



Pomona council asks voters to decide sales tax increase averaging \$76 per household each year to help chip away at budget deficit

Pomona city councilmembers voted unanimously this month to place a three-quarters percent sales tax increase measure on the November ballot that, if approved, would generate an estimated \$12 million a year in revenue or more than 10 percent of the city's current \$94 million general fund budget.

The sales tax increase would "sunset" or automatically end in 10 years.

The motion was introduced by Mayor Tim Sandoval and seconded by Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez.

The city's current total annual spending plan is \$218 million.

Pomona's sales tax rate currently is 9.5 percent and would become 10.25 percent if the ballot measure receives 50 percent of the vote plus one vote.

Budget concerns in recent years have resulted in reductions in everything from police officers to library hours.

"You don't go from 777 employees to 538 employees and not expect to see an impact on services," Sandoval said.

The consequences of these reductions are evident in Pomona

today, he said, adding that there is a need to bring an option to the voters "because it is our responsibility as the leadership of this city to paint a picture" of "where we're at and where

we're going."

"In my view, this is a proactive approach," Sandoval said, that should avoid the need to come to voters in three years in a crisis for a "bailout measure."

He pointed out that the city already has changed its approach to pensions so employees have to pay more into their retirement plans, but the city also has increasing needs in the area of

maintaining infrastructure.

"I... believe this is the right tax to support," he said, to get the level of services the residents want. He added it has

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Students in Pomona Unified – sixth largest school district in L.A. County – go back to school

A total of 21,568 K-12 students – a number bigger than the population of many cities in California – this month went back to school in the Pomona Unified School District, believed to be the sixth largest school district in Los Angeles County based on enrollment.

But it was in the kindergarten classes that students consistently had those clean and shiny faces, fresh haircuts for the occasion and new back to school clothes.

La Nueva Voz stopped by Ranch Hills Elementary School in Phillips Ranch just as the school's two kindergarten classes were taking their orientation tour of the campus and, while teacher Lynda Bautz said some of the



THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE 'FIRST DAY' BACK AT SCHOOL -- The "real" first day of school, of course, comes in kindergarten (unless, of course, you had pre-school or transitional kindergarten). And it was the first day this month for this good looking group of kindergarten students at Ranch Hills Elementary School in Pomona's Phillips Ranch who are practicing their newly-learned universal sign for quiet. Leading their orientation tour of the campus on their first day are kindergarten teachers Kim Ramirez, at left, and Lynda Bautz. Principal Todd Riffell is pictured at rear.

students had been in pre-school or in transitional kindergarten (if they were too young last year for kindergarten), some of them really were experiencing their first ever day of school.

And, as they made their way into the combination auditorium and cafeteria, Principal Todd Riffell said he heard just a bit of crying and saw the first tears of the day from a student who might never have been away from home on her own before.

A total of 41 kindergartners were enrolled in the two classes, taught by Bautz, in her 10th year at Ranch Hills, and Kim Ramirez, in her 11th year at the school.

So what are the kids

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ENROLLING IN POMONA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S UNIQUE PROGRAM SITES IS AS EASY AS...



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Village Academy of Film & Technology
(Grades 9-12)



Photo by Renee Barbee

OVER 100 IN POMONA -- It was over 100 degrees in Pomona but the temperature on the Santa Monica Pier early this month was in the low 70s. We're just sayin'. And the beaches (as shown in this photo) and the pier -- and Appian Way and other streets in the area, for that matter -- were jammed. The pier has a capacity of 5,000 to 7,500, according to a story in the Santa Monica Observer we picked up while we were out there, although a free concert by singer Khalid last year drew a crowd of 25,000 and overflowed onto the beaches, upsetting the locals according to the Observer. (Maybe they need an F-Zone of their own.) We don't think there were 5,000 visitors on the pier this month but they closed the ramp and the pier parking lot to cars because of all the pedestrian traffic up and down. Thanks to our new friend David Ganezer, Publisher of the Observer, for giving us a thumbs up on quoting from his July 23 page one story.

Inland Empire United Way golf tourney to be held at Red Hill Country Club

Inland Empire United Way's third annual fall golf classic "United for Kids Golf Tournament" ("Teeing Up for Brighter Tomorrows") is scheduled for Sept. 24 at Red Hill Country Club in Rancho Cucamonga.

Proceeds help the United Way help prepare underprivileged youth in the Inland Empire to succeed in school and reach for self-sufficiency. Money raised will help feed hungry students, provide needed

school supplies and guide kids toward graduation and career readiness. For more information about sponsorship and to register for the event, visit the web site at www.ieuw.org/golf.



LA NUEVA VOZ GOES TO THE BEACH -- Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz poses across the street from the world-famous "Santa Monica Yacht Harbor" sign over the Santa Monica Pier during a La Nueva Voz day at the beach (OK, really a Saturday on the pier) this month. A couple of news items for the back story. One, there is still a sign on the pier that says "Santa Monica 66 -- End of Trail," marking the end of the old Route 66. We're mentioning that for Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana since the theme of this year's L.A. County Fair is "Get your kicks" with an emphasis on the history of Route 66. And two, of all people, La Nueva Voz ran into Greg and Laura Estel of Pomona's Greg's Refrigeration on the way into the pier (they were easy to spot in the work truck).

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been very well thought through and has been the subject of community meetings, and he said based on polling by consultants the likelihood of passage is “encouraging.”

“It’s critical that the city council be champions for this,” Sandoval said.

Gonzalez prefaced his comments saying “leadership is finding solutions” to what came before the current city council was on board.

“We inherited a \$2.5 million deficit,” he said, adding that next year may be \$4.5 million and the following year \$8 million – all with the same amount of revenue coming in to the city, referencing spiraling employee retirement costs as part of the problem.

“I think this is the best solution that we’ve got on the table... to save the city,” he said.

“I support the tax measure... and let’s let democracy prevail and let the voters decide in November,” Gonzalez said.

Cost to average Pomona household

What would a three-quarters percent sales tax increase cost the average Pomona household?

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Pomona’s median household income is \$48,851. And according to the Internal Revenue Service Sales Tax Deduction Calculator, a Pomona taxpayer with three exemptions in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 income range currently pays \$967 in sales taxes each year.

Since three-quarters of a percent on top of 9.5 percent works out to a 7.9 percent increase, the average Pomona household would pay \$967 plus 7.9 percent, or \$1,043 each year in sales taxes, or an additional \$76 a year under the proposed new plan.

(This cost per household breakdown, developed by La Nueva Voz, was not included in a written report from the city’s consultant at the budget study session in May when the sales tax strategy was presented.)

Comments from public

Only three speakers from the public commented on the measure, each expressing a different point of view.

Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member John Mendoza expressed his concern that the ballot wording did not include the words “tax increase.”

But long-time Pomona resident Duane Smith, a community volunteer and an advocate for the Pomona Public Library, said he supports the measure.

“I wish we didn’t have to do it – we have to do it,” he said, adding that the city needs to “bite the bullet” to be able to provide funding for everything from public safety to the library to public works.

