

Talon Marks staff wins journalism awards

NORWALK – Cerritos College's Talon Marks newspaper team recently won awards at the annual Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) state conference at the Burbank Marriott Hotel.

The conference was attended by nearly 500 students and faculty from community colleges throughout California.

The Talon Marks staff competed in the mail-in and on-the-spot competitions, and attended workshops in various areas of journalism.

Karla Enriquez, editor-in-chief, Kristopher Carrasco, online editor, and Briana Velarde, platforms editor took second place in the on-the-spot video journalism category, and Ethan Ortiz, news editor, was an honorable mention in the on-the-spot new story category.

In addition, Talon Marks editors Karla Enriquez, Kristopher Carrasco and Gustavo Lopez presented a panel discussion about its recent breaking news coverage of two shootings across from the college.

The college's Mass Communications Department Chair and Talon Marks Faculty Adviser Rich Cameron moderated the panel.

Norwalk holding Open Mic Night May 20

NORWALK – Norwalk's Cultural Arts Center will pull back the curtain for musicians, poets and comedians during its Open Mic Night on Friday, May 20, starting at 8 p.m.

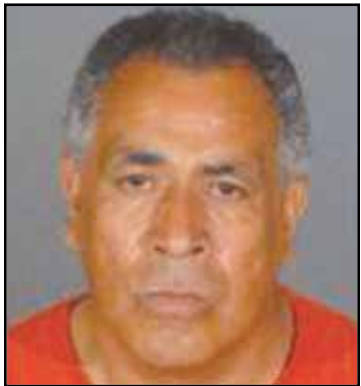
The free event gives local talent a venue to perform original pieces, add new sound to old works or give their experimental material a test drive in front of a live audience.

Performers include veteran band The Image Sharks, who play a unique fusion of blues, dinosaur rock, country and Latin percussion.

A microphone, mic stand, speakers and auxiliary cord will be provided. Performers are asked to bring any additional equipment.

Open Mic night is open to the public and includes free refreshments. Participants are encouraged to come early to sign up.

The Cultural Arts Center is located at 13200 Clarkdale Avenue. For more information, call (562) 929-5521.



Sex offender arrested for trying to kidnap 10-year-old girl

NORWALK – A registered sex offender was arrested after he attempted to abduct a 10-year-old girl in Norwalk on Sunday, authorities said.

The attempted kidnapping occurred at about 6:40 p.m. at Norwalk Park. The suspect, Armando Hernandez, allegedly tried to pull the girl into his 2000 Toyota Corolla.

Police found a pamphlet for a local church's children ministry inside the car, along with a spare license plate in the trunk, leading detectives to believe there may be additional victims.

Anyone with information is urged to call the Norwalk Sheriff's Station. Hernandez, who lives in Norwalk, is currently being held in lieu of bail.

Norwalk High students win Gates Millennium Scholarships



Norwalk High School seniors Celeste Larios and Kethzia Higuera celebrate after being named Gates Millennium Scholarship winners. Larios will use the scholarship to attend Stanford, while Higuera will attend UC Irvine. With Larios and Higuera are teacher Un-Soo Wong (left) and counselor Vanessa Iaquina (right).

NORWALK– Best friends since their freshman year at Norwalk High School, seniors Celeste Larios and Kethzia Higuera will be two of only 1,000 high school students across the nation who will have the entire cost of their undergraduate studies covered through the coveted Gates Millennium Scholarship.

Larios and Higuera have pushed each other academically, earning a 4.99 and 4.6 grade point average respectively. Larios will attend Stanford to study environmental engineering and Higuera, co-valedictorian for Norwalk's Class of '16, will attend UC Irvine and study nursing. The pair can also request funding as Gates Millennium Scholars if they continue to a graduate degree program.

"We push each other. When one of us is struggling, the other will be there to offer words of encouragement," said Larios, who admitted that when they are together, it can be a bit awkward for others. "We do finish each other's sentences. Also, we tend to say the same things at the same time."

Larios and Higuera first met the summer before freshman year at tennis camp. When they arrived at Norwalk High for their first day of school, they were seated next to each other in the same first period class and formed a

fast friendship. They quickly became best friends, bonded by their desire for a safer environment and their dedication to academic excellence.

The two became heavily involved with Norwalk High's Millennium Club, which focuses on promoting eco-friendliness. Though the Millennium Club is not affiliated with the Gates Millennium Scholarship, it acted as a springboard for their ambitions in higher education.

