

## Pomona's history as easy as a trip to Ebell Museum

It's not really Pomona's best kept secret, but it is surprising how few people around town know about it – so just to make sure, we'll tell you. Yes, there is a Historical Society of Pomona Valley, and yes, they operate and maintain an amazing Pomona Ebell Museum of History, among other historical sites around town.

And if you haven't been there, it would definitely be worth a visit – the museum includes everything from Ygnacio Palomares' actual saddle (his sprawling ranch in the area was a land grant from Mexican Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado) to those

cute little moustache teacups with built-in moustache guards to keep a carefully waxed moustache out of the tea.

New Historical Society Board President Deborah Clifford, who just started her second year at the helm with her own "State of the Historical Society" address (for the record, **POSING WITH HISTORY** -- Historical Society Board Vice President Jennifer Williams, at left, poses with an orchard heater (smudge pot) once used in California's citrus industry to keep the crops from freezing until they were outlawed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, then called the L.A. County Air Pollution Control District, and Board President Deborah Clifford poses with the saddle once owned by Mexican land grant recipient Ygnacio Palomares. Both are on display in the Ebell Museum.



Photo by Renee Barbee

hard to pick up the pace and help make it possible for its educational and informational effort to reach more people than ever.

To do that, of course, she said, as is the case with so many non-profit organizations, the Historical Society will need three things (paraphrasing from her speech to her 10-member board which which was planned for the annual meeting last Saturday)

– increased monetary donations, more volunteers and more time and effort working on developing the collection in the museum.

Clifford and her Board Vice President Jennifer Williams sat down for an interview with La Nueva Voz at the Historical Society's headquarters in the Ebell Museum (Williams has been volunteering since 2013 and has served as vice president for the last two years).

And, Williams said, the Historical Society needs on-going monetary contributions to help fulfill its mission, but it is also always

**Pomona's history... pg. 4**

## CASE INVESTIGATED BY POMONA POLICE

### Little Jonah's killer gets life without possibility of parole

Sengchan Hou, 37, of Pomona, was sentenced last month in Pomona Superior Court to life in state prison without the possibility of parole for killing 8-year-old Jonah Hwang two years ago in a drive-by shooting by firing into an occupied residence where young Jonah was having dinner with family and friends.

Jurors in the case convicted Hou of first-degree murder in December after deliberating for

only two hours.

It was a tragedy that brought an entire community to tears through at least two candlelight vigils and a near-capacity crowd memorial service at Pomona's Purpose Church.

According to court records and a news release from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's



Sengchan Hou

office, Hou was found guilty of one count of first-degree murder, two counts each of shooting at an occupied dwelling and negligent discharge of a firearm, and one count of shooting from a motor vehicle.

Sentencing was



Jonah Min-Tian Hwang

Jan. 29 in the Pomona courthouse.

Deputy District Attorney Lance Hansen of the Hardcore Gang Division, who prosecuted the case, said the panel also found true a "special circumstance allegation" that the murder

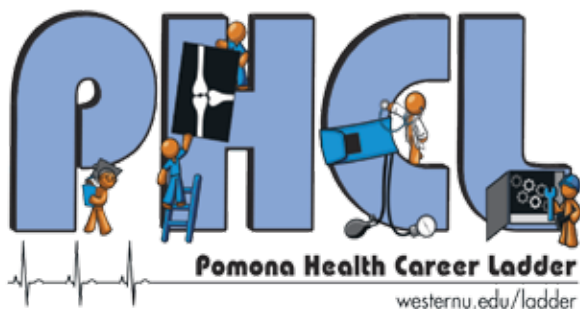
was perpetrated by means of discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle.

According to court testimony, Hou was in a vehicle on Feb. 20, 2017, when he shot at a home in the 1100 block of West 11th Street in Pomona.

Jonah was struck by the gunfire, Hansen said, and died later from his injuries.

