



La Nueva Voz

The New Voice, a Bilingual (English/Spanish) Publication
Pomona's only community newspaper!



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POMONA POLICE PULLED OUT ALL STOPS

Suspect arrested, held without bail in slaying of 8-year-old Jonah

Arrestment was scheduled yesterday in Pomona Courthouse South for Sengchan Hou, 35, who was arrested last month in the Pomona shooting that killed 8-year-old Jonah Min-Tian Hwang.

Hou was arrested without incident on March 26 in an unincorporated area of Pomona and booked at the Pomona city jail in connection with the murder which occurred last Feb. 20.

He was charged two days later by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office with six felony counts – one each of murder and shooting from a motor vehicle and four counts of shooting at an inhabited dwelling.

The motive for the shootings remains unclear, according to Pomona police.

Pomona Police Chief Paul Capraro, speaking at a news conference in front of police department headquarters the day after the arrest, said evidence collected at the scene "suggests that all four of these shootings are re-



POLICE CHIEF CAPRARO FIELDS QUESTIONS -- Pomona Police Chief Paul Capraro, at podium, answers questions from reporters at a news conference last month in front of the police department following the arrest of a suspect in the murder of 8-year-old Jonah Hwang. Pictured with Capraro are, from left, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres, and Ronald Gonzales-Lawrence, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.



Sengchan Hou

ings." He added that the arrest was made with the assistance of several agencies.

"Mr. Hou was stopped driving the suspect vehicle that we had identified using one of our resources," Capraro said, adding that the arrest occurred as he was leaving his house. "In his possession at the time of his arrest was a firearm that we believe was used in the shootings."

He said the handgun would be sent along with evidence collected at the scene to a crime lab.

"Mr. Hou does not appear to have an extensive criminal history and we are researching to see if he has any ties to any criminal organizations," Capraro said. "We are continuing our investigation and will for many months."

He said the connection to the house where the shootings occurred remains under investigation although he said it did not appear to be a random shooting.

The suspect did not make a statement to authorities at the

lated." Our department put resources in place designed to identify and capture the people or the person responsible for this murder," Capraro said. "It was one of those resources that allowed our officers to locate the vehicle that we believe was used in all four of the shoot-

Suspect arrested... pg. 4

Pomona Boys and Girls Club loses charter, officially becomes independent and expands mission to serve both kids and their families

The Boys and Girls Club of Pomona Valley officially became an independent organization this month for the first time in its 53-year history as new information obtained first by La Nueva Voz revealed the national organization actually revoked the Po-

mona charter after the local club was unable to comply with mandatory "brand and membership" standards.

Jim Clark, president and CEO of Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) in Atlanta, declined repeated requests from

La Nueva Voz for an interview but a prepared statement provided by his staff said the national organization had been working with the Pomona club over the past three years "to ensure the Pomona organization's compli-

Boys and Girls Club... pg. 6



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MORE THAN 150 CHOICES! -- A new Golden Corral buffet and grill officially opened for business in Pomona last month with a Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting and an opportunity to try out some of the more than 150 choices available. Pictured, from left, are Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; Pomona Chamber ambassador Yanice Hilario, of Golden Royalty Marketing; Pomona City Councilmembers Robert Torres, Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Ginna Escobar, Adriana Robledo and Cristina Carrizosa; Pomona Chamber Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Golden Corral owners Barry and Grace Su and Sam Lee; Benny Ayala representing State Sen. Connie Leyva; Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; and Pomona Chamber ambassadors Rosanna Manzano of New York Life Insurance, Luz Mason of Primerica Financial Services, and Gustavo Arias of Inter Valley Health Plan. The new restaurant is located at 2037 Rancho Valley Drive, Pomona, and hours are 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday. The 11,000 square foot restaurant is built on a three-acre site with 240 parking spaces and 400 seats. It also includes a banquet room. For more information, call (909) 397-0500.

Pomona Concert Band to perform 70th anniversary concert

The Pomona Concert Band will present its annual spring concert – marking its 70th anniversary – next month at Palomares Park Community Center in Pomona.

The free concert is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday, May

12, in the community center, located at 499 E. Arrow Highway.

Pomona Concert Band was founded by G. Stanton Selby in 1947. Several of Selby's family members are expected to be present at the concert.

Featured will be everything from the "1812 Overture" arranged by Mark Williams to "Yankee Doodle" by Morton Gould, "Joy of Life" by Brian Balmages and "America the Beautiful" arranged by Carmen Dragon.



CUDDLECOT DONATION FOR GRIEVING PARENTS -- Christina Browning, whose daughter Maddison Marie Melendrez was delivered stillborn six years ago after 43 hours of labor and childbirth, returned to Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center last month to donate a "CuddleCot," a refrigerated bassinet that helps preserve a baby's body after death. The CuddleCot, donated in honor of her child, was provided to enable families to have more time with their stillborn babies. Browning began raising funds at the time her daughter would have been 5 years old and reached her goal of nearly \$3,000 in February. "I feel there's no better way to honor what Maddison means to me than to give others the gift of time through the CuddleCot," Browning said. Pictured are Browning, at left, and Glenda Ferguson, director of development for the hospital's foundation. The CuddleCot is pictured at right. Pomona Valley, California's second largest birthing hospital, delivers more than 7,000 babies each year. Some 24,000 babies are stillborn each year in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



POMONA HOST LIONS SPEAKER CONTEST -- Miguel Sebastian, of Pomona's Ganessa High School, was the winner of this year's Pomona Host Lions Club annual student speaker contest, this year on the topic "Is the right to privacy a threat to our national security?" Four Pomona Unified School District students participated in this year's competition. Sebastian now moves on to compete against the winners of Lions 4-L4 Foothill Region clubs in Ontario, Upland and Rancho Cucamonga. A 2nd Lieutenant in Ganessa's ROTC program, Sebastian plans to study psychology in college. Pictured recently, from left, are Pomona Unified school board member Dr. Roberta Perlman; competitors Paul Chhit of Fremont Academy, Marleni Munguia of Garey High School; Sebastian; Ioannis Anastasopoulos, of Diamond Ranch High School; and Morgan Browne, a Lion and executive director of Associated Pomona Teachers, who officiated the contest.

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Suspect arrested... from pg. 1

time of his arrest and was cooperative with officers, Capraro said.

“We are absolutely continuing our investigation and one of those things that we will be trying to ascertain is were there others involved,” he added.

Capraro said resources involved in the “effort to identify and arrest the people responsible for these shootings” included the FBI, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, and the San Gabriel Valley AB 109 Task Force, which is housed at the Pomona police department and includes officers from police departments in Baldwin Park, Glendora, San Gabriel, and El Monte along with the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Others involved included the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Crime Lab and the Glendale Police Department Verdugo Regional Crime Lab, and a surveillance support group known as L.A. Impact, consisting of officers from the sheriff’s department and police departments in Baldwin Park, Pomona and Monrovia.

“Most importantly, I want the community to know that the members of this Pomona Police Department poured their hearts and souls into solving this crime,” he said. “We are a long way from getting to the end of things. We’re going to see this

through and we’re going to continue to work on it. But nobody rested in this station until we at least got to this point.”

The felony complaint filed by the district attorney’s office includes a special circumstances allegation that the murder was intentional and perpetrated by means of discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle, intentionally at another person and persons outside the vehicle with the intent to inflict death.

It also alleges that the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a handgun, which caused great bodily injury and death to the murder victim.

Houl was being held without bail in men’s central jail in Los Angeles.

According to Deputy District Attorney Martin Bean, Houl allegedly shot at the same Pomona home in the 1100 block of West 11th Street in Pomona on Jan. 27, March 7 and March 25 in addition to the Feb. 20 shooting.

If convicted as charged, Houl faces the death penalty or life in state prison without the possibility of parole. A decision on whether to seek the death penalty will be made at a later date, according to a district attorney’s news release.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, appearing at the news conference, called the incident a “senseless shooting that left our city deeply saddened.”

“Today . . . we can rejoice in knowing that a person was arrested,” he said. “Since the shooting, our police department has worked around the clock to ensure that a person or people who committed this crime would be caught and brought to justice.”

He thanked Pomona police for “their professionalism and their outstanding work,” along with the other agencies involved in what he termed a team effort..

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, who lives down the street from the location of the shootings, said in a prepared statement provided to the news media that he hopes that with the arrest “the residents of the neighborhood where these shootings have occurred can finally find some sense of peace and rest.”

“I have held meetings with the Pomona Police Department Chief of Police and Mayor Tim Sandoval to express my immediate and serious commitment to doing whatever is necessary to ensure our homes and streets are safer,” Rodriguez said. “From authoring legislation in Sacramento to holding community meetings, the safety of our community will remain my number one priority.”

Young Hwang, who was a student at Pomona’s Cortez Math & Science Magnet School, was killed in an apparent drive-by shooting into a house in Febru-

ary.

He had been adopted from an orphanage in Taiwan and had been in this country for less than three years when he was struck by a stray bullet while having dinner with his parents and family friends.

He was taken by ambulance to an area hospital where he was pronounced dead, according to Pomona police.

The incident tore at the hearts of the entire community and resulted in both a candlelight vigil at Pomona’s Sacred Heart Church – only blocks away from the shooting – and a memorial service at Pomona’s Purpose Church.

