the CHP Applicant Investigation Unit, where she was responsible for the vetting and selection of qualified candidates to attend the CHP Academy. She was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2011, and secured a position in the busiest command in the state of California, the Santa Fe Springs Area.

Maria has been married to retired CHP motorcycle officer Carl Ingram for 24 years, and the couple has two children.

Brenda Sandoval, RN, was nominated by Daniela E. Rodriguez. Ms. Sandoval, a registered nurse, has dedicated 20 years to the healthcare nonprofit industry. Ms. Sandoval is the only Latina executive for Wesley Health Centers (JWCH Institute, Inc.) whose goal is to improve the lives of others.

She has made customer service a priority and has been able to make changes that benefit patients and employees by facilitating the process of patient care. She has an ability to problem solve the daily demands of the company and cares deeply for all her employees and patients that are served at the health centers.

She has created programs that contribute to directly to clinics and has dedicated much of her time to HIV clinical research studies on skid row.

Dr. Nina Smart was nominated by Blanca Rochin. Dr. Nina Smart educates students, community members and service clubs about women's human rights violations. She raises awareness about the global issue of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and offers simple and effective solutions to help stop this practice.

Linking locals in her father's country of Sierra Leone with our global family, she builds bridges of trust that aid ideological change and promote harmony and non-violence. Dr. Smart shares her empowering story in her memoir, Wild Flower – The True Story of a Romanian Girl in Africa. Through her gentle words, she exposes the horrific practice of FGM that still affects millions of women today.

Dr. Smart contributes to our local communities by volunteering with Soroptimist International of Downey, African Christian Fellowship at St. James and through Romanian and Indian cultural centers that serve immigrants. She was the Winner of the Soroptimist International of Downey, making a difference for Women Award.

Whittier's Fran Shields named 'Woman of the Year

WHITTIER – Majority Leader Ian Calderon honored Fran Shields, a resident of the city of Whittier, as the 57th Assembly District 2016 Woman of the Year on Monday.

“I am so proud to honor Ms. Shields as the 57th District Woman of the Year,” stated Majority Leader Calderon. “Ms. Shields has served the community tirelessly for decades, working diligently to improve the lives of

Whittier residents. Her charismatic leadership and passion for public service is an inspiration to us all.”

A lifelong Whittier resident, Fran Shields graduated from Sierra High School. In 1973, she embarked on her long and distinguished career with the City when she accepted her “dream job” as a dispatcher for the Whittier Police Department. Possessing a sincere passion for service, she

advanced through the ranks and held positions of ever-increasing responsibility, and after nearly a decade, she transitioned to what was then known as the Parks and Recreation Department.

After having demonstrated her leadership capabilities as office services supervisor, management assistant, and community services manager, and having continued her professional growth by earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of La Verne, Ms. Shields was appointed Director of Community Services. Nearly ten years later, the Community Services Department merged with Parks and Recreation and she took the helm.

As Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Ms. Shields presided over the City's 22 parks, two senior centers, 54 full-time employees, 200 part-time workers, and 100 volunteers in a Department with an annual budget of \$13 million.

As a Member of the Board of Directors of the Whittier Community Foundation, Ms. Shields has played a key role in an organization that has raised more than \$350,000 for local projects, such as the Police Memorial of 2010. Many of Whittier's public statues and monuments to the arts and culture are a direct result of her efforts, as is the success of the Art in Public Places initiative, which she spearheaded.

During her more than four decades of service to Whittier, Fran Shields “has worked conscientiously, tirelessly, and has served on a wide variety of city boards, commissions, committees, and task forces.”

The 2016 Woman of the Year Ceremony took place in the Assembly Chambers of the State Capitol on Monday. It was held in honor of Women's History Month and celebrated the contributions and unique accomplishments of women in each of the Assembly's 80 districts.

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A Special Thanks to the thousands of people who participated and supported The Arc's 20th Walk for Independence.

Thank You for caring about people with developmental disabilities and supporting The Arc.

On behalf of over 200 people with developmental disabilities

Thank You!

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- We are happy to host organizations for lunch at The Arc and include a tour
- Call us at 562-803-4606 or check us out at www.TheArcLAOC.org

Thank you for making The Arc's 20th Walk for Independence a day of hope and happiness.

Head Start preschool program celebrates 50 years

NORWALK – The Ramona Preschool auditorium was festooned with colorful paintings of trees and children's handprints created by the preschoolers of Norwalk-La Mirada School District's Head Start classes in honor of the program's 50th anniversary celebration held on Feb. 26.

More than 100 Head Start parents, students and preschool staff listened to moving personal accounts from two Head Start alumni who shared some of their earliest childhood memories of learning to speak English and making new friends as Ramona Preschool students.

