



POMONA CHAMBER INSTALLS NEW BOARD -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval installs a new Board of Directors for the Pomona Chamber of Commerce at this month's 130th annual installation and awards reception. Pictured, from left, are Jim Dale, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center; Michael Thomas, Pomona Valley America's Job Center; Renee Barbee, La Nueva Voz; Josh Maher, Cal Poly University Pomona; Annette Limon, Mt. San Antonio College; Monique Manzanaras, San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps; Michelle Lemoine, Chaffey Federal Credit Union; Nef Cortez, RE/MAX Universal Realty; Sandra Vaughan-Acton, Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, immediate past chair; David McElwain, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Pomona GAIN Job Services, incoming chair; Sandoval; Jeff Keating, Western University of Health Sciences; Jill Reiff, Valley Vista Services; Dr. Enrique Medina, Pomona Unified School District; Daniel Thomas, Forest Lawn; Larry Egan, Downtown Pomona Owners Association; and Luis Cetina, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Not pictured are Tammy Roush of Fairplex and Kirk Pelser, City of Pomona.



La Nueva Voz

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



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Thursday, July 26, 2018

David McElwain of GAIN named Pomona Chamber of Commerce Chair, Pomona volunteer Anne Henderson receives Community Service Award

David McElwain, installed this month as chair of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce board of directors for the coming year, called Pomona "an awe-inspir-

ing city" with chamber members who "do so much good for the city, its residents, its businesses, the larger region."

McElwain, speaking at the

chamber's 130th annual Installation of Officers and Awards Reception at Pomona's Mountain Meadows Golf Course, told a room filled with nearly 150 peo-

ple that "everyone in Pomona is an inspiring leader."

The head of the Pomona office of GAIN (Greater Avenues for Independence), a welfare-to-

work initiative of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, McElwain mentioned several recent chamber board chairs in

Pomona Chamber... pg. 2

Assemblymember Rodriguez announces \$4 million in state budget to help Pomona's struggle with homelessness

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez joined with Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri last month outside the Pomona Police Department to announce a \$4 million state budget allocation to the City of Pomona to support Homelessness... pg. 5

ASSEMBLYMEMBER RODRIGUEZ ANNOUNCES \$4 MILLION FROM STATE FOR POMONA'S HOMELESS -- Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez speaks at a news conference last month at the Pomona Police Department to announce a \$4 million state budget allocation to help the city with its efforts working with the homeless. Pictured, at rear, from left, are Pomona Deputy Police Chief Hector Rodriguez, Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.



ARRAIGNED IN POMONA SUPERIOR COURT -- A court appearance is scheduled for Oct. 4 to set a date for a preliminary hearing following last week's arraignment of Isaias De Jesus Valencia, 39, who has been charged with murdering a Pomona police officer and attempting to kill other officers. He pleaded not guilty to all charges. A preliminary hearing date will be set within 60 days of his next appearance in Pomona Superior Court. Killed in the incident last March was Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas who was shot and fatally wounded while attempting to arrest Valencia following a brief pursuit. A second Pomona police officer, Field Training Officer Alex Nguyen, also allegedly was shot in the incident but recovered. Casillas was sworn in as a Pomona Police Officer in September of last year and was just about to complete field training before the incident occurred, according to Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri. Pictured is Valencia in court during his arraignment as he consults with his attorney, Deputy Public Defender Jennifer A. Friedman. Valencia was wearing an L.A. County jail orange jumpsuit and was handcuffed behind his back and shackled throughout the proceeding before Superior Court Judge Steven Blades. Approximately two dozen law enforcement officers, most from the Pomona Police Department, and a dozen family members of the defendant filled the courtroom. Valencia, who has been held without bail since his arrest four months ago, has a list of convictions dating back to 2001, according to Los Angeles County Superior Court records. Earlier arraignment dates in March and May had been continued to last week.



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Pomona Chamber... from pg. 1

Pomona and said, “these are very big shoes to fill.”

And speaking of Pomona’s students, he said Pomona has “so many young students... who are doing amazing things.”

“We have a young woman who got a perfect score on the Spanish AP (advanced placement) exam,” he said. The Garey High School senior was one of only 55 in the world to do so in 2015.

“There are many important and involved organizations

in Pomona,” McElwain said. “Since first joining the chamber some years ago to meet my needs for business networking and job opportunities for our low-income GAIN students, I have felt welcomed and encouraged by our members and leaders and that is what has brought me to my level of activity and given me the satisfaction.”

“I just cannot help but be challenged and inspired and it motivates me to want to do more,” he

added.

“I will do my very, very best to help you in any way that I can,” McElwain said. “If I can help anyone find a job, that’s always a good thing. If I can help anyone find more business, that’s a good thing, too. And I’m happy to do it.”

Outgoing Board Chair Sandra Vaughan-Acton passed the gavel on to McElwain, saying it “has been an honor and a privilege to work with the Pomona Chamber this past year as the chair.”

“I think of the board members as both colleagues and friends . . . and I am proud of the accomplishments that we have had this year,” she said. “I want to thank everyone who has worked with us this year – my



OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT AWARD -- This year’s award was presented to Pomona’s Promise. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber Chair David McElwain, Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto and, receiving the award, Megan Samaniego, Stephanie Campbell, Andrea Rico, Linda Lowry and Anne Henderson.



IMAGE AWARD -- Receiving this year’s award was Pomona Catholic School. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber Board member Luis Cetina, accepting the award former Pomona Catholic Principal Sam Torres, and Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto.




COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD -- The recipient of this year’s Pomona Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award was Anne Henderson. Pictured, from left, are State Sen. Connie Leyva, last year’s recipient; Henderson; Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; and Pomona Chamber Board Chair David McElwain.

fellow board members, the ambassadors... committee members, chamber members” and Pomona’s civic leaders.

“We’re happy to be your partner here,” she added.

“Last year when I became Pomona Chamber... pg. 4



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Note of thanks to Superior Court

Editor’s Note: La Nueva Voz thought it was important to publish a photo of the defendant accused of murdering Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas last March. That photo appears on page one of this issue during the defendant’s arraignment in Pomona Superior Court last week.

An indication of how important all of this is to the community came when Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz posted photos and caption information on our Facebook page and, because of 16 “shares” by the next morning, nearly 2,000 people had viewed the post and many had commented. And that was after only one day.

Those numbers jumped to 29 shares and nearly 4,500 people “reached” over the weekend.

The first to comment on Facebook was La Nueva Voz friend and former Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board Member Gloria Mitchell of Gloria Mitchell Bail Bonds, who called for prayers for the young officer’s family and thanked La Nueva Voz “for being there.”

Of course, “cameras in the courtroom” are highly regulated and an initial request by La Nueva Voz to photograph the proceedings was denied. That denial prompted La Nueva Voz to publish an editorial in our May issue expressing our concerns about the denial, citing the public’s interest in the proceedings (and, for that matter, continuing interest in the proceedings on the part of the Pomona law enforcement community) and, frankly, the public’s interest in what the defendant looks like since no official photo was ever released by authorities.

Over a period of several months, La Nueva Voz was able to do several things – we worked with public information staff of the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Los Angeles, we sent an e-mail to Los Angeles County Superior Court Presiding Judge Daniel Buckley along with a copy of our editorial (he replied in a two-and-a-half-page letter addressing our concerns), we filed another media agency “request to photograph,” and we appeared in court the morning of the defendant’s next hearing date (last week), an arraign-

ment that had previously been postponed twice.

“I do hope that you will continue your efforts to cover those cases that are important to the community, and that you continue to keep your readers well informed,” Presiding Judge Buckley said in his June 18 letter from his office in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in Los Angeles. “This court will do all that it can, within the confines of state and local rules, to continue to support news media access to ongoing proceedings.”

It all worked, and Pomona Superior Court Judge Steven Blades granted our request, resulting in the page one photo. La Nueva Voz and Los Angeles television station KTTV (Channel 11) were the only two news media organizations present at the proceedings.

A representative of the Superior Court’s public information office even drove out from Los Angeles to assist the news media in covering the arraignment.

Thanks, Judge Blades, for your understanding of all of this and thanks, too, Judge Buckley for your support.



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Pomona Chamber... from pg. 2

chair in this very room... I spoke about the opportunity that we all in this room have in being a light to the City of Pomona as we give to our community in our own unique ways," she said. "It is now time to allow another light to shine as chair of the chamber and I am pleased to now hand the gavel to David McElwain and assure him of my commitment to support the board under his leadership and to congratulate him."

Community Service Award

This year's Community Service Award was presented to Pomona volunteer Anne Henderson.

The award is granted annually to an individual who has consistently played a vital leadership role in community service organizations and the business community. The recipient must represent a positive image to the community and have a reputation for honesty, integrity and selflessness.

McElwain said when he came to Pomona "there was one person who stood out for me," referring to Henderson.

Presenting the award to Henderson was State Sen. Connie Leyva, last year's recipient of the award.

Henderson thanked everyone for supporting the work they do in Pomona and encouraged them to become involved in the work of Pomona's Promise.

She said all of the work she does "is very enjoyable."

"I get to work with wonderful people in the community," she added, "and I really do like all of it."

Henderson, a native of San Gabriel who moved to Pomona in 1977, worked for the Pomona Unified School District for 32 years, served on school committees and served on the Pomona

Pomona Valley Hospital receives environmental recognition

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center last month was named a 2018 San Gabriel Valley Environmental Award Winner by the Los Angeles Regional Agency and was recognized by members of the Pomona City Council for its commitment to environmental stewardship during a meeting of the City Council last month.



Outgoing Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Sandra Vaughan-Acton hands over the ceremonial gavel to new Pomona Chamber Board Chair David McElwain.

