



La Nueva Voz

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Children of mom burned to death on Christmas trying to get family together, go on with life

The four children of a 41-year-old Pomona woman – who died after she was allegedly doused with gasoline and lit on fire on Christmas day – are trying to reunite, get back in one house and go on with their lives after they were separated by the Los Angeles County foster care system.

Officials with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services placed the two younger children in foster care following the incident but the two adult children are working to get the two boys back – with the help of staff members in Pomona City Hall, Pomona's non-profit Kennedy Austin Foundation and the Pomona Valley Branch of the NAACP.

According to Pomona Police Department reports, Dawn Hensley died at a local hospital following the incident which occurred in front of

the apartment building in which she lived in the 1500 block of Cordova Street in Pomona, near Indian Hill Boulevard and San Bernardino Avenue and across from Montvue Park.

Police said the suspect in the case, Clarence Dear, was arrested in Pasadena two days later when he was found on a bus after boarding in Altadena. Pasadena police and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies arrested him without incident.

He was booked on suspicion of murder with the special circumstances of torture in the case. Bail was set at \$1 million.

Dear's arraignment was waived until today.

Neighbors reported person set on fire

Police said neighbors reported seeing a person who had been set on fire and rendered assistance as she



REUNITING THE FAMILY -- The two adult children of a Pomona woman who died after she was allegedly doused with gasoline and lit on fire on Christmas day answer questions from the news media during a news briefing this month at the Kennedy Austin Foundation in Pomona. The two are working with Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and Los Angeles Superior Court's Children's Court to get back together in the same house with their two younger brothers. Pictured, from left, are Corin Hensley, 24, and Nigel Hensley, 19.

dren back to my mom's house," she explained. She had taken her children to church in Monrovia on Christmas morning.

Nigel Hensley was at home in Pomona when the incident occurred.

He said he heard loud arguing and screaming.

"That's when I came downstairs," he said, "and then I tried to move my mom out of the house."

And he tried to do everything in his power to prevent what happened.

Did the kids see anything like this coming?

"Relationships do get awkward but you would never think something like this, especially on a holiday to celebrate as far as Christmas," Corin said, adding that she understands from her own relationships that there are ups and downs.

How would she describe her childhood in light of all of this?

A 'fun, scary roller coaster ride'

"I would say it was a fun, scary roller coaster ride," Corin said.

Meanwhile, she said they've seen Dear at court dates.

"He is presumed to be our alleged father," Corin said, but "we choose not to have any further contact with him" out of safety concerns for the younger siblings.

"It's been hard enough just to talk to our brothers so far," she said, explaining that talking to their younger brothers has become a bit of a challenge due to regulations and case worker holiday vacation schedules.

Even so, Corin said she is confident their younger brothers – Ezekiel, 16, and Abijah, 12 – are "OK as of right now – we're just trying to get back to being a family to heal together as a family."

"It's our mom," she said, and the family is working on "how do we go on without Mom but we're doing

Going on with life... pg. 6

Hard work pays off as Cal Poly's Rose Parade float wins another award

Two days before this year's 127th Rose Parade – seen by millions of people around the world – an estimated 300 volunteers were hard at work in a tent across the street from Pasadena's Rose Bowl putting finishing touches on the Cal Poly University float.

Throughout the last week before the parade, some 2,000 were involved in the process – all hard work, whether climbing on scaffolding to place flowers from above or repeatedly sweeping the floor to keep the area clear for workers.

And the effort paid off – the university's float, named "Sweet Shenanigans," won the Lathrop K. Leishman award for the "Most beautiful non-commercial float."

La Nueva Voz had an opportunity this year to view the float-building



READY TO ROLL! -- Cal Poly University's Rose Parade float "Sweet Shenanigans," pictured in the float-building tent across the street from the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, receives its finishing touches for its run down Colorado Boulevard two days before this year's 127th Rose Parade.

process up close and inside the barricades for two reasons – to get a first-hand look at the Cal Poly process, involving both students and outside

volunteers, and to see a team of six students from Pomona's Village Academy High School hard at work producing a

Cal Poly parade float... pg. 19



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NEW CORKY'S OPENS IN POMONA -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce representatives and members of the Pomona City Council and others were on hand last week for a ribbon-cutting to mark the opening of Pomona's first Corky's Homestyle Kitchen and Bakery. The restaurant is the eighth 24-hour location for the company that started in 1999 in Rancho Cucamonga, according to company President Mike Towles, who said the company selected this location because "Pomona is on the upswing." Towles and his wife, Jennifer, grew up in nearby Chino. Named after his "Grandmother Corky," who made everything from scratch from fresh ingredients, the restaurant strives to carry on her tradition of serving the best dining experience possible. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber Ambassador Gus Arias of Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan; Jeff Chavis, Director of Operations for Corky's; Nancy Gray, general manager of the Pomona location; Corky's Corporate Training Manager Darin Handlen; President Mike Towles; company CFO Jennifer Towles; Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman; Pomona City Councilmembers Ginna Escobar and Debra Martin; Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; Benny Ayala, representing State Sen. Connie Leyva; Joanna Valenzuela, field representative for Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Pomona Chamber Ambassador Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Pomona Chamber Vice President of Membership Stephanie Benjamin of OPARC; and Pomona Chamber Ambassador Frank Gonzales of USA Fit Force Taekwondo. The company has a total of 10 locations with one in Orange County and the others in the Inland Empire. The restaurant is located at 2051 Ranch Valley Drive in the Rio Rancho Towne Center II Shopping Center (Rio Rancho Road and the 71 Freeway).



VAN GOGH TO BE FEATURED AT FAIRPLEX -- "Palates and pallettes," a monthly fine dining and wine experience with an opportunity to use a famous artist as inspiration for painting, was held at Fairplex this month featuring the work of Viennese artist Gustav Klimt, in combination with a dinner saluting Klimt's native Austria. Pictured are guests working at their easels. The event at the Millard Sheets Art Center at Fairplex is always open to the public and artists -- whether beginners or professionals. Cost is \$75 and painting supplies are provided, along with the help of an experienced art teacher. The featured artist in February (6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, parking at Gate 1) will be Van Gogh. For reservations, call (909) 865-4161. For more information, visit millardsheetsartcenter.org.

Inter Valley Health Plan launches program of classes focusing on brain health

As part of an on-going "For Health and Living – Bee Happy Project" launched last year, Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan

has launched "Bee Brainy" as a secondary initiative, offering educational classes, events and resources dedicated to brain health.

Upcoming kick-off events, which have been under way throughout January, are scheduled for today in Victorville and tomorrow in Riverside.

Inter Valley Health Plan, a not-for-profit Medicare Advantage Health Plan based in the Inland Em-

pire, is committed to enhancing the mind, body and spirit of the older adult community in Southern California, according to Cyndie O'Brien, vice president of member services and creator of the Bee Happy and Bee Brainy program.

The initiative will center on all of

the elements that help maintain a healthy brain including diet, exercise, socialization and activities.

"Our 'Bee Happy' initiative was so successful and well received," O'Brien said. "We wanted to provide community residents with additional resources just as valuable to help them maintain overall health, and what better way to do that than to start with the brain."

As part of the program, Inter Valley Health Plan will add a new series of free monthly classes at each of its Medicare Information and Vitality Centers, including one in Claremont, that will include brain "games," "ABC's of Vitamins for the Brain," "Mind Diet" and "Heart Health equals Brain Health."

The Claremont facility is in the Pomona Valley Health Center Building, 1601 Monte Vista Ave., Suite 275, Claremont.

Today's event in Victorville is scheduled for 10 a.m. at 12209 Hesperia Road, Suite E, Victorville (next to Vons), and tomorrow's event in Riverside is scheduled for 10 a.m. at Lincoln Plaza, 2995 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside (next to Albertsons).

To RSVP for either event, call (800) 251-8191, ext. 625 or visit www.forhealthandliving.com/ivh-pevents.



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Legalized marijuana politics heat up at Pomona community forum

About 80 residents, educators and even several kids turned out this month for a “Marijuana – What’s Up” community forum in Pomona that sounded like it was turning into more of a kick-off of political season with an opposition message to the initiative expected to be on the November ballot.

That measure would legalize recreational marijuana for adults and, according to proponents, regulate and tax the drug like alcohol. Similar measures were approved by voters in Washington and Colorado in 2012.

California was the first state to legalize marijuana for medical use when, in 1996, voters approved Proposition 215.

But Kevin Sabet, President and Founder of Smart Approaches to Marijuana and Director of the Drug Policy Institute at the University of Florida, is already on record saying his organization is ready to fight a marijuana legalization initiative in California.

Sabet, the featured speaker at the Pomona forum held at the Village at Indian Hill conference center in the rain, told the local audience the topic is “an area of confusion” and that “drugs do affect different people differently.”