"As a Head Start student, parent and now teacher, I have experienced all facets of this organization since I was little from learning to read and write to singing and dancing with classmates," said Odelia Peña, a Head Start alumna and teacher.

"I wanted to teach Head Start once I graduated so I could inspire children to strive for everything, as my teachers did for me. It has been an honor serving parents and students for the past 25 years and seeing my students graduate, go to college and become productive members of society."

Los Angeles County Office of Education and NLMUSD officials -- along with representatives from State Senate, Assembly and County Board of Supervisor district offices -- congratulated District staff for the high quality program before parents dispersed to classrooms set up to engage them in art projects, group reading and other activities.

NLMUSD's Head Start

program was created in 1966 to prepare children from low-income households for kindergarten and to connect families with the support systems needed to promote health and well-being.

One of the nation's earliest operating Head Start programs, NLMUSD began with just two classes of about 40 students at Ralph Nottingham Elementary School (now Arturo A. Sanchez Elementary School). Today, 42 classes serving more than 800 students operate at six locations. This year, the District began an Early Head Start program, serving 103 pregnant mothers and children ages 0-3.

Young children from families with incomes at or below the poverty level typically lag in cognitive development by age 2. When these children enter kindergarten, they are often further behind and tend to remain there.

The District's program has cut this achievement gap by 20 to 50 percent, with Head Start students consistently scoring above goals set for literacy, motor skills, social and emotional development by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE).

"This program is vital to the early learning experience of many children in our community, providing them with a solid foundation to begin their educational journeys," NLMUSD School Board President Karen Morrison said. "We are committed to providing the support needed for all of our students to become successful learners, and sometimes that means providing services beyond the classroom."

Not only does Head Start focus on the needs of pregnant mothers and students ages 0 to 5, but it also sets families up with family service workers once children are enrolled. Head Start family service workers held families to set goals, such as owning their own home or buying a car, and work with them to create and implement plans to achieve their objectives. In its 2014-15 annual report, the District's Head Start program facilitated a total of 368 connections between families and service providers, and 66 children were provided with mental health services.

"Our programs help families lift themselves out of poverty while offering their children a high-quality education," Head Start and Preschool Programs Director Laurel Parker said. "Fifty years ago, we couldn't have been as ambitious as we are today. Our classes just keep growing."

Maria Valenzuela, a Head Start teacher, and Regina Roberts, an Early Head Start home-based teacher, contribute to the flourishing Head Start curriculum. The two are this year's recipients of L.A. County Office of Education's Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

"I am so proud of our staff who make all this possible for our students and who draw such positive feedback from the community," said NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian who was in attendance. "The support students and parents receive through this program gives them the skills and resources to build bright futures all children deserve."

Mock interviews prepare students for career pursuits

NORWALK – More than 100 Norwalk-La Mirada Unified high school students received a boost in their pursuit of dream careers through a program of mock interviews arranged this week by the Norwalk Education Alliance, learning how to present themselves and articulate their strengths.

Dressed in business-like attire, the students from John Glenn, La Mirada and Norwalk high schools arrived early on the morning of Feb. 24 for an orientation and pep talk led by Joanne Jung, District Director, College and Career Pathways. Then, off they went to impress 20 professionals from a variety of industries in one-on-one interviews at the Norwalk Sports Complex.

"They didn't get the interview questions in advance, so they had to really think on their feet when I asked them to tell me what they felt were their strengths and weaknesses," said Norwalk Chamber of Commerce president Julia Emerson, a public affairs manager for the Southern California Gas Co. who helped plan the event.

John Glenn High School senior Jeremias Reyes was one of Emerson's interviewees. "It was my first job interview ever, and I calmed my nerves by doing some breathing exercises and I tried to speak slowly," he said. "I think it went well."

Students expressed appreciation for the experience, particularly the feedback they received from their interviewers, which they said built their confidence for the real thing.

"I learned it's important to make eye contact to show I'm interested, focused and paying attention," said Norwalk High junior Lauren Bell, who plans to go into forensic science. "I

also learned it's important to be open in the conversation and interested in what they have to say to me and not just think about what I need to say to them. I gained confidence to do this again, so I know I can do it."

At the end of the interview, students gathered in a debriefing room to share experiences and write thank-you notes to their interviewers, another important aspect of making a good impression on a potential employer.

The Norwalk Education Alliance is a new partnership of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, the City of Norwalk, Cerritos

College and civic and business. The alliance recruited the 20 volunteer interviewers for the event.

Students prepared in advance by developing resumes, cover letters and portfolios of their work in class. While their level of preparation varied, most students dressed up for the 15-minute interviews.

