

College radio show named best in the country

NORWALK – Cerritos College's WPMD radio program Falcon Spotlight was named America's Best Student Public Affairs Program by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS)'s 76th Annual International Conference in New York.

WPMD is a student-operated radio station at Cerritos College that provides content and programming for students, faculty, staff and community members on 1700 AM and worldwide on the internet.

Media Studies student Rob Flores began Falcon Spotlight to inform the community about campus activities and events, and to feature students, faculty, and administrators in 2011. He has interviewed college presidents, administrators, and mayors and elected officials of surrounding cities.

The show airs live on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10–10:55 a.m. on school days. Show archives are posted on YouTube.

Flores plans on transferring to a California State University and continue his education in journalism and electronic media. He is actively involved in student government and volunteers in the city of Lynwood.

Candlelight dinner at senior center

NORWALK – The Norwalk Senior Center will host a candlelight dinner April 12 for adults ages 50 and older.

Dinners are \$6 if purchased before April 9 and \$7.50 after. Last day to buy tickets is April 11.

The menu includes top sirloin steak, baked potato, salad, dinner roll, dessert, beverage and coffee.

Doors open at 5:15 p.m., with dinner service from 5:45-6 p.m.

Library hosts talk on 'The Graveyard Book'

NORWALK – Norwalk Library will host a discussion on the teenage graphic novel "The Graveyard Book" this Wednesday from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Written by bestselling author Neil Gaiman, "The Graveyard Book" is the dark tale of Nobody Owens, who was raised by ghosts in a cemetery. When his tragic past catches up to him, he will need to use all he has learned from his otherworldly guardians to survive.

The discussion is open to teens in grades 6-12.

Mock SAT test available at library

NORWALK – Teens in grades 8-12 can take a mock SAT test April 16 at the Norwalk Library.

The practice exam will be administered at 10 a.m. Students receive the results in 10 days.

Students should bring two pencils, a calculator and a snack. There will be one break during the program.

Registration is required by visiting the library's Information Desk or call (562) 868-0775.

Free concert tonight at Cerritos College

NORWALK – Students and faculty in the Cerritos College Commercial and Applied Music programs will showcase their talents in a free multimedia concert today, March 25, at 7 p.m.

The concert will take place in the Burnight Center Theatre on campus and feature music from "Entropy," an album recorded, edited and mixed at the college.

The live concert will feature video, lighting and choreography designed and performed by students, along with musicians and technicians.

Performances are free and open to the public. One-day parking passes are \$2 in lots C-1, C-2 and C-10.

For more details, go to cms.cerritos.edu/amaz/entropy.htm or email Dr. Andrew Maz at amaz@cerritos.edu

With an eye to the future, Norwalk looks to rebrand itself



Norwalk mayor Mike Mendez distributes American flags at a July 4 fireworks show last year. Photo courtesy city of Norwalk

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

NORWALK – The City of Norwalk is asking for resident input as it goes through the process of rebranding itself in the near future.

Several community meetings have been held over the last several

weeks in order to identify what Norwalk residents hope Norwalk will one day represent. The most recent meeting was held this past Monday at the Norwalk Sports and Arts Complex.

"A lot of cities – they have identities, and they push hard to define themselves," said Ryder Todd Smith of Tripepi Smith, the

marketing-technology-public affairs firm currently spearheading the City's branding effort.

Monday's meeting saw only a handful of residents come and speak their opinions. Though those who attended had many ideas of what they would like the city to represent, such as having an "old city vibe" and being a "welcoming, open arms community," no one really had any idea what Norwalk represented currently.

This reaction mirrored comments made by Smith, who said that results of a communications assessment held last year reflected a "lack of definition."

Norwalk City Manager Michael Egan emphasized the importance of finding the city's brand.

"Cities are unique entities and places," said Egan. "We attract people to live here, do business here, a lot of different things. So it makes a lot of sense for our city to brand itself based on its history, based on its people, and so we're trying to engage the community in this process so that as we go after pursuing economic development,

new business opportunities, new developments, we can sell ourselves as a quality place to be for businesses and families to thrive."

Unfortunately, Monday's humble attendance numbers were a reflection of the "hit or miss" community involvement in the effort up to this point.

"This is a pretty esoteric concept, so it's not the easiest thing to get people involved with, and so you try and try as you will," said Smith. "... We've put a lot of effort into trying to find people, make sure they have an opportunity to know about it. We're running lots of Facebook ads, lots of Google ads. It's on all the standard communication channels that the city has at its disposal. So it's certainly not for lack of effort; we're trying to get the community interested."