He urged parents and educators to look at what the science and the evidence say, adding that many people tend to say they used marijuana 20 and 30 years ago and they were “just fine.”

“We are living in a time right now where a small number of people are really looking at anyone under 25 and saying ‘you are our future customers, we want to make a lot of money off of you,’” he said, because they want to legalize marijuana and



Pomona Police Officers Michael Lee, at left, and Kristian Gutierrez, of the police department's major crimes task force, open discussion at Pomona marijuana forum with a description of what today's marijuana looks like.

rapidly commercialize and promote it.

Sabet said they are looking at what happened in the tobacco industry, and how it took 150 years to make a cultural shift on tobacco.

And, while he said he is not advocating throwing people in jail for using marijuana, “we need to know what we’re getting ourselves into if we allow the mass normalization and legalization of marijuana.”

He said California’s medical marijuana initiative was passed on a promise of helping people who were suffering from cancer, glaucoma and other serious illnesses.

“It was actually a brilliant political strategy,” he said, pointing out that today residents can obtain a medical card for something as simple as a headache or a backache.

“Let’s make it legitimate by putting it in a pharmacy in a proper dosage, not smoking it,” Sabet said.

He cited figures that in California in 2000, the average user of medical marijuana was a 32-year-old white male with no history of cancer or HIV/AIDS, actually had a history of drug abuse, and the number one reason he was seeking marijuana was headaches and anxiety.

Sabet acknowledged there are components of marijuana that may have some medical value.

“We need to do the research on those – right now the government is researching them,” he said. “But that is very very different... than legalizing marijuana for everybody.”

He added that a national survey found that in medical marijuana states like California, 33 percent of 12th graders in high school who used marijuana “got their marijuana from somebody else’s medical marijuana recommendation.”

He said California is following the pattern of Colorado where legalized marijuana is now sold in shops he said look more like a candy store at the mall.

On the business end, Sabet said today’s marijuana industry is estimated to be worth about \$1.8 billion with projections that in the next three years it will be worth \$3.3 billion, and that



Kevin Sabet

to become involved “you’ve got to be a professional business person” with investors including venture capitalists and Wall Street bankers in New York.

“Daily marijuana use has skyrocketed since the late 1970s” in this country, he said, with three percent of Americans using marijuana daily.

Pomona Police Officers Michael

El tema sobre la legalización de la marijuana se enciende

Alrededor de 80 residentes, educadores y varios adolescentes se reunieron en un foro comunitario en Pomona titulado “Marijuana – What’s Up” lo cual mas bien pareció ser un inicio a la temporada política con un mensaje de oposición a la Iniciativa de la Legalización de la Marijuana en California, lo cual se espera que esté en la boleta electoral para vocación en Noviembre.

Esta medida daría legalización a el uso recreativo de la marijuana por adultos. Así como el alcohol, la medida también impondría la regularización y los impuestos a la droga. Medidas similares ya han sido aprobadas por los votantes en Washington y Colorado en el 2012.

California fue el primer estado en legalizar el uso médico de la marijuana cuando en el año 1996 los votantes aprobaron la Proposición 215.

Pero Kevin Sabet, presidente y fundador de Enfoques Inteligentes de la Marijuana y director de el Instituto de Políticas de Drogas en la Universidad de Florida, dice que su organización esta preparado para pelear la iniciativa de legalización de la marijuana en

Lee and Kristian Gutierrez of the Pomona Police Department’s major crimes task force opened the discussion with a focus on what today’s marijuana looks like.

They pointed out that THC, the psycho-active property in marijuana, in 1974 was at one percent, compared to nearly 10 percent in 2008.

Common signs of marijuana use include “cottonmouth,” watery or bloodshot eyes or even a green tint to the tongue.

And, they pointed out, if parents are in doubt whether their kids are using marijuana, they can search their room – their kids are not protected by the fourth amendment.

Today, they said, simple marijuana possession is an infraction – or a ticket – while possession of marijuana for sales outside of a dispensary, even including selling marijuana out of a kid’s backpack – is a felony.

The event was presented by Partnership for a Positive Pomona, the City of Pomona and the Pomona Unified School District.

Meanwhile, the Pomona City Council unanimously approved an ordinance on second reading this month that would maintain a ban in Pomona on marijuana dispensaries and extend that ban to cultivation as well.

California.

Sabet, el orador principal del foro el cual se llevo a cabo en el centro de conferencias de Village at Indian Hill, le dijo al público presente que el asunto es “una área de confusión” y que “las drogas afectan de diferente manera a diferentes personas.”

Sabet instó a los padres y a los educadores a analizar lo que la ciencia y la evidencia demuestran, agregando que mucha gente tiende a decir que ellos usaron la marijuana hace 20 o 30 años y dicen “estar bien.”

“Actualmente vivimos un en tiempo donde algunos están observando a aquellos menores de 25 años y dicen ‘ellos son nuestros futuros clientes, haremos mucho dinero,’” dijo Sabet, porque ellos quieren legalizar la marijuana y comercializarla y promoverla rápidamente.

Y, aunque Sabet no recomienda arrojar a la gente a la cárcel por el uso de la marijuana, “es necesario entender en qué nos estamos metiendo si permitimos la legalización de la marijuana.”

Él dijo que la iniciativa del uso médico de la marijuana en California

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King's legacy of hope, justice and humanity remembered at Pomona Martin Luther King celebration

University of La Verne President Devorah Lieberman, quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., told an audience of several hundred in Pomona this month “we can accept finite disappointment but we can never lose infinite hope.”

Speaking at the 34th annual celebration of the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church, Lieberman pointed out in the audience Pomona businessman and University of La Verne Board member Reggie Webb.

“I will never forget the first time I crossed the Mason-Dixon line as an 11-year-old boy,” she quoted Webb as saying, who added that – at that time in the late 1950s – he encountered a segregated South that was separate and unequal.

Lieberman said he saw clean “whites only” facilities and substandard ones for blacks as he traveled by bus from Indiana to spend a year helping his great-grandparents on their Arkansas farm.

“Thankfully, Dr. King's leadership of the Civil Rights Movement effectively challenged and changed that,” she said. “The light of his example brightened America and the world.”



Dr. Devorah Lieberman

She said her father told his three children growing up in Covina, quoting a historic rabbi, that “we tolerate differences but we do not tolerate indifference,” and that “I don't speak because I have the power to speak, I speak because I do not have the power to remain silent.”

Lieberman, making the point that there is more work to be done as part of King's legacy, cited figures showing that 16.5 percent of adults in Pomona have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to the California average of 30 percent.

“We in this room and in this community need to increase these opportunities for all,” she said.

“We do still live in tumultuous

times,” she said, asking the audience to remember the courage of those who create change before us, those who worked to make the world a better place, adding that King was a “visionary for civil rights and social action (who) never lost hope.”

“Joining together as a strong community based on mutual desire to effect change is the only way to follow the path of courage and realize justice,” she said.

“Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a courageous man with a passion for justice, humanity and doing what is right,” she said.

“We cannot slow up because we have a date with destiny . . . we must move all with deliberate speed . . . keep moving forward,” she quoted King as saying.

The theme of this year's event was “Courage: The Pathway to Justice.”

“Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream,” said Mistress of Ceremonies Gayle Claiborne, quoting King and adding that “the words in our theme this year (are) truly from one of Martin Luther King's most noted speeches.”

“We have to remember that there's still a lot of work to be done,” said Claiborne, who serves as Board President of the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project.

The event, as is the tradition, opened to song with the emotional “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” written by NAACP national organizer James Weldon Johnson in 1900 on the occasion of a celebration of President Lincoln's birthday. The song became the anthem of America's Civil Rights Movement led by King.



Rev. Beth Bingham



YOUTH SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS WINNERS -- Winners of this year's Youth Social Justice Awards at this month's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration presented by the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project are, from left, Marlon Harrison and Alaya Turner, both of Colony High School in Ontario; Susan Lucas, of Pomona High School in Pomona; Natalie Yep, of Colony High School in Ontario; and Ashley Anumba, of Los Osos High School in Rancho Cucamonga.



Foothill Transit was honored this month with this year's Zennie Cummings Award, presented each year to a major sponsor of the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project for commitment and recognition of youth and their work in social justice to help keep King's dream alive. Pictured, from left, at the 34th annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration are Gayle Claiborne, Board President of the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project; Linda Apodaca, Foothill Transit's manager of community engagement; and Maggie Green, who presented the award.

And it closed with the singing of “We Shall Overcome,” which became the battle cry at sit-ins, voter registration drives and protest marches during the 1950s and 1960s. Joan Baez sang it at the 1963 March on Washington.

