



La Nueva Voz

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Native Americans bless Ganesha Park at tree carving dedication ceremony

By Alex Le

Centuries before, an ancient village of Toibingna was located in Pomona's Ganesha Park with the remains of indigenous Native American tribes buried on its land. The Costanoan Rumsen and Gabrieleños once were its inhabitants. However, they were removed along with their history once the colonists arrived.

Through a collaborative effort, that heritage now has been re-kindled and will forever be remembered at the historic park.

A ceremonial tree carving dedication ceremony – complete with Native American prayers for blessings, songs, the traditional burning of sage and a traditional dance around a bear carving – was presented last



Photo by Alex Le

BLESSING THE CARVING OF THE BEAR -- Henri Mascorro of La Verne, of Pomona's Costanoan Rumsen Carmel tribe of Native Americans, blesses the new wood carving of a bear last month in Pomona's Ganesha Park using traditional burning sage in an abalone shell fanned by an eagle feather during dedication ceremonies.

month in Ganesha Park by members of Pomona's Cultural Arts Commission, honoring the rich history of the indigenous peoples who once presided over the land.

The monumental wood carving of a bear, which Native Americans recognize as a symbol of a healer, now stands proudly in front of the park as a permanent emblem of the location's inseparable history with

the indigenous tribes.

More than 200 people attended the ceremony, including Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona City Council members, city commissioners, tribal leaders, and representatives of community organizations.

"This is tribal ancestor territory of our people," said Gabrieleño-Tongva tribal elder Julia Bogany. "How can you tell your

people you're not here when the book says that we died in the early 1900s and we're gone? We're not gone. We're still existing."

She said she was hopeful the new exhibits at the park would revitalize that silenced history.

Pomona Cultural Arts Commission Chairwoman Nancy Leaño said that the new sculpture brings "more appreciation for our park and our history."

"I am very happy that we're honoring the tribes and just bringing out the art in our community," she added.

Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres, whose district includes Ganesha Park, gave special thanks to Debra Martin, former city councilmember for the area, for her efforts over the past two years on the wood carving project.

"We're with brothers and sisters here," said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. "Today's event is really about community."

"It's not a single individual that makes this possible, it's so many people working together," Sandoval added.

Dedication ceremony... pg. 4

Pomona's homeless plan in place, year-round shelter may open as early as December

Pomona's efforts at working on the issue of homelessness are well under way and are already paying off with the completion of "A Way Home," a new strategic plan with an entire laundry list of strategies – along with plans that are under way for building a new year round homeless shelter, according to Benita DeFrank, the city's neighborhood services director.

DeFrank took her message of the city's progress in the area of homelessness to the Pomona Chamber of Commerce at its monthly networking luncheon at Mr. D's Diner in Pomona this



Benita DeFrank, Pomona's neighborhood services director, updates Pomona Chamber of Commerce on city's strategic plan on homelessness at this month's networking luncheon.

Homeless plan... pg. 6



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Photo by Renee Barbee

RELAY FOR LIFE PITCHES A CHANGEUP -- The American Cancer Society threw Pomona's Relay for Life cancer fundraiser a changeup this year after it was forced to merge with Claremont and La Verne for what was re-named Relay for Life of Greater Pomona Valley. And despite a drill sergeant-type staffer assigned to the group by the American Cancer Society (who apparently missed her trainings on public relations and advance coordination), despite the new merger for the organization, despite the fact that the event moved from Pomona's Fairplex to Claremont High School's football field, despite the fact that the stage was on the 50-yard line and the people were behind the goal post, and despite the fact that it rained, the faithful volunteers managed to pull the 24-hour-long event off this month. (La Nueva Voz learned there were also several fundraiser "teams" that opted out in protest of the changes, but Pomona leaders say the event will be back in Pomona next year.) Gino Elias (Gino and his wife Diane were the co-chairs of the Pomona representatives on the committee) said nearly 500 hamburgers were served at lunch Saturday. Pictured are folklorico dancers performing at the event from Cultural Cabanas Dance Studio in Pomona, including the favorite of La Nueva Voz Ivan Ruiz, age 2 (and a half!), at left. The event each year features food, live entertainment and ceremonies honoring those who are battling cancer and those who have lost their fight.



Photo by Renee Barbee

PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION -- "Pinwheels for Prevention," blowing in the wind in the grass of Pomona's Shaun Diamond Plaza, were a focal point during last month's Pomona observance of this year's "Denim Day," coordinated each year by a volunteer committee working with the organization Project Sister Family Services, which specializes in sexual assault and child abuse services and serves 27 cities in Eastern Los Angeles County and Western San Bernardino County. The theme of the pinwheels was that "all children deserve an equal chance to thrive and grow." They were provided by Prevent Child Abuse America.



Christina Jimenez, outreach services coordinator for Project Sister, at left, and Julie Boynton, Project Sister's executive director, pose for La Nueva Voz on the plaza during last month's Denim Day in Pomona, a nationwide event in which participants are encouraged to wear denim to raise awareness of rape and sexual assault. Denim Day was launched following a 2008 Italian Supreme Court ruling that an incident must have constituted consensual sex because the victim wore very tight jeans.

La Nueva Voz...
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Five Pomona high schools make U.S. News & World Report 'Best High Schools' list

Five Pomona Unified School District high schools have been included on the 2017-2018 "U.S. News & World Report's Best High Schools" list, ranking them as some of the most academically competitive high schools in the nation and among the top 500 schools in California.

Included on the list were Village Academy of Media and Information Technology, Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design, Palomares Academy of Health Sciences, Diamond Ranch High School and Ganesha High School.

"As a school district, we pledged our commitment to creating a distinguished culture of excellence for the students, parents and members of our community, and we are very proud to report deliverables," said PUSD Board President Jason Rothman.

Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez said PUSD's three National Academy Foundation high schools have an average graduation rate of 96 percent.

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Dedication ceremony... from pg. 1

The ceremony was a “spiritual healing event,” Martin said as she thanked “Big John” Mahoney, the wood carving artist who created a total of 14 wood carvings spread throughout Ganesha Park. Martin said that one of the carvings, named “Dreaming,” the largest dream catcher in North America, is located across McKinley Avenue from the entrance to Gate 1 at Fairplex.

“I’m proud to say that the newly constructed Ganesha Park wood carvings are complete and will stand as an ongoing tribute to our first nations that had formerly resided in Ganesha Hills and Pomona Valley,” Martin added.

“Every part of this endeavor was filled with heart and soul to create a healing day for the City of Pomona and today is the day,” she added.

She gave special recognition to Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, Sandoval, community activist Al Villanueva, Chief of Pomona’s Costanoan Rumsen Carmel tribe of Native Americans Tony Cerda, Chief Ernie Salas, of the Kizh-Gabrieleño tribe of Native Americans, Julia Bogany and Dennis Banks, co-founder of the American Indian Movement (of Wounded Knee fame involving a 1973 protest in South Dakota), who flew in from Minnesota to support the dedication event.

Banks expressed his hopeful-

ness for the future of indigenous tribes inspired by Pomona.