The community’s elected officials and members of Pomona Pastors in Prayer representing a cross-section of houses of worship in Pomona participated in mourning Hwang.

And the entire story was covered by major media in Los Angeles – including literally every television station in Los Angeles

– and received both national and even international news media coverage (a reporter at the Pomona police news conference represented the Los Angeles news bureau of a newspaper in Italy).

Rewards posted in the case will be absorbed back into their original accounts since the suspect was arrested solely on the actions of law enforcement, Capraro said. He added that a number of residents provided help but not “rising to the level of apprehension.” A combined \$30,000 reward had been posted -- \$20,000 by the City of Pomona and the Pomona Police Department and another \$10,000 posted by Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and the County Board of Supervisors.

Anyone with information related to these incidents is encouraged to contact the Pomona Police Department at (909) 620-2085. Anonymous tips can be reported at “Crime Stoppers” at (800) 222-TIPS (8477) or “WE TIP” at (800) 782-7463.

La Verne native continues 75 years of Seabee tradition

Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Martinez, a native of La Verne and a Bonita High School graduate, is living the motto “We Build, We Fight” – the motto of the U.S. Navy’s Construction Force the “Seabees” for the past 75 years – as a member of a naval construction battalion center in Port Hueneme.

Martinez works as a gunners-mate in the Navy.

“I’m responsible for the maintenance and security for all the weapons within the battalion including pistols, rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers,” Martinez said.

According to a Navy news release, the jobs of some of the Seabees today have remained unchanged since World War II when the Seabees paved the 10,000-mile road to victory for the allies in the Pacific and in Europe.

“The pride and tradition that comes with being a Seabee is something I truly enjoy,” Martinez added.

“I am proud of the hard work that Seabees do every day,” said Rear Adm. Bret Muilenburg, commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command. “Their support to the Navy and Marine Corps mission is immeasurable.”

Seabees around the world will take part in a year-long celebration this year to commemorate the group’s 75-year anniversary on the theme “Built on History, Constructing the Future.”



Petty Officer 2nd Class
Michael Martinez

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GOOD GROUP OF SEVENTH GRADERS! -- La Nueva Voz found a good group of seventh graders last month at Pomona's Marshall Middle School where State Sen. Connie Leyva presented "Career Day with Connie," exposing students to various career pathways through the narratives of community-oriented speakers. Pictured with the entire class (seated at center) is Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz. The teacher, Ms. Nancy Demarais, standing next to Barbee, teaches the class math through cooking -- everything from ratios to proportions -- and the students apply everything they learn to a staff dinner.



Pomona's Marshall Middle School Principal Juan Ortiz (Go Marshall Mustangs!) welcomes Pomona's business and civic leaders to the campus last month for "Career Day with Connie."



POSING WITH THE SENATOR -- Renee Barbee, at left, of La Nueva Voz and Nona Tirre, center, of State Farm Claremont, pose with State Sen. Connie Leyva (or as the senator says, "it's just Connie") at last month's "Career Day with Connie," a program the senator organized at Pomona's Marshall Middle School.



Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz holds up a copy of Pomona's only community newspaper as she explains to Ms. Nancy Demarais' class of seventh graders at Marshall Middle School exactly what it takes to publish a new issue of a newspaper every month. Her presentation was part of "Career Day with Connie," presented by State Sen. Connie Leyva.

La Nueva Voz...
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Beautification Day in Pomona set for next month

Looking for something fun to do while joining thousands of your neighbors in improving the city?

The 11th annual Pomona Beautification Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, beginning with a kickoff event at 7 a.m. in front of Pomona City Hall.

Volunteers of all ages will be planting gardens, cleaning alleys, repainting fences and more in a citywide cleanup and party.

The actual work begins at 8 a.m. and continues until noon, followed by lunch and a celebration from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Shaun Diamond Plaza in Downtown Pomona.

Included will be entertainment, information booths and displays.

The celebration is open to the public. Lunch is free for all registered volunteers with signed tickets showing proof of four hours of volunteer work.

Co-chairpersons this year are Nancy Matarrita of Purpose

Church and Rick DeBruyne of Lincoln Avenue Community Church, who have chaired the event for the past eight years, along with Victor Preciado, representing "WeRunPomona,"

a local running group that encourages residents to become active.

To join the event, visit the web site at www.pomonabeautification.com for registration

and to print out participation tickets and release forms to be turned in to project leaders at individual work sites.

For information on sponsorships, submitting a project or

signing up for a display or information table, visit the web site or contact Nancy Matarrita at (909) 629-5277, ext. 3014 or by e-mail at nancym@purposechurch.com.



ORGANIZERS OF 'MY SWEET & HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD' -- Community volunteer Debra Martin, a former Pomona city councilmember, poses for La Nueva Voz



with the organizers of "My Sweet & Healthy Neighborhood," a public forum on healthy lifestyle choices that affect the community. The event was held last month at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona and was sponsored by Western University, the American Heart Association and Pomona's Health Promoters. Pictured, from left, are Dr. Jan Boller, director of the doctor of nursing practice program at Western University; Martin; and Alejandra Martinez, program director for Pomona's Health Promoters.

BREAK OUT SESSION AT 'HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD' EVENT -- Adriana Pinedo of Day One, at far left, leads a break out session at last month's "My Sweet & Healthy Neighborhood" forum at Western University of Health Sciences, presented by Pomona's Health Promoters. The event was held to coincide with National Nutrition Month, held each year in March. Nearly one third of adults and nearly half of the children in Pomona are overweight or obese, according to organizers. For more information, contact (909) 927-2345.

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Boys and Girls Club... from pg. 1

ance with our membership standards.”

According to the statement, the national organization “shared” numerous notices with the Pomona club regarding on-going compliance issues and “provided development tools and resources to attempt to address the on-going organizational issues and concerns.”

Staff members also visited the local club numerous times “in an attempt to provide assistance with cash flow analysis, resource development training, board training, CEO development and major gift consulting.”

“Unfortunately, the organization’s leadership did not make progress in resolving these issues, and a number of plans that we developed in these visits were not followed,” the statement continued.

“In instances where organizations are consistently out of compliance with membership requirements, local, state or federal requirements or need more help due to sustainability issues, we work to find alternative operating models including management agreements, shared services or in some instances mergers with other local organizations,” the statement said, adding that any merger decisions must be made by the local board of directors.

But in the case of the Pomona club, when national offered to facilitate a meeting to explore these options, the local club was “unable to provide the requested information.. (to) consider these possible solutions.”

Even so, national has continued to offer support during this transition “by providing legal, marketing or communications support for the organization to re-brand itself as a community-based organization.”

“We continue to wish them luck as they broaden their focus on families and adults,” the statement said.

The club’s new name, which became effective this month, is “Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley,” as announced last month by the local organization.

And, according to the local club’s statement, it will continue to serve local youth while expanding to serve their families, thereby “building the lives of our youth in a holistic way.”

“We’re committed to our mission of serving our youth and families, especially those who need us the most,” the club’s statement said.

As can be expected, everybody in town was not completely satisfied with the decision.

Claremont attorney Paul Mahoney, a past board president of the club (1973 to 1976), late last

month sent a letter to national’s Jim Clark expressing his disappointment at the charter revocation.

“The (club) asked for an extension until June of 2017 to provide the necessary audits that they had not previously provided,” he said, adding that the club’s payroll tax issues have been settled with the state under a payment plan.

“Now that the audits will be provided and the tax payments are being made, there is no need to revoke the charter,” he added.

He termed a request from national that the club merge with the Fontana club “ridiculous,” adding that Pomona owns its own property and “is not interested in abandoning its property.”

He asked national to give the club an extension to June to allow the club time to provide its audits.

Mahoney’s letter apparently at least in part was prompted by a letter to club Board President Steve Johnson, with copies to nine of Pomona’s business and civic leaders, from Pomona’s Mark Warren of Mark Warren Realty and Investments and obtained by La Nueva Voz.

Warren criticized the club for its “lack of any public announcement” about its on-going financial crisis and said the financial

health of the club was “misrepresented” at last November’s gala dinner where donations “were actively sought and given.”

“Attendees at the event did not have a clue that the club was in severe financial crisis and on the brink of losing its charter,” he said in the letter.

Warren’s late father Clyde Warren, also a local real estate professional, was one of the founders and an early supporter of the Boys and Girls Club and was instrumental in piecing together donations and real estate for the fledgling club from the very beginning.

The club’s board voted last September to begin a transition to become independent. The board officially learned in December its charter was being revoked effective Jan. 2, according to Victor Caceres, the club’s executive director.

“Even though we asked for an extension . . . we were denied the extension to become compliant but were given through April for full transition,” he added. “We were being forced to merge or

lose our charter. We decided to decline the merger and . . . become the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley.”

Johnson told La Nueva Voz last month the club has had financial difficulties for years, explaining that it costs between \$500,000 and \$670,000 a year to keep the doors open.

Caceres said the club continues to serve the kids who need the club the most – whether they can afford to pay for it or not.

Boys and Girls Clubs of America in Atlanta would not give an exact number of clubs that have had their charters revoked but said it is “a small number” and that the decision always came after “years of non-compliance.”

In a statement, the national organization said charter revocation is “our last option.”

There are 4,300 Boys and Girls Clubs nationwide.