In addition to a full schedule of Advanced Placement classes, the pair assisted with the Norwalk High Friday recycling program, participated in beach clean-up days, supported the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life with their Key Club peers, baked treats for the Ronald McDonald House and volunteered in the Compton Initiative, a non-profit committed to beautifying and restoring Compton.

"This is a wonderful story of two determined students who share a love for humanity," Norwalk La-Mirada Unified Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said. "They have touched the hearts of teachers and fellow students alike. Congratulations to Celeste and Kethzia for being Millennium scholars."

Inspiration to apply for the scholarship came from different sources. For Larios, her mother urged her to consider it after seeing her PSAT scores. For Higuera, it was Norwalk High counselor Vanessa Iaquina.

"Ms. Iaquina called me during summer break, urging me to apply," Higuera said. "I thought, well, there's no harm in trying. I am so thankful for her support."

Higuera received her Gates acceptance letter before Larios, creating a bit of anxiety for Larios, who was certain her ambitions had been dashed. Ever the best friend, Higuera advised Larios to be patient and think positively. Two days later, Larios received her acceptance letter.

"I was more excited than Celeste was!" Higuera said. "It is great to share the experience with someone else. It would be overwhelming to do it alone."

While Higuera will commute from Norwalk to attend UC Irvine, Larios will be miles away at Stanford. However, they plan to reunite during the 2016 Gates Millennium Leadership Development retreat in Santa Clara in November.

"Celeste and Kethzia epitomize the values and forward critical thinking we seek to instill every day at Norwalk-La Mirada," NLMUSD Board President Karen Morrison said. "They are such a joy. Commendations to Principal Smith and his outstanding faculty and staff for encouraging their academic growth."

Southeast Academy cadets celebrate commission to West Point, \$180,000 scholarship



Southeast Academy cadets Jose Barajas and Marissa Gutierrez will be taking their first steps towards careers as officers in the United States Armed Forces. Gutierrez has been accepted into the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, while Barajas received a \$180,000 NROTC scholarship to attend Oregon State University.

NORWALK – Southeast Academy in Norwalk is celebrating two of its highest-achieving cadets, as they head to prestigious national universities, taking their first steps toward careers as officers in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Marissa Gutierrez has been accepted into the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, while Jose Barajas received a \$180,000 Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship to attend Oregon State University.

"The whole experience is surreal," said Gutierrez, who plans to major in psychology. "When I first came to Southeast I was very shy. Through the tremendous guidance of my instructors and the observation of the Academy's leadership traits and principles, I am prepared to take the next step in the service of our country."

Gutierrez was inspired to attend West Point as a junior when she heard Southeast alumnus Casey Batley describe his experiences at the USMA at Southwest's Academy Day. Determined to earn her place at USMA, she rose in rank at Southeast from squad leader to battalion commander and obtained a Congressional nomination from U.S. Rep. Linda Sanchez, who interviewed Gutierrez last November.

Upon graduation of West Point, Gutierrez will be commissioned to the United States Army as a second lieutenant.

"Congratulations to Marissa and Jose, who made the commitment to their education and country, and are on their way to being the leaders of tomorrow," NLMUSD Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said. "With Southeast Academy's culture and high accountability standards, students graduate college- and career-ready, inspired to give back to their communities."

Barajas set a goal to become an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps when he spoke with a selection officer during a visit to a Naval Reserve recruitment center. He began a two-tiered application process, applying separately for the NROTC scholarship and admission to Oregon State.

When Barajas graduates from OSU, he will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

"At Southeast Academy, you have Marines teaching you, and they take great pride in wearing the uniform. They are our role models, they are there to help us succeed," said Barajas, who plans to study kinesiology at OSU. "I will be best served in the Marine Corps, leading Marines."

Southeast Academy prepares students – designated as cadets – for careers in the military and law enforcement. Cadets learn how to become effective leaders through the Academy's 14 Leadership Traits: bearing, courage, decisiveness, dependability, endurance, enthusiasm, initiative, integrity, judgement, justice, knowledge, loyalty, tact and unselfishness.

"I am proud that our students will be contributing to the best and brightest minds in the United States, and will become greater leaders in the future," NLMUSD Board President Karen Morrison said. "Through the leadership of its director, Master Sgt. Marty Schafer, Southeast Academy is doing its part to ensure that America will remain strong and vigilant."