“History – culture – recognized is a great step forward, because during the ’30s, ’40s, ’50s, ’60s, the last century, they did everything to (cause) extinction and destroy the culture,” Banks said. “It makes me feel good then that this century ... we’re beginning to build on our culture and our heritage.”

“Water is life,” Banks said, adding that indigenous peoples of today still are fighting against many who not only want to take away their water but also threaten their livelihood.

“I’m proud to be here for this most honorable ceremony,” he added.

Sandoval expressed his gratitude to Martin who played a large role in the development of the park project.

Mt. San Antonio College Board President Rosanne Bader, a resident of Ganesha Hills, congratulated everyone on behalf of her board.

“It’s wonderful to be able to celebrate our tribal heritage in this way,” she added.



Photo by Alex Le

DEDICATION CEREMONY IN GANESHA PARK -- Pictured with the wood carving of a bear in Pomona’s Ganesha Park during dedication ceremonies for a total of 14 wood carvings around the park are, from left, Henri Mascorro of La Verne, a member of Pomona’s Costanoan Rumsen Carmel tribe of Native Americans; Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Chief Tony Cerda; Debra Martin, former Pomona city councilmember who helped coordinate the wood carving project over the past two years; and “Big” John Mahoney, artist and woodcarver who created the carvings.

Six drummers from the Costanoan Rumsen Tribe played the traditional drum in synchronization as Chief Cerda led more than a dozen tribal members in regalia in single file line towards the dedication where they called for the spirits of their ancestors.

Cerda said his great grandmother was buried at the park.

His final prayer was a prayer to the trees.

“Natural redwoods are like a family,” Cerda said. “They all grow together and take care of each other,” referring to the significance of the bear that was carved from a redwood tree, symbolically representing Pomona and the Native American tribes.

Michael Whitehorse Aviles of the Gabrieleño tribe thanked all the tribes and non-tribal members for uniting for this momentous event and performed one last prayer to the ancestors of all the tribes.

Artist and wood carver Mahoney said the 14 sculptures located throughout Ganesha Park was his biggest endeavor, as well as his most rewarding.

The tree used for the bear, the first carving in the project, had been dying half way through the planning of the dedication and was the perfect candidate for its location and for recycling. While the carving of all the 14 sculptures took one month, he said the bear alone took eight days in total to carve.

Martin said she was ecstatic over finally implementing the dedication and carvings in Ganesha Park.

“My original idea about the carvings came from driving up White Avenue and seeing a dolphin being sculpted out of a dead tree,” she commented.

After securing private donations for the initiative, she dove into developing the enormous project. She involved Pomona Unified School District by creating an art competition in which winners would provide the designs for the wood carvings – a bear, a coyote, various birds and the dream catcher, among others.

“I started working with Tony Cerda from the first day we were choosing the dead tree locations,” she said. “He’s been part of this since day one, before any-

thing was turned into beautiful carvings.”

“The plan is to have fourth and fifth graders come and visit and learn the history of the tribes,” Martin said, adding that residents also will be able to visit and learn the rich heritage behind Ganesha Park.

The language for the plaque that explains the history of the various Native American tribes represented in the area, according to Villanueva, was a result of a compromise.

Members of the tribes contributed their input and Sandoval himself – with the assistance of Councilman Gonzalez – created the final language that was used.

“It’s time to start the healing,” Chief Cerda said. “It’s a beautiful thing that we’re able to put that bear here as a healing pole for the people of Pomona and the whole area.”

Boy Scout Lance Verhoeven, of Pomona, who built the planter and stand for the plaque and attended the event, turned the effort into a community service project that helped him earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

Special certificates of recognition were presented to the city by representatives of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, State Sen. Connie Leyva and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.

Representatives of Soroptimist International of Pomona-C Claremont presented a check to Pomona for its environmentalism the project represented. The club has planted and maintained trees in a special “Redwood Grove” in Ganesha Park since 1971.

Pomona Cultural Arts Commissioner Andrew Quiñones served as master of ceremonies for the event.

Editor’s note: Alex Le, an intern for La Nueva Voz and a Los Osos High School graduate (Rancho Cucamonga), graduated last year from UC Riverside with a bachelor’s degree in English. An AVID tutor at Pomona’s Palomares Academy of Health Sciences, he hopes to captivate readers as a journalist who “discovers and reports the stories that need to be heard.”

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LIONS CLUB HOLDS 'QUARTERMANIA' FUNDRAISER -- Members of the Pomona Host Lions Club held a "quartermania" fundraiser last month at Kennedy Austin Foundation headquarters in Pomona -- and they managed to pack the house! Now this is complicated, but we think we've got it -- you put your quarters in a basket -- one quarter is good for one paddle -- and you hold your paddles up (there are numbers on the paddles) as the winning numbers are drawn and you win the auction item up for bid. Then it gets tricky -- some items require TWO quarters for a paddle. Pictured with the bowl of winning numbers, at right, is Lions President WendyAnn Stuard, a social worker for Los Angeles County, and President-Elect Carmen Morris, at left rear, operator of Christensen Hearing Aids in Pomona. Proceeds were to go toward the many programs of the Lions Club.



NATIVE AMERICAN DANCERS -- Participants dressed in full regalia in last month's 25th annual Ohlone "Big Time" Gathering and Pow Wow perform authentic Native American dances around the ceremonial fire in the center ring at Pomona's Tony Cerda Park, named after Chief Cerda of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe who heads up the three-day celebration each year. The event includes everything from ceremonies, Native American music and drums, regalia and more with foods, jewelry and headbands and clothing for sale by vendors.



QUINCEANERA AT dA CENTER FOR THE ARTS -- Grisel Chavez, a ninth grader at Pomona's Village Academy High School, gets ready to dance with her friends for her quinceanera at the dA Center for the Arts in Downtown Pomona last month. The event was hosted by Partnership for a Positive Pomona and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence as a reward in an annual competition that asks why students want to live a drug-free and alcohol-free life. According to organizers, Chavez was selected as the "model applicant" who represented not only an inspiration against substance dependence but also the idea of a quinceanera, which represents a transformation in the Hispanic tradition of celebrating a girl's coming of age on her 15th birthday. The event also coincided with a "transformation art show" at the dA Center featuring an exhibition of the work of young artists, representing a collaboration including the dA Center, the organization "Rethinking Alcohol and other Drugs," Day One and the Partnership for a Positive Pomona.



Photo by Alex Le

AREA STUDENTS COMPETE IN OPTIMIST CLUB'S DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTEST -- Six students gave it all they had last month as the six finalists in the Pacific Southeast District of Optimist International competed in Ontario for \$2,500 scholarships, with winners selected from Montebello and Riverside. Topic this year was "What the World Gains from Optimism" in the competition for seventh through 12th grade students from 36 area clubs. Pictured, from left, are Optimists District Oratorical Committee Chairman Randy Clark; Sabrina Sy of Montebello, the "girls" winner of a scholarship and the overall winner; Damaris Rodriguez, of Artesia High School; Matthew Quach, of Huntington Beach; Justin Johnson, of Martin Luther King High School in Riverside and the "boys" winner of a scholarship; Sruthi Srinivas, of Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nevada; and Aman Kumar, of Monterey Park. Sy, who in her speech pointed out that nearly half of the world's population lives on less than \$2.50 a day but that progress has been made in access to health care, water and education in third world countries, was scheduled to go on to compete at the St. Louis World Championship competition for a chance to receive \$22,500 in scholarships.

