

## Pomona breaks ground for year-round homeless service center

Pomona city officials broke ground last week for a long-awaited \$10 million year-round homeless service center and emergency shelter designed to provide everything from restrooms and showers to health, mental health and employment support services.

The four-acre facility, located at a former Yellow Cab dispatching center at 1400 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona, will include a combination of structures built around a fabric structure housing bunk beds, lockers, rest rooms, showers and a laundromat.

Phase one is expected to be completed in August or September and construction of phase two, still awaiting approval of Measure H (homeless initiative) funding from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, could get under way as early as this summer and should be completed by the end of the year.

The second phase will include a communal kitchen, storage lockers, day use space, a dog kennel, a cell phone charging area and a park.

The site will be operated by Volunteers of America Los Angeles, which currently



**GROUND BREAKING FOR HOMELESS CENTER** -- Ground breaking ceremonies were held last week for Pomona's \$10 million year-round homeless service center and emergency shelter. Pictured, from left, are Reggie Clark of Volunteers of America, operators of the new facility; Benita DeFrank, Pomona's neighborhood services director; Pomona City Manager Linda Lowry; Pomona City Councilmember Ginna Escobar; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; and Pomona City Councilmembers Cristina Carrizosa, Rubio Gonzalez, Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Adriana Robledo.

operates a homeless shelter at the Pomona Armory building at 600 S. Park Ave. in the civic center.

On-site health services will be provided by East Valley Health Partners and on-site mental health services will be provided by Tri-City Mental Health Center.

The ground breaking was delayed by the discovery – during demolition of ex-

isting buildings on the site – of 400 feet of asbestos pipe and two septic tanks that had to be removed, causing an anticipated six-week demolition process to take four months.

Benita DeFrank, the city's neighborhood services director, called the ground breaking "a milestone for the city and for

**Homeless service center... pg. 6**



About 60 volunteers from the neighborhood, along with volunteers from Cal Poly University Pomona and several Pomona public works employees, pitched in to paint the inside of the gazebo in Westmont Park for this year's Pomona Beautification Day, under the direction of project leader Jorge Gajeda, at right. The group also cleaned up tables and benches in the park. See more pictures on pg. 8.

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**Fremont Academy of Engineering & Design**  
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**Village Academy of Film & Technology**  
(Grades 9-12)





Photo by Keney Su / PUSD

**LA NUEVA VOZ RECEIVES COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD** -- La Nueva Voz, Pomona's only community newspaper, received a Community Service Award from Pomona Unified School District in presentation ceremonies last month at the Conference Center at the Village at Indian Hill. La Nueva Voz was nominated for this year's award by Garey High School Principal Dr. Marco Sanchez for the newspaper's efforts in producing a fundraiser to help send eight Garey High School students back to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology next month to showcase an invention they produced after receiving a prestigious grant. La Nueva Voz also received the Community Service Award in 2016. This year, the newspaper was one of 98 award recipients in the civic and business communities who volunteer their time and talents in support of Pomona students and educational programs. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez, Village Academy High School counselor Lorraine Canales, Pomona Unified school board President Dr. Roberta Perlman; Jeff Schenkel and Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Assistant Supt. for Pupil and Community Services Fernando Meza; and Garey High School Principal Dr. Marco Sanchez.



**GRAND OPENING AT DOUBLETREE POMONA HOTEL AND RESTAURANT** -- Grand opening ceremonies were held this month for the DoubleTree by Hilton Pomona and Vita Italian Bar & Grill following a multi-million-dollar renovation of the original Shilo Inn. The hotel features 132 guest rooms, 8,000 square feet of banquet and meeting space for up to 700 guests, and 300 indoor seats and another 100 seats on the outdoor patio for the restaurant. The hotel is partnering with Cal Poly University Pomona's Collins School of Hospitality Management to provide real world experience to students, and is working with the Huntley College of Agriculture to bring produce grown down the street on the Cal Poly campus into the restaurant. Pictured during opening ceremonies inside the restaurant are, from left, restaurant general manager Joshua Sanchez; State Farm agent John Forbing; hotel general manager Jasmin Randle; and Pomona Chamber Board members Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, and Nef Cortez, of ReMax Realty 100 in Diamond Bar. Forbing and Cortez serve on the Chamber's government affairs committee. The hotel, at 3101 W. Temple Ave., Pomona, is owned by SCG America and managed by Interstate Hotels & Resorts. For more information, call (909) 594-0600 or visit [doubletree3.hilton.com/Pomona](http://doubletree3.hilton.com/Pomona).



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# POMONA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SUMMER PROGRAMS 2018

## ELEMENTARY SUMMER PROGRAMS

All programs will run from June 11 – June 29, 2018  
8:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. for students

### SUMMER READING JUMPSTART

Incoming 1st grade English Learners and selected primary students.

Literacy development through the use of:

- SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words)
- Imagine Learning
- Footsteps2Brilliance
- Making Meaning

### SAILING INTO READING

Incoming 2nd – 6th grade students, including, but not limited to those who have been participating in SIPPS interventions. Reading Comprehension development based on the use of Making Meaning and Making Meaning Vocabulary.

### SYSTEMATIC ELD SUMMER EXTENSION

Exiting 1st - 6th grade English Learners

- Systematic ELD
- Number Talks
- Math problem solving

### DUAL LANGUAGE SUMMER BRIDGE

(only offered at Pantera & Westmont)

Incoming first and continuing second graders in the Mandarin and Spanish Dual Language

Immersion Program:

- Build and retain Mandarin/Spanish language development through integrated curriculum

### SPECIAL EDUCATION EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

(various sites)

### ACHIEVE 3000

Incoming 3rd – 8th grade students needing instruction focused on gaining reading comprehension skills with an emphasis on informational text.

### CAMP INVENTION

\* Date and time listed in invitation.

(only offered at Arroyo, Decker, Kellogg, La Verne, and Vejar)

- Foster 21st century competencies through the lens of inventions
- Hands-on STEM collaborative activities

### STEM SOLUTIONS

\* Date and time listed in invitation.

(only offered at Cortez, Decker, San Jose, Vejar, and Lorbeer)

- "Think outside the box" – to solve puzzles and design and build new products
- Collaborate around team-based activities
- STEM project-based learning

## SECONDARY SUMMER PROGRAMS

All middle school programs will run from June 4 – June 29, 2018 • 7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. for students

All high school programs will run from June 4 – July 3, 2018 • 7:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. for students

### LANGUAGE AND LITERACY ACADEMY

(for incoming 7th-9th grade students)

- Explore Inside Out and Back Again
- Reading, Listening, Speaking, and Writing
- AVID and AVID Excel strategies
- Footsteps2Brilliance
- Making Meaning

### AVID EXCEL SUMMER BRIDGE

(only offered at Emerson, Marshall, and Simons)

AVID Excel curriculum

- Team building
- Introduction to the routines and practices that will be utilized in AVID Excel all year
- Initial research for career and college projects

### SUMMER READ 180

(only offered at Fremont)

Program that offers a blended learning solution that will accelerate the learning for struggling readers.

### SYSTEM 44

(only offered at Pomona High and Vejar)

Foundational reading program for our English learners in the secondary level.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM CAMP

(only offered at Emerson, Fremont, Lorbeer, Marshall, Palomares, and Simons)

Incoming middle school students

- Mathematics intervention and support
- Hands-on STEM collaborative activities including robotics, coding, and E-SMART activities

### PUSD SUMMER SCHOOL – ORIGINAL CREDIT AND CREDIT RECOVERY

(9th - 12th graders at all high schools and academies)

### MT. SAC SUMMER SCHOOL – ORIGINAL CREDIT ADVANCEMENT AND CREDIT RECOVERY

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## Pomona Unified LCAP program puts state dollars to work in areas of need

Pomona Unified School District's "Local Control Accountability Plan" (LCAP) – and the state funding that makes it all possible – is alive and well, working within the confines of a complex state budget process.

The program's funding and spending cycle apparently was mischaracterized in recent local daily newspaper accounts amid allegations all of the LCAP funds were not being spent on the students.

LCAP funds in the Pomona school district are used to help close the achievement gap for low socio-economic students, English learners and foster youth, and to ensure that all students are college and career ready.