Former Pomona Planning Commissioner Arturo Jimenez, a Pomona resident and businessman, opposed the measure.

“This is wrong – it’s wrong in many ways,” he said. “Two years ago, we voted for change. But if you would have told me that I was going to vote for change so that we could put a tax two years later so we could keep the status quo going, I would have been flabbergasted.”

“We can’t keep our streets clean and you think that we’re going to manage 12 million more dollars in the budget?” he said. “Clean the streets first and then start talking about the money.”

The city hired a consulting firm to conduct a survey of high-propensity voters and, based on contacts over a four-day period in July with 587 residents by either cell phone or landline telephone or on line, found that nearly two-thirds supported the sales tax measure with 41 percent “definitely yes.”

That 41 percent figure increased to 49 percent, according to the survey responses, if the voters were provided with adequate information regarding the tax increase proposal.

Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

Support for the sales tax increase showed little difference of opinions because of income levels, although upper income brackets showed slightly more opposition.

Survey responses showed more than 50 percent of the voters in each city council district

supported the measure.

City Councilmember Robert Torres said information explaining the sales tax proposal to voters would need to come not only from city councilmembers but other “stakeholders” like city employees, police and fire in what he called a “collaborative effort.”

He pointed out that in a city of 160,000 population with 50,000 to 60,000 registered voters “it’s going to take more than us” to get to 49 or 50 percent in the November election.

Impact on business community

Torres asked Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erica Frausto if she had heard from the business community on this proposal. Frausto said she had received no inquiries and would have to survey chamber members and review the matter at her next board meeting.

(Editor’s note: La Nueva Voz sent an e-mail to Frausto and copied Chamber Board Chair David McElwain a week before the city council meeting incorporating input from John Mendoza and recommending the chamber formulate a position on the sales tax measure prior to action by the city council. The La Nueva Voz recommendation urged the chamber to consider, among other things, the poten-

tial for placing Pomona businesses at a competitive disadvantage due to the higher sales tax rate and resulting reduced sales in Pomona actually causing overall sales tax revenue to decline. Research by Diamond Bar-based The HdL Companies, the city’s consultant for sales tax analysis, however, showed there have been no reductions in taxable sales in any California city that has increased “transaction and use” tax, according to the city’s staff report.)

Torres said the measure would actually be good for the business community since the added funding could help address the city’s homeless issue and increase public safety, all giving Pomona a “business friendly environment.”

City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa voted to approve the measure but said she would not actively support it because of her concern that the sample used for the polling was too small to be representative.

And City Councilmember Adriana Robledo pointed out that every city in California is trying to figure out how best to deal with the issue of skyrocketing costs of employee pensions.

She said the sales tax increase is needed for the city’s financial stability in the future, even though she called it a temporary fix to prevent reductions in ser-

vices.

“It’s the only way to move forward right now,” she said, and have “better financial stability in the future.”

The council’s Aug. 6 meeting was the city’s last opportunity to finalize language for the ballot measure in order to have time to submit it to Los Angeles County for placement on the November ballot.

The sales tax increase, if approved in the November election, would not go into effect until April 1, 2019. The ballot measure will require the creation of an independent citizen’s oversight committee, with members appointed by the city council.

Based on existing voter approved sales taxes, currently the three-quarter percent sales tax increase is the maximum amount of local sales tax that can be implemented by voters in Pomona.

A written report to the city council, presented by Urban Futures Inc., the city’s financial advisor, during the annual budget study session in May indicated that if no action was taken by the council on one of several available immediate strategies, the city would be “cash insolvent, service insolvent, and budget insolvent by Fiscal Year 2021,” according to the agenda staff report.

Section of freeway to be named in honor of Officer Gregory Casillas

California Assembly Concurrent Resolution 236, approved by the state legislature this month, will name a segment of the San Bernardino Freeway through Pomona the “Pomona Officer Gregory Casillas Memorial Highway.”

The measure, introduced by Assemblymembers Freddie Rodriguez and Chris Holden and co-authored by State Sen. Connie Leyva, directs the California Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs and, upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

It does not require a signature from the governor.

The designated portion of In-

terstate 10 to be renamed in honor of the fallen officer is between North San Antonio Avenue in Pomona (Los Angeles County) and Mountain Avenue (San Bernardino County).

A spokesman for Rodriguez said half the funds were expected to be provided by the Assemblymember and the other half by the Pomona Peace Officers Association.

A sign dedication ceremony is expected to be scheduled some time between December and March, the anniversary of the officer’s death, the spokesman

said.

Officer Casillas was killed in the line of duty five months ago during a standoff following a pursuit in Pomona.

A portion of the same freeway was dedicated in October 2016 in honor of fallen Pomona Police Officer Shaun Diamond, who was killed in the line of duty in October 2014. That dedication also was based on an action by Rodriguez.

The section of the freeway named in Diamond’s honor stretches from the 57 Freeway to Towne Avenue.

See past issues at
www.lanuevavoz.net

Miss Pomona Pageant production to be taken over by, who else, a former Miss Pomona!

The Miss Pomona Scholarship Pageant, a production of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association (DPOA) for the past 10 years, is in new hands and, in the words of DPOA Executive Director Larry Egan, “very capable hands.”

And the new organizers have already scheduled the Inaugural Miss Pomona Golf Tournament, scheduled for Monday, Sept. 24, to raise funds to support the project.

Carrying the torch for the Miss Pomona program is Danielle Garcia, Miss Pomona 2012 and now owner of Ballers Philanthropy, LLC, a company that focuses on helping professional athletes and celebrities maximize their community outreach.

“Because of the impact the city, school district and most importantly the Miss Pomona Scholarship Pageant had on my life, I knew that it was my duty to keep the legacy going,” Gar-

cia said.

According to an introductory e-mail to La Nueva Voz, one of the first changes will be a renaming of the program from the Miss Pomona Scholarship Pageant to the Miss Pomona Scholarship Program.

In addition, plans call for offering development courses to young ladies who apply for the program to get them ready for college and career.

“Secondly, my company is working vigorously to raise as much funds as we can so that we can have a bigger court and give more ladies scholarships and the chance to grow from the program,” Garcia said.

She added that “it truly takes a village to raise a child” and is confident “we can raise up our future leaders to be world shakers and history makers.”

“We just thought it was time for it to take on a new life of its own and the current and former

Miss Pomona Pageant women and young ladies, especially Danielle Garcia, Lorena Matarrita and Lorena Gonzalez wanted to take it forward,” Egan said. “It brought new life to downtown . . . (and) gave us a link with schools in the area. But in days of old, that pageant was owned and managed by the City of Pomona and we tried very hard to get them to take it back over.”

However, he explained, funding was an issue and “the girls decided to do it themselves.”

“And we will support them in

any way that we can,” Egan added. “And we think it’s in very capable hands and it will probably do better than ever.”