State Historic Resources Commission approves Mayfair Hotel to become a National Register Landmark

California's Historic Resources Commission, meeting this month in Pasadena for its regular quarterly meeting, voted to recommend Downtown Pomona's Mayfair Hotel as a National Register Historic Landmark.

The action means all application information now will be

forwarded to the U.S. National Parks Service for inclusion on the National Register, according to Pomona's John Clifford, who is serving as a historic consultant on the Mayfair project and who appeared before the commission in favor of the designation.

While the National Parks Service has final approval unless there is overriding opposition, typically recommendations of an individual state as the "designated approval agency" are approved.

The National Parks Service is expected to review and create the designation, possibly as early as the end of May or early June. All properties included on the National Register also are automatically included on the state list of historic properties.

Clifford said State Historic Preservation Officer William Burg described the Mayfair as being eligible for designation under criteria A and C of the National Register code based on the building's significance to the development of Pomona as well as its national importance in the Stoner v California U.S.

Supreme Court decision, a landmark illegal search case.

As another plus, he cited the building's unique architectural style, which is an early example of the work of the Meyer & Holler architectural firm whose other works include Graumann's Egyptian and Chinese theaters in Hollywood, the Fox Fullerton, the Alex Theater in Glendale, and the Culver Studios among many others.

Clifford expressed the city's gratitude at having its historically significant properties listed on the National Register.

He also told commissioners that owners of the Mayfair property -- originally John Speidel and, after his passing, his son David Speidel -- have been dedicated to the restoration, preservation and rehabilitation of what he called an important cultural landmark.

The Mayfair Hotel, located at Third Street and Garey Avenue in Downtown Pomona, was built in 1915 and originally was named the Avis Hotel and then the Edgar Hotel. It has been known as the Mayfair since 1932.

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Homeless plan... from pg. 1

month.

She said staff provided the city council with a progress report in 2013, along with a recommendation to develop a strategic plan “because homelessness looked different in 2013 than it did in 2003.”

“To do that, we decided that we needed to go to the community,” she said. “In August 2015 we held a homeless summit and from that homeless summit there were four areas that were identified by the (200) attendees of that summit . . . housing and facilities, services and coordinating programs, public policy and addressing the community perception of homelessness.”

As a result of that, she said, the city council directed staff to create a homeless advisory committee which was created in 2015 with the specific task of developing ideas for a strategic plan to address homelessness.

Included on the committee were business owners, educational institutions, residents, formerly homeless individuals, service providers, faith-based organizations, governmental representatives and others.

The committee’s completed strategic plan was adopted in January.

“We’ve been moving forward and implementing it even before it was adopted,” she said.

Included in the plan are four goals based on recommenda-

tions that came out of the summit.

DeFrank added that under those four goals are 30 strategies and more than 200 activities that are contained within the strategic plan, along with priorities and time frames.

“There’s four strategies that basically rose to the top as the top four strategies that need to be implemented within a six to 12-month period – establish a year round shelter, to establish a communal kitchen, a centralized service center and a transitional storage locker center,” she said.

The city already has built a transitional storage center with 388 60-gallon lockers.

She said the city’s homeless count for 2016, the latest year with complete data, was 689 homeless individuals.

“Of those, 366 are unsheltered so the others are in transitional housing or some type of emergency or crisis housing,” she said. “So it’s that unsheltered that are visible. Those are the ones that you see in your businesses and on the streets.”

“Those are the ones when we looked at homelessness as a whole that we wanted to address the unsheltered homeless first because those are the ones that have the greatest impact on our city,” she said.

She said the creation of a year round shelter was first brought up and had been identified by the

city council even before the plan was adopted.

The city has purchased a piece of property and the council has provided oversight as to what they want to have on the property.

“That property has been purchased, it’s at 1400 E. Mission (Blvd.), and we are actively moving forward in building a year round shelter on that site,” she said.

The site – with an approved construction budget of \$4 million – will include a communal kitchen, restrooms and showers, a laundromat and security personnel along with on-site services like health, mental health, substance abuse, housing services and others.

DeFrank said a fabric structure will be used for the year round shelter which may be operational as early as Dec. 1.

The city’s armory facility, at 600 S. Park Avenue, which has been used as a seasonal shelter, has been extended to Nov. 30 with the assistance of the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis. The transitional storage center also is located at the armory.

In addition, the city has available \$2.6 million annually in federal U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development rental assistance funding and last year housed more than 200 people using that funding. However, she

pointed out that some homeless people are resistant to that because the lifestyle is something they have chosen to do.

While the city will build the year round facility, DeFrank said it will be up to the city’s service partners to provide services and she has already reached out to health and mental health partners and others.

“So we’re looking at this as actually a community solution,” she said.

DeFrank said the city will be able to apply for additional homelessness funding to operate the year round shelter through Los Angeles County’s new Measure H, approved on the March ballot as a quarter-cent sales tax increase expected to raise about \$355 million a year for the next 10 years countywide. She said the city is expected to be one of the first in line to become eligible for this new source of funding.

And she is continuing to talk with Congresswoman Norma Torres, State Sen. Connie Leyva and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez in efforts to arrange for additional funding to operate the year round shelter.

The city’s complete strategic plan is available for review on

the city’s web site.

DeFrank said the city has been working on the issue of homelessness for more than 20 years.

DeFrank oversees the city’s parks programs, the housing authority, federal grants that come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as homelessness programs.

Photography classes offered at Fairplex

Summer photography classes and workshops at the Millard Sheets Art Center and the career technical education center at Pomona’s Fairplex will begin June 5, offered by The Learning Centers at Fairplex.

Included in the eight week summer term will be topics on how to use your camera, Photo-shop, shooting portraits on location, long exposure night photography and more.

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It was everything lemon at the annual Upland Lemon Festival in Downtown Upland last month -- from lemonade and lemon pie to lemon pie churros and outdoor lawn signs (just in case you want to start a new business and sell ice cold lemonade for a nickel). The Lemon Festival is produced each year by Fairplex. It includes carnival games, rides, exhibits and, of course, everything lemon!

NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART -- There are some things La Nueva Voz believes are best left to those perhaps a little more adventurous -- things like jumping out of a perfectly good airplane, deep sea diving in a "completely safe" shark cage or, in this case, diving nose first into a fresh lemon pie in a pie-eating contest at the Upland Lemon Festival. Well, organizers managed to come up with five willing raincoat-clad contestants for the adult competition on the Lemon Tree Stage. And, because Miss Manners likely would tell us that congratulations are in order, La Nueva Voz congratulates the first place winner, "Madeline," who happens to be from Pomona and is pictured at the center of the table. Good job, Madeline, for bringing home another big win to Pomona!