The school district's Parent Advisory Committee – this month a room filled with about 80 parents meeting at the district's Mendoza Center – was told by district staff that one of the key points that needed to be clarified was in the area of "carry over" funding.

Dr. Leslie Barnes, the district's assistant superintendent/ chief financial officer, explained that the LCAP itself is a plan for how the money will be spent, although it is developed before the governor's May "revise" of the state budget, in which money often comes in at the last minute.

In her example, she said in

2015-2016, the governor added more than \$10 million in funding between his initial January budget proposal, which is typically more conservative, and the May revise, after the state has a better picture of what its available revenue will look like for the coming year.

She explained because of the way the state budget is created, things don't always go as planned – not all students participate in programs, sometimes positions are hard to fill or vacancies occur, and regulations change, which can result in program changes or delays.

Even so, Barnes told La Nueva Voz after the meeting, all of the LCAP money allocated to Pomona Unified eventually is spent on the students. Even though it may be carried over to the next year, there is no "use it or lose it" provision in the funding.

She told advisory committee members that after the May budget revise, which was released this month, the Pomona Unified school board reviews LCAP at its first board meeting in June and, at its last meeting in June, will finalize LCAP and adopt its own budget for the coming year.

A draft of LCAP services for 2018-2019 was distributed at the meeting.

And in September, Barnes said, any carry over amount is returned for all programs, including LCAP, and the process begins all over again in January.

### What is the LCAP process?

Pomona Unified's LCAP is developed after receiving input from all of the stakeholders – the Parent Advisory Committee, the LCAP Steering Committee, a Student Advisory Committee, the District's English Learner Advisory Committee, the District Advisory Committee and even input received at "Coffee with the Superintendent" meetings.

Additional input comes from parents and faculty at the individual school sites in the district.

Zoila Savaglin, Director of State and Federal Programs for the district, told members of the Parent Advisory Committee all of this input combined provides a foundation for the school



Zoila Savaglin, Director of State and Federal Programs for Pomona Unified School District, at left, and Dr. Leslie Barnes, the district's assistant superintendent and chief financial officer, explain funding of the district's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) -- and programs included in the current draft for next year -- during this month's meeting of the district's Parent Advisory Committee.

board to approve a draft LCAP "based on emerging themes."

These emerging themes to be included in the 2018-2019 plan include elements such as library media access, math support, behavior interventions, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math studies), technology, focus on support for English learners, professional development for teachers, after school programs, summer school programs and social emotional support for students.

She said the process is repeated every school year and helps district staff understand topics and issues that are important to the district's many stakeholders.

### What does the district spend on LCAP and how much carry over is involved?

Numbers in the presentation to the committee showed that in 2014-2015, the district spent \$14.8 million on LCAP including everything from salaries and benefits to books and supplies. The carry over was \$4 million.

In 2015-2016, LCAP expenditures were \$26.8 million with an actual carry over of \$9.9 million.

And in 2016-2017, LCAP expenditures were \$36 million, with an actual carry over of \$10.2 million.

Estimates for 2017-2018 are \$47.8 million in LCAP expenditures with a carry over of \$8.5 million.

And it covers everything from staff, teachers and consultants to technology, equipment and ma-

terials.

Barnes told committee members that by law, LCAP carry over funds do not need to be returned to the LCAP, but the district's board has chosen to designate them in their fund balance so they are returned to LCAP to serve that population of students.

She added there is no "reserve" budget in the LCAP. Instead, carry over funds are available in September to augment the goals and activities identified by the parents in the LCAP planning process.

And, in addition to the comprehensive review at all levels in Pomona Unified, the Los Angeles County Office of Education

conducts two reviews of its own before Pomona's LCAP can be approved.

A fiscal review determines that the district has met its fiscal obligation on the spending plan, and a program review assures that expenditures for each goal and action are primarily focused to increase or improve educational outcomes for English language learners, foster care youth and low socio-economic status students.

Also, an external audit by an outside auditor is conducted each year to review all district expenditures, including LCAP, to ensure compliance with the law.

And every three years, the district has auditors from the state and federal government conduct an audit of all its categorical and LCAP funds.

### What does the future hold for LCAP?

According to Barnes, LCAP will be fully funded by 2018-2019, which means there won't be as big a jump in May – the numbers should remain closer to the governor's January budget proposal.

This also means the smaller amounts will result in the actual carry over amount beginning to go down.

The District's Parent Advisory Committee will meet again at 9:15 a.m. Friday, Sept. 14, at a location to be determined.

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Publisher: Jeff Schenkel

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## Operation Kidsafe offering free child fingerprinting in Claremont next month

Operation Kidsafe, a potentially lifesaving child safety event offering free digital fingerprinting, safety tips and more, will be held in Claremont next month.

The event is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 9, at Claremont Hyundai, 508 Auto Center Drive, Clare-

mont.

There is no "data basing" and parents take home the only record of the visit.

Operation Kidsafe founder Mark Bott, a child safety advocate for 18 years, helped start the Amber Alert program.

For more information, call (909) 906-7094.

## Foothill Gold Line \$300 million grant approved to complete line to Montclair

A nearly \$300 million grant request from California's Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program to complete the Foothill Gold Line from Glendora to Montclair was formally approved this month by the California Transportation Commission.

The California State Transportation Agency had recommended approval of the grant last month.

The Foothill Gold Line was one of several major projects submitted by LA Metro to be awarded grants totaling \$1.8

billion in awards countywide.

The Gold Line was identified as Metro's top priority for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, resulting in a full grant award to fill the estimated funding gap included in the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority's financial plan.

The final cost for the project will be known later this year once bids are received. However, this award was critical in order to keep the project on schedule, according to a news release from construction authority CEO Habib Balian.

## First annual 'Mayor's Gala' fundraiser to benefit Pomona library

Author, cartoonist and "Coco" film cultural advisor Lalo Alcaraz will serve as master of ceremonies at the Pomona Public Library Foundation's first annual "Mayor's Gala" fundraiser to be held Thursday, June 7, at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center.

Theme for the black tie event is "Unlocking Pomona's Hidden Treasures" as library supporters showcase historical items from the Pomona Public Library's special collections.

Tickets are \$125 with information on tickets and sponsorship opportunities at [www.pomonalibrary-foundation.com](http://www.pomonalibrary-foundation.com).

The event will feature special

### Anthesis to hold fundraiser walk/run next month at Fairplex

Anthesis, an organization that provides programs for individuals with disabilities, will hold its seventh annual run/walk at Pomona's Fairplex next month.

A 5k run/walk is scheduled for 8 a.m. and a 1k will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 9.

Pre-event registration is \$25 (\$35 on site) for ages 13 and over, and \$15 for ages 5 to 12 (\$25 on site).

To register, sponsor or form a team, visit the web site at [www.anthesis.us](http://www.anthesis.us) or call (909) 624-3555, ext. 239. To volunteer, call (909) 624-3555, ext. 268.

tributes to Bright Prospect founder Eric Garen, along with the late President and founder of Western University of Health Sciences Philip Pumerantz and his wife Harriet Pumerantz.

The gala will honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the library and the community at large.

Hosting the event are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana, Cal Poly University Pomona President Soraya Coley, Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez and the Pomona Public Library Foundation board of

directors.

Proceeds from the gala will benefit the library and the library foundation's essential free public services at the library, including programs, materials, equipment and other learning services for children and families.

"Cuts to programs, resources and hours of operation made during the recent years have created limited community access to the city's only library," said library foundation President John Clifford. "We look forward to our first annual Mayor's Gala as a major milestone in raising needed funds for the Pomona Public Library."

### Metrolink adds 'Apple Pay' to mobile ticketing app

Metrolink this month added Apple Pay to its mobile ticketing app enabling customers to purchase tickets with just a "tap," eliminating the need to type in credit card numbers, billing information or security codes.

The use of Apple Pay is fast, secure and part of a technology transformation investment Metrolink has made over the past seven months, according to a news release. Also part of this package is a new web site and a GPS train tracker, as well as the launch of "Scan & Go" that allows Metrolink app users to scan their phones at Metro Rail gates to seamlessly continue their journeys.