The Pomona club, founded in 1964, is located at 1420 S. Garey Ave., Pomona. For more information, contact the club at (909) 242-1110 or visit the web site at www.bgcpv.org.

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Miss Pomona pageant set for next month in Downtown Pomona

Three finalists have been selected to compete in the final round of the 2017 Miss Pomona Pageant which will be held next month in Downtown Pomona.

The finalists are Marleni Munguia, a student at Garey High School, Melanie Alva, a student at Diamond Ranch High School, and Yazmin Torres, a student at Village Academy High School.

This year's competition will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 21, at The Glass House, 200 W. Second St., Pomona, and is free and open to the public.

It is presented each year by the Downtown Pomona Owners Association.

The winner receives a \$3,000 scholarship and members of her court receive \$1,500 scholarships.

A tragedy occurred at North Park Elementary School in San Bernardino. A teacher was shot and killed by her estranged husband. Two children were also shot in the crossfire before the estranged husband killed himself. This all took place in a classroom filled with 15 children.

I'm compelled to write about this incident, because the tragic nature of the events raise questions about why did this have to happen? What could have prevented this? I don't have any connection to the teacher who was killed, and I don't know the details of what was going on in their marriage. But here's what I do know, she was a mother, grandmother, teacher and role model for special needs kids. She was also someone who left a relationship that could have been abusive.

One in four women are abused by their intimate partner, in this case her husband. She wasn't married very long, and left the relationship soon thereafter. It takes a lot of courage to leave.

Domestic violence affects everyone

By Suzanne Aebischer

Executive Director, House of Ruth

Why? The most volatile time in an abusive relationship is the first 12 months after a person leaves the batterer. The level of fear instilled in victims causes them to stay because of the threat of deadly consequences. The most common question I hear about people in abusive relationships is "why doesn't she just leave?" Getting safe and staying safe are the primary goals for someone who has left an abusive partner. No one can predict when an abusive relationship becomes lethal. This situation became what every person in a domestic violence case fears the most.

Domestic violence is not just a "family problem." It's a problem we all must face. You might know a co-worker, friend, neighbor, or relative who is showing signs of abuse. The most important thing you can do is speak up and help them. Don't look the other way. Let them know that you believe them and that they are not alone. Get them connected with a local domestic violence agency, like House of Ruth, so they can receive the support they need and most importantly get safe.

The statistics are alarming, and they certainly cannot be ignored—72 percent of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner, and 94 percent of the victims of these murder suicides are female. The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500 percent (cited by the National Coalition of Domestic Violence).

In this instance everyone was impacted – the children who witnessed the horrific event, the school personnel who knew the teacher and the students closely, the first responders who came upon the tragic scene, the family members of the victims whose lives have been forever changed, the parents of the children in the

school who are now incredibly worried about the long lasting impacts of what their children have experienced. No, it's not just a "family problem." Domestic violence impacts everyone. It's up to all of us to do something about it.

Editor's Note: House of Ruth is a domestic violence agency dedicated to the safety and well-being of those victimized by domestic violence. Serving San Bernardino and Los Angeles County communities for the past 40 years, House of Ruth provides crisis intervention, shelter and a comprehensive list of domestic violence services to those being abused by an intimate partner, and their children. A 24-hour hotline is available at (877) 988-5559.

Latino Peace Officers craft beer fundraiser

The National Latino Peace Officers' Association, San Gabriel Valley Chapter, will host a Fiesta and Craft Beer Festival fundraiser for scholarships and community outreach – with food trucks and samples from 10 area breweries – from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at Phillips Mansion, 2640 Pomona Blvd., Pomona.

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MEDICARE STEP-BY-STEP MEETINGS (EDUCATIONAL)

Tuesday, May 9 @ 10 am
Tuesday, May 16 @ 1 pm (in Spanish)
Tuesday, May 16 @ 4 pm

INTER VALLEY HEALTH PLAN ENROLMENT MEETINGS
Tuesday, May 2 @ 10 am & 3 pm
Tuesday, May 16 @ 10 am & 3 pm
(5/16 meetings in Spanish)

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. This information is not a complete description of benefits. Contact the Plan for more information. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1, of each year. A licensed sales person will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call the number above. *No obligation to join. Only one gift certificate per person per calendar year. Must be Medicare-eligible to receive a gift certificate. Certificates are available on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. This is an advertisement. Inter Valley Health Plan complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Inter Valley Health Plan cumple con las leyes federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo. Inter Valley Health Plan 遵守適用的聯邦民權法律規定, 不因種族、膚色、民族血統、年齡、殘障或性別而歧視任何人。ATTENTION: This information and language assistance services are available to you free of charge. Call 1-800-251-8191 (TTY: 711). ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-251-8191 (TTY: 711). 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-800-251-8191 (TTY 711)。

Affordable Care Act a topic at Pomona Chamber's 'Legislative Luncheon'

The nation's Affordable Care Act quickly became a topic of interest last week at the Pomona Chamber of Commerce annual "Legislative Luncheon" as California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones said the proposal coming out of the Trump administration would cost 63,000 jobs and an estimated \$5 billion in California's contribution to the nation's gross domestic product -- in Los Angeles County alone.

Jones, speaking to an audience of about 250 at Pomona's Fairplex Conference Center, said the Affordable Care Act is not perfect but "to eliminate it would be a big mistake."

He said 1.5 million residents of Los Angeles County would lose their health insurance under the current proposal.

"It would really set us back," he added. "So I'm doing everything I can to try to educate Californians of all walks of life on the importance of trying to build on what we have,

not tear it down."

Congresswoman Norma Torres said the "preexisting condition" protections of the existing "Obamacare" program are being targeted for removal -- something she said would add to the cost of health insurance for seniors or young people with, for example, asthma.

"This is not to say that we have a perfect health care bill now -- we do not," Torres said, adding that there are a lot of things to do to make it better, including making it easier to buy health insurance.

State Sen. Connie Leyva, asked about equal pay for women by Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana, who moderated the event, said the state government already has worked to increase the pay of hundreds of women in the senate to ensure they are at parity with their male counterparts.

"I think it's something that we just have to keep working on," she said. "Isn't it shock-



POMONA CHAMBER ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON EXPLORES ISSUES -- Congresswoman Norma Torres, second from left, makes a point during last week's Legislative Luncheon, presented by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce. Pictured, from left, are Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana, moderator; Torres; California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones; State Sen. Connie Leyva; Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.

ing that in 2017 . . . we're still worrying about pay equity for women?"

"When women are paid equitably to men, it benefits all of us," Leyva said, adding that part of it is a mindset and part of it is continuing to work on the issue.

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, answering a question about his measure AB 263,

the Emergency Medical Service Workers Bill of Rights, said the bill was approved in the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment and sent on for review to the Appropriations Committee.

"You want those first responders that come here to take care of us to have good paying jobs, security, benefits, but also good working conditions," said Rodriguez who has worked for more than 30 years in the ambulance industry.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said the key issues for Pomona over the next four years will include immigration, adding that the city will be here to support its residents regardless of immigration status.

Another issue will be a growing culture of service and giving back in Pomona where, rather than asking the city to clean up an alley, residents have organized clean-up teams to take care of the job.

"We have to work together because that is really what a healthy democracy looks like, that's what a healthy community looks like," he said.

Sandoval said a third issue would be providing "great customer service" to businesses coming to Pomona, and a fourth would be enhancing the commitment the community is making to the education of its children, adding that he believes the school district is "doing an outstanding job but we can do better."

He said it will be important

for the council to continue coming together and setting goals "because there's no reason why we can't improve the quality of life for every resident in our city."

Torres said Pomona is in a unique position with all of the growth under way, although said "it all comes down to leadership" at all levels of government.

"We should all be working together to ensure that your business grows," she said. "We need you as much as you need your customers," adding that businesses are providing a base of jobs.

Insurance Commissioner Jones said his office is a consumer protection agency which receives 130,000 calls for service a year "going to bat" for businesses and consumers.

Since he was elected to office in 2010, he said he has returned \$347 million in disputed claims to businesses and consumers.

In addition, he said his office regulates rates and has saved consumers and businesses about \$2.6 billion in rates they would otherwise have to pay.

The office also makes sure insurance companies are financially healthy and, in addition, acts as a law enforcement agency handling matters of insurance fraud.

Leyva said "Team Leyva" saw eight of 10 bills sent to the governor signed into law last year and this year is working on another 25 bills.



REMEMBERING ANOTHER ERA -- Southern California veterans of the Vietnam War gathered at Pomona's dA Center for the Arts last month for the opening of the annual month-long exhibit "Voices Veterans -- Mexican America and the Legacy of Vietnam." The exhibit of memorabilia, paintings and other art work represent-

ing the Vietnam War era is produced each year with the support of the non-profit California Humanities, the history department at Pomona College and the Intercollegiate Department of Chicano-Latino Studies at the Claremont Colleges. An estimated 380,000 Latinos served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam Era and almost a third of them came from California. Today, California is home to more than 1.8 million veterans from all periods of service, and one out of every six is Latino or Latina. Vietnam veterans pictured at the opening of the exhibit, from left, are Jess Gomez, of Pomona, an Army veteran; Richard Olivas, a Marine Corps veteran, of Baldwin Park; David Walker, also a Marine Corps veteran, of Long Beach; and Jimmy Peguero, an Army veteran, of Walnut.