Hansen said in the news re-

**Killer gets life... pg. 6**



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## Class of 75 kids from Alcott Elementary graduate from Pomona Police Cops4Kids 'academy' program

Only February and too soon for another graduation story?

Not for the 75 kids from Pomona's Alcott Elementary School in this year's Cops4Kids program of the Pomona Police Department who completed their requirements and received certificates and medallions last month at the end of a 12-week "academy" training course.

Ceremonies – for the kids and their parents, guardians and fam-

ilies – were held in the Village at Indian Hill Conference Center.

And the kids, all fourth and fifth graders, ages 9 up to 13, were all smiles as they lined up before the ceremony with fresh haircuts, shiny faces and their official Cops4Kids t-shirts.

Pomona Police Officer Diana Hernandez, who heads up the program, told La Nueva Voz the kids started with white polo shirts and had to "earn" the t-

shirts with the Cops4Kids motto on back – "Respect given is respect earned."

In addition to the 12 training sessions, the kids were required to participate in at least one of the two community service events the program organizes (one was placing flags at graves of veterans in advance of Veterans Day at Pomona Valley Cemetery – and that one attracted 60 kids as well as some of the parents).

School officials each year notice the impact the program has on their students in the classroom, and in terms of their attentiveness, focus, academics, classroom management, their relationships and more.

Cops4Kids focuses on aca-  
Cops4Kids... pg. 6



Photos courtesy of Tony Nguyen, Pomona Police Department C.S.I. The 75 Alcott Elementary School kids in this year's Cops4Kids program stand at attention with their course completion medallions during graduation ceremonies last month at the Village at Indian Hill Conference Center.



**TOP MALE JUNIOR CADET, MOST IMPROVED** -- Jasiyah Rosales, 10, a fourth-grader at Alcott Elementary School, shows off his award for "Top Male Junior Cadet Most Improved" that he was presented last month at this year's Cops4Kids graduation ceremonies. Pictured with Rosales, from left, are Pomona City Councilmembers Nora Garcia, Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Rubio Gonzalez, Pomona Police Officer Diana Hernandez, who heads up the Cops4Kids program, Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri, Pomona Deputy Chief Hector Rodriguez, and Pomona Police Officer Cynthia Jimenez.



**'PHOTO OP' WITH THE CHIEF** -- Brianna Suarez, 10, daughter of La Nueva Voz friend Lily Vasquez of Pomona's Wells Fargo Bank, shows off her "Certificate of Completion" as she poses for a photo with Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri. Her mom said she was "so proud" of Brianna. "Cops4Kids is a great program that in such little time will have an everlasting effect on these children," Vasquez said, adding that she hopes one day her daughter will be graduating from the "real" police academy because of her exposure to Cops4Kids.