Norwalk Economic Development Manager Bing Hyun, who led efforts to stage the event, said the preparation and attire indicates how seriously the students, many of whom are economically disadvantaged, valued the interview program.

The Norwalk Patriot

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The Norwalk Patriot

Friday, Sept. 20, 2013 Vol. 7 No. 33 12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

SHARED STORIES: THE TIES THAT BIND

An Inflatable Idea

Shared Stories is a weekly column featuring articles from a writing class at the Norwalk Senior Center. Yolanda is a life-long Norwalk resident who likes to see everyone with a smile on their face. In this piece she explores with dramatic flair the feelings of two young girls who find a Frederick's of Hollywood catalogue. The names have been changed to protect the innocent. Continued by Carol Kearns

NORWALK – While walking home from my junior high school one day I saw a Frederick's of Hollywood catalogue lying on the sidewalk. I was excited to find it, but there were several pedestrians on the street and I felt embarrassed to have them see me look at this sexy publication. Luckily there was no one I knew, but I still slowed my pace until they passed before I turned back to pick up the forbidden catalogue.

Children my age were "Too old for toys and too young for boys." It was the era of liberated women burning their bras; I didn't think "training bras" counted. Still, Frederick's merchandise defined sexy; just what an upward, almost blossoming, teenage girl wanted to get her hands on. I could hardly believe that I now owned a coveted catalogue.

I did what came naturally. I ran to my best friend's house to share my miraculous find. Had I been in a back meet I'd have come in first place. It seemed that I reached Carla's front door in a few minutes. I tucked the catalogue into my skirt's waistband and stood with my arms across my waist.

It was difficult to contain my excitement. I was relieved when Carla opened the door instead of her mother. She had a puzzled look on her face when she asked,

"Jane are you alright? You look kinda weird."

"Carla you won't believe what I just found on the street!"

"You found money?"

"No. Something even better. Let's hurry up to your room. Just then her mother called out from the kitchen.

"It's just Jane, Mom. We are going to do our homework. Please tell Jimmy to leave us alone."

The kitchen phone rang and her mother picked it up. Carla and I ran up the stairs as if we were being chased by wild dogs.

Carla quickly locked her bedroom door behind us. Her eyes were wide like Betty Boop; she demanded to see what I had found. "Not so fast," I said. "First close your eyes." I pulled the shiny catalogue from my skirt and held the front cover that had a picture of a Marilyn Monroe look-a-like model wearing a pink and black sequined corset.

When Carla opened her eyes, her jaw dropped. She let out a loud "WOW!" We both jumped up and down giggling before we fell on her bed.

"Carla, Carla, shhhhhhhhh, listen." I whispered. "The best part is that there's an order form attached inside the pages where we can send a way for a sexy... something."

After the twelfth or thirteenth time pouring over the pages we decided to pull our babysitting money and our noses to buy a "She's Bra." We'd be co-owners of a bralette that'd lift and support what little we had on our much femininity as the desired into this wonder underwear, thus giving her a cleavage that could rival any her screen sex goddess.

"We will look like movie stars," I promised.

"Yes, yes!" Carla yelled. I smiled as I noticed that she was even more fixated than I was. We were exhilarated at the potential promises this bra would "lift!" for us.

We stood up on the bed bouncing and laughing, throwing pillows in to the air. After a few minutes we fell down, exhausted with joy, asking quietly,

"I just thought of a plan, Carla. We will flip a coin to see who'd get to wear it to the Sock Hop next month."

"I can bet one of us is not going to be a wallflower. I will not be a plain-Jane. Can you imagine the look on Mr. Lee's face when she sees the new glamorous Me wearing my secret weapon?"

"Miri's such a snuck-up witch with a capital 'B' since she got all the boys' attention after padding her training bra."

"Carla if we want to look more grown up we will have to practice walking differently."

"Like how?" she asked me.

I got up from the bed. "With shoulders swaying, like this," I said as I demonstrated my best Marilyn Monroe walk.

"Oh Jane, you can already walk like Marilyn, but I bet that you will do it even better when you are wearing the She's!"

"I really have to go home now," I finally said. "The catalogue will be safer here. You don't have a rag-tag sister to share your room with. Do you want to put the catalogue under your mattress?"

"Hi! No, that's where I have my 'G' rated diary for my mom to snoop through. I will put it in the big dictionary on top of the bookcase. Not even my brother will look there."

"By the way, where is that cute brother of yours?"

"Cute? Oh yuck! You have got to be kidding me, Jane."

"Specifically, he is not so bad. He is tall and a bit mature."

"Specifically, he is not so bad. He is tall and a bit mature."