Those who would like to voice their ideas for the city rebranding are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming meetings. For more information, or if citizens are unable or unwilling to attend one of the future meetings, residents are encouraged to visit definingnorwalk.com.

Downey City Council puts sales tax increase on November ballot

By Christian Brown
Staff Writer

DOWNEY – Under pressure from city staff to find new revenue streams for public safety and street repairs, the Downey City Council reluctantly moved forward with plans to place a half-cent sales tax increase on the ballot in November.

In a 3-2 decision, with Mayor Alex Saab and Councilman Sean Ashton dissenting, the city council decided to let voters weigh in on whether a permanent sales tax hike, which would provide the city an additional \$9 million annually, is necessary.

City Manager Gilbert Livas believes it is.

"It's my job to make sure we stay ahead of the curve. The truth is we're not at the revenue source we were at in 2007," said Livas.

The reason behind the slow down in revenue? Car dealerships (or better yet, the lack thereof).

As a result of the Great Recession, Downey lost three dealerships when Ford, Cadillac, and Acura succumbed to the plummeting economy. As dealerships shutdown so did the city's sales tax revenue, which relied heavily on the millions

of dollars the businesses generated each year.

"It would take three department stores to make up for every dealership we've lost," Livas said.

While sales tax revenues remain flat, the need for more public safety, park renovations, and street overhauls is mounting, according to city officials.

Usually staffed at 111-115 officers, the Downey Police Department currently has 109 police officers on payroll.

"For us to be proactive and increase patrols, we need 7-10 additional officers," said Chief Carl Charles, who acknowledged that state law AB 109, which released thousands of prisoners, is increasing local crime.

Livas said the cost of hiring the additional officers adds up to \$1.3-1.5 million annually. A small amount compared to the potential cost of revamping the city's aging parks and repaving residential streets.

"We have a lot of outside shoppers in our city," said Livas. "A tax increase would help fix the local streets, upgrade our parks, and make sure our police and fire have the best equipment."

Councilman Luis Marquez

echoed the city manager, concerned that the city's public services could fall behind without additional funding.

"It's been 30 years since our parks have been touched," he said. "No matter how many grants we receive, we'll never get to the complete needs of the city."

"It should be up to the residents to decide."

Likewise, Mayor Pro Tem Fernando Vasquez agreed that residents should be offered the chance to vote on the tax hike, which would elevate the city's sales tax from 9 percent to 9.5 percent, if approved by a simple majority of voters.

"I know I pay enough in taxes, but I value our public safety and life -- what value do we put on life," said Vasquez, recalling the recent string of deaths in the city.

"Why now? If there ever was a time [to place this on the ballot], it's now when a majority of people are out here to vote."

However, Saab is pushing back against the tax proposal, suggesting the city opt for spending cuts and waste reductions before burdening residents with a new tax.

"My concerns are how this will affect existing businesses and new businesses in our city," Saab said. "I

don't know if this is the right time for this...we have a lot of positive growth happening in the city. We don't want to make people think twice about investing in our city."

Prior to the vote on Tuesday, the city council reviewed results of a survey conducted in February by polling agency Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates, who interviewed 400 Downey residents likely to vote in the November election.

When asked if the city was in need of additional funding to provide an adequate level of city services, 23 percent answered there was "great need and 47 percent said there was "some need." Nearly 25 percent said there was "little or no need" and 5 percent were unsure.

When asked directly about a potential sales tax increase, 45 percent said they would definitely vote in favor while another 25 percent said the would probably vote yes or lean towards yes. The poll revealed that 29 percent indicated they would not support the measure.

The city council on Tuesday also approved an \$83,000 contract with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates, which will educate the public on the sales tax increase measure.

Teacher gets 3 years for sex with student

DOWNEY – Brandon Hitchcock, the 32-year-old Downey High teacher and soccer coach who had sex with a female student, was sentenced to three years in county jail on Monday.

Hitchcock, of Lakewood, also was ordered to stay away from the victim. In November, Hitchcock pleaded no contest to two counts of unlawful sexual intercourse.

Hitchcock was a teacher and a soccer coach at Downey High School. In 2014, school staff were alerted about an inappropriate relationship between Hitchcock and a 17-year-old student. Administration informed law enforcement and they immediately began an investigation.

Deputy District Attorney Amanda Luna, who prosecuted the case, said Hitchcock had sexual interactions with the victim over a seven-month period.