"Currently more than 40 percent of our riders are using the Metrolink mobile app to buy their tickets, benefitting from convenience and time savings," said Metrolink Chair

Andrew Kotyuk, adding that Apple Pay offers riders even more choices.

To use Apple Pay, customers log in to Metrolink's mobile app, select a ticket or pass, choose "Pay with Apple Pay" and complete the payment using the "Touch ID" or "Face ID" feature.

Metrolink is Southern California's regional commuter rail service in its 25th year of operation. It operates seven routes through a six-county, 538 route-mile network. Its passengers travel approximately 441 million miles each year, making Metrolink the second busiest public transportation provider in Southern California and the third largest commuter rail agency in the U.S.

For more information, visit the web site at [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).



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## Homeless service center... from pg. 1

the community of Pomona.”

She traced the history of the project’s development back to 2015 and a community “summit” on homelessness as the city began to focus on the issue.



City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa

That summit led to the creation of a Pomona Homeless Advisory Committee, she added, which was tasked with creating a roadmap for addressing homelessness.

Part of that committee’s vision, she said, was to create a

year-round shelter to provide a variety of services.

She said the committee wanted to create a place to overcome barriers to housing for the homeless and “to obtain their ultimate goal of a place called home.”

The city council approved that roadmap, DeFrank said, when they adopted a strategic plan to address homelessness.

“Today we are one step closer to making that plan a reality,” she said.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval called the project a community effort and commended DeFrank for her work.

“She really cares about people and she really cares about helping the people of Pomona, particularly our most vulnerable members of our community, to have a place to call home, a place where they can hopefully get their lives back together,” he said.

Sandoval said the entire homeless issue in Pomona has

created tremendous frustration on the part of the residents.

“I think a lot of people see what we’re doing is the right thing which is to not just deflect the problem, not to pass the problem on,” he said. “We know that in other cities, in other counties, that is exactly what they are doing and yet we’ve taken a different approach to this.”

“We need to do everything we can to make sure that we eliminate this challenge that we



Benita DeFrank



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at left, introduces Reggie Clark of Volunteers of America, operators of the new facility.

face,” he said.

“And I want to make it very clear while we do this, while we take this step to build this homeless service center, we must continue to ensure that all cities and all counties step up and take care of their homeless, to take full and shared responsibility,” he added.

“And if they don’t, then we as a city have to do everything we can to hold them accountable... because we’re all in this together,” he said.

Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa, whose District 3 includes the homeless center location, said the issue of homelessness was something that needed to be addressed from a citywide perspective.

“I hope that when this place is finished it’s not just a place where people can come and take showers and eat but I also hope and pray that this place provides some sense of inner peace... I hope and pray that the men and women that come to this place take the time to reflect on their life and maybe this is the time

to change a little bit, to change the way that they are living,” she said.

Carrizosa said the facility may provide them the motivation to reunite with their families or to obtain training for job skills so they can “retain their self-respect and their dignity.”

Reggie Clark of Volunteers of America called the project a “success story that’s about to happen.”

“We are about helping people, we are about changing people’s lives, and how that happens is one step at a time,” he said.

Funding of about \$6 million for the purchase of the property and phase one design and build development came from proceeds in a “low to moderate” housing bond fund left over from the city’s redevelopment agency that the city council approved for use on the homeless center.

The grant application to Los Angeles County for the Measure H funds was for an additional \$3.9 million.

DeFrank told La Nueva Voz Pomona already has been awarded an annual \$1.4 million in Measure H funds for the homeless center’s operating budget.



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## Some 3,000 volunteers turn out despite morning drizzle for annual Pomona Beautification Day, according to event chair Victor Preciado



Photo by Renee Barbee  
Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at right, greets Al Castro, co-founder of the original La Voz, in the Pomona Civic Center during a lunch and celebration for the volunteers at this month's Pomona Beautification Day.

Pomona Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana addresses the crowd at a community celebration during Pomona Beautification Day activities. He said the LA County Fair is bringing back "dollar day" for tickets for Pomona residents on Pomona Day, which will be held on opening day Aug. 31. To get tickets for a dollar, go to [lacountyfair.com/Pomona](http://lacountyfair.com/Pomona). He said this year the Fair is celebrating Route 66 because the historic route goes right through the neighborhood. He said he is personally taking his own trip along the entire route from Wrigley Field in Chicago to Santa Monica, and he'll do it all on line so residents can follow his progress. "We're bringing all the sites of Route 66 here to the Fair, we'll bring out the music of Route 66," he said. And there will also be a special \$6.60 menu so visitors to the Fair can sample different things.



Volunteers from the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps clean up along the street outside Palm Lake Golf Course in South Pomona.



Photo by Renee Barbee  
A volunteer from Cal Poly University Pomona takes a brief break during clean-up activities in front of Pomona's Ebell Museum of History.



Pomona's favorite photographer Eric Jung, at right, snaps a photo of several budding young artists working on their chalk art in the civic center during Pomona Beautification Day activities.



Photo by Renee Barbee  
Beautification Day volunteers work their way up Pomona's Garey Avenue filling trash bags along the way.



Photo by Renee Barbee  
Four members of Cub Scout Pack 818 (Pomona and Claremont), two Junior Army ROTC volunteers from Garey High School and six parents spent the morning of Pomona Beautification Day cleaning up several vacant lots in the area of 2nd Street and Park Avenue. They paused just long enough for a group photo.

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**Pomona Beautification Day... from pg. 8**



Lunch for Pomona Beautification Day was served by Lily's Tacos, everybody's favorite.

Photo by Renee Barbee

**MILLION MOTHERS MARCH** -- Ethel Gardner, founder of the Kennedy Austin Foundation and creator of the annual Million Mothers March, center row, third from left, poses with some of the group's supporters for the La Nueva Voz camera before the start of this year's Million Mothers March last week at Pomona's Ganesha Park. Pictured at left is Linda Jones, Gardner's daughter, and pictured center row, fourth from right, is Jeanette Royston, President of the Pomona Valley Branch of the NAACP. The march -- and an emotional balloon release -- is held each year to remember children and other family members who have been lost, often to violence. The theme, as the banner shows, is "A Mother's Cry: A Cry to Unite, A Cry to Fight." The mission of the non-profit Kennedy Austin Foundation is "to educate, equip and empower individuals and families in crisis." Its goal is to implement a "life after loss" program to provide hope and restoration to families and individuals so they can turn their tragedies into triumph.



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Photo by Dora Cruz

Vienna and Logan Sajinovic make a couple of new friends on the Pomona Police Department SWAT team at last week's annual police department open house at police headquarters in Downtown Pomona.



Photo by Renee Barbee

**SOMETHING YOU DON'T ALWAYS SEE** -- The Pomona Police Department helicopter landed in the street on Park Avenue to become part of the exhibit at last weekend's police department open house. The department's mobile command post can be seen at rear.



Photo by Renee Barbee

Even the Pomona Police Department's armored rescue vehicle was on display at the department's open house last week.

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## Pomona Concert Band spring concert set for June 1

The Pomona Concert Band will present its annual spring concert titled “An American Jubilee” next Friday in Pomona’s Palomares Park Community Center.

The concert is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 1, in the community center at 499 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona, and is sponsored by the City of Pomona Community Services Department.

It is free to the public and refreshments will be served at intermission.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval will serve as master of ceremonies for the evening.

The concert will feature American composers and many popular American melodies, with Linda Taylor and Dr. Jorge Garcia conducting.

Included on the program will be “An American Fanfare” by Rick Kirby, “O Magnum Mysterium” by Morton Lauridson, “Resplendent Glory” by Rossano Gallante, “Korean Folk Songs” by John Barnes Chance, “Land of Liberty” by John Wasson, “An American Elegy” by Frank Ticheli, “Commando March” by Samuel Barber, “West Side

Story” by Leonard Bernstein, “Music of Disneyland” arranged by Jerry Brubaker and the march “National Fencibles” by John Philip Sousa.

The band this month performed at the Temecula Community Band Festival at the Maurice Car’rie Winery in Temecula and at 9 a.m. on Monday will be part of Pomona’s Memorial Day program at Pomona Valley Memorial Park, 502 E. Franklin Ave., Pomona.