Thieves break into Warren High, steal band instruments

DOWNEY – The students and staff of the Warren High School Band program were shocked to find their music room broken into and several instruments stolen earlier this week.

The break-in occurred sometime Monday evening and the early morning hours on Tuesday. The instruments stolen varied from District owned, Booster purchased, and personally owned.

Downey Unified School District declined to release too much specific information in order to preserve the integrity of the ongoing investigation, and in an effort to not further disrupt the individuals involved, has also opted not to host on-site interviews of students or staff for media.

Instead, DUSD released an official statement, saying:

"First, we want to thank the community and the media for the outpouring of support....We are working collaboratively with police to apprehend the individual or individuals that perpetrated this awful crime...We are confident that our outstanding police department will soon apprehend these criminals and, as a district, we will support prosecuting them to the full extent of the

law. In the meantime, Downey Unified is committed to replacing the items stolen and/or damaged. In light of these recent events, the District is taking multiple preventative steps districtwide to curtail any future incidents."

Downey Police also declined to release any information.

A GoFundMe page was set up in response to the thefts by one of the music program's senior students. The page has already begun circulating social media thanks to several community members, many of which are Warren alumni who were band and color guard members.

According to the senior's GoFundMe campaign, several school laptops were stolen in addition to the instruments, however this has not been officially confirmed.

The post also noted that eggs had been cracked/thrown at several instruments including a piano and a bass. This was verified by DUSD, however the instruments suffered no serious damage and were wiped clean and are fully functional.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 68° ☁

Saturday 67° ☁

Sunday 67° ☁

THINGS TO DO



94.7 The Wave

Saturday - Greek Theatre, 7 p.m.

Live concert featuring Bobby Brown, Jagged Edge, Next, SWV and more. \$45 and up



Romeo & Juliet

Saturday - Alex Theatre in Glendale, 7:30 p.m.

Opening night of Shakespeare's timeless tragedy. \$29



Comedy Night

Sunday - Ice House, 8 p.m.

Ten up and coming comedians take the stage on Mothers Day. \$20



Arbor Day

Saturday - New River Park in Norwalk, 8 a.m.

Help celebrate Arbor Day with a community tree-planting. All material is provided.

FROM OUR FACEBOOK

Man arrested for attempted kidnapping

Monica Sanchez: Right now with youth soccer practices going on for recreation, please keep an eye on your child or their siblings.

Melanie Hampton: Ugh put these guys away for life. These and serial killers are the only ones who need to go away forever.

Deena Lopez: Thank God they caught this one! Just know that there's so many sick perverts out there trying to hurt children. We have to teach our kids, watch them closely and pray for them always.

Tracy Souder: Castration should be legal.

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

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@SteveRRamirez: Breanna Vasquez's walk-off double to give Norwalk SB 3-2 win over La Mirada in 15 innings

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On This Day...

May 6, 1882: Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred Chinese immigrants from the United States for 10 years.

1915: Babe Ruth of the Boston Red Sox hit the first of his 714 major league home runs in a 4-3 loss to the New York Yankees at the Polo Grounds.

2004: The final episode of "Friends" aired.

Birthdays: Baseball hall of famer Willie Mays (85), rocker Bob Seger (71), British politician Tony Blair (63), TV show host Tom Bergeron (61), actor George Clooney (55), actress Gabourey Sidibe (33), Clippers guard Chris Paul (31) and rapper Meek Mill (29).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 7

8 a.m. - Arbor Day - New River Park

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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

1:00 p.m. - Adult color club "Color Us Happy" - Norwalk Library
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)
CALLING RICHARD: With a hint at 109 Across
by Fred Piscop

ACROSS

1 Well-constructed

6 Ford who financed Admiral Byrd

11 Touch upon

15 Entertain guests

19 Keep entertained

20 Unrestricted

21 Bar garnish

22 Reverberate

23 Place to plug in a TV

25 Stomp all over

27 Skateboarder's gear

28 Walkman descendant

30 Warhol works

31 Just manage, with "out"

32 Wants no part of

34 Slow tempo

35 Cheney's successor

39 Noncom nickname

40 Internet-era prefix

43 Appear imminent

44 Certain fruit farm

47 Pampering initials

50 Difficult duty

51 Luke's sci-fi sister

52 Robust

53 Smile broadly

54 Splatter protector

55 Possible pocket-knife attachment

59 Shooting-range supply

60 Law-office visitors

62 Unfreeze

63 Channel covering Congress

64 Melancholy poem

65 Mr. Potato Head part

66 "For want of _ _ _"