Rev. Beth Bingham of Pilgrim Congregational Church, home of the King celebration since 1993, told the audience that she told her own congregation that Sunday morning about King's favorite hymn, which is also her favorite hymn, “Precious Lord.”

“This evening is so very precious to all of us at Pilgrim Church and to our community to come together to celebrate the life of a man – not only who he was but who he inspires us to be,” she said. “It is truly a gift. In the spirit of Dr. King, may there be peace on Earth now and always.”

Youth Social Justice Awards winners

Youth Social Justice Awards this year were presented to Susan Lucas, a student at Pomona High School and a second time recipient, who is involved in community activism and making Pomona greater; Ashley

Anumba, a student at Los Osos High School in Rancho Cucamonga, who writes about social justice to motivate youth to change the way they act toward one another; and three students from Colony High School in Ontario, including Marlon Harrison, who works to help the homeless; Alaya Turner, who is an advocate for those with special needs; and Natalie Yep, who formed the Minorities United Club at her school.

Winners received a \$1,000 scholarship each.

The Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Youth Social Justice Awards program was established in 1983 when a civic-minded group of com-

munity leaders joined to form a group modeled after King's teachings of inclusion of all people in the political system.

The first celebration was held at the Masonic Hall in Pomona.

King's birthday was established as a national holiday in 1986.

In 1994, the organization initiated its program of awards to students who demonstrated, by their daily actions, that King's spirit was alive.

The awards are given to young people ages 15 to 19 who have made a difference in their communities, neighborhoods and schools.

More than 120 students have been honored for their commitment to social justice.

The mission of the Martin Luther King Jr. Project is to honor and commemorate the life and work of King and empower the community, families and youth to promote social justice, unity and outstanding service.



The Licata Brothers (Tony, at left, and Jimmy) of Arcadia returned for the second year to perform several theme-based selections at this month's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in Pomona.

Going on with life... from pg. 1

our best.”

Corin said she and Nigel are working to get custody of their brothers through the Department of Children and Family Services and Los Angeles Superior Court's Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park, where proceedings are continuing. Their first court date was Jan. 4.

“It is a high profile case so they are being really cautious who they place them with next and really trying to make (only) one move as far as placement,” Corin explained.

She added that she and Nigel are an option but “we need to have a stable living environment.” The two were very close this month to a year lease for a home here in Los Angeles County.

Two younger brothers in foster care

In the meantime, the two younger brothers were living together in the same group home, also in Los Angeles County.

Andrea Rico, liaison for community relations for the City of Pomona who is assisting the family, said the city is reaching out to several community partners on behalf of the family for a variety of services ranging from eyeglasses to pro bono legal representation.



Andrea Rico



Ethel Gardner

“The most important thing has been securing stable housing before anything else can be asked and they've just done an excellent job of pretty much going through all the hoops that we keep throwing at them in order to obtain housing,” Rico said.

Ethel Gardner, founder and executive director of the Kennedy Austin Foundation, agreed that housing was the priority.

“They have done an excellent job in going out there and handling their business,” Gardner said. “It's almost like they have been our heroes because they have really been proactive, stepped up to the plate. They found a house.”

“That was the priority,” Gardner said, “to get them a house so that they could get the boys back . . . to have the family unit back together so that they could start the healing process.”

The kids are left with fond memories of their mom, who also worked as a caregiver for seniors.

“She worked hard for her four children, raising them, single handedly,” Corin said. “I know it is a tragic story to happen to anyone.”

And, she added, her mom was a great teacher who was well known in the



Dawn Hensley...
... pictured at a memorial
outside the apartment

community.

She was just this “short little white lady,” Corin said, a “blond hair, blue eyed gal with four mixed kids” who everybody thought was her children's cousin or sister.

Corin added that like any mother, she “made sure to see (that) her children accomplished their dreams – she pushed us, (making) sure we're happy.”

Her mom even moved closer to Corin's home just to be closer to her daughter and her grandchildren. “Me and Mom were really close,” she said.

“She was just a real people person,” she said. “But the lord needs his angels sometimes.”

How is Nigel doing? “All right,” he said, and asked if he has everything under control, he said “working on it.”

“When I look at (Nigel), I just see, in both of them, so much potential,” Gardner said. “I think that they're going to take this tragedy

and turn it into something triumphant for themselves. It's almost like their mother's legacy is producing their potential. (Nigel) is probably going to be the father that he never had.”

Story has inspired community

Rico said the development has inspired the community to “go beyond the story” and “support them and wrap around them with services to get the family back together.”

“We're in it for the long run – even when they get their place and they are settled,” Gardner said. “I'm very honored to know them.”

In addition to everything else, efforts are under way through Tri-City Mental Health Services, the Pomona Police Department and the Kennedy Austin Foundation to reach out to children in the neighborhood who witnessed the incident and, at least for a time, were afraid to leave home and go to school.

County Department of Mental Health social advocate to conduct ‘Mental Health 101’ for members of clergy

Riley Tuff, a social advocate with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, will conduct a “Mental Health 101 Training Workshop” for members of the clergy next month at Brown Memorial Temple in Pomona.

The workshop is designed to provide clergy with a broad overview of mental health concepts including common mental disorders, mental health stigma, and practical strategies and considerations for addressing mental health issues with

“Within three hours, we had everybody sitting at the table and that's just a testament to Pomona... when a family is so important to us in the community, people will drop what they're doing,” Rico said.

Memorial services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at New Life Community Church, 275 E. Foothill Blvd., Pomona.

A “Go Fund Me” account to help support the kids has been established by a family friend. To make a contribution, visit the gofundme.com web site, sign up and search for Dawn Hensley.

And donations of household items for the new house can be dropped off at the Kennedy Austin Foundation offices, located at 2501 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

The family also is in need of gift cards for gasoline, food and clothing.

At the request of Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman, members of the Pomona City Council adjourned their meeting this month in memory of Dawn Hensley.

congregants.

It will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Feb. 10, at Brown Memorial Temple, 1761 W. Holt Ave., Pomona.

The event is being presented by the Pomona Valley Children & Families Collaborative Faith Advisory Council, the Pomona Valley Branch of the NAACP and the Pomona Valley Re-Entry Coalition.

For more information, contact Pastor Ivory Brown at (909) 241-0178 or projectcaring@aol.com.

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For leasing information, contact the **Valley Academies Foundation, Leasing Office**, located at the **Village @ Indian Hill**, Entrance Door #3, Suite 4 or call 909.620.2797 or 909.622.7777.



L.A. COUNTY FAIR DONATES TO AMERICAN RED CROSS -- Officials of the L.A. County Fair presented a check for \$8,065 this month to the San Gabriel - Pomona Valley chapter of the American Red Cross, representing proceeds from the 2015 Fair's "Week for Heroes." During that week, law enforcement and military personnel and one guest received admission to the Fair for \$2 each, half of which was donated to the American Red Cross for general relief disasters. According to a news release, the Fair and the Red Cross are long-standing community partners -- several Fair blood drives held during the 2015 Fair resulted in 1,097 pints of blood donated. Pictured, from left, are Michelle DeMott, Vice President of Branding and Knowledge Management for the Fair; Ben Green, CEO of the San Gabriel - Pomona Valley chapter of the American Red Cross; and Jim Henwood, President and CEO of the Los Angeles County Fair.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS -- Members of the Pomona City Council presented a proclamation to members of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley congratulating the organization on its "many accomplishments over the past 100 years" and declaring the year 2016 as its the Centennial Year celebrating 100 years of preserving the history of the Pomona Valley. The Historical Society has collected and owns materials housed in the Pomona Public Library Special Collections section for the information and education of the community, according to the proclamation. It has also worked to preserve many historical locations and buildings in Pomona. Pictured making the presentation are, from left, Pomona City Councilmember Ginna Escobar, Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman, John Clifford of the Historical Society; Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin; Jim Gallivan of the Historical Society; Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz; Kate Valdez, Alice Gomez, Rubio Gonzalez and Deborah Clifford of the Historical Society; Historical Society President Mickey Gallivan, and Kathy Adkins and Diana Smith of the Historical Society.

no shame. no blame. no names.

Newborns can be safely given up at the emergency room of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center -- or at any Los Angeles County hospital emergency room or fire station -- under the California Safely Surrendered Baby Law. The law allows the safe surrender of an unwanted infant within three days of birth with no fear of arrest or prosecution for abandonment as long as the baby has not been abused or neglected.

The baby will be placed in a pre-adoptive home while the adoption process gets under way.

More than 100 infants have been surrendered in Los Angeles County and have had a second chance at life since the program began in 2001.



This message sponsored by La Nueva Voz.

To help sponsor this message, contact Renee Barbee at (909) 762-1446.