Members of the concert band, founded in 1947 by former Pomona Mayor G. Stanton Selby as part of Pomona American Legion Post 30, come from Pomona and more than 20 surrounding communities.

The band has represented Pomona in countless events and performances over the years, including tours of Europe and Japan in 1985 and 1988. The



Photo by Andre Martinez

**POMONA YOUTH ORCHESTRA PERFORMS IN L.A. CIVIC CENTER** -- Members of the Pomona Youth Orchestra kicked off the “youth concert” on the final day of the three-day first annual “Our LA Voices” spring arts fest last month in Grand Park in the Los Angeles Civic Center (note the tower of Los Angeles City Hall in background). “The Los Angeles County Grand Park Foundation is pleased to showcase the sounds of music made exclusively by Los Angeles County youth, and we were pleased to have featured the Pomona Youth Orchestra as part of our youth concert line-up,” said Grand Park Foundation Interim President Michael Woo. The Mariachi Heritage Society Youth from South El Monte and others also performed. The outdoor Grand Park celebrates the county’s cultural vitality and hosts community events and cultural experiences on a 12-acre site between the Music Center and City Hall.

band also performed in 2015 at the Association of Concert Bands Convention in Sacramento.

Conductor Linda Taylor has

been a member of the concert band for more than 40 years. Assistant conductor Dr. Jorge Garcia has been involved in music since 1969 and has

taught music at all levels from college to kindergarten.

For more information, visit the web site at [www.pomona-concertband.org](http://www.pomona-concertband.org).



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**NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR HOMELESS CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING** -- Clifford Beers Housing Executive Director Cristian Ahumada, at podium left, explains how his company provides housing for the homeless to give families a new start at the grand opening of the non-profit Clifford Beers’ Holt Family Apartments last month. “For the residents, this is their first step to living a healthier life and a chance at reintegrating into the community,” he said. The 50-unit apartment complex, which opened in January and is already filled to capacity, is located at 1445 E. Holt Ave., Pomona. The company has 519 affordable apartment homes completed or in development in Los Angeles County and beyond.





Photo by Renee Barbee

**GRABBING A SELFIE AT OPTIMIST MEETING** -- Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz grabs a selfie at this month's meeting of the Pomona Breakfast Optimist Club at Mr. D's Diner in Pomona. The club, which supports programs to help kids in Pomona, is looking for more members. Interested? Contact club president Lorraine Canales at [lorraine.canales@pusd.org](mailto:lorraine.canales@pusd.org) or [love2shop.lc@gmail.com](mailto:love2shop.lc@gmail.com). Pictured, clockwise from left, are visitor Jeff Schenkel of La Nueva Voz, Ruby Jung, Canales, Barry Dolgovin, Ruth Alvarez, Fernando Meza, M. Joyce Bakersmith and, of course, Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, taking the selfie.



Photo by Renee Barbee

**SUPPORT FOR CANCER SURVIVORS** -- Members of Celebrating a Vision present groceries and other items to Ganesha High School secretary Leticia Ghaderi, a cancer survivor, in a surprise visit that also surprised Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, a cancer survivor who was able to overcome leukemia. The organization delivers groceries to area cancer survivors and also provides wig services, mobile massages, a two-night hotel stay for two, concert tickets with dinner, therapeutic gift baskets, limousine rides, spa days, mani-pedi, cruises and more. "I felt it was time to provide a forum for men, women and children to be celebrated having a second chance at life," said president and founder Sonya Adams. Pictured, from left, are Sandoval, Ganesha Principal Jennifer Francev, Ghaderi, Joe Draper of J & J Barbecue, a Celebrating a Vision supporter, Adams, Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez and Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez.

**'GET YOUR KICKS'**

-- Tammy Roush, Community Advancement Manager at Pomona's Fairplex, speaks at this month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce networking luncheon at Corazon Urban Kitchen, 205 E. 2nd St., Pomona, to announce the theme of this year's Fair will be "Get Your Kicks at the LA County Fair," taking visitors on a nostalgic road trip of iconic attractions, foods, games and more from the historic Route 66 which, of course, runs through Pomona and surrounding cities. For more information and for tickets, visit [lacountyfair.com](http://lacountyfair.com).



**COMMEMORATING FALL OF SAIGON** -- Community members gathered last month at Pomona Holt Plaza for the 43rd commemoration of the Fall of Saigon, which marked the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Pictured, from left, are Chino City Councilmember Gary George, Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley President Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, and Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Robert Torres. "Thank you people of America for opening arms to welcome us when we first started arriving in 1975," Vo said. "Let's work together to make America the beautiful place in the world."

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**MONTCLAIR HIGH JUNIOR WINS NEW CAR FROM METRO HONDA** -- Felicity Mendoza, 17, a junior at Montclair High School, gives the "thumbs up" signal sitting in her new Honda as Jeff Proctor, Managing Partner of Metro Honda in Montclair, at right, offers his congratulations. The fifth annual "Keys 2 Succeed" car give-away -- this year for 300 students with perfect attendance from Montclair High School and Rancho Cucamonga High School in the Chaffey Joint Union High School District -- got under way with the kids and their parents with drawings for prizes but the main attraction was the drawing for 10 Honda car keys, one each to five students from each high school. Mendoza was the seventh of the 10 to try her key in the ignition and, of course, it started the car. She won this 2017 Honda Civic Coupe LX with after market sport wheels, a spoiler and black window tint, with an MSRP of \$23,600. The winner receives the car with tax, license and registration all paid by Metro Honda. Students eligible for the program have perfect attendance all year and no excused absences, "so these students are the most committed of the committed," Proctor said.



**SAE 2018 ARTS FESTIVAL** -- Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise 2018 Arts Festival had art on all of the walls throughout the Downtown Pomona high school campus this month with plenty of visitors walking through to take a look. Also included at the high school was an acting technique showcase and vocal music, with a "chance to dance" and digital arts at the middle school. Instrumental musical presentations were available on both campuses.

**CHIEF TONY CERDA OPENS 26TH ANNUAL POW WOW** -- Chief Tony Cerda, second from right, participates in opening ceremonies at last month's three-day 26th annual Ohlone "Big Time" Gathering and Pow Wow in Pomona's Tony Cerda Park (Cerda is immediately behind the cleansing sage burning in an abalone shell). The event is hosted each year by the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe and features traditional Native American songs, chants, dances, drums and the Costanoan Rumsen Humaya Singers & Dancers, along with vendors offering everything from clothing and jewelry to feathers and headgear.



Photo by Eric Jung



**LEARNING HOW FILMMAKING IS DONE** -- A filmmaking documentary booth at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise high school campus gave visitors a hands-on look at how documentaries come together. It was all part of the school's 2018 Arts Festival this month.





**WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT TEA** -- Members of the Epsilon Eta Omega and Sigma Rho chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., sponsored their 2018 Women's Empowerment Tea last month at Cal Poly University Pomona. Cal Poly President Dr. Soraya Coley greeted the audience of nearly 100 before a panel discussion on the theme of "When women are empowered, the community is empowered," featuring panelists from the Los Angeles African-American Women's Public Policy Institute, Martin Luther King Community Hospital, and the Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology at USC. Speakers emphasized the need to provide a pipeline for women to assume leadership roles at all levels of government, as well as in areas of community, corporate and public affairs. The event also included a "hat parade" with an award given for best hat. Some of the participants at the event, pictured from left, were panelist Akorede Oshunluyi, Cecelia Huggins, Cheryl Mayhorn, Epsilon Eta Omega chapter president Dr. Diana Rigueur, Carlese Waddy, Sheila Lee, tea committee co-chair Shannon Jones, Cleopatre Thelus and Endy Farrow.



**ROBERT AND BEVERLY LEWIS CANCER CENTER CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY** -- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center President and CEO Rich Yochum, at right, and Dr. Ram Rao, radiation oncologist and the medical director of the radiation oncology department of the hospital's Robert and Beverly Lewis Cancer Care Center, unveil a special creation honoring the Lewis family on the

cancer center's 25th anniversary by artist Tony Sheets, son of late Pomona artist Millard Sheets. An open house at the cancer center showcased how the facility makes it possible for the region's residents to receive the highest quality cancer care close to home. Sheets also designed a new mural installed last year outside the hospital's new parking garage (along Orange Grove Avenue behind the emergency room entrance). (See *La Nueva Voz* November 2017 issue, page 13, at [www.lanuevavoz.net](http://www.lanuevavoz.net).)