**Cops4Kids graduation medallions were all lined up and ready to go before completion ceremonies last month.**

## Para Compradores por Primera Vez

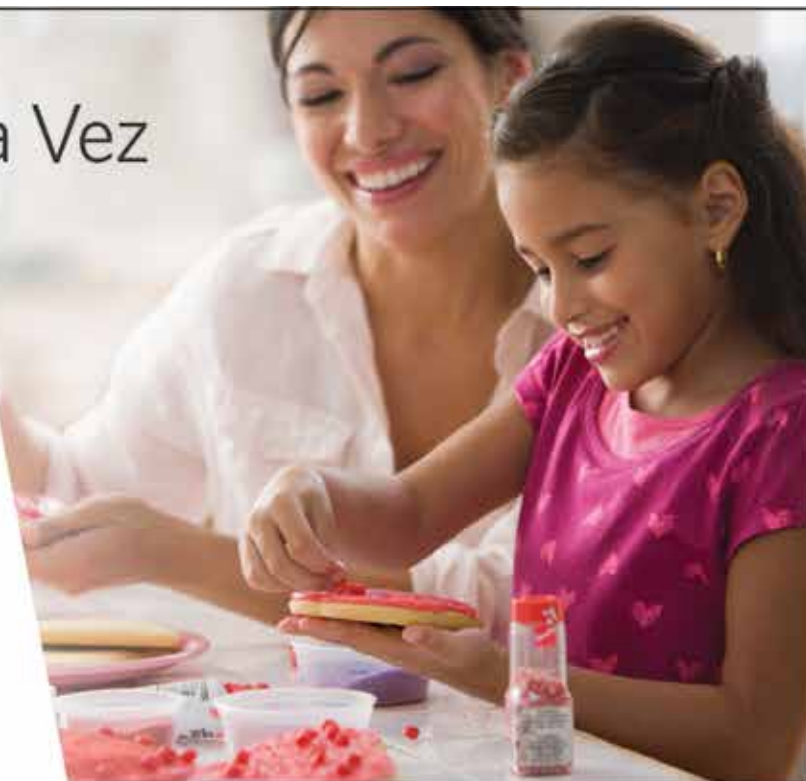
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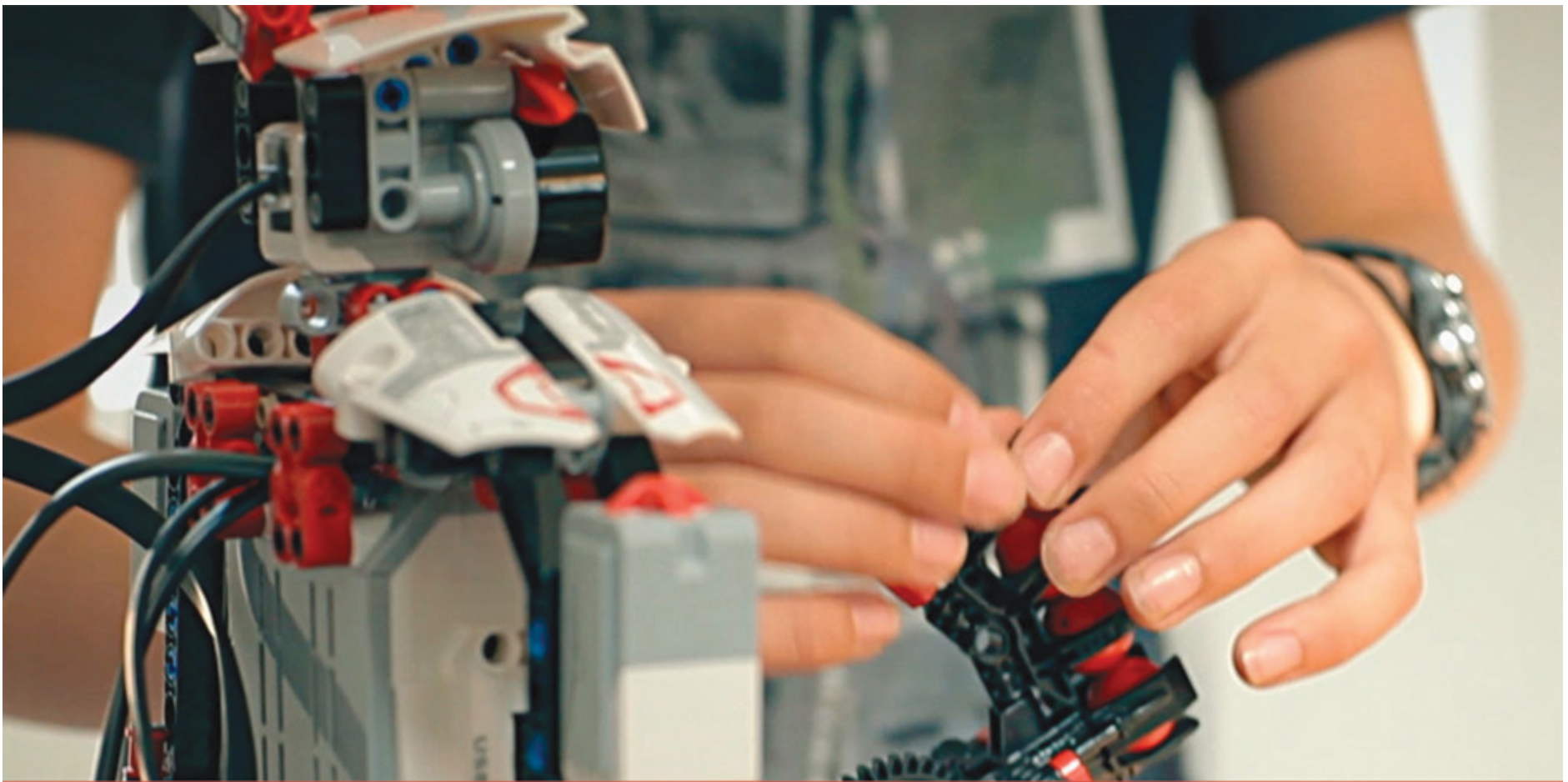
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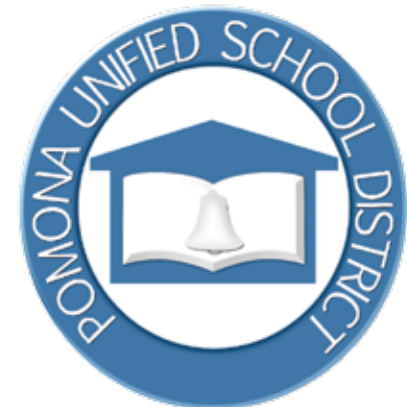
# ROBOTICS