"Specifically, he is not so bad. He is tall and a bit mature."

CERRITOS LIBRARY INVESTS IN TECH FOR TEENS

Rachel Tagawa and Nathaniel Ya use an iMac inside the Cerritos Library's new teen technology center. The facility officially opens Saturday.

CERRITOS – In an effort to expand educational and creative resources for teenage patrons, the Cerritos Library on Saturday will unveil a new, 2,500-sq-ft, teen studio, featuring 18 Apple iMac work stations, three 65-inch interactive touch screens, and more than 7,000 books and documents.

City council members on Monday lauded the new state-of-the-art facility as the next generation of technology for the next generation of learners.

"This is not just a library for books, but for learning," said Councilwoman Carol Chen, who initially proposed the concept of a teen studio. "It's not just for reading; it's a whole learning experience with the newest and latest technology -- we want to nurture that in our kids."

Filled with everything from classic literature and graphic novels to popular books and non-fiction, the teen studio is just as much a library as it is a computerized classroom with space for both group and individual study.

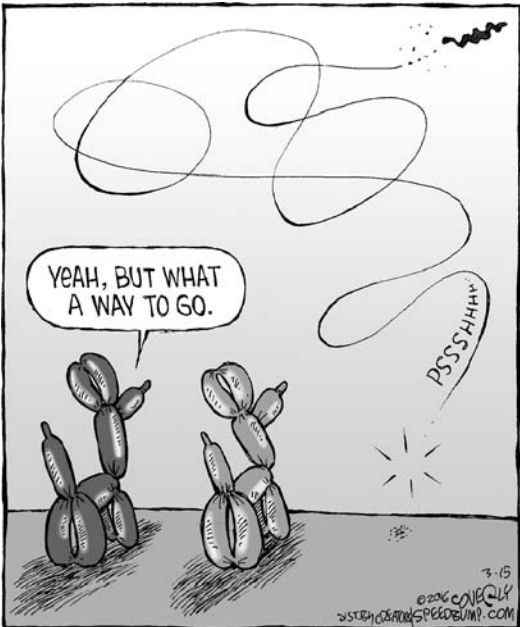
In addition to new iMac computers, the studio center also boasts a 40-inch computer touch screen that allows up to four people to work on projects, take

At a cost of more than \$290,000, the teen studio, which seats approximately 70 people, will be a better place for teens to hang out after school. The library believes the new facility will help teens learn to use the modern devices."

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



On This Day...

March 18, 1940: Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini held a meeting at the Brenner Pass during which the Italian dictator agreed to join in Germany's war against France and Britain.

1942: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order authorizing the War Relocation Authority, which was put in charge of internment of Japanese-Americans.

2005: Doctors in Florida, acting on orders of a state judge, removed Terri Schiavo's feeding tube. (The brain-damaged woman died 13 days later.)

Birthdays: TV show host Mike Rowe (54), actress Vanessa Williams (53), actress Queen Latifah (46), comedian Dane Cook (44) and pop singer Adam Levine (37).

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Send us your Letters to the Editor, Press Releases, photos, meeting and club schedules!

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Norwalk, CA 90650

Email:
news@thedowneypatriot.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. - Artastic - Norwalk Cultural Arts Center

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Korean festival - Cerritos College

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

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

- Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
CAPITAL MENU: With an ingredient in common
by Fred Piscop
- ACROSS**
- 1 Legal proceeding
 - 6 Be optimistic
 - 10 Hoof sound
 - 14 Captures
 - 19 Shower accessory
 - 20 Spouse of a countess
 - 21 Lie low
 - 22 Put up with
 - 23 Summer beverage
 - 25 Side dish with sauerbraten
 - 27 Campers' dinnerware
 - 28 Drain delays
 - 30 Ease up on
 - 31 Right-angle shapes
 - 32 Cherry center
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 - 34 Highland Games poles
 - 38 Actress Spelling
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 - 47 Feel badly about
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 - 53 Farrow of film
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 - 59 110 Across piece
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 - 61 Wipe clean
 - 62 Not very sturdy
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 - 65 Online party notice
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 - 67 Mrs. Rocky Balboa
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- DOWN**
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 - 2 Many an Olympics event
 - 3 Midmonth time
 - 4 Gives a boost to
 - 5 Gym array
- ACROSS**
- 70 Purplish brown
 - 71 Rather unlikely
 - 74 1 Across setting
 - 75 Autumn quaff
 - 77 Call out
 - 82 Last word of The Wizard of Oz
 - 79 Exclusive
 - 80 Essay page, for short
 - 81 Ferry, for instance
 - 82 Poetic sphere
 - 83 Dessert from a loaf pan
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 - 88 CIA forerunner
 - 89 Football great Marino
 - 90 Deception
 - 91 English economist
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 - 93 Fringe benefits
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 - 95 Twosome in a 747
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 - 110 Jambalaya veggie
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 - 114 Colorful horse
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 - 8 ...K school
 - 9 Ballot caster
 - 10 Habitual
 - 11 Faithful follower
 - 12 Bettors' figures
 - 13 Chest muscle, for short
 - 14 No-nos
 - 15 Monastery head
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 - 17 Brink
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 - 24 Some portrait paints
 - 26 Brass and bronze
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 - 32 Wood finish
 - 34 Chew noisily
 - 35 Half of A/V
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 - 37 UFO crew
 - 39 Neighbor of Neb.
 - 40 Summer side dish
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 - 42 "Heavens to" woman
 - 44 Take by truck
 - 45 Treat poorly
 - 46 "Well done!"
 - 49 Symbol of sovereignty
 - 50 Sanctified
 - 52 Mr. Kringle
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 - 57 Couldn't stand
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 - 100 Mideast airline
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 - 103 Subordinate: Abbr.
 - 105 Alphabetic trio
 - 107 Citizen Kane studio