The victim sued Hitchcock last October, alleging he preyed on her and initiated a sexual relationship.

According to the lawsuit, the girl, identified in court documents as Jane Doe, was a student in Hitchcock's 11th grade American history class during the 2013-14 school year. The lawsuit alleges that Hitchcock, who was 30 at the time, "began grooming" the 16-year-old girl, paying extra attention to her and inviting her to "hang out" in his classroom after school.

Starting in January 2014, Hitchcock began allowing the girl to sit in on his sixth period, despite her having a sixth period photojournalism class, the lawsuit alleges. It was during this time that Hitchcock allegedly began flirting with the girl, writing in an email to her that it was "hard not to miss [her] smile."

Shortly before spring break, Hitchcock and the girl exchanged telephone numbers and Hitchcock told the girl that he "liked her." They kissed while they were alone in his classroom, the suit alleges.

Over the next several weeks, Hitchcock allegedly told the girl that he loved her, and they began to have sex in April 2014.

Rumors of the relationship began to circulate on campus that September and in October, the girl reported the relationship to her parents, who called police.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 78°

Saturday 81°

Sunday 76°

THINGS TO DO



Easter Egg-Stravaganza

Saturday - Norwalk Civic Center, 12:30 p.m.

Crafts, games, food and Easter egg hunts for kids of all ages.



Rockabilly Day

Saturday - Santa Fe Springs Swap Meet, 12 p.m.

Concerts, food, shopping and more. Family-friendly. \$1 admission



Family Game Night

Saturday - Columbia Memorial Space Center, 6 p.m.

Life-sized Jenga, karaoke, raffles, robotic missions, and more.



Income Tax Help

Saturday - Cerritos College, 10 a.m.

Free tax help for low-income residents. Register: (866) 910-9559



Banda MS

Sunday - Pico Rivera Sports Arena, 6 p.m.

Banda artists perform in a concert sponsored by 97.9 La Raza. \$60



Smashing Pumpkins

Saturday - The Theatre at Ace Hotel downtown L.A., 8 p.m.

An acoustic-electro concert, with Liz Phair opening. \$60

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@Principallancer: Norwalk parents: please join us for a Ride to the Future! We will visit @CalStateLA on April 21. RSVP today! #NLMUSD

Follow us!
@DowneyPatriot

As with many of her generation, the arc of Daniela Kan's secretarial career traces the development of technology from manual typewriter to word processing in the computer age. 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

A favorite coffee cup of mine had the saying on it "I FAXED MYSELF TO HAWAII. - A SECRETARY'S DREAM."

I no longer have that cup or that dream as I went to Hawaii with my youngest daughter in 2013. Thinking about that cup brings back memories of working as a secretary (or administrative assistant as it is now called). There is a celebratory week and day in April that has been in existence since 1952 celebrating this profession.

In high school I learned the Pitman method of shorthand. It was a difficult system whereby one had to use a pencil to make the dark and light strokes, and the strokes could be either on the line, over the line, or under the line depending on the sound of the word. I did manage to learn the system, but was never able to gain much speed as I was overly concerned about being unable to read back what I wrote.

During this time in high school, a visitor came to an assembly who was a speed typist. He typed over 100 words per minute on a manual typewriter. This was a pivotal moment for me as I decided I would one day type that fast. I took several business related subjects in high school and upon graduation ended up working at a bank near Wall Street.

In order to move into a better position as secretary to the bank manager, I needed to have good

shorthand skills. While riding the subway, I saw an advertisement for the Speedwriting School that taught an alphabetic form of shorthand. I enrolled in this school, continued to gather speed in my typing, and managed to pass the shorthand test at the bank.

I worked there until moving to California where my typing skills landed me a job at North American Aviation – the forerunner to Rockwell/Autonetics, now Boeing. I eventually moved from typist to secretary there as well.

One of my favorite comments about the job at Autonetics was that while the engineers I worked for developed the plans for the Apollo, we produced so much paperwork that the astronauts would not need the space ship. All they needed to do was climb to the moon using all the paperwork as a ladder. I worked there for five years.

Then, while my children were little, I turned to waitressing as I could earn more money in less hours as a waitress. I joined the waitress union and I received many jobs through the union hall working for caterers.

This came in very handy when my husband was on strike at his union job at the company that made cartridge cases for the military going to Viet Nam. The caterer felt sorry for my family and provided us with any leftovers from the various weddings, bar or bat mitzvahs, and studio parties we worked. I also worked at the Hollywood Paladium as a banquet waitress working events such as the Grammys and New Year's Eve as well as New Year's Day Breakfast.