... (This caption is merged with the text above for better flow and accuracy based on the image content.)

We don't think it gets any better than this as Jolene Salazar of West Covina gets ready to dig into her lemon glazed waffle and bacon at last month's Upland Lemon Festival. Oh, and it looks like she's going to catch up on reading La Nueva Voz while she's at it!



PLANTING CEREMONIAL TREE -- Gilbert Saldate, at right, of Pomona's Tri-City Mental Health takes a turn with a shovel at a tree-planting at the end of this year's 15th annual Cesar Chavez Pilgrimage March and Celebration ending last month at Pomona's Garey High School. A coalition of local leaders, parents, students, teachers and community groups honor civil rights leader Cesar Chavez with the march each year commemorating the pilgrimages that Chavez led to highlight issues of social justice in diverse communities. This year's march theme was "Sanctuary for All," focusing on defending the rights of immigrant families and ensuring the protection of rights of all targeted groups. The march to Garey High School began in front of the administrative offices of the Pomona Unified School District. Sponsors included the Latino/Latina Roundtable, Pomona Unified School District, NAACP Pomona Valley Branch, Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project and others.

Supervisor Solis hosts sex trafficking forum in Pomona

Calling human sex trafficking an issue that is "important on a global level," Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis kicked off her first-ever forum on the subject this month in Pomona to begin a dialogue that will result in the compilation of a list of goals "that we can come back . . . with some action items."

Solis, accompanied by representatives of more than a half a dozen agencies working with sex trafficking, opened the half-day event in the Pomona Unified School District auditorium.

She told an audience of about 100 stakeholders that "what we are talking about here is really bringing everybody together (in the process) today."

Adding that she has been confronted with sex trafficking issues at every level of her legislative career, from Sacramento to Washington and now as a county supervisor, she said the issues are the same -- whether they involve the traffick-

ing of workers in sweatshops in South El Monte or sex trafficking, not only in Pomona but all over Los Angeles County.

She called trafficking an issue that is "very gender focused" toward women, and said there are ways to educate the community on how to avoid becoming a victim, particularly as a prostitute.

"We have an obligation to start to identify what the signs are" to be able to understand why young women can become a victim of trafficking, she said, working through the schools, counselors and community based organizations.

Accompanying her at the event were representatives of the Pomona Unified School District, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Los Angeles County Counsel's office, the Los Angeles County Probation Department and others.



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HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD! -- A student at Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School will appear next month in "Middleschoolandia," an irreverent new musical comedy performed largely by actual middle school students that focuses on the "frightening world of education" -- and she is only a freshman! Performances throughout the month of June are scheduled as part of the Hollywood Fringe Festival and will include songs such as "I'm Only Twelve" and "The Profanity Song" as the players point out the impossibility of making it through middle school unscathed. Pictured (in the white sneakers with black stripes just left of center) is Cheyenne Rimando, 15, in the role of Tyleera, one of the teen leads. Rimando, a former Miss Junior California America 2016, is also a model and dancer. Her mother, Toni (D'Alessio) Rimando, was crowned Miss Pomona in 1985 and her grandfather, Paul D'Alessio, taught and served as a counselor in the Pomona Unified School District for more than 37 years. For more information, visit middleschoolandia.com.



SUSPENSE IS BUILDING -- About 250 students and their parents started feeling the suspense building at Metro Honda in Montclair last week as Chaffey Joint Union High School District Supt. Mat Holton, at left, kicked off the raffle for the "warm up" prizes before raffling off a new car to a lucky student who went all year without missing a day of school. Pictured, from left, are Holton, Metro Auto Group General Manager and partner Jeff Proctor, and Kaylee Wolfe, executive assistant at Metro Acura Honda, who organized the event. "We are just thrilled to be a part of this and I think it is just as much fun for us and our staff here at Metro Honda as it is for the students to have the opportunity to win this car," Proctor said. It was the fourth year of the "Keys to Succeed" give-away program designed to encourage attendance and academics. The new car had been on display during the school year at two high schools in the district participating in this year's raffle as an added incentive. Ontario High School had 116 students and Alta Loma High School had 134 with perfect attendance participating in the year-end raffle and celebration complete with a live DJ and food vendors.



A LITTLE EXCITEMENT AT METRO HONDA? -- Do we think she looks happy, folks? Well, you might have to ask her to make sure but the winner was Alexandra Ramirez, 17, a junior, who lives in Ontario and goes to Ontario High School. She won this white with tinted windows (and custom wheels and a spoiler) 2016 Honda Civic LX and was able to drive it home with taxes, license and registration all paid for. Total cost of the program including the car, promotion and vendors was \$30,000. A total of 10 lucky students won a chance to select a car key out of a bucket and the student with the car key that started the car got to keep the car. This year was the first year the car started with the first key.

Pomona homeowners make 1,900 energy and efficiency upgrades under PACE program

More than 800 homeowners in Pomona have made more than 1,900 energy efficiency, water efficiency or solar power improvements to their homes over the past three years through HERO-financed upgrades funded through the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program.

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TALK ABOUT A TEAM! -- Here's one that goes into the record books for the 11th annual Pomona Beautification Day this month. This team of clean-up volunteers did everything that could be done at Pomona's Cesar Chavez Park -- from weed-eating the perimeter (thank you, Carlos Goytia!) to planting new plants and cleaning up the landscaping to preparing the site for a new addition, a "Little Free Library" ("Take a Book, Return a Book"), which will be installed soon. Pictured behind the monument sign at center, from left, are Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia and his wife Catalina; Yesenia Miranda Meza, Cesar Chavez Park Community Council President and project leader; and Lorena Gonzalez.

'PUT 'ER RIGHT THERE FOR ME' -- Community volunteer Duane Smith, at right, makes his way through the chow line like a professional at Shaun Diamond Plaza where volunteers ended up at lunch after a morning of cleaning up the community in this month's Pomona Beautification Day. Kiwanis Past President Mark Warren is one of the supervisors in the burgers and hot dogs department, provided again by Pomona Kiwanis Club members. Organizers estimated between 1,500 and 1,800 volunteers from community groups and schools participated in this year's citywide clean-up effort.



Professor Manuel Castillejos, at far right, nails it in the vocals department singing "Girl from Ipanema" with the Pomona Youth Orchestra, sounding a lot like Sinatra himself in the 1962 Stan Getz tune. The orchestra performed during Pomona Beautification Day festivities in Shaun Diamond Plaza this month.

NEW PAINT FOR AMERICAN LEGION

-- Three Cal Poly University Pomona students turned out for Pomona Beautification Day this month to do a little painting out front at Pomona's American Legion Post 30. Included in the project was the front window and the entire front entryway. Three more volunteers were around back sprucing up the patio in preparation for a special Mother's Day activity at the Legion. Pictured doing an excellent job are, from left, Regina Bradford, a second year student at Cal Poly from South Central Los Angeles; Shantel Engle, a third year student from La Puente, and Katlin Murray, a second year student from Pomona. All three are members of "Shade of Queen," a club at Cal Poly for women of color who talk about issues and go out in the community to give back.