Reach Stan Newman at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, or at www.StanXwords.com

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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.



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Mayor Mike Mendez
Phone: (562) 929-5305
E-mail: mmendez@norwalkca.gov

Vice Mayor Cheri Kelley
Phone: (562) 929-5305
E-mail: ckelley@norwalkca.gov

Councilman Luigi Vernola
Phone: (562) 929-5305
E-mail: lvernola@norwalkca.gov

Councilman Marcel Rodarte
Phone: (562) 929-5305
E-mail: mrodarte@norwalkca.gov

Councilman Leonard Shryock
Phone: (562) 929-5305
E-mail: lshryock@norwalkca.gov

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Linda Sanchez
Phone: (562) 860-5050
Mail: 12440 E. Imperial Hwy., Suite 140
Norwalk, CA 90650

STATE REPRESENTATIVES
Sen. Tony Mendoza
Phone: (323) 890-2790
Mail: 400 N. Montebello Blvd., Suite 100, Montebello, CA 90640

Assemblyman Ian Calderon
Phone: (562) 692-5858
Mail: 13181 Crossroads Parkway North, St. 160, City of Industry, 91746

Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia
Phone: (562) 402-4893
Mail: 8255 Firestone Blvd., Suite 203
Downey, CA 90241

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES
Sen. Barbara Boxer
Phone: (213) 894-5000
Mail: 312 N. Spring St. Suite 1748
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Phone: (310) 914-7300
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The Norwalk Patriot accepts and encourages letters to the editor. Letters must include a full name, address and telephone number, although only the author's name and hometown will be published. Letters may be edited for length, style and/or content.

Letters can be mailed to The Norwalk Patriot, 12040 Foster Rd., Norwalk CA 90650 or via e-mail at news@thedowneypatriot.com.

24 hours in Norwalk

By Raul Samaniego Contributor

NORWALK -- Hey, I met my eleventh reader (fan) during Tuesday's reception at the Art and Sports Complex in honor of the new Mayor and Vice Mayor being named at the evening's council meeting.

Congratulations Mayor Michael Mendez and Vice Mayor Cheri Kelly.

Twenty-four hours earlier, I was sitting in a room at the Social Service office on Alondra Boulevard listening to "branding" ideas for the city.

After a much needed afternoon nap, I was awakened by my cell phone with a voice on the other end saying there was a branding meeting over at the Social Service Center and that I should go.

What is a "branding meeting?" I had to know. (Actually I knew, but I didn't know you did!)

I washed the sleep from my face (as my mom used to say), combed my way too long hair, grabbed my press kit and helmet and peddled off.

Riding through the early twilight, I came to my senses as I rode through what is affectionately known as the barrio. I refer to the area as South Norwalk.

Arriving at the center, I made my way to the back room where there were about an equal number of folks sitting as well as a few suits standing around. I recognized a couple of the faces and "suits" in the room.

Seeing that there was a small crowd, I named them in my mind, "the lucky Seven," for that's how many came out for this second in a series of community meetings being held on the subject.

Phrases like "bland, has been, faded," were some of the less than positive verbal reflection of the conception of Norwalk.

On the good side, most felt that Norwalk did have a sense of friendliness in their communities.

"Not as much as Minnesota, but friendly," nine-year resident and mid-U.S. transplant Lacy Nerva said during the open discussion period.

"I moved here to be near my boyfriend," she added. She's lived here ever since, moving a total of three times, "but all within the city of Norwalk."