68 Loft group

70 Prefix for scope

71 Set straight

73 PBS science series

DOWN

1 Big bag

2 Saudi Arabia neighbor

3 Auto maintenance task

4 Many a Columbus discovery

5 Get complicated

6 Escape cleverly

7 Points from pencils

8 Costa del _

9 Language suffix

10 "Put that behind you"

ACROSS

74 Construction site trailer

78 Metallic material

80 Raised, at a ranch

81 Peace Nobel

82 Wiesel

82 Timber wolf

83 Sharp blow

84 Uber offering

85 Frying medium

89 Italian auto, for short

90 Fully necessary

91 Berate, in a ballpark

92 Isn't free

93 Be indecisive

96 Spills (over)

97 Contribute (to)

99 Convention settings

101 Dig for

102 App's customers

107 Toddler

109 "Brave" descriptor of the puzzle's longest answers

112 After the buzzer

113 First father

114 Escape cleverly

115 Referred to

116 Vehicle without wheels

117 Sales force, informally

118 Grand _ National Park

119 South Park boy

DOWN

11 Some oratorio performers

12 Feeder frequenter

13 Actress Thurman

14 Weather report stat

15 Aide

16 Vast quantity

17 Terse

18 Western sidekick

24 Winery wood

26 Propelled, as a gondola

29 Look narrowly

32 Permissible, in Islam

33 English 101 verb

35 Lava-lamp lump

36 Greek column style

37 Bend suddenly with laughter

38 Quartet in "Mamma Mia!"

39 Roasting rods

40 Hong Kong-born action star

41 One of the Ives

42 Title in Uncle Remus tales

44 As a companion

45 Nitpicking

46 Mull over, with "on"

47 Philadelphia university team

48 Tibetan holy man

49 "Let's go!"

53 Mooring place

55 Brewed beverage

56 Lucy's landlady

57 Midwest air hub

58 Barbecue spot

61 Trojan War epic

63 Hamster home

66 Suspect's story

67 Actor Williamson

68 Closing Bell channel

69 Circle change

70 Dutch painter

71 Happening now

72 Preliminary version

74 Bump into

75 Russian saint

76 Jessica of 7th Heaven

77 Jumping bugs

79 LAX info

83 _ Paulo, Brazil

85 Fast-spreading on YouTube

86 Highly skilled

87 20-stamp purchase

88 Cut (off)

90 Let off steam

92 Place to store music

93 Online university's lack

94 Computer typeface

95 Venerable sports car, briefly

96 Is apparently

97 Pale-faced

98 Poor grade

100 Burn a bit

101 Kiddie coat fastener

102 Nullify

103 Fondue cheese

104 Mail-routing abbr.

105 Spotted

106 Circular current

108 Homage in verse

110 " _ Been Everywhere" (Johnny Cash tune)

111 Muffin morsel, maybe

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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.

Bellflower High School praised for emphasizing civics lessons

BELLFLOWER – Bellflower Middle/High School has earned recognition as a California Democracy School from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) for creating and institutionalizing a highly effective civic-learning program.

Bellflower Middle/High's program teaches students to frame an inquiry into a public problem or issue, research the issue, engage in dialogue about perspectives on the issue, communicate their conclusions and take direct civic action on those findings.

As part of their studies, students have provided homeless residents with toiletry care bags, urged Bellflower to install better lighting on crosswalks to shield pedestrians at night, studied efforts to adopt a district-based voting system and cleaned up a community park.

Bellflower Unified created the program as part of the three-year California Democracy School Civic Learning Initiative led by LACOE and funded by a grant from the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation. Eleven other high schools in Los Angeles and Orange counties also were selected for the program.

“Bellflower has accomplished something rarely seen in American schools,” said Initiative Director Michelle M. Herczog, Ed.D. “They have fully integrated civic learning across every grade level in all social science classrooms. By doing so, civic learning is not seen as an ‘add-on’ or burden on the curriculum but a way to enhance the teaching of social science to be rigorous, relevant and engaging for students.”

Rancho hospital celebrates as final beam put into place

DOWNEY – Several Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Administration and staff gathered along with Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe on Friday to commemorate the “topping out” of the future Outpatient Building.