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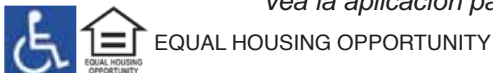


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DRAWING A CROWD -- OK, La Nueva Voz has to admit something here -- the Learning Expo has been impressive every year but this year the collection of knowledge, the cutting edge projects and the enthusiasm of the kids was simply amazing. We try not to editorialize too much in these photo captions but we hope you will just take a moment and take a look at this small sampling of what was going on in Fairplex Building 9 this month. Fourth graders working with "green screen" technology, eighth graders doing computerized public opinion polling and now middle school students in a string quintet drawing a crowd -- as they should -- performing "Fantasy on a Japanese Folk Song" that sounded like something you'd hear at the Los Angeles Music Center. All of the musicians pictured are part of the orchestra at Simons Middle School. Cristine Goens, now in her fourth year as principal at Simons, told La Nueva Voz the school's band AND orchestra both competed recently at Citrus College against schools from throughout the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire and both received a unanimous superior rating, which means every judge gave them the superior rating. Goens told La Nueva Voz music teacher Deborah Vasquez came to Simons three years ago and "she has done amazing things with our music program." From the sound of it, La Nueva Voz would have to agree with that.



HARD-WORKING TEAM -- One of the hardest working teams at this month's 10th annual Ross/McCracken Learning Expo at Pomona's Fairplex was the survey team from an English language arts class at Pomona's Marshall Middle School. Students were asking anyone who walked past their booth if they could ask them five questions for their survey such as "Do you have any family members who come from another country as an immigrant," "Does the United States respect everyone's rights equally" and "What topic do you think we should take a stand for -- immigrant rights, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, rights of refugees, racism and other?" They punched answers into their cell phones and tablets and the results were immediately tabulated and displayed on a "live" computer screen. Pictured at bottom left is Joseph Hernandez, an eighth grader, who surveyed La Nueva Voz. He explained the survey experience is part of a social studies element in the class. Principal Juan Ortiz, behind Hernandez, said the survey would help students understand how people feel in Pomona compared to what they've been reading about in the newspapers. Thousands of students and their parents attend the event each year to learn about science, technology, engineering, art, reading, writing, community service and math. It is presented by the Promoting Academic Achievement Task Force of Pomona's Youth and Family Master Plan. An estimated 3,500 students and parents attended this year's expo, according to Hayley Chacon, a Pomona Unified School District spokesperson.



ART EXHIBIT -- The art exhibit at the Learning Expo is always popular with visitors and artists (and their parents) alike.



Photo by Emily Rivera

A TRIP TO TAHITI! -- Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, at left, and La Nueva Voz Publisher Jeff Schenkel thought they were going to the Ross/McCracken Learning Expo at Pomona's Fairplex this month but ended up getting a free trip to Tahiti out of the deal, thanks to a "green screen" technology exhibit produced by students from Pomona's Washington Elementary School. Emily Rivera, 10, a fourth-grader at Washington, took the photo against a green screen and later dropped in the Tahiti scene for a backdrop. (No, Mom, we didn't really go to Tahiti!) Principal Alan Pantanini said students working on the project are part of an after school robotics and technology program.

SEN. LEYVA TAKES A LOOK UNDER THE HOOD -- State Sen. Connie Leyva takes a walk through the auto shop -- formally known as the Robert E. Petersen Garage, part of the Alex Xydias Center for Automotive Arts -- on Pomona's Fairplex campus.



Leyva took the tour and met members of the class and their instructor during her first annual Career Technical Education Fair last month just outside the garage. She partnered with The Learning Centers at Fairplex and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for the event designed to help students learn more about technical trades offered by high schools, local colleges and universities, along with career opportunities available after high school. Pictured with the students are, at rear, Leyva and instructor Brian Suggs. Suggs said the students, all high school juniors and seniors, were enrolled in a "Brakes 102" class and were working on their certification.



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BRINGING THEIR OWN BEES TO CAL POLY -- Now everybody doesn't know this, but Cal Poly University Pomona has some bee hives of its own -- and they produce enough honey on campus to take care of the honey traffic at the Cal Poly Farm Store (you grab your own container and fill 'er up right there on the spot). Just to make sure, representatives of the Beekeepers Association of Southern California brought in a supply of their own for a little education, support and mentoring at the "Spring on the Farm Festival and Tractor Show" this month at Cal Poly. The group is one of the two official "bee partners" that appears each year at the Los Angeles County Fair.



PHOTO OP FOR GRANDMA -- And what Grandma worth her SD card would miss the chance to get a photo of the kids on a tractor at the "Spring on the Farm Festival and Tractor Show" this month at Cal Poly? This particular Cub model decked out in Dodger blue is a 1966 International Harvester Cub Lo-Boy.



'HE'D JUMP ON HIS CAMEL NAMED CLYDE' -- Just to make sure you are paying attention, raise your hand if you remember this one -- OK, time's up -- Ray Stevens, singing "Ahab the Arab," 1962, about the eighth grade unless La Nueva Voz made a mistake counting on his fingers. Oh, and yes, they had camel rides at the "Spring on the Farm Festival" this month at Cal Poly.

SPRING ON THE FARM AT CAL POLY -- It was time for the first-ever "Spring on the Farm Festival and Tractor Show," formerly the Strawberry Festival, this month at AGRIScapes (behind the Farm Store) on the Cal Poly University Pomona campus. Hundreds of kids, parents and grandparents came in for the event which included everything from specialty foods to a petting zoo to pony rides and even cow milking and blacksmithing demonstrations. Pictured (right above the La Nueva Voz "media partner" banner) is the "Desert Croquet Band" performing a little blue grass, old folk tunes and even songs from the 1930s. The group also appears at the La Verne farmer's market.



Photo by Renee Barbee

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SORRY, GIRLS, NOT THAT STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE, THE KIND YOU ACTUALLY PUT STRAWBERRIES ON AND EAT! -- What would a "Spring on the Farm Festival" be without fresh strawberry shortcake for the bargain price of \$4? They had it, and people were lining up!