'COMING HOME' -- Artist Val Benavidez of Rancho Cucamonga, who told La Nueva Voz he wanted to serve as an illustrator for the Marines during the Vietnam War but ended up carrying a machine gun, poses next to his new painting "Coming Home," which he created in oil on canvas for the "Voices Veterans" show based on an actual photo. The three depicted in the photo were Richard Olivas, David Walker and Jimmy Peguero (see accompanying photo).



Vietnam veteran Jess Gomez of Pomona poses next to his old Army uniform at the opening reception of "Voices Veterans" at the dA Center for the Arts in Pomona.



There was nothing I could do about it. When it was my turn it was my turn. The Vietnam War was right or whatever reason, if you're called it's time to go.

Members of the Garey High School Marching Band, directed by Anthony Bonner, perform the Star-Spangled Banner at the ribbon-cutting this month for a new \$5 million upgrade of the athletic fields at Garey, paid for by Measure P funds.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Mendoza, Pomona Unified School District
TIME TO PLAY SOME BALL -- And with that, Pomona Unified School Board President Jason Rothman cut the ribbon this month to officially open a new \$5 million athletic field at Garey High School. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez and Board members Frank Guzman, Dr. Roberta Perlman, Rothman and Adrienne Konigar-Macklin. "This baseball field represents a promise that we made to the community and that we finally fulfilled," Rothman said. "Today I stand here proud with all of you to cut the ribbon and to play some ball." Previously, the school had three soccer fields on the site. The upgrade resulted in two baseball fields, two softball fields and a soccer field (the new football stadium also is used for soccer), along with two scoreboards, bullpens, batting cages, dugouts, a new shot put area and bleachers. Construction of the project began last May and was completed in January.

READY TO TAKE THE FIELD -- Members of the Garey High School Vikings baseball team were on hand for the ribbon-cutting of the new athletic field and to hear Leonard Velasquez (whose son Vince was a Garey graduate and now plays for the Philadelphia Phillies after pitching for the Houston Astros) tell them that it takes a lot of work to get from Garey to major league baseball. "We had a plan," he said, adding that academics was most important. "You young men today, you have to have a plan, you have to have a goal," he said, adding that the sooner the better. His son, who graduated from Garey in June 2010, led the high school team to its first league championship. Velasquez has an average pitching speed of 93.88 miles per hour, above the major league baseball average of 92.68. He was back east in Philadelphia at the time of the ribbon cutting pitching against the New York Mets. The Mets won 5-4.



Foothill AIDS Project sponsors 'Dining Out for Life'

The annual "Dining out for Life 2017" fundraiser to fight AIDS, sponsored by the Claremont-based Foothill AIDS Project, is underway from April 27 through May 4 at area restaurants.

Local participants include Ed-

die's Italian Eatery in Claremont where 10 percent of sales from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, May 1, will be donated. A flyer is required and can be downloaded at www.dining-outforlife.com/inlandempire.

House of Pong in Claremont will

donate 15 percent of food sales from Monday, May 1, through Wednesday, May 3.

And The Spot Café in Claremont will donate 30 percent of sales between noon and 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 27.



LOCAL YOUTH BOXER WINS NATIONAL TITLE -- Daniel "Little One Time" Mercado of the Gangs 2 Grace Youth Foundation Boxing Club in Pomona won the number one spot in the nation last month at USA Boxing's western regional qualifier in Albuquerque, New Mexico, bringing home the gold for his Category 13-14 age group 90 pounds weight category. Fighters were on hand from every state in the country to compete in the event held at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Pictured, at left after his championship bout, is Mercado after defeating Luis Vasquez, of Stockton, at right. The Gangs 2 Grace Youth Foundation is a boxing club dedicated to working with youth in the community and is now enrolling kids ages 8 to young adult. For more information, contact Neto Mercado, Daniel's dad and manager and head trainer of the club, at (909) 417-9504.



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 Rimmi Hundal, MHSA Director
 (909) 623-6131
rhundal@tricity.org

<p>When: Wednesday, May 17 5:00 Dinner (complimentary) 6:00 Meeting</p>	<p>Location: Palomares Park 499 E. Arrow Hwy Pomona</p>
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*Programs funded through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)



An old-fashioned hay ride was part of the fun at the "Spring on the Farm Egg Hunt."




AND NOW THE LITTLE KIDS -- Somehow the expression "it's like herding cats" came to mind at the "little kids" version of "Spring on the Farm Egg Hunt" at Cal Poly's AGRIsclapes. The little kids egg hunt was actually inside the children's garden -- you can just see several eggs waiting for finding at lower right.

SPRING ON THE FARM EGG HUNT -- It was billed as a "Spring on the Farm Egg Hunt" at AGRIsclapes on the Cal Poly University Pomona campus this month, but to several hundred kids it was just a good time hunting for eggs. Kids had a chance to ride the hayride, pat farm animals, see the children's garden and just hang out on the farm. And it all happened at AGRIsclapes next to the Farm Store at Cal Poly. Pictured are the "big kids" hunting for eggs in the first round of the event.



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A bearded dragon lizard was a hit of the show with both kids and moms at "Spring in the Farm" at Fairplex.



DISPLAYING THEIR WARES -- David and Michele Markham of The Markham Farm in Chino Hills, makers of farm fresh soap, display their wares at Spring in the Farm last month at The Farm at Fairplex. The husband and wife team made their first home made soap made with natural ingredients for their daughter who has a severe skin condition, and the business took off from there. Their soaps are made with avocado, strawberries and more. "This is our family passion," Michele Markham said. "It's like a ministry for us to be able to help other people," she added, explaining that doctors wanted to put their daughter on steroids but they wanted to find a better way. For more information, call (909) 342-3131 or visit the web site at www.themarkhamfarm.com.



FROM GOATS TO REPTILES -- The five-acre Farm at Fairplex was a place to see all sorts of things at the annual "Spring in the Farm" event last month -- from rope making and planting activity to gardening workshops and more. Pictured is one future farmer getting acquainted with Tatum, a 9-month-old pygmy goat weighing in at 20 pounds. Tatum is on loan from AgriScapes at Cal Poly University Pomona.

Relay for Life merges with Claremont and La Verne, accepting fundraiser teams for May 6 event at Claremont High School

Pomona's annual Relay for Life fundraiser for the American Cancer Society has merged with groups in La Verne and Claremont for this year's Relay for Life of Greater Pomona Valley, this year scheduled for May 6 and 7 at Claremont High School.

The event, always an overnight 24-hour event from 9 a.m. Saturday to 9 a.m. Sunday, brings together teams from local businesses, schools, churches and families for camaraderie, food, music and entertainment and a night under the stars -- all while team members take turns walking or running on a track.

Kicking off the relay will be the traditional opening ceremony to celebrate cancer survivors, followed by a cancer survivors lap on the track. Later in the evening, a "luminaria"

ceremony honors those who are battling cancer and remembers those who have lost their fight.

And at 8 a.m. Sunday morning, a "fight back" ceremony is held where attendees make a personal commitment to fight back against cancer.

"Relay for Life brings communities together," said Veronica Sepulveda, event lead. "We honor each person who has been touched by this disease while raising money for much needed cancer research, education, advocacy and service."

She said the goal is to raise \$90,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Claremont High School is located at 1601 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont.

For more information, contact Sepulveda at (909) 908-4886.

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Learning Centers at Fairplex receives \$1.5 million from Petersen Foundation

The Learning Centers at Fairplex has received a \$1.5 million grant to the Alex Xydias & Pete Chapouris Center for Automotive Arts from the Margie and Robert Petersen Foundation.

The gift, the third in a line of substantial donations from the Peterson Foundation, allows the automotive arts program to continue its work with high school students looking to build much-needed vocational skills.

According to Fairplex, the donation gives \$1 million to the Petersen Education Fund, an endowment which supports educational programming. The remaining \$500,000 will go toward the construction of a welding lab.

“Robert Petersen was a long-time friend of Alex Xydias,” said GiGi Carleton, president of the Peterson Foundation. “Mr. Petersen knew that not all students were headed to college. He completely understood and supported vocational programs that would establish the skills needed for students to obtain sustainable jobs right out of high school.”

The automotive arts program offers high school students a two-year automotive program that gives them the confidence and hands-on experience needed to enter the automotive industry by exploring basic mechanics, diagnostics and service, auto body, metal fabrication and restoration.



GET AIR, POMONA'S NEW INDOOR TRAMPOLINE PARK, HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS -- And several members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and even a couple of city councilmembers were enjoying those ups and downs on the trampolines after the ribbon cutting this month. The company, founded in 2004 in New Jersey, has grown to include 57 locations worldwide -- and Pomona is the largest of all with 35 employees. Get Air is located at 2735 S. Towne Ave., Pomona, near Home Depot. Pictured, from left, are Rob Knowles, Get Air's corporate sales director; Ashton Goodell, corporate marketing director; Catalina Valera, of Pomona; Benny Ayala, representing State Sen. Connie Leyva; Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa; Get Air general manager Davonte Fung; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; Pomona Chamber ambassador Yanice Hilario, of Golden Royalty Marketing; Pomona Chamber Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; and Pomona Chamber ambassador Gustavo Arias, of Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan.