Egan called it an “awesome

program” that has produced some “great courts and Miss Pomonas,” including two current Pomona City Councilmembers (Ginna Escobar and Adriana Robledo).

And it was Egan’s former assistant, Lorena Matarrita, who was instrumental in convincing DPOA to take over the pageant in the first place, he said.

“It was a great combination they put together to get this thing off the ground,” Egan said, referring to the new team. “And it’s quite a sorority (former pageant participants) – there’s a bond there that you can’t manufacture.”

“Pomona is very lucky to have them,” he said.

The fundraiser golf tournament will kick off at 8 a.m. on Sept. 24 at Pomona’s Mountain Meadows Golf Course. Cost is \$150 and lunch only is \$70.

For more information or to sponsor a hole, contact Danielle Garcia at danielle.garcia@ballersphilanthropy.com or call (909) 525-0439.



Danielle Garcia, at the time a Diamond Ranch High School junior, is pictured before competing in the 2012 Miss Pomona Pageant.

First-ever ‘Indigenous People’s Day’ event set for Ganesha Park

Pomona’s first-ever “Indigenous People’s Day,” an event to honor the first people of the land, will be held at the Ganesha Park Bandshell in October.

The event is scheduled for 3 to 7 p.m. Oct. 8. Both the Pomona City Council and the California legislature have proclaimed the day for the second Monday in October.

Pomona council members and other elected officials are expected to participate in the event, with presentations scheduled for 4 p.m.

Honored will be the Gabrieleno-Kizh Nation on their ancestral village of Toibing-

na, along with all indigenous peoples of Turtle Island, a reference used by Native Americans for the entire North American continent.

Included in the event will be an honoring ceremony, ancestral history, indigenous songs, dances and storytelling, exhibits, a food booth and generally a family friendly event.

It is presented by the Rum-sen Am:A Tur:Ataj Ohlone and RO Indigenous Embrace non-profit corporation.

For more information, contact Dee Dee Manzanares Ybarra of the Tribal Elders Council, (760) 403-1756 or e-mail rumsenama@gmail.com.

Assistance League ‘September Cerveza Fest’ fundraiser set for Padua Hills Theatre

Tickets are on sale for the Assistance League of Pomona Valley second annual “September Cerveza Fest” fundraiser at Padua Hills Theatre in Claremont.

Included will be beer, sangria and other beverages from local breweries and distilleries, a taco bar and more.

The event is scheduled from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30, and tickets are \$50.

Proceeds directly support the Assistance League’s mission of improving the lives of children and families in the community.

To purchase tickets, visit the web site at www.eventregistration.alpv.org.

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Western University adds two new board members

Elizabeth Zamora, executive director of Pomona's Bright Prospect, and Art Antin, co-founder and chief operating officer of VCA Inc., a provider of pet health care services, have joined the board of trustees of Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences.

"WesternU is delighted to welcome Elizabeth Zamora and Art Antin to the WesternU family as our newest board of trustees members," Western University President Dan Wilson said in a news release. "Both offer remarkable life stories as well as invaluable insights into education and health care as our remarkable university continues to evolve."

Bright Prospect empowers high-potential low-income students to gain admission, succeed and graduate from four-year colleges and universities by providing a comprehensive counseling and support system throughout their high school and college years.

Zamora came to the organization after working in health care as executive director



Elizabeth Zamora

of women's and children's health development at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and as executive director of development and alumni relations at the UCLA School of Nursing.

VCA Inc. delivers pet health care services through more than 900 small animal veterinary hospitals in the U.S. and Canada. The company also operates Antech Diagnostics, a

nationwide clinical laboratory system; Sound, an animal diagnostic imaging company; and Camp Bow Wow, an overnight camp franchise.

Antin worked with Western University years ago to help start Western's College of Veterinary Medicine.

VCA received Western University's corporate award for excellence in health care at its gala fundraiser in 2016.



Art Antin



About 300 Chinese students visited Village Academy High School this summer -- roughly 100 a week for a week at a time -- in a "cultural immersion program," according to Village Academy counselor Lorraine Canales. They were involved in projects from filmmaking and building little model roller coasters to science, art, dance, and even learning how to pick up a guitar and play -- inside of their week! Pictured are students learning how to work with the video recording equipment.

Pomona Valley Division of retired teachers group to hear update on ballot issues impacting education

Susan Dixon, state chair of the government relations committee of the California Retired Teachers Association, will speak on measures on the November ballot impacting education during next month's meeting of the group's Pomona Valley Division 13 in La Verne.

The meeting is scheduled for 11:15 a.m. Wednesday,

Sept. 12, in the Hillcrest meeting room, 2705 Mountain View Drive, La Verne.

Also recognized will be the group's seven scholarship recipients from Cal Poly University Pomona, Mt. SAC and Citrus College.

Cost of lunch is \$19. For reservations (deadline is Sept. 7), call (626) 963-6242.

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learning in kindergarten this year?

Bautz said for one thing, they will be learning coding for computer programming.

"We will be doing a lot of technology this year," she said, adding that the students also will be reading, comprehending, writing, typing (on their new Chromebooks, or laptops), taking pictures and studying the sciences as part of the NGSS (Next

Generation Science Series) standards, a set of K-12 science content standards developed by individual states to set expectations for what students should know and be able to do.

"This is our rollout year for Chromebooks," Riffell said, explaining that every student grades K-6 will receive a Chromebook to take home, made possible by district school

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Photo by Chara Swdeck

Kids from Pomona went to Dodger Stadium on a "Kids 4 Dodgers Baseball" bus for African American Heritage Night this month. The trip was coordinated by Tamela Hutchinson of NAACP Pomona Valley Branch and Chara Swdeck of the Pomona Unified School District PTA Council.

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reneebarbee7@gmail.com**

Retired Pomona Unified teacher Jerry Carson, back home in Arkansas, still busy making a difference

Jerry Carson, a 30-year veteran of the Pomona Unified School District, is back home in Arkansas but is still volunteering in his community long after his retirement, according to his friends in the California Retired Teachers Association Division 13 (Pomona Valley) where he is still a member.

Carson stopped by a recent meeting of the group here in La Verne during a visit to Southern California.

“We were just so thrilled to hear from Jerry and particularly, as retired teachers, to hear how valuable he is in his community in Arkansas well beyond his retirement as a teacher,” said Robbie Cendejas.

She added that he is a perfect example of what retired Pomona Unified School District teachers are doing when they go back into the community.

“Jerry Carson is a spectacular representation of that,” she said.

Carson taught kindergarten through grade 3 special edu-

cation classes and, in middle school, served as a reading specialist. He was a California state demonstration teacher and a math project director.

He was also active in the Associated Pomona Teachers, where he served two terms as president and was part of the negotiating team for 16 years and a member of the California Teachers Association state council for eight years.

His two daughters followed in his footsteps – one teaches third grade at Pomona’s Montvue Elementary School and the other is theater director at Claremont High School.

Back in his hometown of Fort Smith, Arkansas, he is remaining active by volunteering in the nationwide Poor People’s Campaign, the Inter-Faith Dialogue Program and the movement for sensible gun control.