Lifelong resident Elizabeth Godoy shared her remarks on the large paper sheets which were provided for the attendees to share their thoughts about their current perceptions and opinions of Norwalk as well as where they thought the city might be in twenty years.

Godoy is 22 years old. She had come with another lifelong resident, Alexander Cacino, also 22.

I found myself referencing the "young folks" participation and realized I had just become my father with that remark.

It was a good meeting even though there was a light turnout, but I think the input was well received.

I did learn that perhaps an

updated historical account of the city and area is in order for the "young folks" in attendance did not have an idea of the historical significance of the North Walk and Dairy Valley references.

Tuesday had me catching up on a little vain personal upkeep. I admit, I had the ears lowered (hairstyle, I mean, ehem, haircut) and the Brezhnev style eyebrows thinned out a bit.

Just in time for that City Council restructuring event and reception.

However, first thing I see as I return to the house is the work crews for the corner wheelchair ramps going in. It intrigued me.

Maybe it's that "Grrr Grrrr" of the large cement truck coming down the street. I loved it!

What is it with construction trucks and vehicles? Do they go with the stereotype of us men not asking for direction (Is that still possible in this age of the GPS satellite era)?

I walked over and stood by watching as the reflector vest clad men worked meticulously on their project. They were using Ford's assembly line method of construction. A couple weeks ago, a crew was out and made the initial cuts into the cement and asphalt.

Monday, another crew broke up the pieces, extracting them while another came by to set the wood molds and bracing for the wet cement.

I grabbed my camera and voice recorder and reapproached the working crew. I went to work.

Self-described "lifetime cement worker," and crew Foreman Juan Cabila shared that his crew had been working together for up to thirty years to just a few months. Their work was well coordinated.

Some were using old fashioned elbow grease combined with a huge sledge hammer to breakup some of the leftover stubborn cement pieces.

That familiar sound of the cement rushing down the metal slide to the prepared dirt and wooden framing, took just a few minutes. Several crew members had tools to quickly spread the cement to different areas of the framing.

I was transfixed.

It was obvious that these guys knew what they were doing. After a few more photos, I headed for a shower and my own prep work for the evening's festivities.

Unfortunately or fortunately, I got a phone call I had been waiting

over three years for, so I missed getting to the Council Chambers.

Not to worry. I took my new do (that's hairstyle) and put my snug helmet on as I rode to catch yet another NTS bus. I was headed to the Arts and Sports complex.

Ooh, my arrival was way too early; so I decided to visit some of the other events happening at the center.

Over in the south complex area, there was the Book Fair with a nice presentation of new books offered for sale. Additionally, in the gallery, many paintings and art displays were waiting for this week's Artastic event to be held this Friday, March 18.

Next, I ducked into the last evening of the eleven week Family Intervention Academy. This program is hosted by Community Workers Anthony Garcia and Ken Manchaca.

It was established by the two under the guidance of Carlos Ramos, Director of Public Safety.

One of the speakers for the evening was Norwalk High School junior varsity football coach Miguel Rivera. Speaking on striving forward and never giving up, he shared his triumph over some unordinary odds after returning to school, and now coaching the JV football team at his alma mater.

Rivera was speaking from his wheelchair.

Arriving at the reception area set up in the gymnasium of the Sports complex, I greeted the new mayor, Mike Mendez, as he entered the building. As if taking a cue from an imaginary course entitled, Freshman Politician 101, he exclaimed that his main focus is "public safety." This is pretty much what his two predecessors said when they took office.

Additionally, Mendez mentioned the work with the parks and the new

Educational Alliance with Cerritos College. "We're on a good track already. We just got to keep moving," he stated.

Mendez would like, "More involvement from the community, "through "more community meetings to find out more about what the rest of us want."

His new Vice Mayor, Cheri Kelly, was a lot less open to accessibility. This may hinder her efforts at transparency if she is to be this city's second in command.

Kelly's only comment to this reporter as I took her photos was, "Can you please not do that here?" That wasn't very personal for a public official. Well, at least she said please.

It may be a long year.

Coming in a tad tardy in his rendition of Argentina's Juan Peron's white shirt sleeve look was, "the man formerly known as...the Mayor," Leonard Shryock.

Sanchez: Don't undo President's executive action on immigration

Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-38) on Thursday made the following statement for the record on H. Res. 639, the House Republican resolution to undo President Obama's Executive Action on immigration:

"Mister Speaker,

"I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 639, a misguided resolution forced on all members of the House of Representatives in an attempt to block President Obama's execution action on immigration. This is yet another partisan effort by House Republicans to tear families apart and separate children from their parents.