YWCA 'Women of Achievement' awards to be held in June at Fox Theater

The San Gabriel Valley YWCA will present its 32nd annual Women of Achievement Awards at its “YWCA on a Mission” awards ceremony, scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at the Fox

Theater in Downtown Pomona.

Each year the event recognizes extraordinary individuals in the San Gabriel Valley who have dedicated their lives to service in the community.

It is also a major fundraiser

for the YWCA, which provides service programs that assist more than 20,000 community residents each year.

Programs include WINGS family health and violence prevention, services for seniors

and more.

For information on sponsorship opportunities and live and silent auction donations, contact the YWCA at (626) 960-2995 or Nathan@ywcasg.org.

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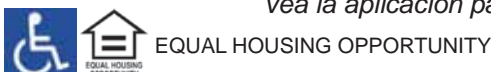
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Free health fair set for Saturday at Garey High School

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis will present a "Community Health & Wellness Fair" Saturday at Pomona's Garey High School.

The free event, scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., is open to both adults and children and includes everything from free

haircuts and free health, dental and mental health check-ups to information on health care enrollment, disability, social services, housing information, homeless and veteran services, job leads and more.

For more information, contact (909) 593-3661.

Pomona urban farm receives one of 10 grants awarded nationwide

"The FruitGuys Community Fund" has awarded \$42,913 in funding to 10 small community farms across the country – including three local farms in Pomona, Claremont and Diamond Bar known collectively as Sarvodaya Farm – to help sustain projects aimed to impact environmental, economic and community health.

The 10 farms were selected from a list of 70 letters of intent from throughout the U.S.

Those selected will receive up to \$5,000 in funding.

The Pomona farm, Pomona Urban Farm, is a half-acre site located at 1196 S. San Antonio Ave., Pomona, that is the primary urban farm site among the three local farms for the production of produce and education and outreach work.

It hosts a six-month, no-cost farmer training program, monthly educational events and educational visits.

Operators harvested 10,000 pounds of food at the Pomona



The Sarvodaya Farm in Pomona, a community garden that produces food for local residents and food pantries, received a grant from The FruitGuys Community Fund. It was one of only 10 urban farms nationwide selected for a grant out of 70 applications.

location last year and expect to harvest 15,000 pounds this year.

Food produced is distributed through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), a food distribution program, and the farm offers discounted CSA membership for Pomona residents. It also accepts EBT.

Excess produce is donated to local Pomona-based food pantries and non-profits.

It is open to visitors from 9 a.m. to noon Monday and Friday each week.

The FruitGuys is a San Francisco-based company that de-

livers wellness to workplaces across America through boxes of farm-fresh fruit in an effort to replace break room junk food and promote healthy snacking.

"The community fund's core belief is to fund projects that make an impact beyond the farm, which is valuable not only for the farmer but for the world at large," said Chris Mittelstaedt, founder and CEO of The FruitGuys and board advisor for the community fund.

The fund has awarded more than \$167,000 to 41 farms since 2012.

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'DANCING FOR YOUR HEART' AT POWER OF RED -- The Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Foundation's 10th annual Power of Red Event last week at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center had a "Dancing for your Heart" theme. Included was everything from flamenco, Zumba and tap. Dancers, pictured on stage before the festivities got under way, are hospital employees, from left, Kathy Soderlund (flamenco), Cecilia Silva (interactive exercise), Lisa Copenhaver (dance your booty off), and Miranda Rodriguez (tap); and, from Tribal Beats Studio in Upland (cardio tribal style belly dance), Dominique Petarra, Maureen Soucier, and Erin Win, and Suzanne Cable, director of the studio. Funds raised through the event each year support the hospital's Stead Heart and Vascular Center's Stead Heart for Women program. The foundation hosts the event each year in support of the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" campaign to educate the public about heart disease in women.

A complete 'farm' experience available at 'Spring on the Farm' at Cal Poly

Want to pet a goat, plant a seed, ride a hay wagon or pick up a bouquet of student-grown flowers for Mother's Day?

You can do all that and more at the "Spring on the Farm Festival & Tractor Show" next month at the AGRIsCAPES Education Center at Cal Poly University Pomona.

The event, formerly known

S. University Drive, Pomona.

Limited free parking will be available in the "Pumpkin Festival" field. Overflow parking will be available in Lot U, Lot B and Parking Structure 2 across Temple Avenue. Parking permits are \$4.

For more information call (909) 869-6722 or e-mail agriscapesinfo@cpp.edu.



Everything from tractors to farm animals will be available next month at the Farm Festival & Tractor Show at AGRIsCAPES at Cal Poly University Pomona.

as the Strawberry Festival, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at AGRIsCAPES, near the Farm Store at Cal Poly.

Other attractions will include a farmer's market, antique farm equipment, live entertainment, craft vendors and festival food.

Demonstrations will be scheduled throughout the day for cow milking, gardening, blacksmithing and traditional soapmaking.

"Los Angeles County was once the largest farm county in the United States, but it's now the largest urban county, and most people around here haven't been to a farm," said Craig Walters, festival director. "We want people to experience a little of what farming is all about and learn more about where their food comes from."

Admission is free but some activities may require a charge.

AGRIsCAPES is located at 4102

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AGRIsCAPES, Cal Poly Pomona



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*Pólizas sólo en inglés. Ahorros promedio están basados en la información reportada a nivel nacional por clientes automotrices de Allstate por las pólizas escritas en el 2013. Ahorros actuales varían. Allstate Indemnity Co. Northbrook, IL. © 2014 Allstate Insurance Co.

Bright Prospect gala celebrates engineering and technology grads

Bright Prospect's annual fundraising gala this year celebrated 15 years of student success by focusing on alumni of the college preparatory non-profit organization who are working in the fields of engineering, architecture and technology.

And remember that guy who graduated from Pomona's Garey High School in 2011 and went to Harvard? La Nueva Voz was there on "College Decision Day" six years ago at Garey when he announced his decision. Well, Edgar Vasquez Lopez graduated from Harvard two years ago and is now working as a mechanical engineer at TechnipFMC in Claremont.

Lopez, raised in Pomona by a single mom, was in the audience at the gala to stand up and say hello to an audience of 300 supporters at Pomona's Fairplex Sheraton Conference Center.

It was a good room at the conference center – one of the best fundraiser rooms in Pomona each year – including Pomona's business and civic leaders who are the top local supporters of education.

And they came to the right place, as Bright Prospect Executive Director Stephanie Camp-



Stephanie Campbell

bell pointed out that 98 percent of their students go on to college and more than 85 percent graduate from college.

The organization empowers high school students from Pomona and Ontario to go to and complete college. Many go on to receive a professional or advanced degree.

And, Campbell said, Bright Prospect does this by helping

students develop the skills and attitudes they will need in college to succeed both in college and in their professional lives.

"But also critical to the success of our program is the culture of unconditional support that



Eric Garen

we provide to our students," she said.

Master of Ceremonies Dr. Steve Morgan, a Bright Prospect board member, said much attention is given today to alternative fuels.

"For human achievement, I am still convinced that passion is our most powerful fuel," he said. "Bright Prospect with all of its success in transforming lives is built on passion."

Anne Nguyen, a 2007 Pomona High School graduate, told Bright Prospect supporters that with the help of Bright Prospect she was accepted to the University of Notre Dame where she graduated in 2012.

Today, she is assistant city planner in the City of La Habra.

Nguyen said her mother and half brother came to the United States as refugees from Vietnam just a few years after the fall of Saigon and settled in California in 1985.

"Despite the financial hardships my mother faced as a single mother of four children, she ingrained in us the importance of obtaining a college education," she said. "To this day I owe a lot of my success to my mother who inspired me to always challenge myself and have faith in myself to overcome adversity even when success seems far out of reach."

"I will always remember the day when (now Pomona Mayor) Tim Sandoval visited my ninth grade English honors class and

spoke about the importance of pursuing higher education and hearing the stories of current Bright Prospect students and alumni," Nguyen said. "From that moment I knew that this was a program I wanted to be a part of."

Sandoval was one of the original staff members of Bright Prospect.

"Bright Prospect guided me through the college application process and the staff has served as my mentors throughout college," Nguyen added. "I cannot thank Bright Prospect enough in helping me pursue my passion."

Sahara Ibarra, a 2003 Montclair High School graduate, graduated from Smith College in Massachusetts in 2007 and today is a piping materials engineer with TechnipFMC in Claremont.

She immigrated to California from Mexico with her family at



Anne Nguyen

an early age, joined Bright Prospect and was accepted to Smith where she conducted research at the High Magnetic Field Laboratory in Tallahassee and participated in a NASA program experiencing zero gravity in Houston.

Ibarra was the first among the five children in her family to graduate from college.

A member of Bright Prospect's original class of 12 students, she has already designed a robotic arm for capturing floating items in space.

She owns her own home where she lives with her husband, who works in the information technology industry, and their four sons.

"I immigrated to this country



Sahara Ibarra

from Mexico at a very young age with my parents," she said. "The only thing that my parents brought with them was their willpower, their courage and their audacity to live a better life."

She said growing up in that environment she learned "there is no better way to lead than by example."