Attention: people on Medicare or soon-to-be on Medicare

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The **Medicare Step-by-Step meeting** explains how Medicare works and what joining a Medicare health plan gets you. Our **Enrollment meeting** presents Inter Valley Health Plan’s benefits and options. Our plan benefits** include:

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No matter which meeting you choose, you’ll get straight talk about Medicare, Inter Valley Health Plan, and how to enjoy health care your way.

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To RSVP to a free no-obligation* meeting, go to ivhp.com or call our toll free number. Or for more information stop by one of our local Medicare Information & Vitality Centers.

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MEDICARE INFORMATION & VITALITY CENTERS

CHINO: Superior Grocery Store (inside) 12375 Central Ave @ 60 fwy, Spc D

MEDICARE STEP BY STEP MEETINGS: **Thurs, Feb 11 @ 1 pm / Tues, Feb 16 @ 10 am** (in English) / **Wed, Feb 17 @ 3 pm** (in Spanish)

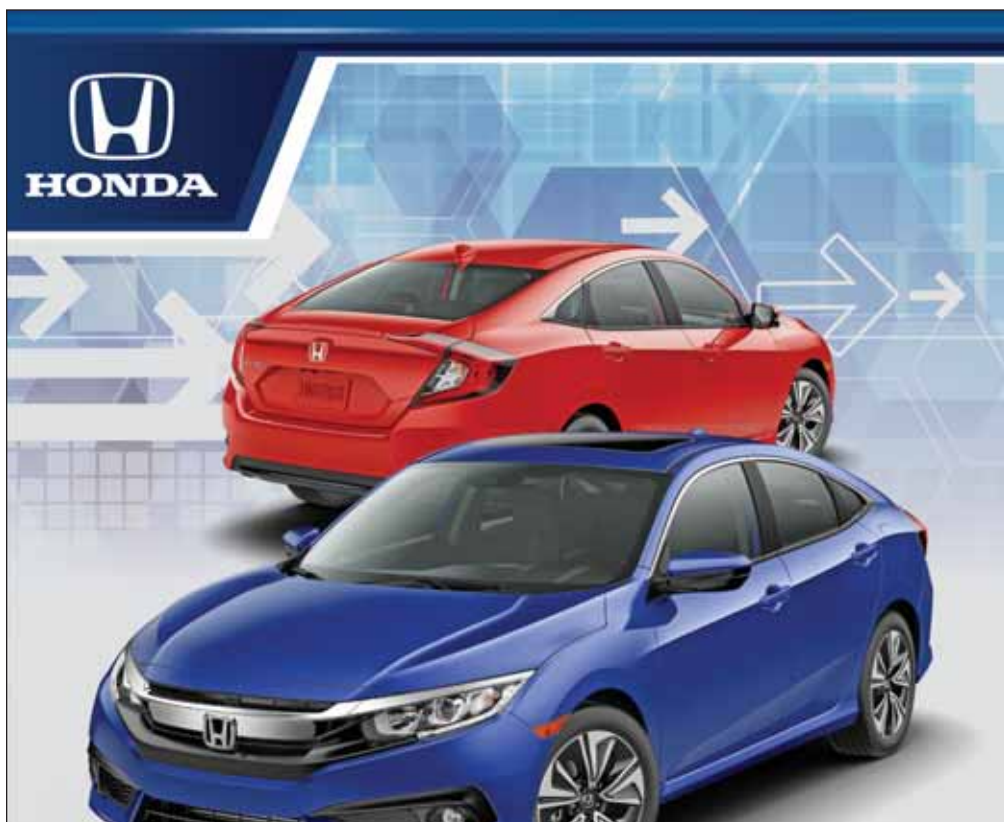
INTER VALLEY ENROLLMENT MEETINGS: **Wed, Feb 3 @ 10 am & 2 pm** (in English) / **Wed, Feb 17 @ 10 am & 2 pm** (in Spanish)

RIVERSIDE: Lincoln Plaza 2995 Van Buren Blvd (at Lincoln) Ste A-13
MEDICARE STEP BY STEP MEETINGS: **Thurs, Feb 18 @ 10 am** (in English)
Thurs, Feb 18 @ 5 pm (in Spanish)

INTER VALLEY ENROLLMENT MEETINGS: **Wed, Feb 3 @ 2 pm / Tues, Feb 9 @ 10 am / Thurs, Feb 11 @ 2 pm / Tues, Feb 23 @ 2 pm** (in English)
Wed, Feb 24 @ 5:30 pm (in Spanish) **Thurs, Feb 25 @ 5 pm** (in English)

Inter Valley Health Plan is a not-for-profit HMO with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Inter Valley Health Plan depends on contract renewal. Anyone entitled to Part A and enrolled in Part B may apply, including those under the age of 65 entitled to Medicare on the basis of Social Security disability benefits. Members must continue to pay Medicare Part B premium. **The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information contact the Plan. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on Jan 1 of each year. For accommodation of persons with special needs at meetings, call the number above. A licensed sales representative will be present with marketing information and applications. This is an advertisement. *No obligation to enroll.
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NAACP END OF YEAR RECEPTION -- Members of the Pomona Valley Branch 1085B of the NAACP are shown at the group's end of the year reception last month at the Kennedy Austin Foundation in Pomona. Keynote speaker was Dr. Wilma Ellis-Kazemzadeh, a chartered member of the branch which was formed in 1954, and a retired Vice President for Development and Public Relations at Spelman College in Atlanta. Her topic was "The struggle continues." More than 80 people attended the event. Pictured, seated in front at center, is Ellis-Kazemzadeh with Pomona Valley Branch President Jeanette Ellis-Royston seated at her right. Also pictured are Dr. Jose Calderon, President of the Latina-Latino Roundtable, kneeling in front, and State Sen. Connie Leyva, standing at right rear. For more information, visit the web site at www.naacp-pomona-valley.org.



PHOTO BY RENEE BARBEE, LA NUEVA VOZ
SUPERVISOR SOLIS VISITS POMONA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM -- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis visited Pomona's African American Museum of Beginnings on Martin Luther King Jr. Day this month to present a County of Los Angeles Commendation -- and a check for \$4,000 to help fund the museum's expansion. "I know what the labor of love is," Solis said, adding that it is volunteers who run the organization that houses "so many treasures . . . books . . . and pictures." "The more people know about us, the more we are apt to understand each other," she said. "Right now, we are in a crisis in our country -- we have this big divide going on right now, and some people want to continue to drive that division," she said. "And I for one am not going to be a part of it." She said the museum is an example of what Martin Luther King day is all about -- people speaking up and taking action. "This place is about creating our community." Pictured in front of the museum with Solis (at center) are Khalif Rasshan, at left, a founding member and curator of the museum, and Vikki Rasshan, third from right. The museum, located in the Village at Indian Hill at 1450 E. Holt Ave., Suite 188, Entrance 3, Pomona, is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. For more information, contact (951) 415-9207.

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ROTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH -- Leeann Francisco, at right, a senior at Pomona Catholic, was named "Student of the Month" last month by Pomona's Rotary Club in recognition of her "hard work and dedication" to academics. Nominated by two teachers, she maintains high academic standards while serving as an Associated Student Body Apostolic Commissioner and as a leader in her church youth community. She is pictured with her mom, Celina Francisco.



NEW SONIC DRIVE-IN OPENS IN POMONA -- City of Pomona and Pomona Chamber of Commerce officials turned out this month for the grand opening and ribbon cutting for a new SONIC Drive-In, Pomona's first, located at 40 Rio Rancho Drive in the Walmart shopping center. Owner of the franchise Richard Wesselink told La Nueva Voz his company selected the location because it was near the 71 Freeway, Walmart and Target. La Nueva Voz went back for dinner the next weekend and recommends everything from the burgers to the specialty items like popcorn chicken and cherry limeade. Hours are 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. The location features a drive-through, patio ordering and drive-in stalls complete with skating carhops delivering orders to your car.

The Wesselinks' Coast to Coast Commercial, LLC, with corporate headquarters in Mission Viejo, operates both SONIC and Jack in the Box restaurants and focuses on commercial, office and residential development and sales. Owner Richard Wesselink told La Nueva Voz he has five sons and all of them are involved in the company. Clinton and Devon are involved in the Pomona project and all three of them -- Richard, Clinton and Devon -- are University of Southern California graduates.

Pictured, from left, are Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley Executive Director Victor Caceres; Pomona City Councilmembers Debra Martin, Adriana Robledo and Paula Lantz; Pomona Chamber Board member Gloria Mitchell of Gloria Mitchell Bail Bonds; Pomona Planning Commissioner Ismael Arias; Pomona City Councilmember Ginna Escobar; SONIC owners Devon, Richard (at rear) and Clinton Wesselink; Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman; Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; Pomona Chamber Vice President of Membership Stephanie Benjamin of OPARC; Pomona Chamber Ambassadors Vita and Frank Gonzales of USA Fit Force Taekwondo; and Pomona Chamber Ambassador Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz. Manager of the new facility, not pictured, is Hector Barrientos.