Youth and Family Master Plan from its inception, working in areas of education, sustainability, and drug, alcohol and violence prevention.

She served as chair for four years.

She has also served as a Tri-City Mental Health Center delegate stakeholder and currently serves on its mental health commission.

She is involved with P3 (Partnership for a Positive Pomona), Support Our Pomona Public Library, Pomona Beautification Day, Fairplex Friends and the Community Engagement Group.

Henderson was installed last month as president of Pomona Host Lions Club, she is a set designer for Pomona's Repertory Opera Company, and she sings in the choir at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Other awards

This year's Image Award was presented to Pomona Catholic School. The award is presented each year to an organization or business that continually demonstrates pride in ownership by maintaining the business or organization in a positive manner.

Chamber Board member Luis Cetina, who presented the award

The hospital's environmental leadership efforts include reducing its carbon footprint by recycling paper and cardboard materials and implementing its "organic food waste" program.

The Los Angeles Regional Agency was founded in 2004 by environmentally conscious recycling advocates and representatives of 14 cities.



NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD-- Café con Libros Press was the recipient of this year's award. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber Chair David McElwain, Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto, and, accepting the award, Pati DeRobles, Vito Gamez, Lolita Calzada, Aaron DeRobles, Jessica Willmore, Laura Solis and Noel Cabrera.

to outgoing Pomona Catholic Principal Sam Torres, said 25 percent of the school's student body is made up of children who live in Pomona and about 63 percent of the student body receives some form of financial assistance.

The school has been a part of the Pomona community for 120 years.

Torres, who joined Pomona Catholic in 2009, stepped down last month to become superintendent of Catholic schools for the San Bernardino Diocese.

"As the community increases, the school increases," Torres said in congratulating everyone "on your parts in what you do for the City of Pomona."

He said the school has produced two Gates Millennium Scholars, one student graduated from Vassar College this year and another student will graduate from the USC School of Engineering next year.

This year's Outstanding Community Partnership and Engagement Award was presented to Pomona's Promise.

McElwain, in presenting the award, called the organization a collaborative group of individuals working as a team engaged in exemplary community activities such as volunteerism, community-based learning, outreach and initiatives promoting economic development.

The group formerly was known as the Pomona Youth and Family Master Plan.

McElwain presented the award to Megan Samaniego, volunteer coordinator for Cal Poly University Pomona.



MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD -- This year's recipient was FYI Technologies, Inc. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber Board Chair David McElwain, Carlos Garcia of FYI Technologies, and Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto.

"Pomona's Promise isn't just one person – I can't stand up here alone and accept the award," Samaniego said, "because Pomona's Promise is a community collaborative."

She said it is made up of nearly 200 community stakeholders, adding that half the people in the room have been involved at one point or another. And, of course, she encouraged the other half to come and join them in their work.

The Member of the Year Award was presented to Carlos Garcia of FYI Technologies, Inc.

The award is presented each year to an individual who provides valuable services to the Pomona Chamber through committee work and special volunteer assignments and demonstrates excellence in leadership and extraordinary support of the business community.

Garcia told the chamber he talked to several area chambers of commerce before joining Pomona.

"It (Pomona) was one of the most welcoming chambers I've ever attended," he said.

He thanked members of the chamber board "because without you guys things wouldn't happen so well."

And the New Business of the Year Award was presented to Café con Libros Press, a Downtown Pomona business that McElwain said is "making the community thrive."

The business is an all-volunteer-run business with goals of celebrating the art, literature and culture of the community.

It maintains partnerships with area universities and helps stock Pomona's "Little Free Libraries," those little boxes around town filled with books in a "take one, leave one" kind of program.

Owners Pati DeRobles and Adi Bautista, who both started their careers as teachers, actually opened 20 years ago at another Downtown Pomona location before the two took time off to raise their families.

Homelessness... from pg. 1

Pomona police efforts working with the homeless and boosting current efforts by more than 400 percent.

Speaking in a news conference in the police parking lot, Rodriguez outlined how the funding will help launch the Pomona OATH (Officers Assisting the Homeless) Initiative by funding new police officers and mental health clinicians to work directly with the homeless in Pomona to provide security and services.

"In 2017 during a single night count, Pomona had nearly 900 homeless individuals living in our city streets," Rodriguez said. "As a lifelong resident of Pomona and when I talk with people what I always hear is homelessness as the number one issue on their minds."

"I am proud of one solution I am able to bring to the city," he added. "I am proud to announce Pomona's OATH . . . initiative to help take on this issue."

He said within an hour from the time of the news conference California Gov. Jerry Brown was expected to sign the state budget

in Downtown Los Angeles.

"Once he signs that bill . . . Pomona will receive \$4 million reserved to help the police department hire new officers and mental health professionals to work directly with our homeless population," Rodriguez said. "Our officers will receive additional training to help them to be as effective as possible. This is a big win for Pomona."

Will the homeless be receptive to the program?

Rodriguez was asked by La Nueva Voz if he has conducted any studies or polling to determine if the homeless population in Pomona will be receptive to police and social workers reaching out to provide assistance.

He said the police department already maintains its HEART (Homeless Encampment Action Response Team) team, adding that with the new funding police will be able to add even additional resources – "hire more officers, more education and training on our officers in how to deal with the homeless population, get them to the resources where

they need to be."

"We know that there's going to be the homeless shelter being built here in the next couple of months, maybe (the new officers will be focused on) directing the homelessness there . . . about the resources and services available to them in the city," Rodriguez said.

Pomona Police Sgt. Anthony Catanese, who oversees the Pomona Police Department's involvement in both the HEART team and the HOST (Homeless Outreach Service Team) team, agreed.

"Basically, our HOST team is a regional program and we're going out currently and providing outreach to our homeless community," Catanese said. "At first, the homeless community was taken aback by our presence, but they quickly realized we were there to help them and direct them to the proper resources. So I think first hand knowledge, the data that we are collecting, they definitely appreciate our presence in their community."

Pomona's Neighborhood

Services Director Benita De-Frank, speaking with La Nueva Voz following the news conference, said city staff has held a series of community meetings and focus groups with homeless residents where she has seen an overwhelming 80 percent indicate they are "just waiting for" the type of services that will be available through the city's new \$10 million year-round homeless service center and emergency shelter expected to open at 1400 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona, this fall.

Was funding prompted by 'dumping' of homeless in Pomona?

La Nueva Voz asked Rodriguez if his \$4 million funding measure was a response to reports of "dumping" of homeless individuals in Pomona by first responders from surrounding cities.

"That's (dumping) something that's always been talked about for the last couple of years of a lot of homeless folks coming from outside the city but I think that's a partnership or relation-

ship we need to build with the cities surrounding Pomona to address the issue – not only from our police department but our mayors and the local electeds to come together to talk about how do we deal with those issues that are affecting not only Pomona but additional cities around Pomona," Rodriguez said.

"And really, we always talk about funding – we can talk about programs and what we want to do but without money we can't do anything," he said. "So this is I think a big step towards helping the city and particularly the police department to address those issues," he added.

Sandoval added that "we don't have any doubt that that (dumping) happens."

"The degree to which it happens is debatable, but we know it happens and when it happens and we become aware of it I can assure you that our police chief and myself make sure that the city that's involved in doing that – whether it's their police force or anybody from their staff – is

Homelessness... pg. 20

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Supervisor Solis calls for support for veterans to continue despite decrease in homeless population

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis told representatives of more than 200 employers, health and resource providers at her second annual Los Angeles Veterans Resource Expo this month at Fairplex that the work to support veterans must continue.

“We’ve seen a decrease, believe it or not, an 18 percent decrease in veteran homeless individuals in the County of Los Angeles, and that happened because of many of the providers that are here with us today,” Solis said.

“We can’t just stop because we’re hearing that we’re taking care of people that are homeless vets on the street, we need to do more, we need to emphasize the fact that there are jobs available, there are training opportunities, there’s education available and there’s a whole slew of social services that are going to be made available in a way that hasn’t been provided before in part because the county provided the passage of a measure, Measure H, for homeless individuals,” she added.

She said a “good portion” of that funding will be set aside for homeless veterans throughout the County of Los Angeles.

In addition to jobs, Solis said the county is investing dollars in housing for homeless veterans and people who have mental ill-



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis opens this month’s second annual Los Angeles Veterans Resource Expo at Fairplex.

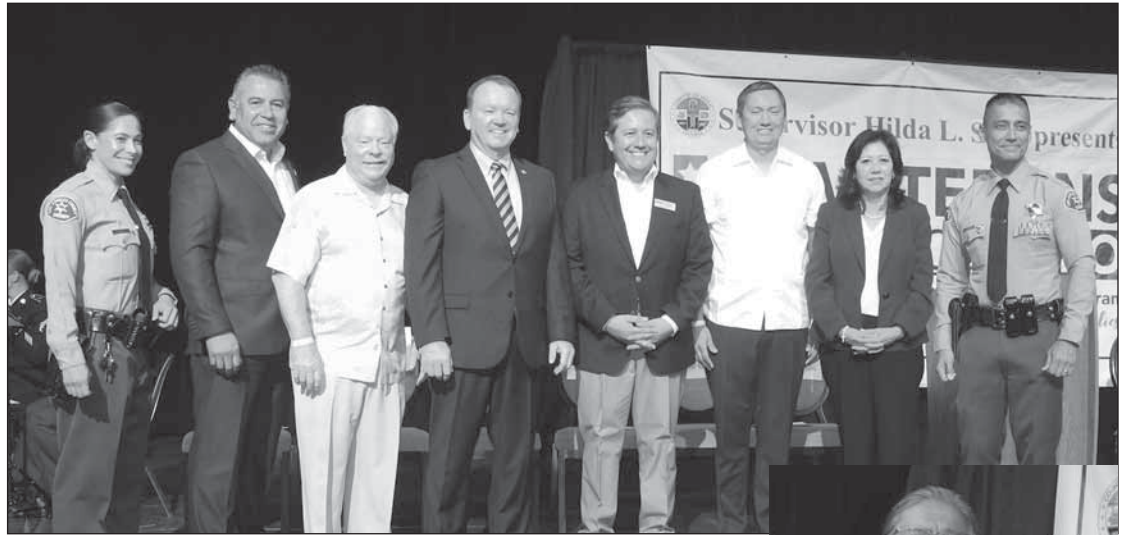


Vet Hunters Project founder Joe Leal helps kick off this month’s Los Angeles Veterans Resource Expo at Fairplex.

ness.