After retiring in 1990, he returned to his roots and made good on a promise to give back to his community.

And after raising four chil-

dren of his own, he took on the responsibility of raising his 2-year-old grandson who is now 17 and graduating this year from the same high school Jerry attended.

He has tutored students every day after school, he started a baton twirling physical education class (he once trained competitive baton twirlers) and continues identifying students

who need help with reading.

He has headed up school carnivals, field days and monthly skating parties, and when his grandson entered junior high school, Jerry joined him in band, orchestra and drum corps and staffed the concession stand for every football game.

Because of his continued dedication to the students, he was honored at the age of 80 as

the 2016 Arkansas PTA Children’s Champion.

And there’s more! He has supported a sack lunch program, St. John’s Episcopal Church, a local peace coalition, Friends of the Library and the Historical Society.

Congratulations, Jerry, on leaving such a positive imprint – both as a teacher in Pomona and as a retired teacher!

King’s ‘I have a dream’ speech set for viewing, discussion some 55 years later

A viewing of Dr. Martin Luther King’s famous “I have a dream” speech will be presented and discussed next week in Pomona some 55 years and three days after King’s comments during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a speech that has since been recognized as a defining moment of the American Civil Rights Movement.

King’s speech followed by a panel discussion on the theme “What happens to a dream deferred?” will be viewed at 6

p.m. Friday, Aug. 31, in Pomona’s Solidarity Center, at 1460 E. Holt Ave., Room 6 in the Village at Indian Hill (between entrances 2 and 3).

Panelists will focus on civil rights at the time the speech was given, how far the nation has come since, and what type

of action is needed to come closer to achieving King’s dream.

The event is being presented by the Social Justice Advocacy Project, Pomona’s African-American Museum of Beginnings and the Pomona Valley Branch of the NAACP.

La Nueva Voz...

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Tuesday, Sept 25 @ 11 am & 2 pm



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bond money. “That’s our big focus this year.”

(His students have had access to computers in the past, but this is the first year each student is assigned one.)

He said both the technology and training teachers to use the content will be a big part of the program.

“That’s kind of exciting,” he said, adding he is looking forward to a “wonderful year.”

Ranch Hills has an enrollment of nearly 450 students.

Backpack give-away biggest and best yet

Of course, when Pomona Unified School District does something, it does it in a big way – not only did the kids go back to school this month but a week before that nearly 5,000 backpacks filled with all the necessary supplies were handed out – to anybody who wanted them – in an annual free backpack give-away in the district’s conference center at the Village at Indian Hill, all coordinated again this year by the district’s Family Support Services office.

Headlining that event at an early morning appearance was Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, who was introduced

by Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez “as a friend, as a colleague, for being a partner with this school district.”

Solis, who spoke to students and their parents in Spanish, said not only would they receive a backpack but that there was a lot of information on hand for the children.

“There’s a lot of services here today,” Solis said. “You’re going to be able to get a lot of good information for your family and for you. And most of it if not all of it is free.”

In an interview with La Nueva Voz, Martinez said the event worked out really well and that the parents have learned through the years to come out earlier.

“We get better every year,” he said, referring to the district’s ability to manage the lines.

“Right now, even though we have 5,000 bags to give away I believe we’ve given away about 3,000 (by 10:40 a.m. after opening the doors at 8) so we’re here until the last person, we’re here all day long,” Martinez said.

Lining up as early as 4 a.m.

Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board member Michael Thomas, of Pomona Valley America’s Job Center, told La

Nueva Voz he arrived at 7 a.m. and saw students and their parents lined up all the way from the conference center entrance to the adult school’s cosmetology entrance.

He said members of one family told him they had been there since 4 a.m.

Patti Azevedo, of the district’s family support services team and who coordinated organizers for the event, said funds for the backpack give-away came from the district’s homeless program, although backpacks were available for any student (from transitional kindergarten through 12th grade) that wanted one as long as they showed up with a parent or guardian.

She said the backpacks were filled with folders, paper, rulers, markers, colored pencils, crayons for the little ones and more.

“They walk away with a nice pack of paper, anything that starts the school year,” she said.

Was it bigger and better than ever?

“I think it’s better because more people are asking to join in, so that’s always a good sign,” Azevedo said referring to the event attracting more outside service providers than ever be-



Students and their parents line up at the registration tables at this month’s annual free backpack give-away, coordinated by Pomona Unified School District’s Family Support Services team.



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, who stopped by Pomona Unified’s backpack give-away this year at the Village at Indian Hill Conference Center, offers a little hands-on assistance to get that backpack strap adjusted just right.

Photo courtesy of Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis



Two moms and their kids help give the Los Angeles County photographer an idea of what was going on at Pomona Unified’s annual backpack give-away this month at the Village at Indian Hill. Pictured with the moms and their kids are, from left, Pomona Unified’s Assistant Supt. of Pupil & Community Services Fernando Meza; Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez; Dr. Steven Golightly, Director of the Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department; Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Patti Azevedo, of the school district’s family support services team and coordinator of the event; Pomona Unified School Board Vice President Frank Guzman; and Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman, holding a commendation to the district’s family support services office recognizing the event from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

fore. “My focus for here was more resources that parents need to start school and word spread.”

Exhibitors at this year’s backpack give-away included Park Tree Community Health Center which was offering free immu-

nizations to students, along with many more including Los Angeles County’s Office of Consumer and Business Affairs, County Department of Parks and Rec-

Back to school... pg. 9



Photo courtesy of Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis Pomona Unified School District Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman, at left, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis help one preschooler pick out the perfect backpack at Pomona Unified’s free backpack give-away this month.

Back to school... from pg. 8

reation, County Department of Mental Health, County Child Support Services Department, and even Pomona Unified's own adult school, just in case there were any takers.

Pomona Unified School District based on published enrollment figures is the sixth largest school district in Los Angeles County behind Los Angeles Unified School District (640,000), Long Beach Unified (72,000), Glendale Unified (26,000), Torrance Unified (23,496) and Hacienda-La Puente Unified (22,000).



As is often the case, the hardest part of this backpack give-away is deciding just which backpack will be best for the new school year. These two elementary school students look like they've just made the right decision.



Apartment rents in Pomona push up with national trend due to seasonal demand

The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Pomona last month was \$1,697, up 0.5 percent from June and up 7.4 percent from the same time last year, according to tabulations by RentCafe.com, a nationwide apartment search website.

A one-bedroom apartment in Pomona averaged \$1,309 last month, up 0.5 percent from June and up 5.6 percent from the previous year.

And the average rent last month for all apartments in Pomona was \$1,490, 0.5 percent up from June and 6.6 percent up from the previous year.

The national average rent reached an all-time high of \$1,409 in July, up 0.2 percent or \$3 from June, and up 2.8 percent from the previous year.

Figures in the monthly rent report are based on data compiled from actual rents charged in the 250 largest U.S. cities.