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**CALIFORNIA RETINA OPENS IN POMONA** -- Eye surgeon Dr. Kristie Lin and her husband, Dr. Joseph Lin, an eye and facial cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgeon, opened their fourth office -- and their first California Retina and California Oculoplastics clinic -- this month at the beginning of Healthy Vision Month with an official Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremony. Pictured, from left, are Gustavo Arias of Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan, a Pomona Chamber ambassador; Benny Ayala, representing State Sen. Connie Leyva; Pomona Chamber Board members Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz and Jeff Keating of Western University of Health Sciences; Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Robert Torres; Dr. Kristie Lin and Dr. Joseph Lin and their kids; Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; Candice Louie, Dr. Kristie Lin's mom; and Larissa Mendez of California Retina. The offices are located at 160 E. Artesia St., Suite 140, Pomona, in the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center complex. For more information, call (909) 671-4143 or visit the web site at linretina.com.



**HANGING OUT AT THE CAR SHOW** -- Pomona Catholic Principal Sam Torres poses for the camera with some of his students at the annual car show this month at the school. Pictured, from left, are Yasmine Valjalo, 10th grade; Torres; Samantha Guardian, 10th grade; Noelle Robledo, 11th grade; and Elyse Flores, 10th grade. All are residents of Pomona. Torres said the event raised about \$15,000 for the school.

## California Retired Teachers to hold last meeting of school year

Members of Division 13 of the California Retired Teachers Association will hold their final luncheon for the school year next month at Hillcrest Meeting House, 2705 Mt. View Drive, La

Verne.

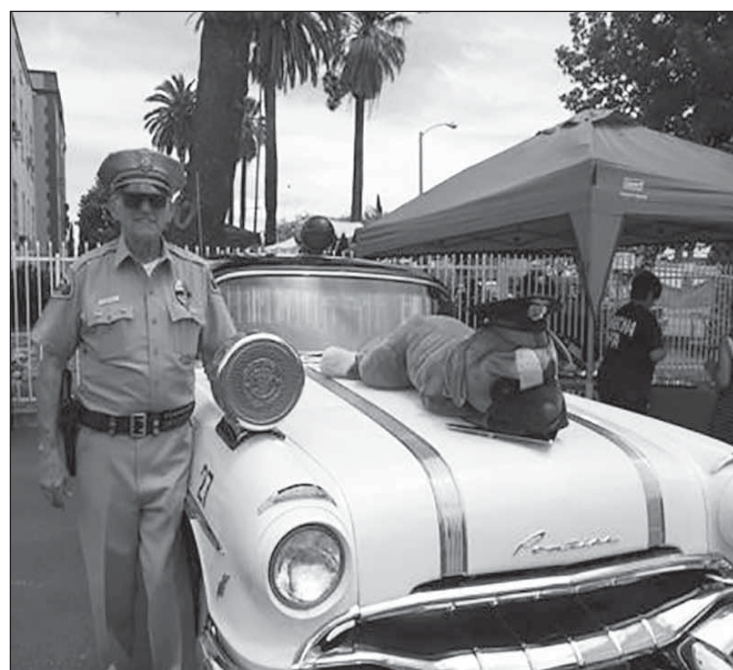
The meeting will be held at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, June 13 and will include reports from the organization's state convention along with legislative updates.

Entertainment will be provided following lunch by the Dave Tull Trio from the California Jazz Art Society.

For lunch reservations, call (626) 963-6242. Cost is \$19.



Best antique car at this month's car show fundraiser at Pomona Catholic was this shiny 1943 Ford with owner Kyle Huscher of Chino at the wheel.



La Nueva Voz friend Walt Barkley poses for the camera at the Pomona Catholic car show with his car, "PD Oldie."



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## ‘Helpful Honda’ street team surprises Garey High School art teacher with \$5,000 shopping spree

Four “Helpful Honda” street team members and their video crew stopped by Pomona’s Garey High School this month to honor visual arts teacher Christina Longstaffe for all of her good work and to take her – along with eight of her students – on a \$5,000 shopping spree in her favorite art supplies store.

“You were nominated by your school for all of your amazing efforts and for going above and beyond to make sure that your students have the best experience possible,” said Tami Horatski, team leader for the Helpful Honda team, part of a 10-year-old campaign supported by the Southern California Honda Dealers Association.

The “random act of helpfulness” during Teacher Appreciation Week started with a surprise visit to the classroom filled with about two dozen students and continued as eight students and Longstaffe hopped into three Honda Odysseys for their ride to Blick Art Materials in Fullerton, the teacher’s favorite art supplies store.

And the entire event was courtesy of the Helpful Honda team.

Longstaffe, who was obviously surprised by the visit, thanked the team for recognizing her.

“You know we always need funding for student materials and

we have such talented students,” she said.

Garey’s Vice Principal Dr. Bryan Stoops nominated Longstaffe for the Helpful Honda team recognition.

“As I walk down the halls every single day and the student artwork keeps perpetually changing, it’s always beautiful, always amazing and I take great pride being able to tell any visitor to Garey High School that it’s the motif around here to have our decoration be created by students with leadership from teachers like Miss Longstaffe,” Stoops said. “It’s a real blessing and it’s amazing. And I hope you all realize how much she cares about you and how much of herself she pours into you as she does this work.”

Longstaffe has worked at Garey for the past 20 years – her entire teaching career. She is one of two art teachers at the school.

A teacher who refuses to accept it when students say they will never be able to draw, she has

taught thousands of young people how to express themselves through visual art.

Despite overcoming hardship as a cancer survivor, she has encouraged student artists to exhibit in local art shows and community events, often working after school and on weekends.

She has served as chair of the school’s fine arts department and serves on the school’s site council to ensure a teacher voice is a fac-



Garey High School’s Vice Principal Dr. Bryan Stoops, front right, explains why Garey art teacher Christina Longstaffe was nominated for a \$5,000 shopping spree, courtesy of the Helpful Honda team. Team members visited Longstaffe, center, this month under the direction of team leader Tami Horatski, second from left.

The eight students helped their teacher select items for an hour and any money left over was to be given to Longstaffe in the form of a gift card.

The video was expected to be posted on the Southern California Honda YouTube page.

The Helpful Honda team selected Garey High School from hundreds of submissions.

The campaign includes a total of eight teams spread out over Southern California to do random acts of helpfulness in multiple cities.

To submit an application for a random act of helpfulness, visit [socalhondadealers.com](http://socalhondadealers.com) or connect through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or Instagram.

## ‘For the Love of Cars,’ a Historical Society of Pomona Valley fundraiser, set for next month to ‘bring back’ East Holt Avenue area

“For the Love of Cars,” a “first annual” car show with all proceeds going to the Historical Society of Pomona Valley, will be held next month at the Village at Indian Hill.

The event is scheduled for 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 9 and will feature food, art, vendors and the car show itself. Entry fee for cars is \$25.

A “cruising” event is also included with “Cruising Holt Avenue” beginning at 5 p.m. at Pep Boys (Palomares and Holt) and ending at the Vil-

lage at Indian Hill. Organizers said their goal is to “bring back the East Holt Avenue area that was once a vibrant part of our city.”

Sponsorship levels range from \$250 to \$1,500.

The “family friendly” event is presented by Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole in partnership with the Historical Society.

For more information, contact Mike Suarez at (909) 374-3535 or Alice Gomez at (909) 286-1595 or e-mail [pomonahistorical@verizon.net](mailto:pomonahistorical@verizon.net).

**FAST SIGNS HOLDS OFFICIAL RIBBON-CUTTING AND GRAND OPENING** -- FastSigns owner Suki Khansarinia, at center with scissors, makes it official by cutting the ribbon at a Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony last week. The sign shop, an independently owned and operated sign and graphics company, has been operating at the same location for the past 20 years but it became a Fast Signs franchise last October. Pictured with friends and team members, from left, are Frank Gonzales,



Jr., of Pomona’s U.S.A. Fit Force Taekwondo, Inc., a chamber ambassador; Benny Ayala, representing State Sen. Connie Leyva; Catherine Monson, CEO of FastSigns International; owner Suki Khansarinia; Sandra Vaughan-Acton, Board Chair of the Pomona Chamber and Director of Real Estate Development for the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation; Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; Chamber Board member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz; and Vita Gonzales, also of U.S.A. Fit Force Taekwondo and also a Chamber ambassador. FastSigns is located at 3503 W. Temple Ave., Suite E, Pomona. For more information, call (909) 598-9111.