And, she said, women who have served in the nation’s armed forces have not been forgotten.

“We salute you and we have allocated funding to a new pro-



Some of the participants in the second annual Los Angeles Veterans Resource Expo at Fairplex are, from left, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Deputy Clarissa Torres, of the department’s recruitment section; Pomona Unified Schools Supt. Richard Martinez; La Verne Mayor Don Kendrick; Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell; Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; and Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Deputy Carlos Levario of the department’s military veterans affairs office.



San Dimas Sheriff’s Station Capt. Andy Berg, at right, stops by the Los Angeles County Library booth at the Los Angeles Veterans Resource Expo.

gram called Military Women in Need,” she said, explaining it is a program that empowers female veterans and survivors of veterans, enabling them to live lives of independence and dignity.

Calling the Veterans Resource Expo a “one stop shop” for veterans services, she said Los Angeles County is “trying to make sure that we provide the best services to all of our veterans and their families,” adding that the county is home to more than 350,000 veterans.

“We know there is a great number of homeless veterans on our street not just in L.A. but around the country,” Solis said.

“We’re working very hard with our partners to make sure that we minimize those individuals that are out on the street sleeping on sidewalks or under bridges.”

State Sen. Connie Leyva joined Solis on stage in Building 4 at Fairplex to thank the veterans. She said she is the daughter of a Vietnam veteran and the granddaughter of two World War II veterans.

“We forget that freedom is not free and we forget that we get to live the life we choose to live because of all of you and I do want to thank the families, the spouses, the partners, the children who serve also,” Leyva



Roy Twobears DeLa Rosa, of the Native Americans Veterans Association, bangs the ceremonial drum as he offers the invocation at the Veterans Resource Expo.



State Sen. Connie Leyva

said.

Solis recognized Joe Leal, her appointee to the county’s Veterans Advisory Commission, an Iraq combat veteran and founder of Vet Hunters Project, as “the person who imagined” the annual job fair and expo.

“They say that the veterans should adjust when they come back from deployment, but we believe that the community should adjust to the veterans and that’s what you see here today,” Leal said. “What better way to honor the fallen (than) by serving the living.”

Los Angeles County Sheriff

Support for veterans... pg. 18



La Nueva Voz safety columnist Jose Bermudez, at right, takes a look at the technology at the La Verne-based office of Crown Equipment Corporation booth at the Veterans Resource Expo as he chats with Roy Kobayashi, regional recruiter for the company.

Pomona's Maura Ayala named 52nd Assembly District 'Woman of the Year,' others honored at fifth annual community barbecue in Chino

Community volunteer Maura Ayala was honored this weekend as Pomona's "Woman of the Year" at Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez' fifth annual summer open house and community barbecue in Chino.

Women of the year were announced for cities in the 52nd Assembly District (Pomona, Ontario, Montclair, Chino and Fontana) along with one districtwide Woman of the Year.

The women of the year

immigrant rights, student rights and health care," Frausto said.

She volunteers for city events like Beautification Day, the Kite Festival, the Pilgrimage and more.

She and her family have established an annual toy drive which last year acquired more than 3,000 toys including disaster kits for parents.

Daniel Guevara was named the districtwide Veteran of the Year and the Veteran of the Year from Ontario, although he is active in Pomona's American Legion Post 30 where he has been a member for more than 12 years, held the post of first vice commander and serves in the Post 30 color guard and



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez poses for a photo as he presents Montclair's 'Woman of the Year Award' to Angela Besiant, director of the emergency department at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.

were selected because they are passionate, independent and strong, said master of ceremonies Erica Frausto, executive director of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce.

She said they have persisted despite barriers to pave the way for new generations to come and have demonstrated their ability to go above and beyond to make their community a better place.

Ayala, a long-time community member in Pomona, is a board member of the Latino-Latina Roundtable and a member of the Pomona Democratic Club "because she believes in the power of civic engagement and fighting for various causes like

honor guard.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1968 at the age of 17-1/2 and was scheduled for a tour in Vietnam aboard a heavy-duty guided missile cruiser.

He is also a member of the American Red Cross and was sent to Louisiana to assist with the damage of Hurricane Katrina.



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presents Pomona's 'Woman of the Year Award' to Maura Ayala.

Pomona's Veteran of the Year was Fabricio Monteroso, Cal Poly University Pomona's outstanding student veteran for 2017-2018, who will be graduating with a degree in mathematics.

Last summer he attended the Drill Sergeant Academy for the U.S. Army where he graduated third in his class of 100 soldiers.

He also made the "Commandant List" and was selected by veterans at Cal Poly to represent the campus



Daniel Guevara of Pomona's American Legion Post 30 is honored by Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez with the districtwide and Ontario 'Veteran of the Year Award.'



Oscar Perdoma accepts the 'Small Business of the Year Award' from Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez on behalf of his family's Rookery Alehouse and Grill in Downtown Pomona.

as an Honor Flight Guardian for spring 2018.

Small Business of the Year for Pomona was the Rookery Alehouse and Grill in Downtown Pomona and owners Oscar and Myriam Perdoma, who have been business owners in the downtown area for more than two decades.

Frausto said the Rookery has offered Pomona a unique blend of commitment, growth and great food.

Both of the Perdoma sons, Raymond and Oscar, work at the restaurant while their parents run the kitchen.

Frausto said small business awardees were innovative businesses that have played a crucial role in providing a vibrant and successful economy.

"Your relentless dedication and commitment to preserving the small business spirit in this region is greatly appreciated," she said.

ParkTree Community Health Center of Pomona won both the districtwide and Pomona "Non-profit of the Year Award."

The health center was founded in 1995 as the Pomona Clinic Coalition by Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and other local healthcare providers in response to the burgeoning indigent and working poor population in the eastern end of Los Angeles County.

It was also designed to address the region's lack of adequate public health infrastructure.

Its mission is to provide high quality preventative and primary care health services and, Frausto said,



Vanessa Enriquez accepts the districtwide and Pomona 'Non-Profit of the Year Award' from Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez on behalf of award winner ParkTree Community Health Center of Pomona.

no one is ever turned away due to lack of funds.

Angela Besiant was named Montclair's Woman of the Year, but her Pomona connection is that she serves as director of the emergency department at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.

She has been involved in the planning of various new units at the hospital and has been active with community



Pomona's 'Veteran of the Year Award' winner Fabricio Monteroso receives his award from Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.

projects including promotion of "Sidewalk CPR" trainings and the "Every 15 Minutes" anti-drunk driving program at area high schools.

She also works closely with emergency medical service technicians to make sure everyone is working together to provide the best patient care.



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October 12 & December 19, 2018 Quarter Ends
November 12, 2018Veteran's Day
November 19-23, 2018 (no classes).....Thanksgiving Week
December 20, 2018-Jan. 6, 2019..... Winter Break

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 Dia del Trabajo(Dia Festivo) 3 de septiembre, 2018
 Final del Trimestres 12 de octubre y 19 de diciembre, 2018
 Dia de Veteranos(Dia Festivo) 12 de noviembre, 2018
 Semana de Acción de Gracias..... 19 al 23 de noviembre, 2018
 Receso de Invierno.....20 de diciembre, 2018 al 7 de enero, 2019

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Para solicitar información de las fechas, horarios, ubicación de clases y pagos llamen a (909) 469-2333.

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CELEBRANDO 80+ AÑOS DE EDUCACIÓN EXCELENTE PARA ADULTOS

Jon Provost (Timmy Martin) visits Pomona to help dedicate historic ‘Lassie House’

Just to get this out on the table, Timmy Martin of the Lassie television series (1957 – 1964) never fell in the well and Lassie never came home barking to announce such a tragedy.

We’re not sure if it was created by late night television comedians or just a part of urban legend. But it was “out there” enough that Timmy (Jon Provost in real life) chose the phrase as the title for his 2007 memoirs, “Timmy’s in the Well: The Jon Provost Story” (\$18.95 in paperback on Amazon).

And it was also “out there” enough that Pomona’s historic preservationist Ray Adamyk and his wife Michelle built a decorative well of their own in the corner of their front yard.

It makes sense, really, as their new house (they moved in a year ago) in Pomona is the old ‘Lassie House,’ where Provost lived as a boy growing up in Pomona and attending Kingsley Elementary School across the street.

In fact, Provost lived there during the first five years the Lassie series was running on television.

Adamyk threw a party for the community this month to commemorate the listing of the house on the historic register for the City of Pomona and everybody came – including Provost and his wife, Laurie, now residents of Santa Paula.

“This is such a treat – the last time I was in that house I was nine years old,” Provost told an audience of more than 100 seated in the front yard on folding chairs and holding umbrellas to shield themselves from the sun. “We



Jon Provost, who played Timmy on the Lassie television series, speaks at dedication ceremonies this month at Pomona’s Lassie House.



POMONA’S ‘LASSIE HOUSE’ DEDICATION -- Ray and Michelle Adamyk held an open house this month to dedicate their new home’s listing in the historic register for the City of Pomona. The house was the boyhood home of Jon Provost, who played Timmy in the Lassie television series. Provost appeared at the event.

lived here for about five years.”