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Send your news tips to:
reneebarbee7@gmail.com

Applications available for State Sen. Connie Leyva's 'Young Senators' intern program

Applications are now available for State Sen. Connie Leyva's 20th District Young Senators Program, an internship program available to local high school sophomores and juniors or district residents who are 18 or older.

Deadline for applications for

the session beginning in August is June 30.

The unpaid position is open to residents of the district which includes Pomona, Montclair, Chino, Ontario, Fontana, Rialto, Bloomington, Colton, San Bernardino and Grand Terrace.

Leyva's office also has ongoing internship opportunities for college students to get involved in the state government's daily operations.

Interns in both programs must be well organized and have the ability to take initiative, follow in-

structions and perform well under pressure.

Responsibilities will include interacting with city and state agencies, attending meetings with local community leaders, responding to constituent requests, assisting with special projects including

legislative research, and more.

Hours are flexible, although a minimum of five to 10 hours per week is requested.

Participants in the Young Senators Program work in the senator's district office in Chino for up to nine months.

For more information, contact Ynez Canela at (909) 591-7016 or ynez.canela@sen.ca.gov.

'Homework Hotline' at Harvey Mudd College open for business, nearing its 20,000th call

A "Homework Hotline" at Claremont's Harvey Mudd College that provides over-the-phone tutoring in math and science to callers in grades 4 through 12 celebrates its sixth birthday on Feb. 1 and is approaching its 20,000th caller.

Nearly 50 tutors staff the hotline's 11 telephone lines, answering questions on everything from "Common Core" mathematics to advanced placement calculus and chemistry – focusing on the "STEM" subjects of science, technology, engineering and math.

All tutors are students at Harvey Mudd, ranked as the top undergraduate engineering school in the nation last year by "U.S. News and World Report."

Most calls originate in the Los Angeles area, although calls came in from more than 500 schools in 37 states last year alone.

In recent years, the hotline has expanded its service to include support in four languages – English, Spanish, Tagalog and Mandarin.

The hotline is open from September through May and operates from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

For homework help, call toll free (877) 827-5462.



REMEMBERING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -- Members of the Epsilon Eta Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and their guests held their fifth annual Martin Luther King Sunday Supper this month to remember King's work and legacy in race relations and civil rights in America. The America's Sunday Supper event, held by AKA Sorority chapters nationwide, is patterned after the type of neighborhood meetings King once hosted at the height of the American civil rights movement. Pictured are some of the more than 100 members, friends and supporters at this year's event, hosted by the University of La Verne in partnership with AKA's Sigma Rho undergraduate chapter serving students at Cal Poly University Pomona, the University of La Verne and Cal State University Fullerton. AKA members also partnered with Webb Family Enterprises - McDonald's for the eighth year for "A Day On" service project of handing out breakfast meals and warm clothing for more than 100 families at the Pomona Winter Shelter for the homeless.

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SUPERVISOR SOLIS PRESENTS CHECK TO ANGELS WHO CARE -- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis visited the winter homeless shelter in the Pomona Armory this month to present a check for \$5,000 to Angels Who Care, Inc., for their work with the homeless and those in need. Pamela Lynn, founder of Angels Who Care, also serves as supervisor of the homeless shelter. Solis said she heard about the work Angels Who Care was doing. "I wish more people like Pamela were around," she said. Pictured in the Armory are, from left, Elizabeth Hernandez, of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health; Reggie Clarke, manager of Volunteers of America, which administers the contract for the shelter; Orlando Ward, executive director of external affairs for Volunteers of America (at rear); Supervisor Solis; Pamela Lynn; her husband and co-founder of Angels Who Care Vernon Lynn; their grandson, Tavares Pitre, 5; David McElwain, Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board member and career development program supervisor for the Los Angeles County Office of Education GAIN program; and Rachele Pitre, Pamela and Vernon Lynn's daughter.



TOURING POMONA'S HOMELESS SHELTER -- Reggie Clarke, manager of Volunteers of America, conducts a tour for Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis of Pomona's winter homeless shelter in the Pomona Armory in Downtown Pomona during her visit this month. The facility can house 145 people every night providing a cot, shower and food, although Clarke explained that number generally is lower in the first half of the month before some homeless guests run out of money. Solis and Clarke explored how to improve the working relationship with the county so everyone will know who to call, even if it is only the county's "211" non-emergency information number for services. "There should be no reason why we have to have people on the street if they want to come," Solis said. "We are learning here. You guys are the experts." She added that the aspect of homeless children, who are often hidden from the public, is a great concern to her.



VIEWING THE CAFETERIA DOWNSTAIRS AT THE ARMORY -- Solis got a first hand look at the cafeteria in the basement of the Pomona Armory from Reggie Clarke of Volunteers of America during her tour of the Pomona winter shelter. The City of Pomona has also set up a tent with heaters and picnic tables for the winter just outside the Armory in the parking lot. Solis was impressed to hear that in some instances, former homeless residents who worked their way out into transitional housing are coming back to the shelter to help out. She said the workers at the shelter are the "heroes" and that the county is there to help "fill in the blanks." Solis was instrumental in getting the shelter opened earlier this year on Oct. 15 because of the anticipated El Nino rainy season. Los Angeles County Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Solis last September requesting that the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's winter shelter program begin six weeks earlier this year due to the expected rains. "We need to be prepared and offer our most vulnerable people shelter so they won't sleep in riverbeds, where they face the possibility of being swept away by strong currents," she said at the time. The Homeless Services Authority has worked with a variety of non-profits for the past 20 years to administer the day to day operations of each program site.

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Deadline is Jan. 31 to obtain health insurance and avoid increased tax penalty

Officials at Covered California have reminded Californians that they have until this Sunday, Jan. 31, to obtain health insurance and avoid an increased tax penalty.

“We want to make sure everyone understands the new connection between health care and taxes,” said Covered California Executive Director Peter Lee. “Consumers still have time to take ac-

tion now to avoid a significant penalty when they file their taxes next year and protect themselves if something goes wrong.”

The Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires most Americans to have health insurance or pay a penalty known as the “shared responsibility payment,” Lee said.

According to a Covered California

news release, a recent report from the Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that the average household penalty in 2016 will be \$969, which is a 47 percent increase from 2015.

The report also estimates that those subject to the penalty include 75 percent of people who are eligible for premium subsidies.

The fine is calculated two different

ways, and uninsured consumers will pay whichever amount is higher.

The first calculation is 2.5 percent of household income, with a maximum of the total yearly premium for the national average Bronze health insurance plan premium.

The second calculation is \$695 per adult plus \$347.50 per child under the age of 18, with a maximum of \$2,085.

“At the beginning of open enrollment, we estimated there were 750,000 uninsured Californians eligible for financial assistance through Covered California,” Lee said. “While we are reducing that number by enrolling thousands of consumers every day, those who choose to remain uninsured face a fine and take the


gamble that they may rack up tens of thousands of dollars in medical bills if they get sick or are injured.”

Nearly nine out of 10 Covered California enrollees receive some level of financial assistance. And, according to Covered California, 670,000 enrollees paid \$100 a month or less for their coverage last year and 350,000 paid \$50 or less per month.

Open enrollment continues through Sunday and those signing up now will have their health care coverage start on March 1.

Residents can enroll on line at www.covered.ca.com or can call (800) 300-1506 to enroll over the telephone or find an agent in their area.

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Upcoming Events

Pacer Shadow Day
Wednesday, February 17 & Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9am - 1pm
 Open to incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys and girls interested in learning more about the Pomona Catholic Experience in Middle School or High School.

High School Placement Test Make-up Dates
Saturday, February 6, 2016 8am - noon
Saturday, March 5, 2016 8am - noon
Thursday, April 14, 2016 8am - noon

Middle School Open House
Saturday, March 5, 2016 9am - 11am
 Open to all families interested in learning more about Pomona Catholic Middle School. Join us at 9am for our Open House presentation!

To RSVP contact Director of Admissions and Outreach Lucinda Meave at (909) 623-5297 ext. 22 or at lmeave@pomonacatholic.org
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Upland library ‘sprouts’ seed lending library

The Upland Public Library “sprouted” a seed lending library this month that is open to residents throughout the Inland Empire.

The way it works is simple – borrow seeds for free, plant the seeds and let some go to seed at the end of the season.

Then, simply return some of the next generation seeds for others to borrow.

As part of the program, guest speakers, to be announced later, will appear at the library on a variety of gardening topics throughout the year.

The Upland Public Library is located at 450 N. Euclid Ave., Upland. For more information, contact the library at (909) 931-4200.