**Do you have a news story?**

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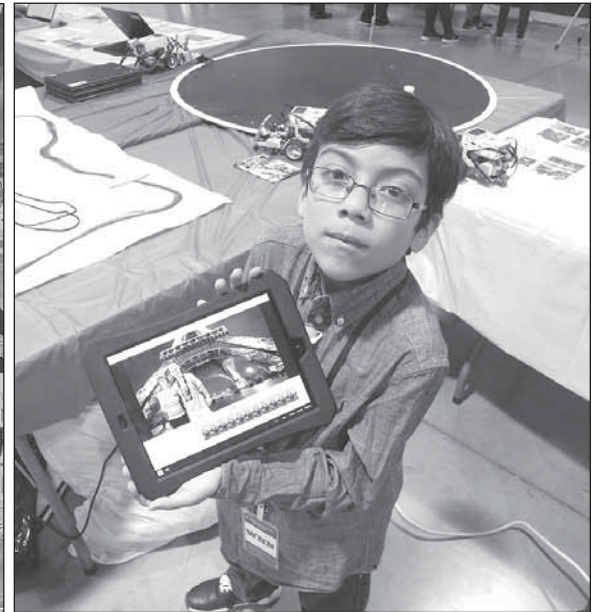
# More than 2,500 attend 11th annual Ross-McCracken Learning Expo at Fairplex



Coloring was an important part of the booth of Pomona Unified School District's child development department.



Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School and its career and technical education department demonstrated the art of cutting salad with a paring knife (you have to look up to view the table through the mirror). The annual Learning Expo, co-sponsored by Fairplex, Pomona's Promise, Pomona Unified School District and the City of Pomona, is designed to pique student interest in science, math, service learning, the arts and many other educational topics.



**GREEN SCREEN TECHNOLOGY** -- Rhandy Aguilar, 8, a third grader at Pomona's Washington Elementary School, took a photo of Jeff Schenkel and Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz in front of a "green screen" and dropped in a background from who knows where to demonstrate what the kids are learning in today's technology. Teacher Maria Franco Madrigal said the kids are starting their own school news network and are doing everything from writing their own scripts to producing the video.



**SUPPORTING THE LIBRARY** -- Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz stopped by the Pomona Public Library booth where library supporters were giving away free popsicles to the kids at the Ross/McCracken Learning Expo. Pictured, from left, are Barbee; Marian Higgins of Save Our Pomona Public Library; Duane Smith, president of the library board of trustees and president of Save Our Pomona Public Library; and Nora Garcia, a member of the library board of trustees and president of Save Our Pomona Public Library. Not pictured is John Clifford, a member of the library board of trustees and a member of the Pomona Public Library Foundation board.



**FOOTSTEPS2BRILLIANCE** -- Footsteps2Brilliance, an "early learning" initiative with its own free computer and mobile "app," all courtesy of Pomona Unified School District, was well represented showing kids how fun it can be to improve reading skills. Pictured with the kids are Footsteps "ambassadors" Marilyn Hokanson, at right, and Rhonda Miles-Brown, at rear. To register for the free program, visit [www.myf2b.com/register/pomona](http://www.myf2b.com/register/pomona).



Freddie Letona, 9, a fourth grader at Pomona's Lexington Elementary School, at the controls, demonstrates what he is learning about robotics in the robotics club at school. He is controlling the battery powered vehicle (in the circle) he built himself by operating the computer.



Breaking news out of Hawaii made this exhibit one of the most topical as Pomona High School's Kein Nguyen, 15, a freshman, with the help of teacher Miss Ja Vian Jones, showed La Nueva Voz how volcanoes work. (OK, full disclosure, they had a little trouble the first time but they nailed it the second.)



What good is a Learning Expo without a little music by those talented kids from Simons Middle School?



**VIDEO, GREEN SCREEN AND MORE** -- Pomona's Village Academy High School students were demonstrating their talents in technology including video, shooting with a "green screen" background and more. One of them, Michael Le, a senior, received one of the \$1,000 Sarah Ross Memorial Scholarships at the Learning Expo this month. The scholarships are for high school seniors going into a STEM field (science, technology, engineering and math) major in college. And, of course, Le will be going into computer science at UC Irvine. He'll also be valedictorian at Village Academy graduation ceremonies next week. Pictured, from left, are Village Academy Principal Joe Biagioni, Le and Lorraine Canales, counselor at Village Academy.

See past issues at  
[www.lanuevavoz.net](http://www.lanuevavoz.net)



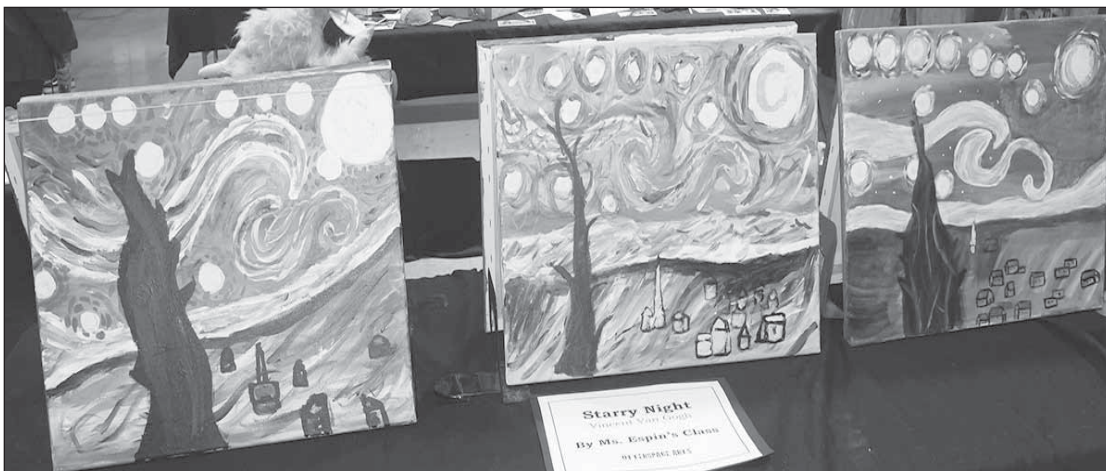
Expo... from pg. 18



Science "wizard" Dr. Ron Hensen, at left, of Dr. Ron's Chemistry Lab demonstrates the basics of how you can make your own lava lamp.



OK, we get it. It's hard to pass by the bunny cage without sticking a finger or two inside to pat a bunny. And these bunnies were only six weeks old, according to a spokesperson for The Learning Centers at Fairplex who brought the bunnies in to the learning expo.



**FUTURE VINCENT VAN GOGH QUALITY?** -- Students in art teacher Erica Espin's class at Pomona's Vejar Elementary School created their own impression of "Starry Night" by artist Vincent Van Gogh and, from the looks of it, did a pretty good job. (Just watch those ears, huh!)



**HUGE RAFFLE PRIZE!** -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at left, calls the winning number for a huge raffle prize at last week's first annual "Children's Festival" held in the Pomona Civic Center as event chairperson Chara Swodeck carries the prize to center stage. The successful free event drew a large crowd despite overcast skies in the morning and included all the usual vendors and exhibitors.



Students from Pomona's Lincoln Elementary School Ballet Folklorico Dancers perform at Pomona's first annual "Children's Festival" last week in the Pomona Civic Center. The dance group was established 15 years ago at the school.

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

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## EDITORIAL

## Pomona judges live in their own little fiefdom

Ever wonder what some of the defendants look like who are going through the system in Pomona Superior Court, also known as East District in the Los Angeles Superior Court system?

La Nueva Voz thought some of our readers might – especially in the recent case in which Isaias De Jesus Valencia, 38, was charged with allegedly murdering Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas in March and allegedly attempting to kill other officers.