He said when he and his wife arrived, the Adamyks gave him a private tour.

“Walking through this house just brought back so many mem-

ories – I have great memories here,” he said. “This house was surrounded by 20 acres of orange groves.”

“I’m so happy for you guys to take the time and your heart to do this because it’s not an easy job,” Provost said, adding that he’s done a little remodeling of his own.

amyk said a remodeling of the house is about 80 percent complete on the inside and about 50 percent on the outside.

His plans call for decorative painting, stain glass, murals, draperies, wall décor, paintings, an exterior swimming “pond,” landscape, hardscape, a theater, a game room, a guest house and a bath house (formerly a carriage house) and more.

He and Michelle moved in last September from Claremont.

“My wife and I really felt a calling to come and serve the City of Pomona and help out any way we can,” he said.

Adamyk is founder and president of Spectra Company. He purchased the nearly 100-year-old Pomona YMCA building last summer for \$2.65 million and is working on a two-year renovation there.

His company has preserved historic buildings in California and the West including Hearst Castle in San Simeon, the Biltmore Hotel and the Bradbury Building in Downtown Los Angeles and others.

He calls his home a “craftorian” house – half Craftsman (the bottom floor) and half Victorian upstairs, since the original owner’s wife wanted a Victorian and they compromised.

“This house will be a house not just for us, it is going to be for the community, so we want to open it

Lassie House... pg. 20



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval counts down to the official unveiling of a marker in front of a decorative well designating Ray and Michelle Adamyk’s new home “Lassie House.” Pictured, from left, are Sandoval, Jon Provost, who played Timmy on the Lassie television series, and Michelle and Ray Adamyk.

ories – I have great memories here,” he said. “This house was surrounded by 20 acres of orange groves.”

“It is just amazing what Ray and Michelle have done and that’s so important, to keep our history,” Provost added. “So many places you go . . . and you see how all the great old buildings are gone.”

Adamyk told his guests the house was built in 1900 and moved to its present location in 1927 by mules. The 7,000 square foot house has eight bedrooms and eight bathrooms on a half an acre lot.

He said he has been told it is the largest house in Pomona that someone lives in.

But wait, it’s not finished! Ad-

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It was truly "red, white and blue" everywhere at La Verne's Patriotic Motorcycle Salute.

La Verne Mayor Don Kendrick, proudly wearing his "U.S. Submarine Veteran" hat, addresses the crowd before the beginning of the Patriotic Motorcycle Salute. "Thank you each and every one of you for being here consistently for the 12 years that you have been leading our parade," Kendrick said. He told the crowd that La Verne is a patriotic town.



LEADING THE FOURTH OF JULY 'PATRIOTIC SALUTE' -- Tim Morrison, at left, founder and organizer of the 13th annual "Patriotic Motorcycle Salute" before La Verne's Fourth of July parade, leads the pack of 200 motorcycles out of the front parking lot of Bonita High School for a roaring salute to the nation before the quieter and slower official parade gets under way.

If these men look familiar leading La Verne's Fourth of July parade, they should -- they represent the color guard of Pomona's own American Legion Post 30, led by Bob Radcliff, at left, and that's Post 30 Commander Richard Haro carrying the flag at far right. Brian Bowcock served as grand marshal in the parade. He was honored for his 40 years of service on the parade committee. "I'm so proud of you guys here," he told the motorcycle riders before the start of the ride.



Salute... pg. 15



The U.S. Marines raised the flag at the event after the flag itself was presented as La Verne Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12034 "marched on the colors."



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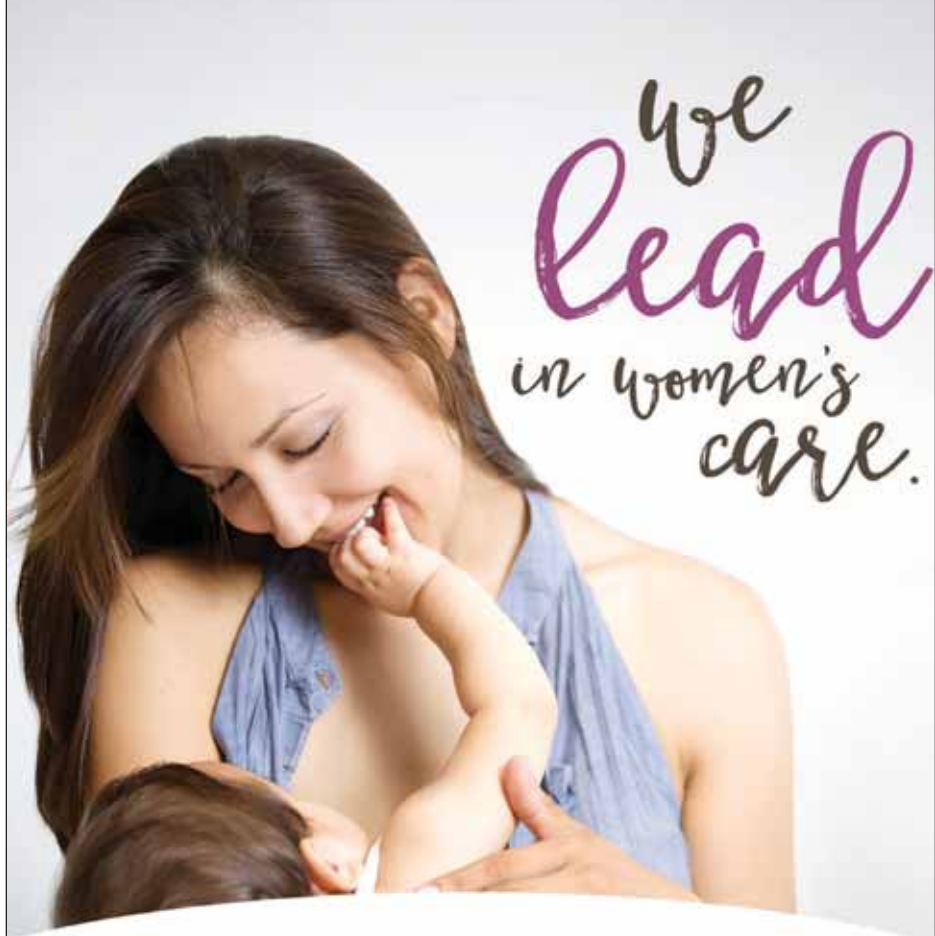
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Trains crossing Temple Avenue entrance to Cal Poly permanently diverted in \$94.8 million Alameda Corridor-East project

If you ever drive Pomona's busiest thoroughfare, you won't have to wait for those long freight trains any more thanks to a new permanent freight railroad diversion route made possible as a \$94.8 million part of the Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) program.

Officials gathered this month where the tracks cross Temple Avenue at Valley Boulevard (at one of the main entrances to Cal Poly University Pomona) to celebrate the diversion route which effective this month now sends those same trains across Cal Poly farmland to an existing Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way that is already grade-separated.

And Temple Avenue, with 33,800 daily vehicles, serves as a campus gateway for 27,000 students and employees, making it Pomona's busiest street.

The tracks also cross Pomona Boulevard just west of Temple.

Officials pointed out that the diversion route will help reduce traffic collisions and train horn noise as well as improving traffic flow.

The Union Pacific Railroad route is used daily by 20 freight trains, a number that is projected to increase to 42 by 2025.

"We thank our partner agencies for providing the support to make the Temple Avenue Train Diversion Project possible," said San Gabriel Councilwoman Juli Constanzo, chair of the Capital Projects and Construction Committee of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, which oversaw the project as part of the ACE program.

"Investment in the ACE projects highlights our commitment to improving safety and mobility along rail corridors and we are pleased to announce the opening of the diversion route to rail traffic," she added.

The Temple crossing has had two train-vehicle collisions over the past 10 years.

Cost of the 2.3-mile rail diversion route was funded from federal sources (52 percent), Los Angeles Metro (40 percent), Union Pacific Railroad (7 percent) and state (1 percent).

Alameda Corridor... pg. 17



Photo courtesy of San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

CELEBRATING FREIGHT TRAIN DIVERSION ON POMONA'S BUSIEST STREET -- Officials gathered this month at an entrance to Cal Poly Pomona University to announce a permanent \$94.8 million freight train route diversion that will end long waits on Temple Avenue at Valley Boulevard in Pomona, the city's busiest street with 33,800 daily vehicles. Pictured, from left, are Mark Christoffels, chief engineer for the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments; Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres; Claremont City Councilmember Sam Pedroza, a member of the Council of Governments Capital Projects and Construction Committee; Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez; Union Pacific Railroad Public Affairs Director Lupe Valdez; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, also a member of the construction committee; Congresswomen Norma Torres and Judy Chu; San Gabriel City Councilmember Juli Constanzo, construction committee chair; Cal Poly Associated Students President Jenny Greenberg; Cal Poly Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Sylvia Alva; and Diamond Bar City Councilmember Nancy Lyons, also a construction committee member.



The strawberries and, it seemed like, pretty much everything else looked good at last month's "wellness market" at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, co-sponsored by the hospital and the Farm Store at Cal Poly.

WELLNESS MARKET AT POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL -- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center held another one of its one-day "wellness markets" in the front parking lot last month by teaming up with Dawn Taccone and her staff from the Farm Store at Cal Poly University Pomona. Community members and hospital staff were encouraged to attend the market to learn about the importance of proper nutrition while having the opportunity to buy locally-grown, healthy foods from Cal Poly's farm. How important is that? The Centers for Disease Control cite figures showing more than one-third of U.S. adults suffer from obesity, which is linked to many of the leading causes of preventable death. Pictured, from left, are hospital emergency department employees Crystal Leon and Jocelyn Castillo receiving a bag of, well, something healthy, of course, from Farm Store alumnus (and Cal Poly alum who majored in hospitality management) Nathan Whelan, of Huntington Beach, now a commercial photographer.