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Block these areas with mesh and/or do not allow water to stand here.

1. Do not let any water stand uncovered or unprotected -- all mosquitoes lay eggs in standing water. Bleach will NOT kill mosquitoes.
2. Make sure ALL openings (even the spout) is covered with a very fine mesh -- equivalent to window screen.
3. Use the water regularly -- weekly is preferred.
4. When you drain your rain barrel, be sure to get ALL of the water out.
5. Purchase "MosquitoDunks" and place one in your rain barrel.

Use your rain barrel water to irrigate plants regularly. If you use the water on edible plants, do not use it on leafy vegetables. Use your rain barrel water on trees, grass, shrubs.

Graphic courtesy of the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District



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Marijuana... de la pág. 4

fue aprobada con un promesa de ayudar a la gente que sufría de cáncer, glaucoma y otras enfermedades graves.

“En realidad fue una genial estrategia política,” dijo Sabet, señalando que hoy, los gente puede obtener una tarjeta médica para obtener marihuana con algo tan simple como una dolor de cabeza o dolor de espalda.

“Debemos hacerlo legítimamente, colocándolo en una farmacia en dosis adecuadas, y no fumarlo,” dijo Sabet.

Sabet citó cifras que en California en el año 2000, el promedio del usuario de la marihuana medicinal era un hombre blanco de 32 años de edad sin ningún historial de cáncer o VIH/SIDA, en realidad sí tenía un historial de abuso de drogas, y la razón número uno de pedir la marihuana eran los dolores de cabeza y la ansiedad.

Sabet reconoció que si hay compo-

nentes de la marihuana que podrían tener valor medicinal.

“Tenemos que hacer la investigación de ello – ahorita el gobierno esta haciendo los estudios,” dijo Sabet. “Pero eso es demasiado diferente... que la legalización de la marihuana para todos.”

Sabet agregó que una encuesta nacional encontró que la marihuana medicinal en los estados tales como California, el 33 por ciento de los estudiantes en su ultimo año de la high school que usan la marihuana “obtuvieron la droga de otros que usan la marihuana medicinal.”

Él dijo que California esta siguiendo el mismo patrón que Colorado donde la marihuana legalizada ahora se vende en las tiendas que parecen como tiendas de dulces en los centros comerciales.

Sabet dijo que en la industria de la marihuana se calcula un valor de \$1.8

billones en ingresos que en los próximos tres años crecerá a \$3.3 billones, y para estar involucrado en eso “tienes que ser una persona profesionalista en negocios” con inversiones que incluyen capitalistas de riesgo y banqueros de Wall Street en Nueva York.

“El uso diario de la marihuana se ha disparado desde finales de los años 1970s” en este país, dijo Sabet, con el tres por ciento de los estadounidenses usando la marihuana diariamente.

Los policías Michael Lee y Kristian Gutierrez de las fuerzas especiales de delitos mayores del Departamento de Policías de Pomona, empezaron la plática con el enfoque de presentar la marihuana y su apariencia en la actualidad.

Ellos dijeron que THC (siglas en inglés), substancias psico-activas que se encuentran en la marihuana, en 1974 era de un por ciento comparado con casi el 10 por ciento en el 2008.

Las señales comunes del uso de la marihuana incluyen “boca de algodón,” ojos llorosos o enrojecidos, o un tinte verde en la lengua.

Y, dijeron los oficiales, si los padres tienen sospechas de que sus hijos esten usando la marihuana, ellos tienen el derecho de esculcar las habitaciones – pues los hijos no son protegidos por la cuarta enmienda.

En la actualidad, dijeron los oficiales, la simple posesión de marihuana es una infracción – o una multa – mientras que la posesión de mari-

juana para ventas afuera de un dispensario, incluso la venta de marihuana a través de una mochila – es una felonía.

El evento fue presentado por la Asociación para un Pomona Positivo, la Ciudad de Pomona y el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pomona.

Mientras tanto, el Consejo Municipal de la Ciudad de Pomona, aprobó por decisión unánime una ordenanza de mantener una prohibición de dispensarios de marihuana en Pomona y también extender la prohibición de la cultivación de la marihuana.

Registration open for youth leadership conference

The Inland Valley Uplift Foundation, supported by members of the Zeta Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, will present its seventh annual Youth Leadership Conference on the theme of “Communication” from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 12, in La Verne.

The first 250 young men in grades five through 12 and their parents will be accepted for registration and the event is free.

Focus of the event is on college preparation, financial awareness, entrepreneurial skill development and life skills.

Deadline for registration is Feb. 20.

The event will be held in the campus center at the University of La Verne, 1950 Third St., La Verne.

To register, contact Jim Wilson at (909) 239-7926 or inland.ivuf@yahoo.com.

Sowing Seeds for Life to hold 7th annual golf tourney on ‘leap year day’

Sowing Seeds for Life in La Verne will hold its 7th annual Celebrity Golf Tournament to Fight Hunger on “leap year day” next month at Glendora Country Club in Glendora.

The event, which helps support the non-profit organization’s food pantry services year round, begins with registration at 9 a.m. and a shotgun start at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 29.

A celebrity sports panel will be a part of the evening’s festivities, along with a presentation of the “Hero” award to Brian McNerney, CEO of the La Verne Chamber of Commerce.

Single slots for the tournament begin at \$150, foursomes are \$550 and additional sponsorships are available.

The auction will include passes to

Disneyland, Knott’s Berry Farm, Universal Studios, the Los Angeles Dodgers and more.

Sowing Seeds’ food programs, which include veterans’ and senior pantries, serve more than 84,000 people each year.

For more information, contact Fran Robertson at (909) 392-5777 or frobertson@sowingseedsforlife.org.

Motion by Supervisor Solis forms new committee to help create more jobs

Working to bring more good-paying jobs for residents, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis introduced a motion this month calling for the creation of a new Economic Development Policy Committee to work with a variety of county agencies to spur more economic development in the region.

The motion, co-authored by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, was approved by the Board.

“Creatively exploring ways to create more jobs for the residents of Los Angeles County is a top priority for

me this year,” Solis said. “If we want more jobs that pay fair wages, then we all have to make concerted efforts to encourage more economic development.”

The measure directs the county’s CEO to evaluate the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation’s strategic plan that would hold all agencies involved in this endeavor accountable so they can work together to reach common goals.

The motion asked county staff to prepare a report for the Board’s review in 90 days.



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A new La Nueva Voz publishes each month on the fourth Thursday of the month.

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- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Pomona Unified School District administration building lobby
- Western University of Health Sciences Administration Building and Patient Care Center
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley, 1420 S. Garey Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center maternity lobby, outpatient services, emergency room
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
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- Central Market, Towne Avenue and Phillips Boulevard, Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaundryLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 954 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



YWCA San Gabriel Valley combats obesity in children

A parent group at the YWCA San Gabriel Valley is working to combat obesity in children by encouraging kids to drink more water at home and in restaurants.

According to a news release, California leads the country in childhood obesity and persistent risk factors for serious health problems in young children. The "Choose Water" campaign is based on the fact that drinking sugary drinks is one of the leading causes of weight-related health risks.

The campaign, part of the YWCA's "Choose Health LA Kids" parent collaborative, was designed in collaboration with "Water: The Healthiest Choice," a campaign launched by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health,

also aimed at parents to communicate the message of a link between soda, sports and juice drinks and both obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Brochures and other materials are available at the YWCA office, 943 N. Grand Ave., Covina.

The news release pointed out that while California's obesity rate among adults is the fifth lowest in the country and there has been an overall decline in childhood obesity rates, California still has the highest obesity rate among children between the ages of 2 and 4.

And sugary drinks can represent up to 40 percent of a child's total calorie intake.

For more information about the parent collaborative, visit the web site at www.ywcasgv.org.



'ACADEMIES' STUDENTS ATTEND HOLLYWOOD-THEMED WINTER FORMAL -- It was all about Hollywood, glamour, the red carpet and even miniature Oscars as students from the three academies in the Pomona Unified School District enjoyed their winter formal on a Hollywood theme Saturday night at the Village at Indian Hill conference center. More than 200 students were there from Village Academy High School, Palomares Academy of Health Sciences and Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design. Pictured alongside the red carpet are four ladies from the Village Academy yearbook staff and three young men from Village Academy's Associated Student Body. From left are Chalsea Gonzalez, a senior, lead editor of the yearbook; Noel Rosales, a senior, an ASB representative; Bella Lopez, a junior; Joel Rosales, a senior, Noel's twin brother, also an ASB representative, Melissa Argueta, a junior; ASB President Luis Torres, a senior; and Jennifer Cordon, a junior. On a political note, La Nueva Voz asked ASB President Torres what he thought of Presidential candidate Donald Trump. "Where do I begin," he said.