Seasonal demand and increased activity are offsetting the wave of new apartments opened this year so far, translating into an even but moderately strong yearly growth across all apartment sizes, according to a RentCafe.com spokesperson.

Rents increased in 88 percent of the nation's largest cities last month, stayed flat in 11 percent and dropped in only two cities compared to last year.



Photo courtesy of Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis. Pictured at this month's Pomona Unified School District backpack give-away are, from left, Dr. Steven Golightly, Director of the Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department; Pomona Unified School District Board member Adrienne Konigar-Macklin; Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; and Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez.



Photo courtesy of Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis. Three students show off their new backpacks for Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and Dr. Steven Golightly, Director of the Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department.



La Nueva Voz friend Sandra Duque, Pomona Unified's adult education bilingual receptionist, participated this year for the first time to work the crowd and, who knows, maybe find a parent or two interested in signing up for an adult school class. And that adult school program, by the way, is very popular in Pomona and does a good job.



One little girl couldn't resist peeking at the La Nueva Voz camera as her mom gets her registered for school so she can go in the next room and pick out her backpack. Pictured, at left, is Pomona Unified School District's Assistant Supt. of Pupil & Community Services Fernando Meza helping the data entry team get all the information in the computer. He told La Nueva Voz even last-minute registration is possible at the district's backpack give-away.

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New engineering mentoring program at Cal Poly may become available to Pomona high school students

Fourteen students from Diamond Bar High School and seven engineering mentors studying at Cal Poly University Pomona completed a six-week summer training program last month that is now becoming a year-long mentoring program to provide a transformative educational experience for secondary students through technology-focused team projects – and it’s a program that might just be heading for high school students in Pomona!

The first-ever pilot program, known as Cal Poly’s STEAM Academy (science, technology, engineering, art and math), was funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and is designed to encourage high school students to select engineering as a major in college.

Pomona Unified School District board members and staff are already meeting with Cal Poly team members to shift the program to include Pomona high schools as well.

The connection was through Pomona Community Life

Commissioner Donna Houston whose son Melvin, who lives in Pomona, happened to attend Diamond Bar High School and became involved in developing the program.

Houston said she and her son, now a senior at Diamond Bar High, contacted Cal Poly to try to develop an internship for seniors. Her son became an ambassador between the College of Engineering and Diamond Bar High to help develop a program and, with funding from Kellogg, the program got under way.

She mentioned the idea to Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, who had recently appointed her to the commission, and now Sandoval, Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, and Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman have become involved, and Houston said even Cal Poly President Dr. Soraya Coley is supporting expanding the program into Pomona.

Cal Poly’s Dean of Engineer-
Mentoring program... pg. 17



ENGINEERING MENTORING PILOT PROGRAM AT CAL POLY -- A new engineering mentoring program at Cal Poly University Pomona -- hopefully heading for high schools in the Pomona Unified School District -- is getting under way at Diamond Bar High School after a six-week summer training program at Cal Poly. Pictured are the engineering majors at Cal Poly who are becoming mentors (pretty much the green shirts and others on the back or top row), the high school students (pretty much everybody else), instructor Scott Chang, at far left, Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, at far right, and, out in front, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. Seated immediately behind Sandoval is Melvin Houston, of Pomona, who was instrumental in helping get the entire program off the ground.

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4. Complete the registration process to receive your ticket



WORK GETS UNDER WAY AT PALM LAKE GOLF COURSE -- The clean-up phase to restore Pomona's Palm Lake Golf Course got under way this month as three San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps members and their supervisor went to work on the project. The Conservation Corps and Chino Development League also plan to hold a community day of service inviting others to help work on the project. The Chino company was awarded a 20-year lease for \$1 a year from the City of Pomona in December to operate the golf course with the help of the Conservation Corps which is using the project to create a new career path for its members. The 56-year-old nine-hole par three golf course, driving range and vacant snack shop closed nearly two years ago after an unsuccessful three-year attempt by Pedro Gonzalez, a teacher at Pomona's Madison Elementary School, to revitalize the course on a cost-effective basis. Chino Development, owned by Pomona resident Celso Palafox, recently completed beautification projects in Pomona along Garey Avenue, the Fairplex and Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare.

Need to register to vote? Here's how!

Los Angeles County residents interested in voting in the Nov. 6 general election but not registered to vote – or who need to re-register – will be eligible to vote as long as they

register 15 days before election day, according to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's web site.

Registration forms are available in many government buildings and

can be completed and submitted by mail, or voters can register on line at lavote.net (click on "voting and elections").

Or call (800) 481-VOTE.



DAVID AND MARGARET RECEIVES GRANT FROM UNITED WAY -- David and Margaret Youth and Family Services in La Verne has received a \$20,000 grant from Inland Empire United Way to support its Youth Workforce Training Program for youth who are transitioning out of foster care. The program -- utilizing a newly facility built for the purpose -- provides youth ages 18-24 the opportunity to participate in a work experience program that allows them access to life skills classes, literacy classes, professional development lectures and 160 hours of paid on the job training. Up to 125 transitional age youth will be able to access the program services each year. Pictured are David and Margaret Development Director Maggie Bohlman, at left, and Inland Empire United Way President and CEO Dr. Felita Jones.

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Ganesha High graduate serving on Navy's ballistic missile submarine

Pomona native Lt. j.g. Andy Baeza, a machinery propulsion assistant officer, is serving aboard the U.S. Navy's USS Pennsylvania, one of the world's most advanced ballistic missile submarines, based at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor near Seattle, Washington.

Baeza, a 2011 Ganesha High School graduate, is responsible for supervising all mechanicals relating to propulsion, electrical generation and quality assurance.

The USS Pennsylvania is one of 14 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines in the Navy's fleet, according to a Navy news release.

"It's really impressive how interrelated everything is and how we are able to generate the electricity that supports the entire sub," Baeza said. "Pomona is a huge melting pot of personalities – pretty much like on a sub."

"I'm the first person in my family to serve in the military," Baeza said. "I definitely feel proud to serve in the Navy."

The Navy's ballistic missile submarines, referred to informally as "boomers," serve as undetectable launch platforms for intercontinental ballistic missiles. They are designed for stealth, extended patrols and the precise delivery of missiles.

As long as nuclear weapons remain in the hands of potential adversaries, the nation's nuclear forces provide a safe, secure and credible deterrent to the threat of nuclear attack, a spokesperson for the Navy said in the news release, adding that the Navy's continuous at-sea deployment of submarines like USS Pennsylvania provides the ability to mount an assured response.



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class David Wycaver
Lt. j.g. Andy Baeza



Traditional Aztec dancers perform on the sidewalk in front of offices of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association this month heralding the opening of "Speechless" (sin palabras), a photographic Aztec-themed art exhibit by Denis Thorp Photography. The exhibit, on display in The Metro Gallery, inside the DPOA offices at 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona, continues through Sept. 4.