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Pomona police show kids a great time at 'G.R.E.A.T. Campout' at Fairplex



MEETING AND GREETING THE KIDS -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at right, and Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, at left, get to know some of the kids at last weekend's G.R.E.A.T. Campout (in front of the ice cream truck). The free sleepover at Fairplex gives 300 Pomona kids ages 9 to 13 a chance to come out and have fun, play games, watch movies, win prizes, have hamburgers and an amazing breakfast the next morning and more. And all they have to bring is a pillow -- they are given a sleeping bag to use and take home. The kids also get to meet participating Pomona police officers, see a K-9 demonstration, and take an up-close look at the SWAT equipment (the police helicopter also landed in the in-field next door for tours). There was also an emphasis on anti-gang and anti-drug programs. Pictured next to Sandoval is "mom" and volunteer Noemi Hernandez. Her son, Adrian Hernandez, 12, a student at Lexington Elementary School, one of the campers, is pictured at right. The event is sponsored by the police department, the City of Pomona, Fairplex and others.

Face painting was a popular attraction at the overnight campout at Fairplex, courtesy of some of those amazing artists from Pomona's Village Academy High School who Lorraine Canales pulled together for the occasion.



As with so many things, if you want something done right, call a cop. Pictured are volunteers from the Pomona Police Department grilling the burgers for dinner at the campout.



Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole shows off the G.R.E.A.T. Campout's event t-shirt holding it up in front of her long time friend Isaiah Corena, 9, a student at Allison Elementary School.



Kids at the Pomona Police Department G.R.E.A.T. Campout had a blast going up (and down) the climbing wall.



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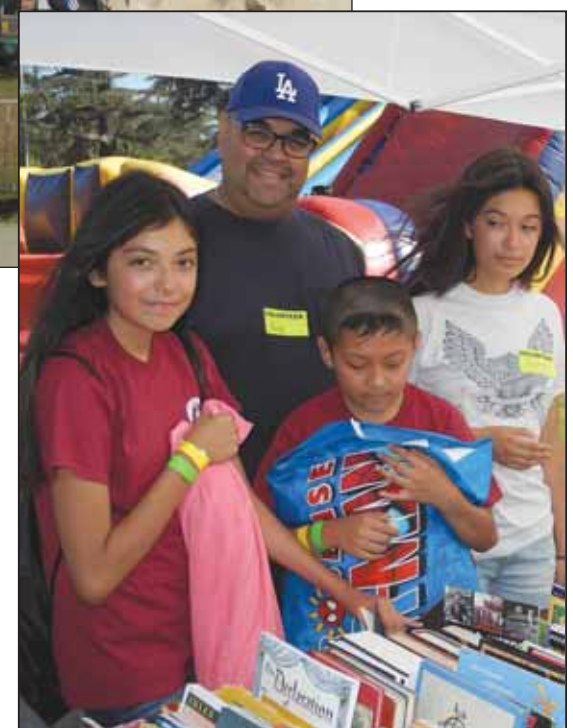


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State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL



Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana welcomes campers to the Pomona police department's G.R.E.A.T. Campout last weekend. Chatting with Santana are Isabella Zapada, 12, a student at Cortez Math and Science Magnet, at left, and Serenity Alaniz, 12, of Lincoln Elementary School. The popular campout is produced by Pomona Police Corporal James Gibson and his staff in the department's crime prevention unit.



Stopping by the Pomona Public Library booth for some free books to read during the night is the Gonzalez family -- this year, two volunteers and two campers! Pictured, from left, are daughter Francis Gonzalez, 13, a camper, dad Ralph Gonzalez, volunteering again this year, son Phillip Gonzalez, 9, camping this year for the first time (and with a new haircut for the occasion), and daughter Helena Gonzalez, 14, volunteering this year for the first time.

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Salute... from pg. 11



The motorcycles -- and their riders -- always dress for the occasion for the Patriotic Motorcycle Salute before La Verne's Fourth of July parade. La Nueva Voz even spotted Abe Lincoln riding one of the bikes, complete with a stove pipe hat worn on top of his helmet.

La Verne's Patriotic Motorcycle Salute organizer Tim Morrison salutes during the flag-raising ceremony at the opening of comments before the ride to several hundred riders (some were riding "two up" on more than 200 motorcycles).



One motorcycle in the patriotic salute was decked out as Uncle Sam.



Photo courtesy of Lemelson-MIT Program

IT FINALLY HAPPENED! THE GAREY KIDS MADE IT TO CAMBRIDGE! -- Pictured are members of Garey High School's InvenTeam, one of Pomona's favorite groups of students, explaining their "real world" invention "Heart & Sole" to a visitor to their booth at EurekaFest at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge last month. The Garey kids showed their invention -- to the public and

members of the MIT community -- along with members of 14 other teams from around the country (some are seen in the background) after working on their invention all year, running their effort just like a business, buying parts, handling the marketing and bookkeeping and more. The entire community rallied behind the Pomona team, which was made up entirely of sophomores and juniors. While the students' team was one of only 15 in the nation to win an invention grant from the Lemelson Foundation, the grant did not cover travel expenses back to Massachusetts but the community got behind the kids and provided donations for airplane tickets and expenses. It was the first time students from Garey High School participated in the program, which is co-sponsored by the Lemelson Foundation and the MIT School of Engineering. The program -- designed to celebrate outstanding inventors -- is now in its 15th year. The Garey students' invention, "Heart & Sole," is a device to monitor blood flow and other foot-related issues using cameras, sensors and computers for people with diabetic neuropathy and resulting limitations on their mobility. Garey teachers Antonio Gamboa and Alex Ruper served as advisors to the students on the project and accompanied them to Cambridge. Good job, students, all the way through on this project. You set an amazing example for your classmates and other students throughout Pomona and you made it happen.



PROUD SPONSOR

GET YOUR KICKS AT THIS YEAR'S LA COUNTY FAIR

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Go to LACountyFair.com for tickets and updates.

*Acts subject to change without notice. Fair admission is included in the price of concert tickets. Ticket sales for all shows are final.

OPINION

Reality of children torn from their parents: does it affect mental health?

By Genesis Aguirre

Imagine being locked in a cage and only being let out to see the sun for a couple hours a day. That is the reality of the children who have been torn from their parents due to the current administration's "zero tolerance" policy. This heinous policy is affecting many people, but those who are the most vulnerable are the children. The website for the Department of Homeland Security states that as of June 20, 2,053 children under the age of 18 have been separated from their families and placed in detention camps. They have been kept in what are essentially cages and must sleep on the concrete floors in sleeping bags using thermal blankets that look like large pieces of tin foil. The children are not allowed to even hug their own siblings in their desperate attempt to try to console themselves.

Now that the latest executive order has been signed, the fate of these children has become more grim. Before the signing of the executive order to detain families together, children could only be held for a maximum of 20 days. Now the families and children who have already been detained could remain in these centers indefinitely. What we really need to be asking ourselves is this: how is imprisoning families affecting the health of these children? The American Academy of Pediatrics found that even brief detention of

children can cause psychological trauma and can have long lasting effects on their mental health. The images that have been shown recently paint a vivid picture of the fear these children feel and the desperation they are experiencing. Being separated from their caregivers is extremely detrimental to the growth of children and their development.

A child can experience feelings of grief, sadness, and loss although the parent may not be dead. Separation can lead to a disruption in attachments to mothers, parent surrogates, and siblings. According to Harvard Immigration Project researchers Suárez-Orozco, Todorova, and Louie (2002), separation from this extended family dynamic can cause a traumatic emotional sense of loss and sadness for the child. This sort of loss can lead to grieving, not only for the metaphorical loss of their caregiver, but also the loss of their routines and security, and this may trigger physical, emotional, and behavioral responses. At this moment, children who are separated are suffering from anxieties, bereavement, lack of comfort, and other distress that a child should not have to go through.

There is also so much that the public knows about what is happening to these children while in detention. In an interview with a previous employee at the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shelter in Tucson, Arizona, the former worker stated that he decided to quit once children began to throw objects, furniture, and even attempt suicide within the detention centers. It is a crisis if children are attempting to hurt themselves, and it is clear that being in these detention centers is a very destructive experience for them. We, as citizens, have the ability to change what is happening, but everyone must act now.

The suffering created by the administration's "zero tolerance" policy demands a solution. A bill, H.R. 6180, was introduced last month by Congresswoman Nanette Barragan (D – San Pedro) that requires the federal government to provide mental health services to each child who has been separated from one or more parent as a result of implementation of the Trump Administration's zero tolerance policy at the U.S. border, and for other purposes. Although this bill is in its very early stages of the legislative process, once a law, it can help address the mental health crisis these detained children are enduring. This bill would provide much needed mental health services to children who are potentially experiencing trauma and other emotional and psychological disturbances due to being detained and separated from their parents. As a master's of social work candidate, I believe that it is crucial that all children have a healthy development, and that means taking responsibility and action by providing access to important services to these children.

Editor's Note: Genesis Aguirre, a graduate of El Monte High School, now a resident of Pomona and a 2016 graduate of Cal Poly University Pomona (bachelor's degree in sociology), today is a candidate for a master's of social work degree with a concentration in children, youth and families at USC.

SAFETY FIRST By Jose Bermudez, Certified Safety Professional

Safety tips are important during summer months – and all year round!

None of us wake up in the morning intentionally planning to have an accident. Living and working safely is a choice we make if we consider existing conditions and plan our day.

Awareness and organization are important in preventing risk, avoiding hazardous conditions, and living safely.