Additionally, I often took jobs at the Coliseum handing out hot dogs and beer at union wages. One of my favorite waitress memories was getting ready for the Magic Mountain opening. There was to be a big pre-opening festivity for a huge crowd of Hollywood celebrities.

The day before the event, we all worked in a big warehouse putting together box dinners in pretty flowered boxes. The caterer needed so many people to work handing out the boxed meals and to work the bars that they asked the regulars if we could get family members to help out – even if they weren't union. A great many of my male family members knew how to be bartenders and they helped fill the bill.

When we moved to New Mexico, I went to work for the Sears Catalog Store in Hobbs as the teletypist and I was back to my love of typing. I would make a game of it to see how many orders I could type and submit to Dallas before the deadline so that customers would receive their orders in the shortest amount of time.

While working at Sears, I decided to further my education by attending New Mexico Junior College. I thought that perhaps getting my Associates Degree in Secretarial Science would help me secure a better paying job and would offset the years I gave up

office work.

It was at NMJC that I learned about Word Processing. I flew through the machine transcription class due to my typing skills and finally met my goal of typing 100 words per minute. I enjoyed machine transcription over shorthand, but the course required I learn Gregg Shorthand - the third system I attempted to learn.

Again, I was so fearful of being unable to read what I wrote, that I fell back to my Speedwriting whenever I needed it, but really preferred machine transcription with a Dictaphone.

After graduation from NMJC, I went to work for a bank in Hobbs in the Word Processing Department ending up as supervisor over five operators as the department and bank grew. I even ended up in a national magazine due to a measurement report to management I devised.

Word processing was the up and coming office production endeavor during the 1970s.

When we returned to California, my word processing experience landed me a job for the company that was contracted to put in the 911 emergency system for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. I like to say I worked that contract from cradle to grave as I was hired during contract negotiations, and after the system was up and running, the company managed a five-year maintenance contract.

This extended the life span of my tenure to almost 11 years. I retired from that company, but didn't stop working. I will always be thankful to this company as they subsidized my going back to school and getting my bachelor's degree.

Over the years, I had yearnings to teach and often volunteered as a Sunday school teacher at my church, so I decided to obtain a California Teaching Credential. After acquiring

the credential, I was able to teach adults computer applications at ABC and Paramount adult schools.

I especially enjoyed working with seniors as I understood their anxieties, having had similar experiences while learning the ever-evolving computer literacy required nowadays. Only someone who typed on a regular typewriter would know about using the letter 'L' for the numeral one (1). You cannot do that in a computer spreadsheet.

Due to medical issues, I am now a retiree living with my youngest daughter. She is a fourth grade teacher at Hollydale School in the Paramount Unified School District. Sometimes I visit her class to help her students with their reading. One of her students gifted her with a cup that is now my favorite. It states "Teachers make A difference"

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The Norwalk Patriot

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2013

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HARED 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 lifelong Norwalk resident who likes to see everyone have 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. Created by Carol Kearns

By Yolanda Adele

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 stole my prize 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 bras; breast I didn't think "training bras" counted. Still, Frederick's merchandise denied sexy; just what I needed, almost blossoming teenage girl wanted to get her hands on. I could hardly believe that I now owned a sexed catalogue.

I did what came naturally. I ran to my best friend's house to share my miraculous find. Had I been in a luck 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, "Who is at the door?"

"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 show your eyes." I pulled the shiny catalogue from my skirt and hid the front cover that had a picture of a Marilyn Monroe look-alike model wearing a pink and black sequined outfit.

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

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

After the twelfth or thirteenth time pouring over the pages we decided to pull our babysitting money and our blowouts to buy a "Shell Fit." Well he co-workers of a braless thigh lift and squeeze what little we had on our best. The ad said that this bra was revolutionary. It came with a magical wire, which allowed a woman to inflate as much femininity as she desired into this wonder undergarment, thus giving her a cleavage that could rival any four-star sex goddess.

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

"Yes, yes!" Carla yelled. I smiled as I noticed that she was even more flat chested than I was. We were thrilled at the potential promises this bra would "fulfill" 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, talking 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 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./Mrs.'s face when she sees the new glamorous Me wearing my secret weapon?"

"Miris is such a stuck-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 Shell'."

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

"Hi No, thank you. I love 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 cat brother of yours?"

"Cute? Oh yeah! He has got to be kidding me, Jane."