OFFICE DEPOT -- Pomona Unified School District high school seniors receiving PUPIL and corporate scholarships and their parents are a step closer to high school graduation and heading off to college at the Office Depot table at this year's scholarship luncheon sponsored by Pomona's PUPIL (Pomona Unified Partners in Learning) Foundation. Pictured, from left, are Ashly Reyes, of Ganessa High School, who will attend UC Davis; her mom, Teresa Reyes; Office Depot representatives Paul Martorella, Suzi Umemoto and Elizabeth Brown (who is a member of Pomona Unified's Literacy Collaborative); Thalia Aguilar, of Fremont Academy, who will attend Cal State University Fullerton; her twin sister, Enixe Aguilar, also of Fremont Academy, who will attend Cal Poly University Pomona; and their mom, Marisol Lopez.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER -- Alfredo Ayala, a principal technical staff member at Walt Disney Imagineering Research & Development in Burbank and a resident of West Covina, told graduating students last week at Pomona Unified School District's annual PUPIL Foundation scholarship luncheon at the Avalon at Fairplex to "never be afraid of a blank sheet of paper." "It's important to be creative, to follow your dreams and not be afraid to wake up every morning and have a blank sheet of paper and start filling it out with your ideas." "We're all story tellers, we are creating our stories as we live our lives, we are painting our collage, what we are leaving behind," he added. Master of Ceremonies Gabriela Teissier, an anchor at "Noticias 34" KMEX-TV, told the students that "some of you are the first ones in your life to go to university," adding that it is important that they go on to become people "to make this country great." Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez thanked the parents and community members for being "very engaged in shepherding our students to their senior year and being instrumental in creating the road maps for our students to follow as they move outside of our nurturing campuses." Pictured, from left, are Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, PUPIL CEO Jeanelle Jimenez, Ayala and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. Jimenez told La Nueva Voz businesses and other sponsors contribute to PUPIL through the year and support the organization through fundraisers like the scholarship luncheon. The actual scholarships are presented to the recipients by PUPIL, corporate sponsors, colleges and universities and others. A total of 145 students were recognized for receiving scholarships, including 20 students who received scholarships from PUPIL -- ranging in size from \$500 to \$1,000 -- at last week's event.



WLC ARCHITECTS -- A representative table of scholarship winners was the WLC Architects table at last week's fourth annual PUPIL Foundation scholarship luncheon at the Avalon at Pomona's Fairplex, designed to bring together the business community to help commemorate graduating Pomona Unified seniors in their pursuit of college or vocational careers. Pictured, from left, are Kai Saust, of Garey High School, who will attend Cal Poly University Pomona; Jasmine Fuentes, also of Garey High School, who will attend Cal State University Fullerton; her mom, Dora Fuentes; mom Norma Chimal and her daughter, Anahi Chimal, of Garey High School, who will attend Mt. SAC and transfer to Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences; Mark Graham, an architect with WLC in Rancho Cucamonga; Nestor Ignacio, an electrical engineer and principal with TTG in Ontario; mom Cynthia Diaz and her daughter Rachel Enamorado, of Garey High School, who will attend UC Santa Barbara.

Women's conference to be held in June

Inter Valley Health Plan, a Pomona-based not-for-profit Medicare Advantage Health Plan, will host its fifth annual "Women's Changing, Aging Roles - Time Flies, Catch It" event next month in La Verne.

The free conference is designed to inspire women age 50 and above to let their passions soar and live in the moment. It

attracts women each year from throughout Southern California.

Speakers, activities, prizes, refreshments and more will be on tap at the event, scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 10, at "The Meeting House," Hillcrest Retirement Community, 2705 Mountain View Drive, La Verne.

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Federal immigration policies will not be enforced by sheriff's department, Pomona police

Policy and practice in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department prohibits asking any questions regarding immigration status during any part of the investigation, a local sheriff's department official said in Pomona last week.

"We don't have time for that," said Capt. Andy Berg of the Sheriff's Department's San Dimas station. "We really are not too interested in immigration status. We have a lot of public safety concerns, trying to address violent crimes... and the sheriff's department does not view immigration enforcement as part of our daily duty."

His comments, which received one "boo" from the audience, came last week at Pomona's second "Truth and Reconciliation" forum organized by the Social Justice Advocacy Project, Inc., and the Pomona Valley Branch of the NAACP, held in Pomona's Village Conference Center.

Deputy Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri, adding to Berg's response, told an audience of about 200 residents and community advocates that Pomona is more than 70 percent Hispanic, causing the department to be even more sensitive to requests from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enforce federal immigration policies.

"We know we have a large

population of immigrants," he said, adding that the city has a full time jail and he researched this issue before the meeting looking at numbers of recent ICE detainees, or requests to place a "hold" on prisoners.

"We received 15 ICE detainees, requests from ICE to hold someone that we have arrested and we were about to release (in 2016) and this year we have received five," Olivieri said. "We have not honored one. We don't honor ICE detainees."

He added that the only exception would be if ICE is able to issue a warrant and have it signed by a judge.

Responding to another question, Olivieri said the department is constantly working to ensure restraint in the use of force of any type – from a taser or a baton to pepper spray or a firearm, and that every use of force is reviewed after the fact within the department in an effort to encourage the use of less lethal approaches to law enforcement.

Another question submitted by the audience asked what challenges the departments have in building relationships with minorities and the poor considering their typically more negative perceptions of law enforcement.

"I came from a disadvantaged home life when I was a kid," said Assistant Chief Omar Watson of the California Highway Patrol. "My dad was a convicted



LAW ENFORCEMENT PANELISTS -- Panelists participating in last week's "Truth and Reconciliation" forum in Pomona are, from left, Assistant Chief Omar Watson, California Highway Patrol; Capt. Andy Berg, San Dimas Station, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Azusa Police Capt. Paul Dennis; West Covina Police Chief David Faulkner; Claremont Police Chief Shelly Vander Veen; La Verne Police Chief Nick Paz; Glendora Police Chief Lisa Rosales; Covina Police Chief John Curley; and Deputy Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri.

felon so by statistics I should not be sitting in this chair today."

"What we face is a lot of parents that I've dealt with in law enforcement have had negative encounters in law enforcement many years ago and they continue to kind of perpetuate distrust of law enforcement," he said, adding that such an attitude among parents to create a fear of police officers is one of the biggest challenges he faces in law enforcement.

He said the CHP works in the community to counter this perception by teaching young people that law enforcement is an advocate for communities

they serve and is there to help them understand that they are on the same team.

Attorney Thomas Allison, founder of the Social Justice Advocacy Project, said

he and his wife, Brittany Allison, created the organization about a year ago to hold similar presentations in various cities throughout the area "to talk about different issues that impact

our community and our region."

Jeanette Royston, President of the NAACP Pomona Valley Branch, began a similar dialogue with area law enforcement in 2014.



MODERATORS KICKING OFF FORUM -- NAACP Pomona Valley Branch President Jeanette Royston, at left, kicks off last week's "Truth and Reconciliation" forum in Pomona as organizer Thomas Allison, founder of the Social Justice Advocacy Project, looks on.



CELEBRATING CINCO DE MAYO -- Cinco de Mayo came to Pomona this month, courtesy of the Pomona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Pictured in front of the official photo backdrop, from left, are Hispanic Chamber board member Carlos Garcia, of Vision One Mortgage in Eagle Rock; Hispanic Chamber President Minerva Hernandez, of Minerva's Flowers and Craft in Pomona; Chamber Vice President Juan Vasquez, of internet radio station www.radio-mas.com in Norco; and board member Silvia Guardado, of SMG Business Services in Rancho Cucamonga. Hernandez was founding president of the Hispanic Chamber which formed in 2011.