During Friday's small ceremony, multiple Rancho Los Amigos leaders were invited to sign the final steel beam of the developing structure. Supervisor Knabe also signed the beam before it was raised and set into place.

The new Outpatient Building is a part of the five year, two phase, \$418 million Rancho Rising 2020 campus renovation and beautification project, which is currently on schedule and expected to conclude in the year 2020.

Rancho COO Benjamin Ovando described Friday as a “big milestone” in the process of the campus's construction.

“In this building we'll actually be able to provide outpatient services to all of our patients in one building, whereas right now we're kinda spread out among five buildings that were built anywhere from the early 1900's to about the 1960's,” said Ovando. “So it's going to be a lot easier for our patients because they won't have to go from building to building for their appointments. Now they'll be able to go to just one building and get all of their outpatient services.”

Along with the added convenience of the single outpatient building, Ovando also cited getting into seismic compliance as one of the major

The Initiative sought not only to seed civic-learning programs at each school, but also to create models for other schools to replicate.

Bellflower High's program was recognized earlier this spring by California's Civic Learning Award program, an effort led by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and state Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye. Bellflower won one of just three Awards of Excellence, recognizing it as a state leader in civic education.

“We are exceedingly proud of our team of educators at Bellflower Middle and High School for going far beyond expectations to craft a truly inspiring experience for all of our students,” Bellflower Unified Superintendent Dr. Brian Jacobs said. “Our civic-learning program has become one of the highlights of our academic program.”

Bellflower High received its California Democracy Award on April 30 at the conclusion of a daylong showcase of civic-learning programs by the 12 partner schools at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley.

Bellflower students staffed three of the showcase's 15 sessions.

First, students led a panel discussion on epidemic diseases, immigration, genocide and civil rights. Next, Bellflower seniors Stephanie Yanez and Natalie Soto presented a documentary on their local city's redistricting efforts and voter turnout. Finally, Bellflower sophomores gave a series of soapbox speeches that included commentary on voting and local politics.



Santa Fe High School senior art student Alyssa Hernandez displays her sculpture called “Restraint” at the school’s 13th annual Art and Fashion Show on April 21. Hernandez was one of hundreds of students who showcased their artistic creations at the annual event.

Students showcase their creative talents at Santa Fe High’s art and fashion show

SANTA FE SPRINGS – Hundreds of Santa Fe High School students on April 21 showcased artistic creations, drawings and sculptures, modeled fashionable works of art on a lit runway and put their individualism on display during the Visual and Performing Arts Department's 13th annual Art and Fashion Show.

The Santa Fe High gym teemed with artistic displays encompassing the event's theme, “American Volcano,” which celebrated diversity and cultural pluralism of the arts, ethnicity, gender, politics and contemporary society.

The event inspired students’ imaginations to erupt in a creative flow of paintings, dress designs, dance performances and much more during the day's three shows, including an evening extravaganza open to the community.

“I feel like this gives students the freedom of expression that they can't get out of other subjects,” said senior Alyssa Hernandez, who has participated in the event all four years. “I love it so much and I love coming to class.”

The event featured works of art from students in Santa Fe's 15 art classes who have worked since the beginning of the school year to prepare for the end-of-year project. All school students were invited to participate in the event, which was held in the gymnasium.

“I'm so proud of all of the students who participated and allowed themselves to be vulnerable while exploring their individualism,” said Jessica Guiragossian, VAPA department leader. “It's really magical. This is their time to shine and be themselves and they've worked incredibly hard to make this show happen.”

The event also featured projects funded through a Santa Fe Springs Heritage Arts Education grant, which is awarded to schools to continue student learning through the arts. Proceeds from the event's ticket sales will go to the school art club and art students.

“The Art and Fashion Show has grown to be a unifying school community event that allows our students to explore their feelings and come out of their shells in a way they never have before,” Santa Fe High School Principal Kevin Jamero said. “It's a great creative outlet and it's inspiring to see their projects develop over the year and see the final product.”

Hernandez, who helped set up props on stage, created a sculpture made of clear packing tape called “Restraint,” symbolizing feelings of anxiety among students.

“Art has been an outlet for my creativity and is a safe haven for me,” said Hernandez, who plans to attend Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles. “My project this year brought me out of my comfort zone, but it has really helped me overcome a lot.”

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