Planning and preparation can prevent inadvertent behavior, unsafe conditions, and consequences. The following are recommendations that can be helpful in making safe choices to live and enjoy daily activities for ourselves and our loved ones.

- Always remove your child from your vehicle when parking, no matter how long you plan on stopping at any location. High temperatures in an enclosed vehicle can be fatal for a child in a short period of time.

- When reversing out of a driveway or parking lot, walk around rear of vehicle to assure that there are no children in the way. Then look at rear window, use mirrors, and vehicle cameras (if applicable) to further ascertain that there is no one in your path, then proceed.

- Use approved child seats as recommended by the manufacturer and California Vehicle Code in placing and securing children in back seat of your vehicle.

- According to the National Highway Traffic Administration, 90.1 percent of vehicle occupants use seat belts. This leaves 27.5 million people who do not. There were 10,428 vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2016. Seat belts save lives, please buckle up.

- The sun and outdoor high temperatures can be harmful, and even fatal, if one is not prepared. Prior to outdoor physical activity, drink 16 ounces of water. Thereafter, drink a cup of water, every 15 minutes. Avoid coffee, tea, alcohol and soda. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), when exerting ourselves and sweating, we lose body salt and minerals – electrolytes. Drinking fruit juices, and sports drinks such as Gatorade,

and Squincher, etc., help us replenish electrolytes. Please understand that drinks such as Red Bull and Monster are not sports drinks.

- Speaking of the sun, the American Academy of Dermatology recommends that in order to prevent skin cancer, use a sunscreen that will protect against UVA and UVB radiation with SPF of 30 or greater.

- Always be alert and expect the unexpected when walking, jogging and biking. At an intersection and crosswalk – and driveway – never assume that because you have the right of way, vehicle drivers will see you and yield. Always make eye contact, and proceed cautiously and accordingly.

- When walking, jogging, or biking, wear comfortable bright colored clothing. Dark clothing will absorb heat and cause discomfort. At night, wear reflective clothing, and carry a flashlight. Use reflectors and lights on your bike. It's very important to be visible, and safe.

- Do not listen to music on earphones or use your phone while crossing the street or where there is any potential exposure to traffic. If you need to use your phone, walk away to a safe area. Your attention should be focused on existing conditions, and not on your phone or other electronic devices.

- Barbecue grilling, picnicking, and camping outdoors can expose food to preservation concerns. Cooked and uncooked meat, poultry and seafood needs to be preserved in coolers at 40 degrees, Fahrenheit. Temperatures between 40 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit are considered the danger zone. This range promotes the growth of bacteria and spoilage.

- In addition to proper temperature, raw meat, poultry, and seafood needs to be stored in separate containers, or resealable plastic bags, at bottom of cooler to prevent leakage onto other foods and cross-contamination.

- Bacteria are killed by heat. Raw meat, poultry, and seafood

Safety tips... pg. 17

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

Pick up your free copy of La Nueva Voz at these locations and dozens more:

- Pomona City Hall lobby
- Pomona library
- Claremont library
- Claremont City Hall lobby
- La Verne City Hall lobby
- La Verne Senior Citizens Center
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce, 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Pomona Unified School District administration building lobby
- Western University of Health Sciences Patient Care Center
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center maternity lobby, outpatient services, emergency room
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- Jicamex Tacos Y Carniceria, 604 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaunderLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona

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UNITED WAY 'PAINT & SIP' AT FAIRPLEX -- The "Women United" group of Inland Empire United Way hosted a "Paint & Sip" wine, painting and networking event last month on the patio of the Millard Sheets Art Center at Fairplex and the ladies did a pretty good job on the canvas. Proceeds went to Women United's mission of early childhood education and literacy and college and career readiness. Professional landscape painting artist Tim Lewis, a resident of Pasadena and a graduate of Pitzer College in Claremont and on to USC for his master's degree in fine art, was the resident artist for the event. As he explained it to La Nueva Voz, he comes in to a group, provides a two-hour paint lesson step-by-step and hands on, and takes everybody through the sequence of how a painting gets made. Then participants have an opportunity to have the experience of trying it out. Pictured, from left, are Alyssa Cotter of Inland Empire United Way, Dr. Felita Jones, new president and CEO of Inland Empire United Way, Lorraine Williams, Director of Community Programs for Inland Empire United Way, Women United supporter Stephanie Campbell, artist Tim Lewis, and Women United supporter Teri Baker. Oh, and Lewis, who specializes in California landscape and California impressionism, is available for private parties and other events. He can be reached at (626) 394-2801 or by e-mail at timlewisart@gmail.com.

Photo by Renee Barbee

AND THE FINISHED PRODUCT! -- Here's how it all came out at the Inland Empire United Way Paint & Sip last month at Fairplex as former Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin, at left, and Rachel Barbosa (did you know she is now Deputy City Manager in South El Monte?) show off their work. (Courtesy photo)

Alameda Corridor... from pg. 13

"The safety of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians is a top priority for the City of Pomona and by eliminating at-grade rail crossings, we take a significant step forward in ensuring public safety, air quality and congestion relief for our residents and visitors," said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, who serves as a member of the Capital Projects and Construction Committee.

"The completion of the Temple Avenue crossing is a significant gamechanger for Cal Poly Pomona," said Cal Poly President Soraya Coley. "By eliminating collision hazards and blocked crossings, the train diversion makes it safer and easier to get to campus, and the end of the locomotive horn blasts will greatly improve the quality of life at the nearby student residences and for those who work in the area."

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, the ranking Californian on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, also championed the train diversion

project because of the increasing need for ACE grade separations with increasing freight train traffic moving more goods along a nationally significant trade corridor having an impact on the community.

"Pomona is growing by leaps and bounds and this project will make our community an even better place to call home," said Congresswoman Norma Torres. "More and more jobs are coming to Pomona and the train diversion project prepares our communities for the growth that will follow."

"Investment in freight projects is critical to our country's economic vitality but must be accompanied by projects that mitigate the negative impacts of freight movement on our communities in Southern California," said Congresswoman Judy Chu.

The ACE program calls for constructing safety improvements at 39 crossings and 19 roadway-railroad grade crossing separations.

And the ACE corridor carries 16 percent of all U.S. waterborne containerized trade.

For more information, visit www.theaceproject.org.

Safety tips... from pg. 16

must be cooked to a safe internal temperature, thereby eliminating harmful bacteria such as E Coli, Salmonella, and Listeria.

- It's important to use a digital thermometer to monitor the temperature of all previously mentioned food.

- A clean plate needs to be used when taking food off the grill.

- Never cook food on a plate that was used for raw meat, poultry or seafood without washing the plate first. Keeping several sets of clean utensils, cutting boards, and plates on hand will help you prevent cross-contamination.

- In addition to plate and cooking utensil sanitation, cooks and food handlers need to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water when shifting from handling one type of raw food item and cooked food.

- When driving on roads and streets, always drive and maintain speed according to weather and existing driving conditions.

- Always remain visible to large trucks and buses. Do not tailgate or remain in blind spot

of affected driver.

- Always pass other vehicles by providing adequate time with turn signal and acceleration to drive ahead of other vehicles without cutting them off.

- Allow trucks and buses extra space and time to pass or make a turnaround at an intersection or driveway.

The reviewed subjects are a brief sample of conditions that we encounter on a daily basis and cannot address all affected areas. Even so, all are important, especially during this time of year.

Editor's Note: Jose Bermudez, a safety professional for nearly 40 years, has worked as a consultant and a regional safety and health manager for colleges, hospitals and an environmental engineering consulting firm, working for companies such as General Electric, Waste Management, Inc. and Quaker Oats. He received the designation of Certified Safety Professional from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. His column is presented as a public service.

Pre-registration open for Knights of Columbus fourth annual car show

Pomona's Knights of Columbus Council #877 will hold its fourth annual car show in October featuring everything from trophies and food to a craft fair and live bands.

The event, scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, will be held behind Pomona's St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 1150 W. Holt Ave.

Included will be classics, hot rods, low riders, trucks, customs, muscle cars, bikes and motorcycles.

The show is free to spectators. Check in time for exhibitors will be 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Pre-registration deadline for both car owners and vendors is Sept. 21.

Pre-registration fees are cars \$20, motorcycles \$15, and bikes \$10. Cost the day of the event is \$25.

Pre-registration for vendors is \$50 (vendors must provide their own 10 by 10 foot "EZ Up" and tables).

Checks should be made payable to Knights of Columbus #877.

For more information, contact

Manny Bazulto at (909) 489-6818 or Ralph Gonzalez at (626) 617-3593.

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

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HOPE PARTNERS
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Pomona Public Library Hours
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Sat.:
Noon to 5 p.m.
Fri., Sun.:
Closed

Info on student group program at AGRIsCAPES:

www.agriscapes.cpp.edu

4102 S. University Drive, Pomona (next to the Farm Store)

Sign up for Pomona Unified School District's

Free 'Early Learning Literacy' App!

It's a fun way to improve reading skills.

Register at www.myf2b.com/register/pomona

footsteps2brilliance

La Nueva Voz is a proud member of PUSD's Literacy Collaborative.

Assistance League announces date for second annual 'September Cerveza Fest' at Padua Hills Theatre

The Assistance League of Pomona Valley will hold its second annual "September Cerveza Fest" fundraiser in September at Padua Hills Theatre in Claremont.

Included will be beer, sangria and other beverages from local breweries and distilleries, a taco bar, appetizers, desserts, live music, games, an opportunity drawing and an auction featuring a chance to win two tickets to ride in the Goodyear Blimp.

The event is scheduled for 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30. Tickets are \$50 per guest and are available at www.alpv.org.