"This amicus brief that Speaker Ryan will file on behalf of the entire House of Representatives not only goes against well-established Constitutional precedents but also against our economic interest. The Congressional Budget Office and numerous other researchers have found that immigration raises average wages for U.S. born workers and grows our economy by billions of dollars. In my state of California alone, the President's executive action will generate 130,000 jobs and lift 40,000 Californian children out of poverty.

"The actions taken by the President on the subject of immigration are within authority of the executive branch. I am proud to join 186 of my House colleagues in support of the President's immigration executive actions."

Subscription advertisement for The Norwalk Patriot. Features a large "\$10.00 GUARANTEED DELIVERY" graphic and a "SUBSCRIPTION" banner. Includes a thumbnail image of the newspaper's front page with headlines like "School board considers bond measure to renovate schools" and "Council approves CDBG spending plan".

The Norwalk Patriot is offering subscriptions for \$10/year. Subscription guarantees delivery every Friday to single-family homes in Norwalk.

12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

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LEGALS

NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: VS028492
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner GRACE & Steve Sau filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name (1) CORA SAU to Proposed name (1) AVA SAU
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter 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. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: May 18, 2016, Time: 1:30 pm, Department C
The address of the court is 12720 Norwalk Boulevard, Norwalk 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, NORWALK PATRIOT
March 14, 2016
Margaret M. Bernal
Judge Of The Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney, In Pro Per
Grace Sau & Steve Sau
18827 Stefani Ave.
Cerritos, CA 90703
(310) 745-1880
gracek.sau@gmail.com
The Norwalk Patriot
3/18/16, 3/25/16, 4/1/16, 4/8/16

CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS

FOUND DOG
Light beige and tan male small Pomeranian. Near Dunrobin & Adoree, Downey. The dog is very despondent, cries and won't eat.
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Call Jeff (562) 869-1421



Do you recognize this man?
Sheriff's investigators say this person attempted to abduct a 26-year-old woman in Norwalk on Feb. 25. The attack occurred around 9:20 a.m. as the woman was placing items into her vehicle. The man attacked from behind, placing a knife to the woman's neck and trying to force her inside the vehicle. The woman fought the man off and he left running. He is described as Hispanic or Caucasian, in his 30s, about 5 ft. 9 inches tall, 200 lbs., with short brown hair and brown eyes. The suspect had foul body odor and a poor quality tattoo of a bird or wings on his right forearm. Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Carlos Ortega at (562) 466-5427.



Three local students at Cerritos College were honored on March 6 by Soroptimist International of Norwalk.

Elizabeth Hanohano, who recently completed her Licensed Vocational Nursing degree at Downey Adult School, is taking classes at Cerritos College in preparation for enrolling in the Registered Nursing program. She received \$2000 to support her educational goals while she raises her two preschool children, Adrian and Johnny.

Zena Anikulapo, an Army veteran who served a tour of duty in Iraq, is majoring in Sociology, and received \$500 to support her educational goals.

Vanessa Carranza serves in the Marine Corps Reserves, and is majoring in Business Administration at Cerritos College. Vanessa received a \$500 award which she hopes to use towards her Bachelor's Degree, and eventually become a CPA and business owner.

Soroptimist International of Norwalk inducted four new members at the Awards Tea: Angela Bolton from Helpline Youth Counseling; Gina Ayala, graduate student at Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cynthia Hayes, manager of Financial Programs at DeVry/Carrington College and Debbie Hayes, consultant.

Soroptimist International of Norwalk has provided financial scholarships and community service in Norwalk for 62 years. For information, contact Marilee Steffenhagen at (562) 505-0633.



The following was sent to the Patriot by reader Sandra Enriquez:

"I don't know where to start...
"My life's mission has been and is to bring my son, Angel Enriquez, all the happiness I can in the world. But it's been the other way around for the 16 years God's given him to me. He brings me more joy than I could ever imagine one can feel.

"He attended his first high school dance this past Saturday at the Aquarium of the Pacific. Here is a picture of him and his beautiful date Vanessa Lopez (a Downey High School student). They're the same age (16 years old). She didn't go as a favor to him or us -- she went as his date because she's known Angel all her life and wanted to go.

"I wish more parents of "Special Ed" students would encourage their children to attend and participate in as many school activities as possible. I hope this is the first of many more dances to come.

"World Down Syndrome day is March 21, let's celebrate our Down syndrome community with #respect, #acceptance, #inclusion."

Norwalk resident graduates with masters

NORWALK – Norwalk native Krishna Teja Kondapaturi has graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a Master of Science degree. She was one of more than 1,000 students who met their graduation requirements and were eligible to participate in ceremonies.