FOLKLORICO DANCERS -- Pomona's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce took over the Shaun Diamond Plaza for a full-scale Cinco de Mayo celebration this month featuring acts -- throughout the day and night -- such as this group of folklorico dancers, the Las Catrina dancers, all amateurs and all from Pomona.



Photo by Renee Barbee

ROTARY SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS -- "Rotary Serving Humanity" was the topic of this year's Pomona Rotary speech contest, part of the 2016-2017 Rotary Youth Programs. Pictured, left to right, are winners Adali Valdivia, third place; Melissa Arqueta-Lepe, second place, and Bella Lopez, first place winner, all seniors at Pomona's Village Academy High School. Winners were awarded scholarships.

HANGING OUT AT THE HEALTH FAIR -- Pomona's favorite elected officials hang out at last month's free Community Health and Wellness Fair, presented by Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and filling up almost the entire Garey High School parking lot with exhibits and services from health and dental to mammograms, veteran services, job leads and more. Pictured, from left, are Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, Supervisor Solis and State Sen. Connie Leyva.



WANT TO STAY HEALTHY? LIMIT PORTIONS TO THESE SIZES -- As painful as it looks, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis told La Nueva Voz that these are the recommended portions for a healthy diet -- including a small handful of cooked carrots and (say it isn't so) only HALF of a bagel (and La Nueva Voz didn't even see any cream cheese on the table). Pictured, from left, are Mai Phung and Yvette Sandoval, both of the El Monte office of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, and Supervisor Solis. The exhibit was part of last month's Community Health and Wellness Fair at Garey High School, presented by Supervisor Solis.



HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS RECEIVE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS -- The Beta Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, an organization of women educators, last month presented its 44th annual citizenship awards to 19 high school seniors from 13 high schools in three area school districts. "Our organization feels it is important to highlight those students who choose to improve their school, their community or their own lives," said program chairperson Jean Bristol. Winners from Pomona Unified School District, pictured left to right, are, front row, Brenda Sanchez, Village Academy High School; Asia Sandoval, Park West High School, and Emily Pena and Jennifer Nguyen, Ganesha High School; middle row, from left, Diana Godinez, Diamond Ranch High School; Belinda Santiago, Palomares Academy; Yazmin Torres, Village Academy High School and Damon Gonzalez, Diamond Ranch High School; back row, from left, are Sydnee Salazar, Pomona High School; Gerardo Rodriguez, Fremont Academy; Jay Cortez, Garey High School; and Charlie Harrison, Pomona High School. Not pictured is Andrea Pena, Garey High School. The awards ceremonies were held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Pomona.



BONITA UNIFIED STUDENTS RECOGNIZED -- Students in the Bonita Unified School District (San Dimas and La Verne) receiving citizenship awards from the Beta Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society are, from left, Marlyn Vences and Alexis Moreno, both of Bonita High School in La Verne, and Justine Nunez, of Chaparral High School in San Dimas.

CLAREMONT STUDENTS HONORED -- Students in the Claremont Unified School District honored by the Beta Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society are, from left, Trevor Schwartz, of San Antonio High School; and Diego Henriquez and Merisa Marquez, both of Claremont High School.



Spaghetti dinner, car and bike show at Eagles
 A spaghetti dinner in June and a car and bike show in July are scheduled at the Pomona Eagles. The spaghetti dinner, which will benefit Pomona's "Great Campout" for the kids, will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 1. Included will be music, a 50/50 drawing and door prizes. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 in advance and kids 10 and under \$4. The car and bike show will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 22, featuring entertainment by "Cold Shot." Included will be kids' games, food booths and more. For information, call (909) 753-4857. Both events will be held at the Eagles at 954 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona.

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Thursday, June 8 @ 1 pm (in Spanish)
Tuesday, June 27 @ 3 pm

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Tuesday, June 6 @ 10 am & 3 pm
Tuesday, June 20 @ 10 am & 3 pm
(6/20 meetings in Spanish)

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Pomona's Spotlight . . . Making a Difference

Village Academy counselor Lorraine Canales inspires kids, teaches students how to view 'obstacles'

Lorraine Canales, a counselor at Pomona's Village Academy High School, sums it all up best herself in her message to her students – "Obstacles are things a person sees when he takes his eyes off his goals."

La Nueva Voz first caught up with Canales when she was on staff motivating kids at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise. Her work at Village Academy is just the next chapter in her career.

She moved to Pomona 17 years ago and, in her own words, "I work, live and breathe Pomona."

And La Nueva Voz can attest to all that and more, but with Canales, it really all comes down to her students.

"I have many success stories to brag about but I believe that every student I have encountered has something good in them and they all have succeeded in some way or another," she said. "My goal every year is to encourage all students to apply to college and plan for their future."

And she added that her track record – or really the track record of her students – is amazing in terms of how many have gone on to become successful.

"My focus is to provide students with the understanding that they have options in life, and the road they choose will determine their destiny," Canales said.

She attended Cal State University Los Angeles and earned a teaching credential and a "PPS" credential (pupil personnel services) with an emphasis in social work and student attendance.

It looks like it is working – almost every time La Nueva Voz stops by her office, she has students either hanging out or meeting with her in there.

So where does it all come from?

Canales said she was raised by her mother and father who have been her inspiration.

"They taught me to always give 110 percent," she said.

And she seems to be doing just that.

She calls herself a "proud single mother of two children," including Zohalia, 25, who is serving as a U.S. Marine, is deployed and plans to serve her country as a career.

And her son Bijan, 24, she describes as "an amazing guitarist" who is attending Citrus College and working for Pomona Unified School District in the TLC program (The Learning Connection) at Arroyo Elementary School.

She said his goal is to eventually teach music at the college level and play music professionally.

In her spare time, Canales is a member of not one but two Pomona service clubs – Rotary and the Optimist Club, where she currently serves as vice president. She is also a member of the Eagles and was appointed by Debra Martin, former Pomona city councilmember, as her representative on the Pomona Cultural Arts Commission.

At Village Academy, she is the adviser for the California Scholarship Federation, Interact (sponsored by Rotary to develop leadership skills), and the Junior



Lorraine Canales

Optimist International Club.

Easy choice this month for Pomona's Spotlight? We think it pretty much was.

Congratulations, Lorraine!

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 Renee Barbee at reneebarbee7@gmail.com.

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PAMPERING MOMS FOR MOTHER'S DAY -- Total Restoration Ministries spent the day hosting "A Day to Sparkle" -- their fourth annual Mother's Day of Pampering -- at Pomona's Fairplex Conference Center this month as an event to benefit battered women, women overcoming addictions and their children. About 100 low-income mothers or moms in domestic violence shelters or recovery programs were hosted at the event. Pictured at the event are, at left, evangelist Sandra Perez-Webster, a recovery addiction specialist with Pomona's Total Restoration Ministries, and her husband and co-pastor Royal L. Webster, Sr., of Total Restoration Ministries. For more information, contact (909) 620-7838 or sandraweb09@gmail.com.