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SAFETY FIRST By Jose Bermudez, Certified Safety Professional**American Red Cross working on Pomona's 'Resiliency Planning'**

Previously, we reviewed work safety and personal, off the job safety and health. There is also public safety and public health that affects and involves everyone. Proactive commitment includes private citizens/volunteers, social service agency, and government entity representation.

In the context of the community and the public, who are you gonna call when an earthquake, flood, or any disaster occurs? Will it be Ghostbusters, law enforcement, emergency responders? Seriously, along with law enforcement, the fire department, and paramedics, the Red Cross is routinely involved in many disasters involving people and communities. They provide emergency aid after an earthquake, home fires, wild fire, a hurricane, and any disaster when people are injured and/or become ill. The Red Cross, through both on-going and emergency response activities, provides the following important community services:

- 5.6 million blood donations are collected by the Red Cross annually.
- Roughly 3.3 million volunteer blood donors give blood annually.
- More than 8 million transfusable blood products are distributed each year thanks to the donations. Blood products include whole blood, platelets, plasma, and red blood cells.
- 2,700 hospitals and transfu-

sion centers around the country receive Red Cross blood products.

The Red Cross provides training in various subjects and aspects of home safety and emergency response, including home fire preparedness, high school Red Cross clubs, "Ready When the Time Comes" teams, community ambassadors, "Map Your Neighborhood" trainers, first aid/CPR classes, "The Pillowcase Project" (preparedness), and volunteers. More information and details can be accessed on the web site at www.redcross.org/local/california/los-angeles/community-chapters/san-gabriel-pomona-valley or search for "Red Cross San Gabriel Pomona Valley."

Lastly, but equally important, the Red Cross provides resiliency training, preparation, and planning to local communities to prepare in coordination with their local community representatives, and their city and county government agencies. These services involve police/sheriff's department, fire department, and other government emergency responders to care for victims of disasters.

You may ask what is resiliency training? Community resilience is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. This definition is from the Rand Corporation.

In Pomona, the Red Cross is working with community agency personnel, local government representatives, and private citizens to develop a "Pomona Resiliency Plan." The group held its last meeting in the Ganesha Park Community Center to continue in this process.

The meeting was initiated by Veronica Garcia Davalos, Red Cross Executive Director of the San Gabriel Pomona Valley Chapter. She presented the group's strategy for developing a resiliency plan. Michael Driebe, Pomona resident and Red Cross ambassador, facilitated the meeting.

Participants were assigned to teams for developing and reviewing the SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). The final step was to determine key areas to work on once the analysis is completed. The next meeting will convene in order to further refine the goals and develop objectives. The dates and times have not been set, but residents interested in participating either in the resiliency plan or volunteering in other areas may contact Rachel Almond at Rachel.almond@redcross.org.

The American Red Cross provides many resources and services that are invaluable to people in Pomona, the U. S. and the world. The opportunity is there for people and communities to become involved. The challenge is to connect the resources

and services with the people and communities in need. For more information, visit the Red Cross web site and become involved as a donor and/or volunteer. You, your family and community will certainly benefit.

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. He can be contacted at jsbrmdz8@gmail.com.

County Assessor Jeff Prang certifies record property tax bill savings

Veterans, homeowners and community organizations across Los Angeles County will save \$598 million on their 2018 property tax bills, according to the annual property assessment just certified by County Assessor Jeff Prang.

And Prang's office has received recognition from the International Association of Assessing Officers for its outreach and education initiatives that led to these record-breaking savings for taxpayers.

Representatives of the IAAO will formally award Prang's office its Public Information Program Award at its upcoming conference in Minneapolis.

"My dedicated staff work tire-

lessly to promote the valuable resources and saving opportunities that benefit L.A. County residents and businesses, and the record savings are a testament to our commitment toward excellence in service to the public," Prang said in a news release.

The 2018 assessment roll reflects \$59.8 billion in tax exemptions, which produce \$598 million in direct savings. Included are \$477 million in disabled veteran exemptions, \$7.23 billion in homeowners' exemptions, and \$52.1 billion in exemptions for 15,662 community and faith-based organizations including schools, hospitals and museums.

Two Village Academy High School student filmmakers picked for nation's largest high school film festival

Two films produced for this year's "Pindie" fifth annual Pomona Student Film Festival at Village Academy High School have been accepted for screening in New York's Times Square in October as part of the sixth annual All-American High School Film Festival.

The three-day event, scheduled for Oct. 5 through 7, will take place at the AMC Empire 25 theater.

In all, a total of 48 screenings – of about a dozen films each – are scheduled during the event,

according to Thomas Reed, math and film teacher at Village Academy.

The two films selected as "Official selection – short films" are "Hidden," written and directed by Lay Hak, and "Paranormal People," written and directed by Diego Martinez.

"Hidden" won best picture in the Pindie awards three months ago in Pomona, and "Paranormal People" won both best director and the superintendent's award.

According to Reed, the New York film festival is the largest

high school film festival in the nation.

It is known as the premier destination for talented high school filmmakers and media arts enthusiasts from around the world.

Its goal is to connect filmmakers of the future with the rewards, respect and recognition they deserve, according to the festival web site.

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Mentoring program... from pg. 11

ing Joe Rencis was on hand for the final day ceremonies.

Sandoval, speaking to the students on the last day of the six-week program, said there is a “tremendous amount of stress (on high school students),” adding that he saw that when he was a teacher at Charter Oak High School.

“I think part of what this program really represents is that you don’t have to do it alone,” he said. “You don’t have all the answers. There are going to be times when you’ll need to reach out to somebody.”

He said he hopes the program eventually includes students in Pomona “who very much would benefit tremendously from a program like this.”

Instructor Scott Chang said the students have been learning how to break out of the mold to finish a project.

“So it’s about teaching the students to think a little bit outside the box so that they can apply it to different ways of working,” Chang said.

He added that the concept goes beyond academics – they are trying to pair mentors with students in a variety of areas including appropriate personality types.

Lily Gossage, director of the Maximizing Engineering Potential Center for Gender, Diversity and Student Excellence at Cal Poly’s College of Engineering, said details for Pomona students already are being worked out in areas of transportation but that the district will not have to spend any money on the program – Board members will simply have to buy into the idea.

“And if there are other interventions or services that they would like us to include in the program, certainly we are very attuned to be able to listen . . . and talk with our folks here (at Cal Poly) to see if we can provide resources,” Gossage said.

“We want to make sure it’s sustainable so it’s not something that is based on lack of funds,” she added. “There should be a way to institutionalize this.”

The STEAM Academy’s

mission is to provide a transformative educational experience for secondary students through technology-focused team projects. Participation in the program allows students to connect with students across the community and institutions, to collaborate with Cal Poly and its industrial partners, and to create knowledge and contents through team-based, hands-on projects and on-line courseware.

Students will be exposed to today’s cutting-edge technology and its social impact, learn about leading theories on diverse perspectives and inclusion, and experience design thinking and creation first hand.

They will collaborate with Lincoln Lab/Beaver Works at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Then how is the program working out for students like Melvin?