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

"That's good. My baby has peach fuzz on his face."

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

CERRITOS LIBRARY INVESTS IN TECH FOR TEENS

* Cerritos preps for opening new 2,500-sq.-ft. teen tech studio at city library.

By Christopher Brown
Staff Writer

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 16 Apple iMac workstations, three 65-inch interactive touch screens, and more than 1,000 books and documents.

City council members on Monday funded 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 also as much a library as it is a computer classroom with space for 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 interact with projects, take

Raina Amjad practices on one of Cerritos Library's three new 65-inch touch-screen monitors.

with the modern devices," said Cerritos High senior Alexa Flores. "The tone of the room is very calming and relaxing. It's a better more open place to do research."

Similarly, junior Raina Amjad believes the library is the school.

At a cost of more than \$200,000, the teen studio, which is approximately 70 people, will serve as a bridge between teenage library cardholders and the rest of the school system.

Norwalk Artastic 2016

photos courtesy city of Norwalk



Spring Worship Directory



Come Celebrate Easter Morning at
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10:00 am
Family Continental Breakfast
11:00 am

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NORWALK -- The 2016 edition of Norwalk's Artastic was held Friday March 18 at the Sports and Arts Complex in Norwalk Park.

The event highlights residents and students art pieces in a public viewing and student competition in oil, water, pencil, sculpturing and other categories.

Students as well as professional sidewalk chalk artist competed for prizes as well.

They could be seen sitting, kneeling and in some cases, lying next to their pieces trying to get that one special aspect just right.

Everyone was in a casual and joyful mood.

Even Norwalk's City Manager Mike Egan was unrecognizable in his jeans and rolled up short sleeves strolling amongst the artists of all ages.

Norwalk's new mayor, Mike Mendez, with his new bride Margie, were enjoying the day as well. The newlyweds have been married for nine months.

Council member Marcel Rodarte was walking and enjoying the festivities while Vice Mayor Cheri Kelly took it all in from under a shaded area.

The event was kicked off with the Norwalk All City Band.

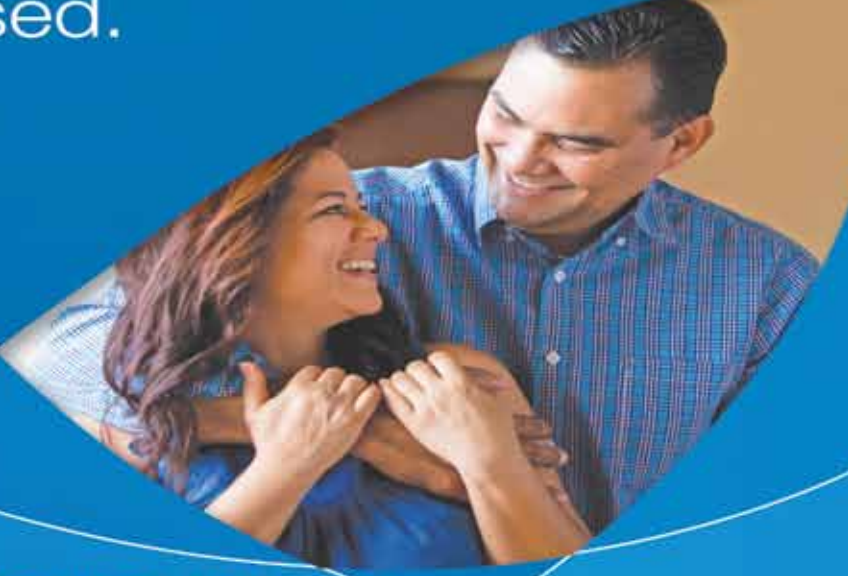
Eight year old Yvette Gaytan and her ten year old sister Teresa worked feverishly on their pieces as their father, Jesus looked on nearby.

The older Gaytan said that his two daughters were homeschooled by their mother.

Each year, hundreds of participants showcase their hard work for praises, prizes and appreciation from their fellow Norwalk residents and guests. See you next year.

-Raul Samaniego

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PIHHealth.org/Colonoscopy



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Ramona Park gets new playground

NORWALK -- Norwalk will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday, March 29, at 5 p.m. for new playground equipment at Ramona Park.

The new playground is a throwback to the 70's rocket ship theme, with a rocket ship jungle gym, a tot lot for children ages 2-5, a larger area for kids ages 5-12, and six slides.

The equipment is being installed with help from county grants.

Ramona Park is located at 13244 Mapledale St., west of Carmenita.

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