Beautification contest begins April 1

NORWALK – Norwalk's 2016 Home and Business Beautification Contest opens April 1. The contest, open to all single and multiple family residences and businesses in Norwalk, celebrates the efforts of our community members to keep their homes and office spaces attractive and updated.

Application deadline is May 31, with the judging period beginning in early June and extending through the end of the month. Applications are available online at norwalk.org or you may pick one up at any city facility.

Norwalk business owners are encouraged to enter in the "Business Appeal" category, which recognizes creativity in design, landscaping, general appearance and neighborhood impact.

Winners receive recognition at a City Council meeting, signage commemorating their win and a gift card to a local home improvement store. Call (562) 929-5735 for more information.

Cerritos College launches program to help students graduate faster

NORWALK – Cerritos College has launched its new student success initiative Cerritos Complete, an extension of the free K-16 Bridge program that targets district high school students to increase degree and certificate completion rates, reduce time to graduation, and lower the number of excess units to graduation.

Because the College's Strategic Plan is heavily focused on initiatives designed to increase graduation rates for students, Cerritos Complete will utilize programmatic pathways to meet this goal.

Starting in the fall 2016 semester, 800 eligible students graduating from any of the college's service area high school districts, including Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, will be eligible to participate.

In the program, students who successfully follow the required steps will receive step-by-step assistance in completing the College Early Success Program, enrollment in a Summer Connection one-week orientation course, counseling appointment, career exploration assistance, workshops and a customized schedule for fall and spring semesters, and one-year merit scholarship to cover the costs of eligible classes at Cerritos College or \$200 textbook voucher redeemable at the Cerritos College bookstore.

"Our goal is to facilitate college preparation and completion by easing the burden of education costs and rewarding students who successfully make progress toward a degree," said Dr. Jose Fierro, President/Superintendent.

For more information about Cerritos Complete, please visit cerritos.edu/cerritoscomplete.

Cerritos College student wins Coca-Cola scholarship

NORWALK – Cerritos College student Samantha Dawson has been named a 2016 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholar.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver and 50 Bronze Scholars, and providing nearly \$200,000 in scholarships annually. Each Gold Scholar receives a \$1,500 scholarship and a special medallion.

Samantha, a single mother majoring in geography and minoring in physics, has also been selected for All-USA Scholarship's California First Academic Team.

Samantha plans on pursuing her education in geography and physics at California State University, Dominguez Hills. She participated in the NASA/California Space Grant Consortium microcomputer and robotics internship in 2015, and she hopes to become a scientist and work at NASA.

"I am ecstatic to be honored by this scholarship because it wasn't solely based upon financial need but for academic success and hard work. Being the recipient of this scholarship shows to the community that even if you are a single mom, working and low income, have a learning disability, or you have even just one of these, with hard work, dedication, time with professors and go-power, you can achieve success," said Samantha. She utilizes the College's Disabled Student Services and Programs' services including text to audio programs and test-taking assistance.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society administers the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Program and recognizes Coca-Cola Community College scholars during All-State Community College Academic Team Recognition ceremonies held in 38 states. Student scholars also receive recognition locally during ceremonies held on campus and internationally for those who are able to attend Phi Theta Kappa's Annual Convention.

Korean festival this Wednesday

NORWALK – Cerritos College will host a Taste & Experience Korea event on campus Wednesday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The free community event features a film screening, live performances, martial arts demonstration, music, and free Korean food.

Free parking is available in Lots C-1, C-2 and C-10.

Dining Out

Grill & Cantina

Authentic Fresh Made Mexican Food

HAPPY HOUR

Mon. - Fri. 3 PM-8 PM
Sat. & Sun. 3 PM-8 PM
(Bar Only)

Breakfast & Lunch Buffet

Now Available!

Monday - Thursday
Buy One Entree, Get the Second of Equal or Lesser Price for **\$3.99**
Expires 4-17-16
(Not valid with any other offer.)

MARIACHI
Friday & Saturday 7:30 PM - 12 PM
Sunday 4 PM - 9 PM
Tel. **562.622.9100**
11010 Paramount Blvd.
Downey, CA 90241

Spring Worship Directory

Come Celebrate Easter Morning at HOLY REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Festive Worship Music & Holy Communion
10:00 am

Family Continental Breakfast
11:00 am

14515 Blaine Avenue
(Blaine and Maplewood)
Bellflower, CA 90706
562-867-0714

DOWNEY MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AT 10:30AM
Servicio de palmas

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 25 AT 7PM
Servicio de las 7 palabras

SONRISE SUNDAY, MARCH 27 AT 7AM
Servicio de Resurrección Matutino

EASTER WORSHIP AT 10:30AM
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