For more information, contact Stephanie Mann, Assistance League third vice president (resource development), at (626) 536-2103.

The Assistance League of Pomona Valley is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to improving the lives and well-being of children and families in the community.

Programs include "Operation School Bell" (providing school clothes) and the operation of a low-cost dental center with a flat rate of \$10 for children in Pomona.

Support for veterans... from pg. 6

Jim McDonnell, introduced as the head of the largest sheriff's department in the world, called the event "a tremendous resource opportunity," and offered "a sincere thank you to our veterans, those of you who we can never repay the debt that we as a society owe you."

McDonnell said less than one percent of the U.S. population is on active duty at any given time "and yet we rely on our military for our freedom and we take that for granted too often."

He told those looking for career opportunities to consider the sheriff's department where he said there are already "many proud vets serving."

He said 720 deputy sheriffs will be hired in the next year in

addition to different types of job opportunities.

"The L.A. County Sheriff's Department is here for you, we are your partners," McDonnell said. "We are all blessed to be able to call Los Angeles County our home, but our home can be enhanced even better if we all continue to work together to help each other out, to respect each other, and, very importantly, to be able to look out for those who gave so much for all of us, to our vets."

And Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana said the event was "a perfect example of what Fairplex is all about because we are doing it in partnership with one of our most important stakeholders, the County of

Los Angeles, represented by our Supervisor Hilda Solis, with our veterans community and with various other county departments and resources who are here to provide opportunities for our community."

Santana also said Fairplex will be hiring more than 1,000 people for the L.A. County Fair.

Exhibitors at the event included everything from representatives of various adult schools in the area to the veterans services office at Rio Hondo College to U.S. Customs and Border Protection to employers like fork lift manufacturers, numerous law enforcement agencies and many more.

Hundreds of military veterans attended the five-hour event.



BRINGING HOME ANOTHER FIRST PLACE WIN -- Ernesto "Tito" Mercado of the Gangs 2 Grace Youth Foundation / Boxing Club in Pomona shows off his trophy for first place in his weight class division 17-18 years old group, 132 pounds. The competition was in the 2018 National Junior Olympics, Prep Nationals and Youth Open in Charleston, West Virginia. He competed five days in a row last month against young men from across the country. Gangs 2 Grace is a boxing club dedicated to work with youth in the community and is now enrolling for ages 8 to adult. For more information, contact (909) 469-9944.



COMMUNITY GARDENING -- "My Pomona Community Garden" partnered with the Institute for Public Strategies this month to present a class on eating healthy foods. Included were snacks of fruit kabobs and literature to educate participants on healthy eating. My Pomona Community Garden, Inc., promotes health and affordable organic vegetation and provides produce free to low income families. Students from the University of La Verne assisted in the program. Pictured in the garden at the event are participants in the program. My Pomona Community Garden Secretary Metzli Campos is pictured at far left, President Jesus Campos is at center (holding certificate), and Vice President Roberto Arnold is at far right. For more information, contact (909) 450-6624.

POMONA'S MR. D'S AS A DESTINATION SPOT -- It was breakfast at Mr. D's for riders in a "Motorcycle Rally and Car Show 4 the Kids" this month with proceeds going to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Participants met at Holiday Café in Ontario, rode to Mr. D's Diner (401 E. Foothill Blvd., Pomona), and rode back for the car show. Pictured in the parking lot outside Mr. D's after breakfast, from left, are riders "Eric," a guest of the Devils Disciples club; Andrew "Bravo" Briggs, of the Devils Disciples, and Diego Ramirez, of the Sinisters club. Both club chapters are out of Temecula but all three live locally.



Ganesha Class of '68 announces plans for 50th reunion

The Class of 1968 of Pomona's Ganesha High School has scheduled its 50th class reunion in September – on the same weekend as the school's homecoming and a celebration of the school's 60th anniversary.

Chairperson Robin Ring said the group has arranged with Principal Jennifer Francev to be guests at a pep rally on Friday, Sept. 21, and cheer on the Giants at the 7 p.m. football game that night in the school's Nancy McCracken Stadium against Southlands Christian High School of Rowland Heights.

On Saturday, members of the Class of 1968 will tour the campus, followed by a dinner and dance in the Sequoia Room at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Claremont.

A breakfast is scheduled at the hotel on Sunday, Sept. 23.

Deadline for registration is Aug. 24.

For more information, contact Ring at (909) 626-9891.



Photo by Alice Gomez

BACK ON STAGE AT THE EAGLES -- La Nueva Voz Publisher Jeff Schenkel was back on stage at the Eagles in Pomona this month at a spaghetti dinner to help raise funds for this month's Pomona Police Department's G.R.E.A.T. Campout, an exciting overnight experience at Fairplex for 300 of Pomona's kids ages 9 to 12. Vince's Spaghetti provided the basics, the Eagles co-sponsored the evening, of course the Pomona Police Department was on hand and the room was packed -- until, of course, right after the raffle prizes were handed out and the 50-50 drawing was over. (Note to file: Always book musical acts so you are on stage before the drawings are over. We got through most of our set just in time.) Thanks to Eagles Past President Ernie Verdugo for the opportunity to perform a few tunes from the era of Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard and even the Beatles.

Pomona native serving U.S. Navy participates in RIMPAC, world's largest training exercise

Pomona native Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Chavez is serving in the U.S. Navy as part of the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise, Rim of the Pacific, based in and around the Hawaiian Islands and in Southern California.

Chavez, a 2009 graduate of Buena Vista High School, is a gas turbine systems technician aboard USS Lake Champlain, currently operating out of San Diego and based in Hawaii during RIMPAC.

He is responsible for the transferring and testing of fuel and oil on the ship.

"There is a wide range of people with different backgrounds which I saw in California, so it was really easy to transition to the Navy," Chavez said in a news release. "I hope to go on hikes and meet people from different countries while here in Hawaii."



Photo by Gary Ward / U.S. Navy
Petty Officer 3rd Class
Joseph Chavez

"I'm most proud of just coming out here and being a part of RIMPAC," Chavez added. "I think everyone can do anything they want to."

Twenty-five nations and 25,000 personnel are participating in the month-long 26th annual RIMPAC, scheduled to

continue through Aug. 2.

The unique training exercise includes 46 surface ships, five submarines, 17 national land forces and more than 200 aircraft, all designed to foster and sustain cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's interconnected oceans.

This year's theme is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners," with a focus on capabilities from disaster relief and maritime security operations to sea control and complex warfighting.

Israel, Sri Lanka and Vietnam are participating in RIMPAC for the first time this year.

Also for the first time, New Zealand is serving as sea combat commander and Chile is serving as combined force maritime component commander.

This is the first time a non-founding RIMPAC nation (Chile) is holding a component commander leadership position.



Photo by Renee Barbee

CLEANING UP ON HOLT -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval (back row, fifth from right) joined the clean-up crew last month to take on the back alley project behind Holt Family Apartments, a new "permanent supportive housing" complex across Holt Avenue from the Village at Indian Hill. Team members included volunteers from Pomona Beautiful, Tri-City Mental Health and Clifford Beers Housing, developer of the apartment complex. The 50-unit apartment complex, which opened in January, provides housing and services for many low-income families and individuals who have experienced homelessness. Clifford Beers has 519 affordable apartment homes completed or in development in Los Angeles County and beyond.

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Board Member, Pomona Chamber of Commerce
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Homelessness... from pg. 5

that we address it immediately,” Sandoval said.

“But really... this is about making sure that we have the resources to manage a challenge that not only Pomona faces but the region faces, and in fact what this really represents is the opportunity to become a model that other cities can implement in their respective cities,” Sandoval said.

“We’re not in this by ourselves, we’re in this with other cities as well,” he said. “So rather than take an ‘us against them’ mindset, we really want to be helpful and beneficial to other cities as they grapple with this problem as well, and this helps us to get there.”

Mayor thanks Rodriguez for his leadership

“I think this truly reflects two values – the first value is leadership and the second value is collaboration,” Sandoval said. “Assemblymember Rodriguez went out into the community... to really understand what the needs are here in the City of Pomona and it was because of his leadership that we are standing here

today such that Pomona will be receiving \$4 million to help our police and to add additional mental health service representatives to help us with our homeless problem.”

He also acknowledged State Sen. Connie Leyva’s office “because this has been a collaborative effort.”

And he thanked the County of Los Angeles which, he said, just awarded the City of Pomona \$3.4 million “to work towards completing our homeless service center to house up to 400 residents.”

“While we are doing everything we can to do our part through this very collaborative effort, it’s going to require every city in Los Angeles County to step up and take ownership of this challenge,” Sandoval said. “It cannot just fall on cities like Pomona, like Santa Ana, like Pasadena, like Santa Monica – it’s every city doing their part.”

“And we’re going to make sure that we work with them so that they can help us address not just a Pomona problem, not just

a regional problem or state problem, but truly a national problem,” he said.

Sandoval added that to his knowledge, the \$4 million measure was the first “earmark” for Pomona in the history of the state budget.

Police Chief Olivieri says collaborative programs prove most successful

“The Pomona Police Department is often the first responders for all things related to homelessness,” Olivieri said. “Over the last few years this community has experienced a significant increase in not only the number of homeless but in issues related to homelessness. Calls for police service have risen constantly over the last few years.”

“We recognize that we are most successful when we collaborate between internal and external organizations coming together to proactively address the needs of the homeless, balancing that with addressing the needs of the communities and the neighborhoods impacted by homeless activity and related is-

sues,” Olivieri added.

He said the police department currently has one officer who is paired with a Los Angeles County mental health clinician working to provide assistance, services and resources to homeless, some who have mental illness and need help.