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## Pomona's history... from pg. 1

in need of donations of artifacts with historical significance.

"If you want to be able to trust that your items will be cared for and will be used to educate Pomona and surrounding children and families, this is who you need to donate to," she said.

### Universities, cities use facilities for research

Clifford added that area universities and cities often use the facilities for research.

"The (Pomona Public) Library does (this) as well, but it is between the two of us," Clifford said. "For instance, when the city was suing the orange industry over the pesticides that were used, we had people in here and at the library researching old documents."

"Sometimes it involves legal matters, we've had people call and ask us about the history of the water company because a lady has owned this house, the deed hasn't been renewed in 95 years (and it still shows an outdated water company)," she said.

Consultants also start at the

Historical Society on projects involving new architecture for, say, the Downtown Pomona area when information is needed for an environmental impact report or for an application to demolish a building or build a new one, Clifford added.

"Whenever they need that kind of information, we are here," she said.

Or it can be a question as simple as a resident asking who has lived in their house a century ago.

In addition to that whole historical side of the operation, the group devotes a lot of effort to the on-going maintenance of its half a dozen historic sites.

"On-going maintenance is a negotiated process," Clifford said. "Originally, the contract with the city was that they would take care of the buildings and the land and then we would have everything inside. But we know what the city's budget is and that is not necessarily something that has happened with great regularity."

"They will repair an occasional

old roof, but they're not going to do all of the roofs all in the same year," she added. "This last year they were able to budget the money to replace the roof at (La) Casa Primera . . . and they will trim trees and do that major sorts of gardening but if there's a way for us to do the rest they will let us because they don't have much."

### Visits to historical sites

Then are all of these efforts resulting in folks coming out regularly to see the facilities?

"Fourth graders tour adobes so we host somewhere between 700 and 1,000 kids every year during school tours of the adobe," Clifford said, adding that 750 of them are from Bonita Unified School District in San Dimas and La Verne.

"We have done joint projects with kids when we had the monument to the internees (a new monument was dedicated three years ago on the grounds of Fairplex where 5,000 Japanese-Americans were detained) at the Assembly Center in Pomona," she said, in which students had an opportunity to talk to Japanese-American citizens who were detained during World War II on the grounds of what is now Fairplex.

"When those opportunities come up, we will put together those kinds of things," Clifford said. "We have a number of resources, books and things that sometimes act as catalysts."