“The purpose of the program was for rising seniors like myself to have a summer internship relating to STEAM,” he said. “The program was important because it taught basic and helpful engineering skills and thought processes.”

“The pilot program turned out well, especially since it was the first time being offered,” he added. “The goal was to create

a mock-up / prototype of our products. Despite time constraints of a six-week course, we were still able to complete the most important parts.”

He said the program reinforced his interest in attending Cal Poly and studying engineering.

“I plan to apply to Cal Poly Pomona’s engineering program – it is very competitive and well respected,” he said. “I look forward to being a Bronco.”

“Internships are becoming more of a common requirement for high school seniors, especially in the STEAM field,” Melvin’s mom said. “I knew it would be important to create this pilot program since STEAM internships are unfortunately scarce.”

She added that her son attended several events at Cal Poly last year and met the chair and professor of mechanical engineering Dr. Angela Shih.

Although Cal Poly did not have an existing internship, Shih and others at Cal Poly agreed to develop one, she said.

The timeline for the program calls for preparing to expand the program to up to 60 students from three to four high schools by Spring 2019.

The summer pilot program included a total of 150 hours in both an on-line course and an

on-site program.

And the fall through spring peer mentoring program will consist of 60 hours over 30 weeks.

The program is a “win-win” opportunity for everyone – mentors will be able to enhance

their self-esteem, “mentees” will enhance self-motivation, self-discipline and goal setting, and even Cal Poly will benefit – by increasing student retention, increasing cultural diversity awareness and improving instructor-student rapport.

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Pomona's 'National Night Out' succeeds in building relationships with law enforcement

"It's not just about calling the police, sending e-mails, it's about building relationships with community and law enforcement," Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres told members of the community assembled in Pomona's Civic Center plaza this month for the 35th anniversary "National Night Out."

He said it is important for residents to take advantage of all the resources that are available to them.

"If you want to get involved in Neighborhood Watch or with the police department, please do that because now more than ever we need the residents to step up and help move Pomona in a positive direction," Torres added.

Coordinated by the Pomona Police Department's crime prevention office, National Night Out represents the city's participation with more than 15,000 other communities from all 50 states – some 37 million people altogether – coming together to help improve communication between the community and police and to help prevent crime and drug use in the community.

"It's wonderful to see all of our residents come and par-

ticipate," said Pomona City Councilmember Ginna Escobar. "The goal and the objective (is) . . . to get the community . . . (involved in) more civic engagement."

"It just goes to show that our community and our beautification efforts are working," she added.

Several hundred residents turned out for the three-hour evening event of speeches, music, dancing, games for the kids, police demonstrations and more.

State Sen. Connie Leyva, who told the audience she "hopped on a plane" to come down for the event, thanked the police department, Chief Mike Olivieri, and Corporal James Gibson, who heads up the crime preven-



CITY COUNCIL PROCLAMATION -- Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri and Corporal James Gibson, head of the police department's crime prevention unit, display their proclamation from the city council declaring National Night Out in Pomona. Pictured, from left, are intern Maru Vazquez representing Congresswoman Norma Torres; Norma Martinez Quinones, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; Paola Avendano, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Pomona City Councilmembers Rubio Gonzalez and Ginna Escobar; Corporal Gibson and Chief Olivieri; Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres (and his son Julien); State Sen. Connie Leyva; and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.

tion office.

"And I love that this happens every year nationally to make sure communities and the police department come together and learn that we're supposed to be working on behalf of each other," Leyva said. "We appreciate what all of you do every day. Stay safe out there."

"This is really about community, it's about our police working very closely with the community," said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, who introduced Pomona Police Chief Olivieri

National Night Out... pg. 19



Photo by Eric Jung

A 'RECENT HISTORY' OF MISS POMONA -- Maybe Miss Pomona winners are like U.S. Marines -- once a Miss Pomona, always a Miss Pomona. However that works out, there were a whole bunch of them on hand this month for Pomona's National Night Out. Pictured, from left, are Kaia Partlow, Marlene Munguia, Lorena Gonzalez (with no Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez in the photo), Lauren DeMott (a Princess), Lissandra Garcia (also a Princess), Danielle Garcia and Yazmin Torres.



The Pomona Police Department's crime prevention booth was a popular spot during National Night Out. Hey, that's where some of the cool stuff was!



Several of Pomona's favorite cops, including Police Chief Mike Olivieri, at right, and Deputy Chief Hector Rodriguez, at left, take a moment to chat with each other and several visitors at this month's National Night Out.



In the "look who's here" department, Mary Prendergast is pictured in La Nueva Voz on a regular basis but a "hey, where have you been hiding" goes out to her husband, Ryan Prendergast, who we haven't seen around in a while. (We know, work, work, work, huh?)

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

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- 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
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- 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



National Night Out... from pg. 18

as he proclaimed the day “National Night Out” in the City of Pomona.

“We certainly are proud to serve this community, we certainly see ourselves as a part of this community,” Olivieri said. “I thank the mayor and the city council and the legislators for their support this evening and I hope everybody enjoys the evening.”

Dr. Laura Burgis, of the Claremont-based Human Values Center, took the opportunity to

present the city with the organization’s first global compassionate city leadership award.

“Pomona is now officially part of a worldwide movement of more than 400 cities that are officially compassionate cities,” she said, adding that 75 leaders including Police Chief Olivieri participated in a four-month training and education program to learn what it means to be compassionate.

Others participating were representatives of the fire depart-

ment, health care providers, nonprofits, schools and faith-based organizations.

She said Pomona was the first city to complete the training.

“The Human Value Center presents the city with the first global compassionate city leadership award for its dedication to training, to education and service to fulfill Pomona’s promise,” she added.

She had officially presented the award to members of the city council the night before at its council meeting.

“Precedent setting steps have been taken in Pomona, including policy changes here in city council, now implementing new ‘rules of engagement’ to promote respectful civil dialogue and collaboration,” she said in an earlier news release. “In today’s broadest political climate, this is a great example of exemplary and honorable leadership, something to celebrate.”



Without the Pomona Kiwanis Club there would be no hamburgers at Pomona’s National Night Out in the Pomona Civic Center this month. And helping make it all possible, as usual, are cooking experts Carolyn Hemming and Gino Elias.

La Nueva Voz friend Jess Gomez and his granddaughter Breeanna Gomez were on hand to hang out at National Night Out. Grandma Alice Gomez was also there but didn’t make it into this photo. ‘The Impulse Band’ picked up the tempo and the temperature at this year’s National Night Out in the Pomona Civic Center.



National Night Out ... pg. 20



Pomona Unified School District Board member Adrienne Konigar-Macklin stops to chat with Pomona’s Beth Brooks representing Pomona Rotary at the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley booth.



Traditional drummers from the Ikeda Youth Ensemble Taiko Group (Japanese drums of mythological origin) stole the show at Pomona’s National Night Out.



Historical Society of Pomona Valley President Debra Clifford and her husband John Clifford answer a quick question from a customer during National Night Out.