"My internal drive and motivation coupled with the support from the Bright Prospect family is what carried me through college," adding that she selected Smith since it was the only women's college with a school of engineering.

"Looking back, I might have still pursued an engineering degree if I had not joined Bright Prospect," she said. "However, that path would have been very challenging."

Ibarra explained she likely would have undervalued her ability to get into elite colleges and universities and would have lacked the financial and mentoring support that Bright Prospect gave her through her college years.

"Bright Prospect opened my eyes," she said. "They converted me to being a lifelong learner and realizing the importance of coming back and improving the community and helping it thrive."

Sandoval, who said he was on board at Bright Prospect from the very beginning when it started with 12 students and 2.5 staff members, has seen the organization grow to more than 30 staff members who have served more than 2,000 students.

"No matter whether it's teachers, whether it's engineers, you name it, there are kids who grew up in the City of Pomona with

tremendous talent and have gone off to college and many of them are now coming back," Sandoval said. "So we in fact in my view are witnessing the transformation of the City of Pomona."

Bright Prospect President and Founder Eric Garen said college in America "has changed a bit."

"If you look at students who come from the top quartile income group in America, 71 percent of them complete a bachelor's degree by the age of 24," he said. "Of students who come from the lowest quartile of income, that figure is 9 percent."

This, he said, is because of the "lack of pathways to college and the lack of support for these stu-



Dr. Steve Morgan

dents while they are in college."

"Our goal is to change that, to change it on a local basis," he said. "Education is the only reliable way to better economic future. And our vision always was that if we could get a critical mass of college educated young people from a community, that over a generation it would transform that community."

He said Bright Prospect will be sending about 300 high school seniors off to college this year.

"We're well on our way," he added.

For more information, contact Bright Prospect at (909) 623-9007 or visit the web site at www.brightprospect.org.

Your insert here!
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Multi-screen movie theater could open in Downtown Pomona as early as fall 2018

A 14-screen movie theater with everything from reclining seats to the latest sound technology and even the best movie popcorn available in the industry – expected to take a year for construction – could become a reality in Downtown Pomona as early as fall 2018 or first quarter 2019 once negotiations with the City of Pomona are completed.

Lynelle Sanchez, director of development for Maya Cinemas, brought the story of the theater chain's plans to the Pomona Chamber of Commerce this month at its networking luncheon at Metro Ale House in Downtown Pomona.

She said the project, which would be built between Second and Third Streets and between Main Street and Park Avenue, will bring a 52,500 square foot movie theater complex, with about 1,300 square feet for each theater, along with local jobs that because of the seasonal nature of the business would range from about 50 to as many as 90.

Sanchez explained that part of CEO Moctesuma Esparza's

business model is to build in "underserved" communities where other developers don't want to go.

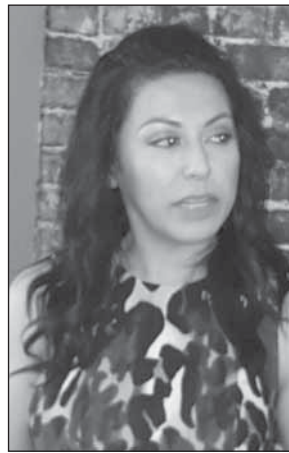
She added that it is important to the company that Pomona is 78 percent Latino.

"It just so happens that Latinos go to the movies more times a year than any other demographic," she said.

The company will offer beer and wine if the community wants it and it does extensive market research on pricing at surrounding theaters.

"We are going to come in a buck cheaper or less than our competition around us," she said. "So yes, you can afford to come to Maya Cinemas in a luxury theater with luxury seats and a luxury experience."

"In our studies we show how there is actually a donut hole in



Lynelle Sanchez
Maya Cinemas

the City of Pomona – there's no movie theater nearby and we are able to do that nationwide," she said. "We go where the donut holes are. We like to build where there's no competition."

Included in the package will be private seating, meeting rooms, birthday rooms, a private viewing or "crying" room for families with small children and more.

The company has constructed similar projects in Salinas, Pittsburgh (California), Fresno and Bakersfield and is building one in Delano.

And Maya has negotiations under way in other areas of Southern California, Las Vegas, Arizona and Texas.

Sanchez said Maya operates family oriented theaters and shows first-run movies, along

with special screenings of art films, foreign films and documentaries in special programming once a month.

The company also offers \$4 family day on Tuesdays and \$4 seniors day on Wednesdays, along with other promotions.

And the company operates its "Maya Cares" program, developed to help families with special needs children, in which once a month families can bring their child in for free with parents and caregivers paying only \$4 admission.

There's also a student rewards program through the Maya Scholarship Foundation in which Maya matches community contributions dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 for scholarships

given to Pomona Unified School District students who will be attending college or are already enrolled in college.

A scholarship committee will be created that will include local stakeholders who will be responsible for selecting recipients and determining amounts.

Also as an incentive to promote education, the theater twice each year will invite any student who makes the honor roll to come in for free.

The company's first theater project, a 14-screen complex, opened in Salinas in July 2005.

Corporate headquarters are located in downtown Los Angeles. For more information, visit the web site at www.mayacinemas.com.

DMV continues crackdown on handicap placards

Investigators with the California Department of Motor Vehicles are continuing their enforcement operation aimed at curbing parking lot abuse of its Disabled Person Parking Placard program.

Offenders must appear in court to face possible fines ranging

from \$250 to \$1,000.

During the past three years, the DMV has conducted 270 enforcement operations throughout the state and issued 2,019 citations. Approximately 2.4 million people in the state have the placards.

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'Dream big and persevere' says Assemblymember Reyes at annual Cesar Chavez Day breakfast

Assemblymember Eloise Gomez Reyes (D – San Bernardino), honored last month at the 13th annual San Gabriel and Pomona Valley Latino and Latina Roundtable's 13th annual Cesar Chavez Day breakfast for her commitment to service and values, told an audience of 300 that Chavez talked about persistence many years ago.

"But he also talked about having great dreams come true and he said there were two things that were important – first you had to have a great capacity to dream and second you need persistence," she said at the event at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center. "That's us – we dream big and we persevere – we persevere because we know that there is something greater, not for us as individuals, there's something greater for the community."



Anthony Chavez . . .
... grandson of Cesar Chavez

"We need to be concerned, not just for the small group that we hang out with, we need to be concerned for the most vulnerable, we need to be concerned for the homeless, we need to be concerned for the students that are being discriminated against, we need to be concerned about the undocumented students that now are being told that all of this may be taken away," she added.

She said before she became the first Latina to open a law office in the Inland Empire's Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, "I had a journey similar to so many of you."

"I am the proud daughter of immigrants," Reyes said.

Her mother, she said, married her dad at the age of 14 and joined him in the United States when she was 19. And it was her parents who taught her about hard work picking onions and grapes in the fields.

"That's how we bought our school clothes," she said.

Her mom bought their first house when she was 20 for \$1,000 and since has bought



Paul Knopf

"and kept" all of her houses.

"Her love for her family, her love for her community is so great," Reyes said. "We have to remember we are living in this world together and I want others to look at who we are here, what we represent, because we represent the greatness of this country."

Roundtable President Jose Calderon introduced Reyes as someone who has been in the forefront of a grass roots effort with the residents of Colton in an effort to prevent the development of a hazardous waste dump in their community.

She was the co-founder of the Inland Empire Community Health Center to help bring affordable health care to the region and as an adjunct professor at Cal Poly University Pomona she worked to connect the classroom to civic engagement, making an impact on the lives of students in the region.

She was a recipient of the Wiley Manuel Pro Bono Legal Services Award from the State Bar of California, and she was honored as Attorney of the Year by the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association.



Scholarship winners were honored at the Latino and Latina Roundtable Cesar Chavez breakfast. Pictured, from left, are Julissa Loza Mendez, a psychology major at Cal Poly University Pomona; Kelly Nguyen, a student at Bassett High School; Roundtable Vice President Angela Sanbrano; Fernando Flores a graphic design major at Citrus College; and scholarship committee members Ion Puschila, a social science teacher at Pomona's Garey High School, and Brianna Davila, assistant professor of sociology at Cal Poly University Pomona.

Professor Manuel Castillejos

Also honored was Professor Manuel Castillejos of Mt. San Antonio College, a teacher at all levels for more than 40 years who teaches Spanish at Mt. SAC and has also taught theater arts and Chicano studies at the college level.

When funding for the arts was cut after the passage of Proposition 13, he opened the Pomona School of Fine Arts to offer courses that were affordable to all members of the Pomona community.

He has directed complete plays and talent programs to promote education awareness in the



Assemblymember
Eloise Gomez Reyes

community.

Castillejos said that as a professor for 37 years at Mt. SAC "my focus has been, of course, my students."

"Every semester I am inspired, marveled, educated by the students that go through my classes," he said. "And that's what keeps me going."

He has also worked with students who came to him from



Representatives of Mercado La Cachanilla accept award on behalf of store owner Rayahi Haifa as Latino and Latina Roundtable President Jose Calderon, at right, looks on. It was the first time the Roundtable honored a small business.

MEChA who, for the past two years, after deciding that the school's Chicano studies classes of the 1970s were a little passé, developed a curriculum for gender and ethnic studies that was adopted by the administration – and only the name was changed to "social justice."

"So power to our students," he said.