No official photo has been released of Valencia and the only likeness of the defendant was taken from the other side of the crime scene tape from a distance. It appeared on a television news segment at the time of his arrest as he was walked out of his apartment in handcuffs by Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies and Pomona police officers.

And how about Sengchan Hou, 35, remember him? He was arrested in March 2017 in connection with the shooting that killed 8-year-old Jonah Min-Tian Hwang – another case that tugged at the heartstrings of the entire Pomona community.

Hou's driver's license photo was released to the news media a year ago but we haven't seen him since.

Both had court appearances in Pomona this month.

Now La Nueva Voz doesn't normally follow court cases from start to finish, although we jump in from time to time for major developments in key cases. But in these two cases, based on widespread and ongoing interest in the community, we thought a current photo of the two defendants appearing in court would be appropriate.

Unfortunately, the judges in the two cases disagreed.

First, we should say that East District has a reputation for denying news media requests for photos or video. Even the Los

Angeles Superior Court public information office team downtown readily confirms that. They almost make it sound like our local judges live upstairs in their own little fiefdom.

And, true to form, they denied official La Nueva Voz requests to take photos in the courtroom in both cases this month. In the Valencia case, Judge Steven D. Blades waited until the day of the May 1 hearing and, instead of ruling himself, asked the lawyers what they wanted to do with all the requests from various news media organizations and the lawyers, of course, essentially made the decision for the judge and photography was not allowed.

In the Hou case, which was in court for a routine appearance May 14, Judge Victor Martinez simply didn't rule on the La Nueva Voz request at all, essentially denying our request. No reason was given for his action or, in this case, lack of action.

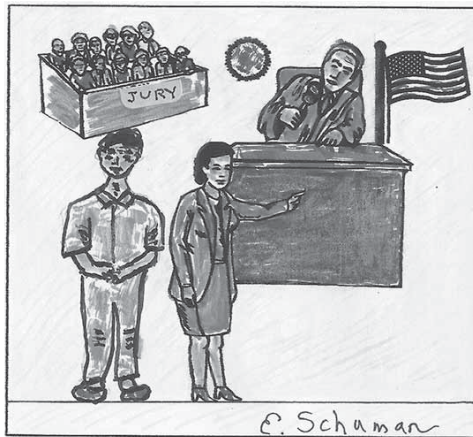
Now we here at La Nueva Voz like to play fair. We've always treated judges just like we treat everybody else, offering them a shot at news coverage when they come around asking for it. They did just that several years ago when three Pomona court judges came to speak to members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce seeking our support when they were concerned about budget cuts and layoffs in the court system that they thought would result in crowded court calendars and criminals being released because their cases are not heard in a timely manner.

We even mentioned that news article we ran at the time on the little photo request forms we were required to submit.

Interestingly, checking back in the La Nueva Voz archives,

one of those judges appearing at the Chamber was Steven Blades, our friend who deferred to the lawyers on the decision on photos.

Apparently, the scales of justice don't balance over to the news media side when the shoe is on the other foot and



the news media has a favor to ask of the judges.

So, clearly, the judges have control of their courtrooms. And while all we can do is editorialize and tell the story, you've got the most important control of all – the control of your ballot at election time.

Unfortunately, a lot of judges don't appear on the ballot because they run for re-election to their office unopposed.

Neither of these two judges' names appear on the June 5 ballot. Victor Martinez is running unopposed, so he'll be automatically re-elected without appearing on the ballot, and Steven Blades won't be up for a few more years. He was appointed to the bench by Gov. Schwarzenegger in April 2006 and was re-elected in 2014, unopposed, of course, for a term that expires in January 2021.

What it all boils down to is we get what we get and that's the way the system works. But if any of this bothers you, you might want to clip out this editorial and stick it behind a magnet on your refrigerator – just in case you have a choice the next time these guys come up for election.

## A fairer, more effective traffic court alternative

By Shlomo Frieman

Traffic court is substantially the same as in 2015 when Gov. Brown described it as a “hellhole of desperation” for the poor. Was it always this way? What are the alternatives?

Under the traffic court system, each infraction incurs a base fine, a penalty assessment, and other fees. In 1953, the first penalty assessment was \$1 per \$20 of base fine or \$5 for a \$100 base fine. Today, the penalty assessment and fees for the same \$100 base fine are \$390 – a 7,700 percent increase!

Due to the numerous unpaid tickets and suspended driver licenses spawned by traffic court fines, to date, there have been two traffic amnesty programs. Future ones are inevitable because these programs do not address the underlying cause for the unpaid tickets or suspended licenses.

While the theoretical purpose for penalty assessments is to have those who violate laws help finance programs related to decreasing those violations, that is not their purpose today. For example, the State Penalty Fund receives the largest portion of penalty assessment revenues, with the rest going to various funds including a State DNA Identification Fund and a County Emergency Medical Services Fund. What do the latter two funds have to do with decreasing infraction violations? The answer is simple: nothing. Furthermore, most of the programs receiving State Penalty Fund revenues also have nothing to do with decreasing traffic violations. Thus, the major purpose for penalty assessment and other fees is for funding programs unrelated to decreasing traffic violations.

There are fairer and more effective alternatives. For instance, a traffic court system that issues one or more points instead of fines for moving violations should be more equitable because points have a more even effect across the socio-economic spectrum. In particular, since people differ economically, a

specific fine can be insignificant for the rich, but a hardship for the poor. However, a point brings every driver, rich or poor, equally closer to having a suspended license.

In addition to the current practice of removing points from drivers' records after three years, drivers can be rewarded by removing one point from their record after each shorter, continuous period of time they do not incur a new point.

Also, court resources could be better allocated by charging drivers for only the services they use. This approach will result in fewer drivers utilizing traffic arraignment courts because what a driver can accomplish at a court arraignment can generally be accomplished quicker and cheaper on line or at a courthouse cashier window. Likewise, fewer drivers will go to trial because of the additional cost if found guilty. The resulting freed up traffic courtrooms and personnel could be used to handle heavily backlogged matters, e.g., small claims cases.

In “Barking to the Choir,” Father Gregory Boyle quotes a Chinese proverb, “The beginning of wisdom is to call things by their right name.” To fix the traffic court system, we have to recognize it for what it is: misfocused, inequitable, and a “hellhole of desperation” for the poor.

As Governor Brown suggested, the “whole business of those fines ought to be looked at.” There are better alternatives including those discussed above. No doubt there are others. The important thing for us is to start a dialogue, come to a consensus as to better alternatives, and make the necessary changes. Only when a more equitable, traffic safety focused system is in place will we achieve safer roads and, at least in traffic court, fair justice for all.

*Editor's note: Shlomo Frieman is a candidate for judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Office 126 on the June 5 ballot.*



### Diamond Ranch High School freshman receives P 3's annual alcohol-free quinceañera

Fatima Reyes, a freshman at Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School, was this year's recipient of the Partnership for a Positive Pomona (P<sup>3</sup>) fourth annual community quinceañera, held last month as an alcohol-free event.



**Fatima Reyes**

The event was held at Pomona's dA Center for the Arts.

Reyes, who is involved in the P<sup>3</sup> Youth Coalition, was chosen from a group of applicants by other Youth Coalition members after completing an application and going through an interview process.

Reyes and her family agreed to celebrate her coming of age

event with friends and family and agreed to the alcohol-free event.

P<sup>3</sup> is a coalition that focuses on reducing youth substance use and abuse in the community.

For more information on P<sup>3</sup> and its programs, contact the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of East San Gabriel and Pomona Valley at (909) 629-4084 or visit the web site at ncaddes-gpv.org.

### Pomona Catholic softball teams find new home at Walnut batting cage that places emphasis on education

The Clubhouse Batting Cages, which opened six years ago in a business park in Walnut, has become more than a place to hit baseballs and softballs – it is placing an emphasis on education and giving area high school students – including kids from the softball program at Pomona Catholic -- a place to work on their homework.

The batting cage is owned by Ernie Galvez and Carlos Cons. Galvez also serves as assistant varsity softball coach at Pomona Catholic.

"Pomona Catholic High School is a school that prides themselves on their academics as well as athletics," Galvez said. "The Clubhouse is Pomona Catholic's home facility for their varsity and junior varsity softball programs. For us, it's really important that these athletes are provided a facility that has the ability to offer training as well as a place to study."