THE WEEKEND GARDENER By Leif Green

Keeping cut flowers fresh

Winter is quickly passing and Valentine's Day will soon be here. You know Valentine's Day – that's when the \$10 bunch of flowers from the grocery store sells for \$25. After making such an investment either from the store or work in your garden, keeping the cut flowers looking fresh lengthens the time they may be enjoyed.

Once flowers are cut, they have the same requirements for water and nutrients. Think of the stem as a bundle of straws which supply the water and nutrients to the flower. If these straws become blocked, the flower will quickly wither and die. The straws are usually blocked by air or bacteria.

When flowers are cut, a small air bubble forms at the end of each straw. To prevent this from happening, cut off the ends of the stems with the ends submerged in water. The water will prevent the air bubbles from forming. Even when transferring the flowers to a vase, a small amount of water will remain on the end preventing any air bubble formation.

Bacteria can also block water and nutrients from reaching the flower. Bacteria grow quickly and even if not visible they can grow to sufficient numbers in a matter of hours to clog the straws.

To keep flowers looking fresh, they require water, food and something to keep the bacteria in check. There are some easy formulas that accomplish this and some work better than others. A penny plus an aspirin have been claimed to work. The copper from the penny, the theory goes, acts as a bactericide and the aspirin makes the water slightly acidic. Here are some better recipes to keep your flowers looking fresh:

- Mix 1 part lemon-lime soda to 3 parts water. To each quart of this solution add ¼ teaspoon of bleach.

- To 1 gallon of water add 2 ounces of Listerine mouthwash.

- In 1 quart of water mix in 2 tablespoons of fresh lemon juice, one tablespoon of sugar and ½ teaspoon of bleach.

May your flowers bring you peace and joy and last a bit longer.



POMONA'S FARRELL CHILES HONORED BY COUNTY SUPERVISORS -- Pomona resident Farrell Chiles was honored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors at a meeting this month for his public service and leadership both to the country and to Los Angeles County. Chiles is serving as a commissioner on the county's Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission. He was appointed to the position by Supervisors Board Chair Hilda Solis. Chiles, who is retired from both federal civil service and the military, was the first awardee of the Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel Warrant Officer of the Year Award and, in 2007, he received the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board's Distinguished Public Service Award. He has served as board chairman of the National Organization of Blacks in Government and as vice president for resource development of the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation. He is a member of the Pomona Valley Branch of the NAACP. Pictured, from left, are Los Angeles County Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Sheila Kuehl; Chiles; Supervisors Board Chair Hilda Solis; and County Supervisors Mike Antonovich and Don Knabe.



BEGINNING A NEW CENTURY -- Board members of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley celebrated their 100th anniversary last week with a banquet at Ebell House attended, coincidentally, by just about 100 people. Board member John Clifford, holding the March 13, 1916, edition of the Pomona Daily Review points to the article announcing the group's formation. The article pointed out that the group was formally organized at a meeting at the old Pomona Library -- an earlier meeting had been scheduled but it had to be postponed due to inclement weather. The archives of the newspapers of the day are maintained upstairs at Ebell. The group received a table full of proclamations and certificates and both Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman and Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia were on hand to present special recognitions in honor of the occasion. From left are Kate Valdez, Rubio and Lorena Gonzalez, Deborah Clifford (in front), Alice Gomez, Kathy Adkins, John Clifford, Eileen Wallis, Jim and Mickey Gallivan (Mickey is Board President), Bill and Gayle King, Alex Inshishian, Diana Smith and Jennifer Williams.



Enroll now in St. Joseph Elementary!

Enrollment is now open for Transitional Kindergarten through Eighth Grade students attending St. Joseph Elementary in Pomona for the Spring semester.

Operating since 1898, St. Joseph Elementary today is a 14-room school which includes nine classrooms, a library, a new computer lab, a music room, a conference room and an after school care room.

- Curriculum follows the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and includes instruction in core subjects of religion, math, science, social studies, English, reading/literature and spelling.
- Supplemental subjects include handwriting for grades one through four, computer class, art class, music and physical education.
- The school is fully accredited. Religious activities include Mass every Thursday, prayer "buddies" and sacraments. Academic activities include science and math fairs and academic "bees." Social activities include Christmas and Spring plays, cultural awareness and parents/grandparents open house.
- A full sports program is offered.
- Services include before and after school care, tutoring, WiFi Internet in all classrooms and hot lunch.



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Report of Powerball winner in Pomona a hoax -- or is it?

Hear about that winning Powerball ticket sold in a 7-11 in Chino Hills? And was that lucky ticket holder working in Pomona? Or was it all a hoax?

Well, as of press time, the winner still had not come forward to claim a third of the record \$1.586 billion that is being shared with two other winning ticket holders, one in Tennessee and another in Florida.

Or, perhaps we should say, "MAY" not have come forward.

At this point, the story gets a little complicated, so work with us here.

The first word on the street – and in the news media – was that the winner was a senior registered nurse who worked at Pomona's Park Avenue Healthcare & Wellness Center.

In fact, Administrator David Levy held a series of news briefings in front of the facility late on the night of Thursday, Jan. 14, the day after the drawing, as the media lined up with questions. La Nueva Voz counted six or seven television news vans on the street, most with a microwave antenna in the air and post-production crews working in the back to edit video and send it back to the station.

One impromptu news conference even attracted a freelance photographer from the London Daily Mail newspaper.

Levy was the first to say he had not seen the ticket.

"I have not verified anything," he

said, adding that he only came out because reporters wanted to ask him questions.

La Nueva Voz asked Levy if the nurse still worked there.

"She still works here as far as I know," he said with a smile, although he added she had not been scheduled to work that day.

"One of the employees said she actually saw the ticket," Levy said. "She went and got the ticket and they reviewed it and she had the winning ticket."

Levy said the owner of the facility, Shlomo Rechnitz, who owns a total of 90 facilities throughout California, purchased 18,000 tickets – one for each of his residents and each of his employees.

At Park Avenue Healthcare alone, that's a lot of tickets – the facility has 231 residents and about 600 employees including full time, part time, per diems and on call, according to Levy.

"He did a nice thing," Levy said. "This is what he does."

It turned out that the early announcement was soon labeled a prank by the nurse's son who wanted to play a joke on his mom and created a photocopy of a Powerball ticket with the numbers altered that he said was the real thing.

Then was it really a winning ticket after all? Or was it a hoax, one of several that popped up, becoming enough of a problem that the California State Lottery issued a news re-



REPORT OF POWERBALL WINNER IN POMONA A HOAX? -- David Levy (under the "boom" microphone at right rear), administrator of Pomona's Park Avenue Healthcare & Wellness Center, answers a reporter's question at an impromptu news conference outside his facility the day after a Powerball drawing this month that showed the California winner purchased the ticket at a 7-11 in Chino Hills. Initial reports were that the winner was a nurse at Park Avenue Healthcare, although the nurse's son -- at least for now -- says that was a hoax.

lease urging the news media to "proceed with caution as it relates to Powerball 'Winner' stories."

The bottom line is the real answer may not come out until the actual winner comes forward.

Asked by La Nueva Voz if Levy also received one of those tickets from the owner, he said he did. And when asked "how'd you do?"

"Well, I'm still here," he responded.

Powerball is played in 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

David & Margaret receives grants from Ludwick Foundation, Kaiser to support workforce training program for transitional age youth

David & Margaret Youth and Family Services in La Verne recently received two grants supporting the Youth Workforce Training Program to benefit youth who are transitioning out of foster care.

A grant from the Ludwick Family Foundation will support the complete construction of the training program's new lab currently being built, including computers and all other equipment for the lab.

The lab will become a central location for the agency's transitional age youth – both young men and

women – to apply for jobs or educational advancement opportunities.

The Youth Workforce Training Center will also include an expanded retail store and a new café and will provide up to 36 paid job training internships annually.

Another grant was provided by Kaiser Foundation Hospital – Fontana and Ontario Medical Centers – to support the Youth Workforce Training Center in providing work experience for the transitional age youth in areas they might not otherwise learn in their efforts to become self-sufficient.

Hope & Hurdles by Evy Schuman



EDITOR'S NOTE: "Hope & Hurdles," an on-going feature appearing in La Nueva Voz, was created by artist Evy Schuman as an attempt to "poke fun" at the little things that trouble us all from time to time. Evy, who is also a published writer on the subject, created the cartoon series to show her work at a creative writing class she co-facilitates at Pomona's Tri-City Wellness Center.

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ENJOYING A LITTLE BLACKJACK -- Guests enjoyed playing blackjack and other casino games at last month's 45th anniversary celebration of Epsilon Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. The event, held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Claremont, was a success, according to President Endy Farrow, with more than 100 members, family, friends, supporters and sponsors on hand. Included was everything from dinner to music by "Them Kool Kats" to a silent auction. The service sorority over the past 45 years has engaged and empowered more than 3,900 youth who have gone on to improve their lives through service to others. The chapter has awarded more than \$190,000 in scholarships and provided a variety of service events and activities in the Pomona Valley area.