Garey High School history teacher Ion Puschila, who became a member of the Historical Society Board this month, said it is important to make it possible for more Pomona students to tour the organization's facilities, but sources of funding for transportation first need to be identified.

"Fourth graders would be making candles, they would be making soap, they would be doing things that are tangibly historical, but at the same time experiencing science on the site with their hands," Puschila said.

And again, to make it all work, the group needs more volunteers.

"I would be so delighted if every member on our roster put in two hours a month," Clifford said, with each volunteer working in his own particular area of

expertise as member Ron Vander Molen did when he rehung paintings at the Adobe de Palomares or as another member does in producing the organization's flyers.

"There's more work than a Board can do," Clifford said.

### Donations of 'modern' artifacts needed

And back to the idea of donating artifacts, Clifford said most of the collection is from the 19th century.

"We are 120 years behind basically," she said, adding that even the Pomona Public Library with its special collections really did not collect much after 1960 or 1965.

"We have the 20th century to document – we have nothing on World War II, we have a few things from World War I, almost nothing on Vietnam, some of those major issues that have always been part of Pomona," she said. "We are looking for exactly those kinds of pieces and that, again, is going to take an army and those two hours a month volunteers can really help."

"If we . . . have a collection where people . . . don't see their own histories there, or validated, they're not going to come," Clifford said. "We also know that this museum is very static, and we need to change that."

"I've spent this whole last year going 'wow, I didn't know we had that,'" she said.

### Locations,

#### locations, locations!

Then what all is included under the umbrella of the Historical Society? The list is pretty amazing in itself.

First, there's the Ebell, which includes, of course, the museum and the ballroom, along with the administrative offices of the Historical Society.

Originally located at Pearl Street and Garey Avenue in Pomona, the building was moved to its present location in 1919 where members of the Pomona Ebell Women's Club added a large two-story auditorium with dressing rooms and seating for 300 people. It was completed in 1924.

It is located at 585 E. Holt Ave., Pomona (you know, that

big, brown shingled house on the corner).

Then, there's La Casa Primera, where Palomares built his house, the first house of its type in the area.

It is located at 1569 N. Park Ave., Pomona.

And Adobe de Palomares, at 491 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona (next to Palomares Park), was built at the center of the large Palomares ranch where cattle and sheep grazed throughout the valley.

Palomares, of course, along with Ricardo Vejar, received the original land grant in the area.

After California became a state and was divided into townships, the land began to be taxed, posing a hardship on many owners.

That and a series of floods followed by drought conditions (sound familiar?) resulted in Vejar's ranch suffering tremendously and, by 1864, his Rancho San Jose de Abajo was foreclosed on.

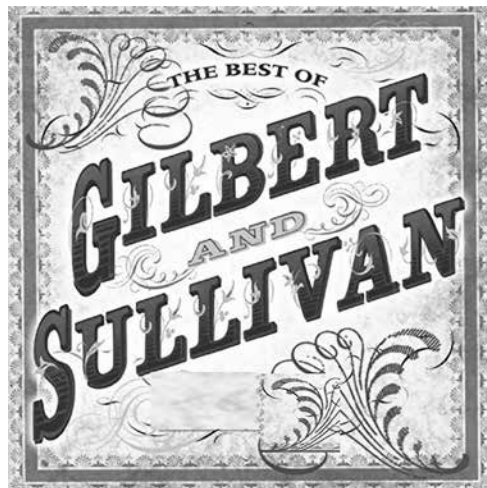
The new owners of the ranch hired Louis Phillips, a Los Angeles area cattle rancher and real estate investor, to run the ranch. In 1866, he married Esther Blake, the daughter of a Baptist preacher from El Monte, and the two decided it was time to move out of the old Vejar adobe. He built the Phillips Mansion, a three-story home fitted with gas lights (the first in the valley), which was completed in 1875 and was the first home in Pomona to be built with fired bricks (as opposed to adobe brick construction).

The mansion is located at 2640 Pomona Blvd., Pomona.