And the combination is working. He said last year alone six kids training at the facility received scholarships – from the

University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Central Michigan University, Iowa State University and the University of the Pacific.

"Ultimately, our goal is to help these student athletes learn the key to attaining the ever-wavering balance between academics and sports," Galvez said. "Luckily, they have access to it all here – batting cages, strength and conditioning, proficient and experienced trainers, nutritious

meal preps and most importantly a study center with access to a tutor."

Cons has a background of 25 years in marketing and 15 years as a college professor, while Galvez has a background of 20 years as a chef and nutritionist and five years as a travel softball coach.

For more information, visit the web site at [www.clubhousebattingcages.net](http://www.clubhousebattingcages.net).

### Inland Valley Hope Partners golf classic raises more than \$50,000

Inland Valley Hope Partners' 22nd annual golf classic raised more than \$50,000 this month to help in the efforts of feeding and sheltering the hungry and homeless in the Inland Valley.

The golf tournament was held at Sierra Lakes Golf Course in Fontana.

More than 120 golfers participated in the event.

Inland Valley Hope Partners has been serving low income families and individuals and homeless residents in eastern

Los Angeles County and western San Bernardino County for 50 years.

The faith-based non-profit agency provides food, short-term shelter and other supportive services to more than 75,000 men, women and children each year.


It operates a network of food pantries, housing assistance programs and more.

For information, visit the web site at [www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org](http://www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org).

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**Info on student group program at AGRIsCAPES:**  
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### Cal Poly's Innovation Brew Works wins first-ever industry recognition for quality of its beer

Innovation Brew Works, a professionally managed café and brewery located at Innovation Village on the campus of Cal Poly University Pomona, brought home big wins at both the San Diego International Beer Competition and the Los Angeles International Beer Competition this month.

The brewery received a gold medal for its Hybrid Belgian-Style Ale "Cattle Rancher" – in addition to bronze medals for their New World Bavarian Rye and Brethren Belgian – in San Diego.

"Cattle Rancher" received a silver medal in the Los Angeles competition.

Both events are highly competitive. The San Diego event featured more than 1,500 entries with more than 250 breweries participating from around the country.

"Winning these medals at these prestigious events places Innovation Brew Works amongst the finest breweries in the world today," said Aaron Neilson, dining services director for Cal Poly Foundation. "This marks the first time we have been recognized by the brewing industry for the quality of our beer."

The brewery serves as a learn-by-doing brewery laboratory for Cal Poly students, alumni, faculty and the general public and offers a variety of beers, all containing Cal Poly-grown barley and oranges.

Photos by Renee Barbee

**AWARDS FOR THE TRACTORS** -- Craig Walters, Director of AGRIScapes on the campus of Cal Poly University Pomona, poses for the La Nueva Voz camera with an arm load of trophies to be presented to winners in the tractor competition at the Spring on the Farm Festival and Tractor Show at Cal Poly last month. The event included petting animals, picking strawberries, riding hay wagons and more. AGRIScapes, located next to the Farm Store at Cal Poly, is the education and outreach center of Cal Poly's Huntley College of Agriculture.

**'I THINK I'VE GOT THIS FIGURED OUT'** -- One young visitor to the Spring on the Farm Festival and Tractor Show at Cal Poly University Pomona tries to figure out how a pretty good sized John Deere tractor works.

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## 'Hidden' wins best picture at PINDIE awards at Village Academy High School

"Hidden," a screenplay written by Village Academy High School student Lay Hak, won the award for "best picture" this month at the fifth annual Pomona Student Film Festival's "PINDIE" awards, presented by Village Academy High School.

Seven films were screened in the Village at Indian Hill movie theater complex and, as professional movie-goer Ron Hensen told La Nueva Voz, the films were "exceptionally well done this year."

The students viewing the films must have agreed since the concession stand sold out of popcorn early in the show.

All seven films were screened in two showings, followed by a question and answer session with the audience.

Other winners were "best key art" to Evelyn Turcios for "Her," "best hair and makeup" to Jocelyne Cardenas for "MINE," "best sound editing" to Genaro Jaime for "Agoraphobia," "best cinematography" to Lay Hak for "Hidden," and "best original screenplay" to Lay Hak for "Hidden."

Also, "best director" went to Diego Martinez for "Paranormal People," "best actor in a leading role" went to Diego Solis in "Mysophobia," "best actress in leading role" went to Melissa Molina in "Agoraphobia," and the "superintendent award" went to Diego Martinez for "Paranormal People."



**INTERMISSION TIME AT THE PINDIES** -- Pictured at intermission time at this year's PINDIE student film festival last week at the Village at Indian Hill are city officials, school officials and several of the students involved in the production of the films. From left are Natalie Gutierrez, 11th grade; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; Village Academy High School counselor Lorraine Canales; Jesse Ovando, 12th grade; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Village Academy social sciences teacher Newman Bellis; Village Academy Principal Joseph Biagioni; Village Academy film and math teacher Thomas Reed; and Diego Martinez, 12th grade.

### Eastside Arts Initiative deadline approaching for grants for artists

The Eastside Arts Initiative is accepting applications for its spring 2018 application cycle. Letters of intent must be submitted by May 31.

The grants focus on innovative and sustainable visual and

performing arts programs that positively impact underserved communities and advance opportunities for working and new artists.

Grants range from \$2,000 to \$50,000.

For more information, visit the web site at [www.eastsideartsinitiative.org](http://www.eastsideartsinitiative.org).

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## Applications available for ‘Youth Heritage Summit’ at Homestead Museum

“We are the Next,” a local nonprofit organization working to empower the next generation to engage with their city so neighborhoods can thrive, will

host its 2018 Youth Heritage Summit in July at the Homestead Museum in the City of Industry, offering a hands-on opportunity for teens.

Applications are available for the three-day program – with space limited to 20 participants – that will enable teens to build a relationship with surrounding

cities, meet new friends and explore career paths in history, the arts and community service.

To be eligible for the event, scheduled for July 19-21, ap-

plicants must be between the ages of 14 and 19, live in the Los Angeles region including the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire, and complete an application on line at [wearethenext.org/yhs-application](http://wearethenext.org/yhs-application) by midnight June 3.

The Youth Heritage Summit is offered across the country to teens at historic sites.

The 2018 summit here will explore what it means to be a Californian and how people of Mexican and indigenous backgrounds were united with Anglo settlers. It will also focus on the shape of “community” and will look at how historic places relate to the upcoming generation.

For information regarding the program or applications, contact (562) 546-3784 or e-mail [contact@wearethenext.org](mailto:contact@wearethenext.org).

The Youth Heritage Summit is a program of We Are the Next in partnership with the Homestead Museum, with event sponsors including the Port of Long Beach.



Photo by Keney Su / PUSD

**CHECK PRESENTATION FOR GAREY HIGH SCHOOL INVENTEAM** -- Renee Barbee and Jeff Schenkel of La Nueva Voz visit students on the InvenTeam at Garey High School this month for a check presentation ceremony after last month’s “Musical Extravaganza” fundraiser produced by La Nueva Voz at the Ebell Museum of History to send the eight members of the InvenTeam back to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology next month for “EurekaFest” where they will showcase their invention. The kids were one of only 15 schools in the country receiving a grant this year from the Lemelson Foundation to invent a “real world” product. Everything was essentially covered by the grant except travel expenses back to MIT in Cambridge. A total of \$3,000 was raised at the event, Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman raised another \$1,000 from Pomona Rotary members, and Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez and several school board members contributed another \$1,600 for a total of \$5,600, surpassing the goal for transportation funds needed. Pictured, from left, are teachers Alex Ruper and Dr. Nayla Chaoui, Garey High School Principal Dr. Marco Sanchez, teacher Antonio Gamboa, Pomona Unified School District President Dr. Roberta Perlman, InvenTeam members Diana Valencia, Evelyn Casas, Sushil Bohara, Jia Bragado, Katia Avila and Anh Thu Tran, and Renee Barbee and Jeff Schenkel of La Nueva Voz. Not pictured are InvenTeam members Melody Sanchez and Jessica Ros. Congratulations to all of the InvenTeam members on an amazing accomplishment!

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