“Thank you to Assemblymember Rodriguez and staff for being our voice, for successfully sponsoring and delivering these desperate financial resources for our community and the police department,” he said. “Through the OATH program funding, we look forward to hiring additionally desperately needed Pomona police officers to partner with additional mental health clinicians which will more than quadruple our current effort today.”

The funding will provide the homeless liaison officer and mental health clinician positions for three years. Conditions of the budget allocation include annual reporting requirements and data collection.

Lassie House... from pg. 10

up to community events for non-profits” when it is complete, he said.

Adamyk thanked the Pomona Historic Preservation Commission and the City Council for approving the home as a historic landmark.

“When we bought the house a year ago we were told it was called the ‘Lassie House’ and found out that the star of the TV series Lassie Jon Provost, or better known as Timmy Martin, lived in this home with his mom and dad, sister Fran, brother William,” Adamyk said.

He said the family at that time had a horse, goats, chickens, pigeons and a puppy “that was directly born from Lassie at this house.”

Fencing and hedges that had surrounded the house for years have all been removed.

The Lassie House is located at 1196 Washington Avenue, Pomona (at Lincoln Avenue).

Pomona Rotary’s ‘Hot August Night’ set for Aug. 18

Pomona Rotary’s annual fundraiser “Hot August Night” will be held next month at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center on a theme of “Musical Children of the World.”

Tickets for the event, scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, are \$75. Tables and sponsorships are available.

Included will be a buffet dinner, silent auction and live music.

Proceeds support Rotary humanitarian projects and Casa Colina’s Children’s Center.

To reserve tickets and for more information, contact Beth Brooks, (909) 229-5921 or Carol Wilt, (909) 573-4634 or e-mail Wilt at carol.wilt@yahoo.com.

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Pomona's 'National Night Out' set for Aug. 7

Pomona Police Department's annual "National Night Out" observance will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 7, in the Pomona Civic Center.

The city joins neighborhoods and police departments across the nation in a crime prevention campaign that sends a message to criminals that neighborhoods are united against crime.

Neighborhood watch groups, residents, community organizations and others are invited to participate in the celebration, scheduled for 5 to 8 p.m., according to Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri.

Included will be crafts for kids, inflatable bouncers, police K-9 demonstrations, police motorcycle and SWAT team demonstrations, raffle prizes and more.

Pomona Kiwanis members will be on hand offering a dinner "deal" for \$4, including a hamburger or hotdog, chips and drink.

Extra raffle tickets will be given to those donating two or more canned goods for the Pomona Police Officers' Association's annual turkey giveaway (one ticket limit per person).

A donation box will be located

at the registration booth for canned goods to complement a turkey dinner like corn, cranberry sauce, pumpkin, carrots, canned potatoes and others.

More than 15,000 communities from all 50 states – some 37 million people altogether – participate in the event each year to help improve communication between the community and police and to help prevent crime and drug use in the community.

The focus of the event is on promoting awareness, safety and neighborhood unity.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the nationwide observance.

For more information, contact the police department's crime prevention office at (909) 620-2318.

Pomona-based New Perceptions, a new non-profit alcohol and drug education program covered through Medi-Cal, is introducing itself to residents of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys with its service that is provided with no out-of-pocket expense.

"Our aim is to become an asset to the community that we serve," Founder and Executive Director



NOT TOO LATE FOR JOBS AT L.A. COUNTY FAIR? -- It might be getting close to time for the L.A. County Fair (on a Route 66 theme if you missed the story in La Nueva Voz last month) but there still might be some temporary jobs left. Fairplex held its annual job fair for the Fair last month at Avalon on the Fairplex campus, trying to fill more than 700 seasonal positions. Representatives were on hand at booths for everything from Spectra Foods (the year-round food vendor at Fairplex) to grounds entertainment (parade staff, entertainment assistants, stage managers) to creative, IT technicians, tram operators, parking attendants, admissions, accounting and more. Pictured at the grounds entertainment booth handing out the job offers are, left front, Dana Leuthouser and, left rear, Coleen Nath. And trying to snag one of those jobs are, right front, Irene Moreno of Ontario and, right rear, Amber Cerda of Pomona. So here's what you do -- go to lacountyfairjobs.com to see what's left and fill out an application on line.

Non-profit New Perceptions now offering services in Pomona

Artimus Jenkins, who has 20 years in the industry, said in a news release. "Our primary goal is to produce positive long-term outcomes to the inner-city youth and adults of Los Angeles County."

Services include family counseling, individual and group counseling, domestic violence, anger management, 12 steps, relapse prevention, self-esteem, peer support, parenting classes, life skills,

drug education and more.

For more information, visit the web site at www.newperceptions-toliving.com or call (909) 461-6506. The organization is located at 404 N. Gibbs St., Pomona.

Hope & Hurdles

By Evy Schuman



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



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Gas Company kicks off new phase of upgrade program at Pomona mobile home park

Representatives of Southern California Gas Co. and local elected officials broke ground in Pomona last month for its latest “Mobile Home Park Utility Upgrade” program to replace aging, privately owned natural gas distribution systems with both new pipelines and advanced meter technology making possible direct billing of the residents.

The new meters also will enable the customers to track their energy use and save both energy and money by keeping an eye on things.

The event, at Foothill Village Mobile Home Park, 301 E. Foothill Blvd., actually kicked off the second round of the company’s pilot program.

Foothill Village is the third mobile home park in Pomona converted under the program, according to a Gas Company spokesperson.

Joe Velasquez, director of the Gas Company’s mobile home park program, told 200 guests under a tent inside Foothill Village that when the program was introduced four years ago, 80

percent of the mobile home parks in the Gas Company service area applied for the program.

About 10 percent of those were selected for the first three-year round of the pilot program.

“We started . . . in Colton where we celebrated the conversion of the very first mobile home park in California to be converted under the program,” Velasquez said. “I’m pleased to report that three years later, fast forward, we’ve had 201 mobile home parks (become) part of the program, and 189 have been converted, so that’s a great success.”

Those 189 parks serve nearly 10,500 residents, according to the Gas Company.

An extension of the program through the end of next year will make it possible to include another 71 mobile home parks serving 6,400 residents.

He said there are 1,300 mobile home parks in the Gas Company’s service territory.

“Our intent is to make this



POMONA MOBILE HOME PARK GETS NATURAL GAS UPGRADE IN NEW PROGRAM -- Pomona’s Foothill Village Mobile Home Park becomes the third mobile home park in Pomona to receive new natural gas pipelines and a conversion to individual metering in a new pilot program approved by the California Public Utilities Commission four years ago. Pictured at the groundbreaking last month, from left, are Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, Mario Ramos representing Congresswoman Norma Torres, Los Angeles County Assistant Fire Chief Jim Robinson, Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Robert Torres, State Sen. Connie Leyva, Gas Company Vice President of Gas Distribution Gina Orozco-Mejia, Foothill Village owner Ernest Schroer, Paola Avendano representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, and Joe Velasquez, director of the mobile home park program for the Gas Company.

program so successful that all of those mobile home parks and all of their residents will be eventually converted to direct utility service,” Velasquez said.

Gina Orozco-Mejia, vice president of gas distribution for the Gas Company, said the program offers benefits for both mobile home park owners and their resi-

dents. The program “aligns perfectly with Southern California Gas’ core mission of delivering safe, reliable, affordable energy to all of our residents,” she said.

And natural gas, she added, is the most affordable and reliable form of clean energy in California, serving more than 21 mil-

lion consumers in the company’s area.

She said more than 90 percent of Southern California’s residents use natural gas for space heating and water heating, and a similarly high percentage for cooking.

“Through the Mobile Home Upgrade program... pg. 23

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Upgrade program... from pg. 22

Park Utility Upgrade program, we are going to bring newer, safer infrastructure to thousands of consumers, mobile home park residents," Orozco-Mejia said. "Not only will they get the benefit of this new construction, but they will get the benefit of being direct customers of Southern California Gas."

In addition, she said those who are income-qualified will be able to take advantage of the no-cost weatherization program as well as discounts of about 20 percent.

She said since 1990, Gas Company customers have saved more than \$670 million through energy efficiency and rebate programs – all on gas bills that are already among the lowest in the nation.

And the energy efficiency programs also are good for the environment.

"Through emission reductions we have been able to reduce emissions equivalent to taking about 700,000 vehicles off the roads," she added.

State Sen. Connie Leyva, who supported the measure, told the

group she chairs the Senate Select Committee on Mobile and Manufactured Homes.

"Some of the parks we visit the bill just gets divided up," Leyva said. "So the owner or the manager just divides it up."

This means, she explained, everyone pays the same amount with some paying for more gas than they use and some paying for less.

"So this is really a big deal," Leyva said. "It really is so important for residents to be able to control their own costs."

She called mobile homes and manufactured homes "the last bastion of affordable housing and you folks are helping to make that happen."

Los Angeles County Assistant Fire Chief Jim Robinson told the group the program will replace an aging natural gas system with new pipelines that will comply with current codes and standards.

He said he was particularly pleased that the advanced meter technology will be placed in front of the residents' homes, giving firefighters quick and

easy access to natural gas meters and saving time in an emergency when every second counts.

Park owner Ernest Schroer said he was happy to be a part of the program.

"We are going to deliver better and safer service to the residents of this community, and that's what I think this whole program is about," he said.

The California Public Utilities Commission approved the three-year voluntary statewide pilot program in March 2014, authorizing each investor-owned California utility to convert 10 percent of "master metered" (one meter for the entire mobile home park) to direct utility service by installing new systems.

Last September, commissioners voted unanimously to extend the program through Dec. 31, 2019, authorizing Southern California Gas to convert another 5 percent of its mobile home park spaces.

Pomona's Rose Villa Mobile Home Park and Woodlawn Mobile Home Park already are participating in the program.

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