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National Night Out ... from pg. 19



Traditional folklorico dancing was part of this month's National Night Out in the Pomona Civic Center, courtesy of No Te Rajes Jalisco dance studio in Pomona.



A Pomona police motorcycle officer (OK, we caught her taking a "coke" break) chats with visitors at this month's National Night Out in Pomona.



Frank and Vita Gonzales, of Pomona's non-profit U.S.A. Fit Force Taekwondo, Inc., both ambassadors with the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, were on hand to show off trophies their students have won.

Pumpkin Festival returns to Cal Poly

Discounted tickets are now on sale on line for October's Cal Poly University Pomona Pumpkin Festival.

The annual event, which attracts thousands to the Cal Poly pumpkin patch next to the Cal Poly Farm Store, provides the opportunity to pick out your own pumpkin – or pumpkins –

Cal Poly makes '50 best' list of Money Magazine

Cal Poly University Pomona has been named to Money Magazine's 2018 list of "The 50 Best Colleges in the U.S." for quality and affordability, with a ranking of 47 – marking a dramatic increase from its position at 124 last year.

Contributing to its climb, the magazine profile noted that "the university's graduation rate of 69 percent is 26 percent higher than that of schools with comparable student demographics."

In addition, "recent graduates report an average early career income of \$54,000, according to Money's calculations, which is higher than peers from similar schools," the report said.

The full list included 727 colleges with graduation rates "at or above the median for its institutional category," or "a graduation rate unusually high when compared with schools whose students have similar test scores and socioeconomic backgrounds."

for \$5, regardless of size.

Also on hand will be hay rides, the always exciting corn maze, the Cal Poly Insect Fair, pony rides, a petting farm, pie eating and seed spitting contests, a rubber duck race and much more.

Kids can also see cow-milking, soap-making and blacksmithing, and live music will be on hand to entertain the crowds.

"The pumpkin festival is a fun, family event that is the best entertainment value in Southern California this season," said Craig Walters, the festival's director. "But we also hope that you'll learn something new about farming, which continues

to be a major industry in California that offers science and technology-related careers for our students."

The two-day festival will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 6 and 7 at Cal Poly's AGRIsapes Center, 4102 S. University Drive.

Discounted tickets purchased in advance through the festival web site are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children ages 2 to 12. The web site is pumpkinfestival.cpp.edu, and tickets also are available at the Farm Store.

Tickets at the gate are \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. Kids under 2 are free. Parking is included with admission.

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 The Inland Empire's Leading Bilingual Newspaper
 A division of South Coast Media Services
 Providing media relations services since 1983
 (909) 629-2292 • www.lanuevavoz.net
 P.O. Box 1117 • Pomona, CA 91769

Publisher: Jeff Schenkel
 Tel: (909) 224-0244 • jeffschenkel@verizon.net

V.P. of Advertising Sales & Operations: Renee Barbee
 909-762-1446 • reneebarbee7@gmail.com

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Participants in this month's "back to school surprise" for teachers pose for a group photo at the Inland Empire United Way "School Tools Teacher Resource Center" in Rancho Cucamonga. Teachers were invited to come out and shop for free school supplies but each received a Walmart gift card in the amount of \$530, believed to be the average out of pocket amount teachers spend on supplies for their classroom every year. Pictured with the teachers are Walmart representatives, Pomona Unified School District Board Vice President Frank Guzman (at rear, fourth from right), Pomona Unified fifth grade teacher Elizabeth Garcia, of Kellogg Elementary School (at Guzman's left), and Pomona Unified Assistant Supt. of Human Resources Darren Knowles (at rear, third from left).



A total of 24 teachers from Pomona Unified and Ontario-Montclair school districts were surprised this month with Walmart gift cards for \$530 in an Inland Empire United Way program designed to help the teachers get the new school year off to a good start. Teachers spend about \$530 each year out of their own pockets on school supplies for their students. Pictured are teachers "shopping" for free supplies in the United Way School Tools Teacher Resource Center in Rancho Cucamonga.

Photos by Renee Barbee

Pomona Valley Hospital receives stroke care award

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center has been awarded "Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers" designation with The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark.

The award followed a rigorous on-site review in which officials evaluated compliance with stroke-related standards and requirements.

"Every day we strive for excellence in the acute treatment of stroke patients," said hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum. "This recognition demonstrates our commitment to the health of our community. We're incredibly proud of the accomplishments of our Stead Heart and Vascular Center team."

"Every second counts when a stroke strikes," said Dr. Bhupat Desai, clinical director of the hospital's stroke program. "With this designation, Pomona Valley Hospital offers the region's only true multidisciplinary stroke team."

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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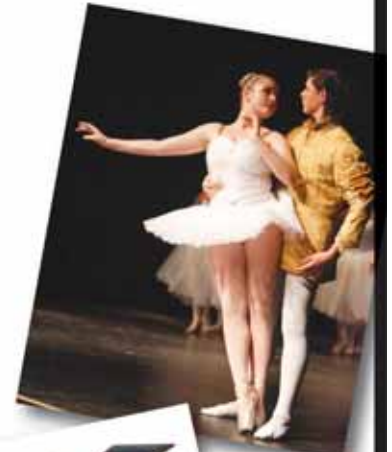
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Nearly 200 turn out on a hot August night for Pomona Rotary's 'Hot August Night'



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at left, visits with Ron and Christina Vera at Pomona Rotary's Hot August Night at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center.



Centerpieces on the tables at this month's Hot August Night were created by students from Village Academy High School and will be used on a new "musical playground" at the Children's Services Center of Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare.



Lead singer Gina Graham of the band Infinite Soul gets the audience warmed up during this month's Hot August Night Pomona Rotary fundraiser. Nearly 200 guests attended this year's event to help raise funds for Rotary service programs and the new "Musical Playground" at Casa Colina Hospital in Pomona.



"Oldies" at this month's "Hot August Night" fundraiser played by the band "Infinite Soul" got folks up and out on the dance floor including Pomona State Farm agent John Forbing, a board member at Western University of Health Sciences; Diane Abraham, Vice President of University Advancement at Western University; and, at right, Jeff Keating, Chief of Staff and Executive Director of Public Affairs and Marketing at Western University and President of Pomona Rotary, sponsor of the annual event.



Michele Alaniz, clinical director of Casa Colina's Children's Services Center, discusses the prototype of Casa's new "Musical Playground" (on the computer monitor and on the table) with a guest at this month's Hot August Night.



Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, at right, chats with Ron Vander Molen at this month's Hot August Night.



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- Bad Company Saturday, Sept. 22
- Dustin Lynch & special guest Tyler Farr Sunday, Sept. 23

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.

The WesternU College of Allied Health Professions is now

The College of Health Sciences



“
This renaming celebrates and clarifies the growing importance of physician assistant, physical therapy and health sciences graduates to the broader spectrum of health education and health care.

”

— Daniel R. Wilson, MD, PhD,
President, Western University
of Health Sciences

Congratulations to CHS students, faculty and staff!



**Western
University**
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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