He was recognized for his commitment to the arts, the betterment of local communities and "the empowerment of our Latino youth in the tradition of Cesar Chavez."



Tony Cerda, chief of Pomona's Costanoan Rumsen Carmel tribe of Native Americans, offers a closing prayer at the Roundtable breakfast.

Paul Knopf

Honoree Paul Knopf, a high school history teacher at Pomona Unified School District who sees the importance of getting his students to use their knowledge outside the classroom to address needs in the community, said his attitude toward life changed and he "came back a difference person" after his mother and grandfather took him on a service trip to Ensenada at the age of 13.

"I experienced the inner joy one feels when partaking in an act of service and love," he said, adding that he learned what life is ultimately about – "connect-

ing to that part of us that longs to make a difference."

Pomona Unified School Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman called Knopf a "valued member of the PUSD family" and the "guru" of PUSD's learning and community engagement program.

"He truly embraces the philosophy that teaching our students to serve others provides great benefits not only to the recipients of the service but also to the emotional well being of our students," Perlman said.

PUSD programs he has been involved with include the creation of the PUSD Seal of Service Award, the California Democracy Civic Action Plan, the Read to Feed Program with Heifer International, the Pomona Enrichment Program, an energy conservation and recycling program, a teen court program, the young men's circle group and the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council.

His award was for social justice and the betterment of youth.

Rayahi Haifa

Also honored was Rayahi Haifa, owner and general manager of Mercado La Cachanilla which opened in Pomona in 2009 and now also has locations in Azusa and Corona.

Dream big and persevere... pg. 19

Dream big and persevere... from pg. 18

The store was recognized for its “culture of caring” and for treating its customers as family.

The store supports charitable causes and also donates food each year to the annual Roundtable Cesar Chavez Pilgrimage as part of raising funds for an annual scholar-



Madeline Rios, at right, receives “Community Star Award” from award designer Dr. Jeffery Mio, professor of psychology and sociology at Cal Poly University Pomona.

ship given to students going on to college.

“This store really has formed a relationship with the community,” Calderon said.

Haifa was represented at the Cesar Chavez breakfast by his employees and even some of his customers.

The recognition was the first time the Roundtable had honored a small business.

Madeline Rios

And Madeline Rios, who chairs the Roundtable’s immigration committee and owns a local translation service, received the Roundtable’s new “Community Star Award.”

Rios told the group that the Roundtable has developed principles of inclusiveness that have been adopted by many organizations in the Inland Valley and beyond.

“(This) includes the rights of immigrants to be at the table on all immigration reform issues,” she said, adding that “this is an immigrant rights movement, not a correction of a broken system but a struggle for full rights.”

ART GALLERY HELPS REDUCE MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA

— An art gallery lining the walls of a Tri-City Mental Health office building in Pomona encourages local artists to produce art work as part of a stigma reduction campaign, all with a goal of ending the mental health stigma and saving lives. The gallery is available for artists of all ages to make submissions of paintings, drawings and photography and rotates every six months with a new art theme. A reception is held to open each new showcase and the entire gallery is open to the community during business hours at the Tri-City location, 2001 N. Garey Ave., Pomona. Pictured is Gilbert Saldate, Tri-City’s public outreach and housing manager, with a depiction of a box of bottles going to the recycling center by artist H. Benjamin Diaz. Title of the piece is “49.2 lbs - \$6.16,” and the artist says art helped him realize “there is beauty even in a box of bottles.” For more information, contact Jamie Ritchey at (909) 326-4636 or by e-mail at jritchey@tricitymhs.org.



“We hope we will be able to expand the rights of immigrants here in California during these times of resistance and eventually at the national level,” she said.

Grandson of Cesar Chavez

Anthony Chavez, grandson of National Farm Workers Association (later United Farm Workers union) founder Cesar Chavez, told the group “we’re all carrying on those same values” of those who have gone before.

“When I share with our students I always remind them as I learned from my grandfather and many other students learned over the years, the end of all education should surely be service to others,” he said. “And that’s a message that I take deeply to heart.”

Chavez, who works for an educational justice non-profit working and advocating on behalf of the underserved student population in California, said “going forward the importance of education will only continue to grow.”

“It’s going to be groups just like the one that’s here assembled today, it’s going to be all of us coming together to make sure that we’re holding the line and we’re raising the bar for our community,” he said.



Manuel Castillejos is honored for his commitment to the arts and the empowerment of Latino Youth at the Roundtable’s annual Cesar Chavez breakfast. Pictured, from left, are Angela Sanbrano, Roundtable vice president; Castillejos; and Jose Calderon, Roundtable president.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

School Year 2016/17

Public Media Release for Free and Reduced-Price Meals

The School of Arts & Enterprise is announcing its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program. Each school and/or the district/agency’s central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party on request.

Meal applications will be sent to all households with a letter informing parents or guardians of the availability of free and reduced-price meals. To apply, complete one application for all children in the household and submit to the school for processing. Additional copies are available at the school office. Households may submit an Application at any time during the school year. Information provided on the Application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school officials.

Children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals if their household income is less than or equal to the Income Eligibility Guidelines identified below, which will be used to determine eligibility for meal benefits. These guidelines are effective through June 30, 2017.

Free and Reduced-Price Scales

Household size	Free Eligibility Scale for Lunch, Breakfast, and Milk					Reduced-Price Eligibility Scale for Lunch and Breakfast				
	Year	Month	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week	Year	Month	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week
1	\$ 15,444	\$ 1,287	\$ 644	\$ 594	\$ 297	\$ 21,978	\$ 1,832	\$ 916	\$ 846	\$ 423
2	20,826	1,736	868	801	401	29,637	2,470	1,235	1,140	570
3	26,208	2,184	1,092	1,008	504	37,296	3,108	1,554	1,435	718
4	31,590	2,633	1,317	1,215	608	44,955	3,747	1,874	1,730	865
5	36,972	3,081	1,541	1,422	711	52,614	4,385	2,193	2,024	1,012
6	42,354	3,530	1,765	1,629	815	60,273	5,023	2,512	2,319	1,160
7	47,749	3,980	1,990	1,837	919	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	53,157	4,430	2,215	2,045	1,023	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455
For each additional family member, add:										
	\$ 5,408	\$ 451	\$ 226	\$ 208	\$ 104	\$ 7,696	\$ 642	\$ 321	\$ 296	\$ 148

The School of Arts & Enterprise will notify the household of their children’s eligibility for free meals if any household member receives CalFresh, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), or Food Distribution Program Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits. Households will also be notified of any child’s eligibility for free meals if the individual child is categorized as foster, homeless, migrant, runaway, enrolled in an eligible Head Start, or enrolled in an eligible pre-kindergarten class. An Application is not required if a household receives the eligibility notice from school officials. Households should contact the school immediately regarding any child in the household not included on the eligibility notice. The household must notify school officials if they choose to decline meal benefits.

Households that did not receive the eligibility notice from school officials and would like to apply for meal benefits must submit a complete free and reduced-price application for The School of Arts & Enterprise to determine a child’s eligibility.

Households receiving CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR benefits must include the following on their meal application:

- Names of all enrolled children
- One case number from any household member
- Signature of an adult household member

Households with foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway children must include:

- Names of all enrolled children
- Indication of individual child’s categorical eligibility status
- Signature of an adult household member

Households who may qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income must include:

- Names of all household members (children and adults)
- Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member
- The last 4 digits of the Social Security number (SSN) of the adult household member who signs the application or check the box if the adult does not have a SSN
- Signature of an adult household member

Foster children are eligible for free meals and may be included as a household member of a foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for the non-foster children. Including foster children as a household member may help the non-foster children in the household qualify for free or reduced-price meal benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for meal benefits, this does not prevent foster children from receiving free meal benefits.

Children in households participating in Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Contact school officials for further information or complete an application for processing.

Under the provisions of The School of Arts and Enterprise Free and Reduced-Price Meal Policy Statement, the designated determining official(s) will review meal Applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the eligibility determination may discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents or guardians may also make a formal request for an appeal hearing of the decision and may do so orally or in writing with Sue Griffin. Contact the hearing official at 909 436-1005 for information regarding the hearing procedures.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the family should contact the school. Such changes may make the household eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the household income falls at or below the levels shown above.

For up to 30 operating days into the new school year, eligibility from the previous school year will continue within the same school/agency. When the carry-over period ends, unless the household is notified that their children are directly certified or the household submits an application that is approved, the children must pay full price for school meals and the school will not send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.

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Pomona's Spotlight . . . Making a Difference

Linda Brown in 'Pomona's Spotlight' – all the way from Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles

Linda Brown is not a teacher, yet she teaches all who walk into Pomona Catholic's school office – how to be gracious and how to be generous – as she welcomes all who enter the building.

Well known at school and throughout the community, Linda is known for being the school's "best face and . . . kindest voice."

She is the first to arrive in the morning and the last to leave at the end of the day – and what she does she does quietly and humbly.

Linda started a food bank, stockpiling canned goods and non-perishables in a supply closet behind her office. And she even keeps cat and dog food on hand to care for the strays that may wander in.

Her friends are the first to say that no one goes hungry on her watch. She even offers a cold bottle of water to parents on hot August afternoons as they pick up their children.