Assemblymember Rodriguez introduces bill to help victims of violent crime

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez has introduced a bill seeking to help ensure that victims of violent crimes receive a timely response on their application for compensation.

The measure, Assembly Bill 1563,

would create a timeline of six months for the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board to respond to appeals received by crime victims who have had their initial applications for compensation denied.

“When someone becomes the victim of a violent crime, their life can be turned upside down,” Rodriguez said. “Victims apply to the Board seeking financial help so they are not left destitute because of crime. This bill will help speed up the appeals process and ensure the victims are not left waiting for answers.”

Current law contains no deadline for when the Board must decide on an appeals application, allowing applications to back up. Rodriguez said the backlog was 2,000 applications in February 2013.

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State Sen. Connie Leyva introduces bill with bipartisan support to end statute of limitations on felony sexual offenses

State Sen. Connie Leyva introduced legislation this month that would end the statute of limitations for rape and related crimes in California.

The measure, Senate Bill 813, seeks to ensure justice for victims and survivors of felony sexual offenses by allowing the indefinite criminal prosecution of rape, sodomy, lewd or lascivious acts, continuous sexual abuse of a child, oral copulation and sexual penetration.

Existing law currently limits the prosecution of felony sexual offenses to only 10 years after the offense is committed, unless DNA evidence is found which then offers a victim additional time.

“The purpose of the ‘Justice for Victims’ act is simple – to prevent rapists and sexual predators from evading legal consequences in California simply because the statute of limitations has run its course,” Leyva said. “Regardless of when a rape or sexual assault is discovered or reported, survivors of sexual offenses must have an opportunity to seek justice in a court of law.”

“SB 813 does not change the burden of proof and victims will still have to

prove their allegations in court, so all this bill does is extend the opportunity for victims to have their day in court,” Leyva added.

Six co-authors to date have already signed on in support of SB 813, representing both sides of the aisle making the measure bipartisan proposed legislation.

The measure is also co-sponsored by the California Women’s Law Center and the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office.

“The California Women’s Law Center applauds Sen. Leyva for introducing this legislation and being an advocate for victims of rape and sexual assault,” said center Executive Director Betsy Butler.

“This bill is a no-nonsense effort to make sure that sex offenders and child molesters are held accountable for their actions,” said San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos.

Women’s rights attorney Gloria Allred is also supporting the measure, according to Leyva’s news release.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, only two in 100 rapists typically are convicted of a felony and spend any time in prison.

The following public service ads are courtesy of La Nueva Voz:

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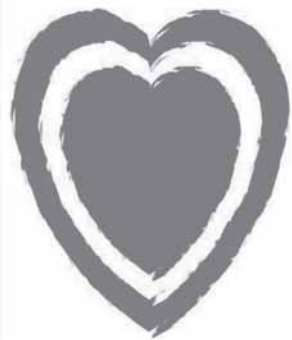
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A behind-the-scenes look at the building of the Cal Poly Rose Parade float



Students and volunteers insert vials filled with flowers in the Cal Poly float two days before the Rose Parade -- reaching in from the side, down from the top and just sitting on top of the float!



Philippe Napaa, a student at Cal Poly University San Luis Obispo who volunteered on the float-building project, shows the La Nueva Voz camera what the flowers look like once they are inserted into the vials in the flower "room."



The "Cal Poly University" name is moved into place on the left side of the float by student volunteers.



Students explain the float's hidden animation controls to a visitor. Moments later, the hatch cover -- consisting of a layer of plywood and a steel plate -- was lifted into place.



Student volunteers insert last-minute flowers in a "gummy bear" hanging off of an ice cream cone on the back end of the Cal Poly float.



LIGHTS, CAMERA! -- Six students from Pomona's Village Academy High School were on hand throughout the building of Cal Poly's float to record it on video and produce a documentary of the entire process. The students, all seniors, are enrolled in Village Academy's National Academy Foundation Information Technology program and will debut their production at Pomona Unified School District's annual Pomona Independent Student Film Festival in May. Pictured, at left, is student Nathan Godoy and, at right, is student Robert Rodriguez. Miguel Ortega, center, who graduated last year from Village Academy and is attending Cal Poly University Pomona, is mentoring the students in the production project.

Cal Poly parade float... from pg. 1

documentary video on the process.

That production will debut at the Pomona Unified School District's annual "PINDIE" (Pomona Independent Student Film Festival) in May.

The students, all seniors enrolled in Village Academy's National Academy Foundation Information Technology program, were not simply shooting in the dark, so to speak – they were working under the mentorship and guidance of Emmy Award-winning television producer Joetta Di Bella – and production supervisor/project manager Clifton Baker – to learn skills in videography, editing, writing, sound and interviewing skills.

Di Bella, who told La Nueva Voz she produced 16 pre-parade shows for Los Angeles television station KTLA and served as archivist for the Tournament of Roses for nearly four years, said volunteers working on the float were from throughout Southern California and across the country.

"It was amazing to see the connection between the students of Village Academy and the students at Cal Poly," said Lorraine Canales, counselor at Village Academy who also mentored the kids on the project and was on scene during float-building in Pasadena.

She explained the kids are enrolled in a career "pathway" studying film production.

"This documentary project is another great example of how Cal Poly Pomona can help provide unique experiences and opportunities for students in our local community," Cal Poly University Pomona President Soraya Coley said in a news release. "It is so important for our children to see what college life is like so that they can be inspired to aim high. The Rose

Float documentary gave them a chance to meet college students and to see Cal Poly Pomona's learn by doing philosophy in action."

The Cal Poly float each year is a collaborative effort of the two Cal Poly campuses with the front of the float each year constructed on the Pomona campus and the back on the San Luis Obispo campus because of the logistics in transporting half of the float to Pasadena.

And those flowers that are inserted into the float? They are actually cut and placed in small clear glass vials filled with water to preserve the flowers until parade day and on through viewing days after the parade. Those vials are inserted through a base of branches of pine trees, many recycled Christmas trees, placed on top of a sprayed-on base of yellow foam, all on a steel frame.

The float form was sprayed back in October when the two halves were joined together in Pomona, and the "shaping" continued until the Monday before Thanksgiving, according to San Luis Obispo student float builder Philippe Napaa.

The freshly cut flowers, many grown on Cal Poly's own campuses, arrived in Pasadena beginning the day after Christmas and were stored in a refrigerated truck kept at 34 degrees where volunteers started the process of bringing them out and cutting them to size. The flowers were actually inserted into vials and placed on the float beginning two days before parade day – all looking just like they did in the rendering that was developed months earlier.

The Cal Poly float is one of only four floats that can boast 85 percent of

its flowers were certified by the California Department of Agriculture to be California grown. And those bragging rights at Cal Poly have stood for the past four years.

In all, more than 46,000 flowers covered the float along with other natural materials including crushed walnut, silver leaf, bark, rice powder and toasted sesame.

The eight "gummy bears" on the float were covered in more than 15,000 chrysanthemums. And the super-sized scoops of "ice cream" were covered in more than 10,000 roses and almost 15,000 gerbera daisies.

Anh Ngheim, a civil engineering student from Huntington Beach, was chair of Cal Poly Pomona's decorations committee and worked closely with her counterpart at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

"We do have a master list of flowers by colors and shades," she said, "but it really only covers the things that you can commonly find and use, for example roses and daisies. My counterpart and I filter through those to find the perfect shade and style of roses, daisies or lilies that we believe would perfectly match a certain aspect of the float."

Animation on the Cal Poly float included one gummy bear moving up and down, a sled that rocked, and another gummy bear with a fishing rod "actually" fishing.

"Sweet Shenanigans" was the 68th Rose Parade entry from the two campuses. The annual float is perhaps the most well-known example of the university's "learn by doing" philosophy.

Through the years, the two campus partners have earned 55 awards.

The theme of this year's Rose Parade was "Find Your Adventure."



A volunteer fills in flowers as she works her way around the "Christmas tree" base.



It all started with a plan! Pictured is the rendering of the Cal Poly float that was on display throughout the float-building process -- next to the Cal Poly souvenir stand where visitors could purchase their own copy of the rendering on an official Cal Poly t-shirt.



Volunteers work with the smallest pieces as they create the float banner with the name of the float, "Sweet Shenanigans," before it is placed on the front of the float.



Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz uses her cell phone to photograph the flower room where flowers are all ready to be added to the Cal Poly float. For more photos and a brief video of the float-building process, visit the La Nueva Voz Facebook site and "like" the page.

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