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

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GAREY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966 SUPPORTS THE BAND

-- Pomona's Garey High School Band, heading back to Washington, D.C., sent out the word that they needed to raise funds for the trip and it was Garey's Class of '66 that came to the rescue when members of the reunion committee voted to contribute excess funds from their 50th reunion totaling \$425 to the cause. "Our committee felt the need to give back to our high school, especially when we found out the need for sponsors." Pomona volunteer Alice (Rodriguez) Gomez (who was drill team captain and worked on the yearbook back in the day) told La Nueva Voz. Others on the reunion committee include Pati Stevenson Hendershot, who was yearbook editor; Teri Willard Hughes, school mascot; and Jaqui Nelson Bradley and Thom Ward, who were in the drama department, along with Evelyn Hernandez Leach. Pictured is Gomez chatting with Garey Assistant Principal Bryan Stoops following the check presentation.



POMONA EAGLES AUXILIARY MOTHER'S DAY FUNDRAISER AT MR. D'S

-- Pomona Eagles Auxiliary Post 2215 hosted its annual Mother's Day fundraiser brunch this month (held a week before Mother's Day at Mr. D's Diner in Pomona) with



Photo by Alex Le

this year's proceeds to go to the 17th annual Cultural Festival sponsored by Pomona's Willie White Park Focus Group. Treasurer Janice Etnyre reminded the group that "Eagles founded Mother's Day" (actually the organization began advocating for it beginning in 1904 and the first Mother's Day came in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed the proclamation making it a national holiday). Auxiliary "Conductor" M. Joyce Baker-smith explained that the group's mission is "people helping people." Pictured, from left, are Bakersmith, Immediate Past President Toni Garcia, Vice President and President Elect Yoli Aguilar, Trustee Janine Hernandez, Treasurer Janice Etnyre and Outside Guard Donna Paulson.



Photo courtesy of Uyen Bui Photography

'CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER' -- Actually, the quote is from Alice herself, just before the White Rabbit returned on the scene in Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass." Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise Theatre Arts Department presented a Free Theatre for Young Audiences production of "Alice in Wonderland" recently. Pictured is the cast.



Photos by Uyen Bui Photography

Pictured is the entire cast of the School of Arts and Enterprise's production of the play "Little Shop of Horrors."



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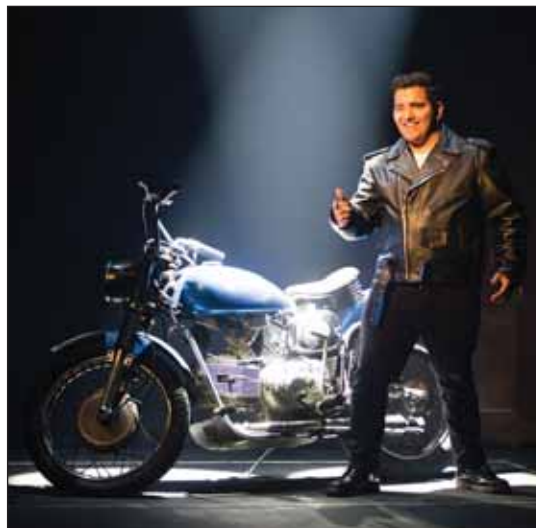
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Drew Jung appears as Orin Scrivello, DDS in Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise's production last month of "Little Shop of Horrors."

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS -- Matthew Abilez as Seymour and Haley Kurz as Audrey appear in a scene from Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise's production of "Little Shop of Horrors," which played for a four-day run last month at the Covina Center for the Performing Arts under the direction of Phil Miller. The play tells the story of a "nerdy" florist who finds his chance for success and romance with the help of a giant man-eating rhythm and blues singing plant who demands to be fed.



Historical Society plans two events – liqueur tasting and a house painting party at historic Currier home

Looking for something to do next month? Time to take out the old No. 2 pencil and mark your calendars – the Historical Society of Pomona Valley is holding two events – an “absinthe tasting” at Phillips Mansion (a National Register Landmark) and a paint up / fix up party at the historic Alvan Currier home, located behind Phillips Mansion.

In fact, since the absinthe tasting is on June 4 and the paint party is on June 10, you can hit the tasting first – shall we say – in preparation for the paint party.

Hey, after all, our historically knowledgeable friends tell us it was that storied liqueur that inspired the world of art in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and was enjoyed by names like Ernest Hemingway, Pablo Picasso, Edgar Allan Poe and others.

(According to a quick internet search, there is some question as to the meaning of the verse “Quoth the raven nevermore” – could it mean Poe was swearing that stuff off altogether? The Historical Society said it was banned in the United States and much of Europe by 1915. After all, look what it did to Picasso’s art – for one thing, we’re not sure he ever actually got around to completing a painting. We might have to go down there and try some of that stuff ourselves. You know what they say – absinthe makes the heart grow fonder.)

But seriously, the absinthe tasting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 4, where Professor Jim Gallivan will present a look at the history and social significance of the liqueur.

Tickets (seating is limited to 20 for this once-in-a-lifetime experience) are still available at \$35. All proceeds go to the Historical Society.

And after the tasting, with a near-week-long period of recovery, supporters are encouraged

to come back and help paint the former home of A.T. Currier, beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 10.

The address for both events is 2640 W. Pomona Blvd., Pomona.

The house was originally located in the City of Industry but was moved to the Phillips Mansion site (just behind the Phillips Mansion) in 2004 – in pieces, as La Nueva Voz was told.

It has a new foundation and its structural integrity is fine, but the exterior is weather worn and is in serious need of a little paint.



Historic Alvan Currier home

Supplies will be provided but volunteers are encouraged to wear work clothes, bring gloves and other supplies they may have on hand.

Currier served as the 15th Los Angeles County Sheriff, serving from 1883 to 1884, and served as one of the area’s first state senators from 1899 through the early 1910s.

He was a successful rancher and was rumored to be one of the wealthiest men in Southern California.

Among other distinctions, he was a director of the First National Bank of Pomona and the San Antonio Fruit Exchange, and he was a member of the Los Angeles County Pioneers Society.

He was married to Mrs. Susan Glenn Rubottom of Spadra (now part of the City of Walnut).

The two events are all part of an on-going celebration at the Historical Society, this year observing its 101st year. Even the Historical Society has some storied history of its own.

For more information, e-mail pomonahistorical@verizon.net or call (909) 623-2198.

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Buy any Menu Entrée and 2 Beverages at Regular Price and Receive \$5 OFF!!!
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- Valid ALL DAY Mon-Thru and after 3pm Fri, Sat, & Sun -
Not Valid with any Specials or any other offers. • Must present Coupon BEFORE Purchase.
Limit one coupon per table per visit. Expires 6-30-2017 LNV.

\$4 OFF

Buy any Menu Entrée and 2 Beverages at Regular Price and Receive \$4 OFF!!!
2nd Menu Entrée of Equal or Lesser Value

- Valid ALL DAY Mon-Thru and after 3pm Fri, Sat, & Sun -
Not Valid with any Specials or any other offers. • Must present Coupon BEFORE Purchase.
Limit one coupon per table per visit. Expires 6-30-2017 LNV.