For nearly 10 years, she has collected (and donated to the

Blessed Angela Spirituality Center) used clothing and blankets, new socks and mittens and even school supplies for those who need them.

And she works with the faculty, staff and parents to provide food baskets and grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Her spirit of kindness and generosity has not gone unnoticed – she was honored this year by the Los Angeles Archdiocese with the Christian Service Award in a ceremony at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles.

It was the first time the honor – normally reserved for outstanding students – was given to a staff member.

Linda is known for making everyone feel special, respected and appreciated. She knows the names of every student and every parent, and she writes a personal letter to every senior and every adult leader on the yearly Kairos, an annual retreat for high school seniors.

Every faculty member receives



POMONA CATHOLIC'S 'HEART AND SOUL' HONORED AT OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS CATHEDRAL -- Pomona Catholic's Linda Brown receives the Christian Service Award from The Most Reverend David G. O'Connell, the Episcopal Vicar of the San Gabriel Pastoral Region, one of the five Pastoral Regions in the Los Angeles Archdiocese, during ceremonies this year. The recognition, generally reserved for students, represented the first time the honor was ever bestowed on a staff member.

a birthday card and a small gift from her at birthday time, and she even knows the names of local

merchants and even the homeless people who shelter behind their businesses.

She even took the time once to spend time with a mentally ill veteran who came into the school, managing to calm him and even-

tually send him on his way.

No matter how hectic the day, Linda remains serenely in charge. Because of the calm nature of her office, many seek peace there and students often can be found sitting quietly on her coach either before or after school.

Linda came to Pomona Catholic more than a quarter of a century ago as attendance clerk and unofficial school nurse and today runs the front office.

Through the years, she has been invited to (and attended) weddings, baby showers, baptisms by graduates who see her as a member of their families – perhaps a favorite aunt.

"She is the heart and soul of our community," a school spokesperson said.

Editor's Note: "Pomona's Spotlight" is a regular feature focusing the spotlight of Pomona on an individual who has made a contribution to the image, betterment and growth of the greater Pomona community. Suggestions for future candidates to be considered may be submitted to La Nueva Voz by e-mail or through the comments section at www.lanuevavoz.net.



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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.



NEW CHILDREN'S GARDEN -- AGRScapes Director Craig Walters shows off the new children's garden at Cal Poly University Pomona, located at AGRScapes next to the Farm Store at Cal Poly. The garden includes everything for the kids from planter boxes and nutrition sampling to planting seeds and information on different types of soil. For information on scheduling a school tour, contact (909) 869-2780.

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

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Kennedy Austin Foundation to hold annual 'Million Mother's March'

The Kennedy Austin Foundation's 11th annual Million Mother's March and Balloon Send Off will be held next month in Downtown Pomona.

The march, scheduled for Saturday, May 20, is dedicated to mothers and families who have lost children and is open to the public.

Marchers will gather at Pomona's Purpose Church, 601 N. Garey Ave., at 8:30 a.m. and will begin the march at 10:30, walking along Garey Avenue to the Civic Center and then back to the church where the activities will be-

gin.

Ethel Gardner, executive director of the Kennedy Austin Foundation, founded the non-profit in 1993 following the tragic death of her only son.

The organization continues

to work with families following the loss of a loved one.

The annual march is dedicated to the mission of the organization of "each one reach one."

For more information, call (714) 471-2300.

For the record

In last month's issue, correcting an editing error, the Pomona Boys and Girls Club is going independent after 53 years, rather than 64 years as indicated in the story and the headline.

And in the national martial arts tournament photo and caption, Willard Ripley is not a Kenpo Master and only George Fullerton (not Ripley) was inducted into the Black Belt Hall of Fame. Ripley and Fullerton were pictured with martial arts coach Darryl Collins.

THE WEEKEND GARDENER by Leif Green

The cranberry hibiscus: More interesting than it sounds

"An addiction to gardening is not all bad when you consider the other choices." – Cora Lea Bell

Most of the hibiscus plants that may be seen in the Pomona area are of the hardy variety which means they can tolerate colder winters than their tropical cousins. The most common flower colors in this area are red and yellow and a few with a pink/white tint. Recently, I saw not one, but two cranberry hibiscus plants around the city. This is unusual because the cranberry hibiscus is of the tropical variety and rarely seen outside of Florida. One of the features that make the plant interesting is, of course, the cranberry or burgundy color of its leaves. Another

interesting feature is that the leaf pattern looks remarkably like marijuana. In a black and white photo, it would be difficult to tell them apart. In the real world, a law enforcement officer would know by its color that the person growing the cranberry hibiscus is not growing marijuana. However, if the gardener has a tattoo of Bob Marley, further investigation may be needed.

The growing conditions between the cranberry hibiscus and marijuana also are very similar.

Now some readers are going to use these tips as a recipe for growing marijuana. We don't encourage the use of these tips for that purpose...even though you could...but don't.



Leif Green

Most hibiscus plants, including the cranberry hibiscus (and yes, marijuana too) will grow in just about

any kind of soil so long as it is well drained. I have found that a 50-50 mix of potting soil and sand works well. While hibiscus plants are fairly drought tolerant, they will grow and flower more if they receive moderate amount of water and plant food. The pH (acidity) of the soil should be mild, in the 6.0 to 7.0 range. During the growing phase, use a plant food high in nitrogen and potassium with only a moderate amount of phosphorus. When the plant begins its flowering cycle, the nutritional requirements change. At the first sign of budding, switch to a plant food that is low in nitrogen with a moderate amount of phosphorus and high in potassium.

I hope these tips are useful and help you get more enjoyment out of your garden. The suggestions in this column are targeted at growing healthier hibiscus plants only and not for the cultivation of marijuana. Please use this information accordingly. (Wink, wink.)

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WINNERS OF POMONA OPTIMIST ANNUAL ORATORICAL CONTEST -- Bella Lopez of Pomona's Village Academy High School won this year's annual speech contest of the Pomona Breakfast Optimist Club, held last month at Village Academy. This year's topic was "What the world gains from optimism." Lopez told the story of her cousin, Salma, who was diagnosed with brain cancer at the age of 21. "Having cancer did not mean the end for Salma," Lopez said. "She was firm in the belief that she should continue her life as if nothing had changed because to her nothing had." She added that in a word, what the world gains from optimism is happiness. Pictured, from left, are Lopez, second place winner Leonardo Rangel and third place winner Melissa Argueta-Lepe, all students at Village Academy.

JUDGES AND CONTESTANTS -- Competitors in last month's oratorical competition of the Pomona Breakfast Optimist Club pose with their judges following their speeches. From left are judge Debra Martin, former Pomona City Councilmember and an Optimist member; second place winner Leonardo Rangel; judge Lorraine Canales, a counselor at Village Academy High School, an Optimist member and contest chairperson; contestants Aldair Fernandez and Jonathan Alonzo, both students at Village Academy; and judges Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Optimist Fernando Meza, director of pupil and community services for Pomona Unified School District, who also helped judge the contest, and event chair M. Joyce Baker-Smith, past president of the Optimists.



CATCHING UP ON HER READING -- La Nueva Voz friend Mary Brooks hasn't had her picture in the paper lately so we caught up with her catching up on her La Nueva Voz reading at Pomona's Fairplex Conference Center last week. So if anybody sees her around town, go ahead and ask her a "test" question or two -- just to make sure she read the entire paper.

NAACP fundraiser play depicts early days of national organization

The Pomona Valley Branch of the NAACP will hold a fundraiser on Sunday, April 30, at the presentation of the play "Dr. Du Bois and Mrs. Ovington," produced by the Robey Theater Company at the Los Angeles Theater Center.

The play involves the relationship of two co-founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a decision by the organization's white board members to curtail the autonomy of W.E.B. Du Bois in a move that threatens the association's ability to continue.

Performance time is 3 p.m. Sunday at the theater center, 514 S. Spring St., Los Angeles.

Pomona Valley NAACP Branch President Jeanette Royston said the play depicts an important moment in the history of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

For ticket information, contact event coordinator Rev. Hal Jackson at (909) 518-9232, (909) 622-8119 or hajah20@verizon.net.

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Think you're good? BBQ fest seeks local 'backyard' teams for competition!

Amateur backyard barbecue experts in Pomona are invited to participate in a new non-professional barbecue competition category during next month's SoCal BBQ Bash and Expo at Fairplex.

Backyard amateurs will be able to compete in a sanctioned contest against their peers to win points and prizes during the event, scheduled for 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20.

The contest is one of the first of its kind organized in California and sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society, the largest and most prestigious organization in the world dedicated to barbecue.

It is also sanctioned by the California Barbeque Association.

"This is a way for amateur teams to have their barbecue evaluated, develop their skills and have a great time," said event

organizer Derrick Turner. "It also creates competition experience that can be valuable should they decide to move up to the professional series."

The event includes the competition, live entertainment, workshops, cooking classes and demonstrations.

Organizers anticipate nearly 75 professional and backyard barbecue teams from throughout California, Arizona, Nevada and the West will converge at Fairplex to vie for more than \$10,000 in cash, prizes and, of course, bragging rights.

A "kids korer" will feature a kids' cooking class and a barbecue competition for kids under age 15.

For more information and to register for the competition, visit www.socalbbqbash.com or call (951) 444-1280.

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