Then there's the Barbara Greenwood Kindergarten, now located on the grounds of La Casa Primera. Greenwood was an early education pioneer and advocate.

And there's Currier House, located behind Phillips Mansion. It was built in 1907 for State Sen. A.T. Currier and his wife and relocated to Pomona in 2004 from the City of Industry. The building reflects the transition period from the ornate Victorian architecture to the simpler and more utilitarian Craftsman style. Currier, also known as a sheriff and philanthropist, came to the area in 1869

**Pomona's history... pg. 6**



**Saturday, March 23 at 2 pm**  
**Sunday, March 24 at 2 pm**  
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For more information, (909) 230-4949





## 20-year 'Operation School Bell' veteran Stephanie Roberts receives national Assistance League award

Stephanie Roberts, who runs "Operation School Bell" for the Assistance League of Pomona Valley, this month in Pomona received the national Assistance League's Anne Banning award, the group's top award given each year to a member who goes above and beyond giving "their all" to the philanthropies.

Roberts was presented the surprise award at the club's annual Valentine Tea at Pomona's Ebell Club.

And yes, it is that kind of tea where the ladies wear hats, buy tickets to win raffle prizes and take home goodies from the bake sale.

Assistance League President Denise Delgado said it was the first time the group has presented the award – or any award, for that matter – at the annual fundraiser tea.

Roberts told the 130 guests at 18 "sold out" tables that she was totally surprised and shocked and "at a loss for words."

"I am very pleased to receive this award and I am honored at the reception I have received," she said.

Past President Cathy Hardin presented the award to Roberts, who has been a member of the Assistance League since 1994.

"Stephanie's true calling has been Operation School Bell which she has worked on for over 20 years," Hardin said. "Because



### RAFFLE PRIZES ON DISPLAY --

Some of the raffle prizes are on display at this month's Valentine Tea at Pomona's Ebell Club, presented by the Assistance League of Pomona Valley. The group provides clothing, dental services, books, Christmas gifts and more for children throughout the Pomona Valley.

### BAKE SALE ITEMS --

It just wouldn't be an Assistance League Valentine Tea without a bake sale where taste treats always are popular, just as they were this month at the group's event at Pomona's Ebell Club.



of her efforts we are able to clothe over 1,200 school children throughout the Pomona Valley. As Stephanie's new partner in crime, I can tell you it is quite the adventure to go downtown to the garment district to pick out the clothing."

She said Roberts has worked tirelessly developing relationships with the vendors.

"We leave downtown with a completely packed SUV and a Hail Mary on our lips as we head back to chapter house," Hardin

added. "This is a hard job with many pieces as Stephanie has to coordinate with the schools for distribution dates, schedule workers, make sure each child will be leav-



**ANNE BANNING AWARD PRESENTATION** -- Stephanie Roberts, in center, receives her prestigious Anne Banning award for her work operating the Assistance League of Pomona Valley's "Operation School Bell" program. Pictured at Pomona's Ebell Club this month at the group's annual Valentine Tea are, from left, Assistance League President Denise Delgado, Roberts, and Assistance League Past President Cathy Hardin.

ing with five new shirts, two pairs of pants, a jacket or sweatshirt, underwear, socks, a family care pack and books."

"She greets every family that comes in with a warm smile and treats them as if they are a member of her own family," Hardin added. "Stephanie is someone who everyone should aspire to be. She has

a light about her, is immensely funny and always laughs, loves to talk and has never met a stranger."

The Assistance League's national governing board created the Anne Banning award two years ago in honor of Banning, who was a founding member of the organization created more than 100 years

**Operation School Bell... pg. 6**



### Huge Rummage Sale

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## Pomona's history... from pg 4

and purchased a 2,500-acre ranch five miles west of Pomona.

Contact the Historical Society for times the various locations are open. Folks view them often and many are available for events (Adobe de Palomares is even available for outdoor weddings and a couple have already been booked there).

But the big revenue producer for the Historical Society is that ballroom at Ebell, where 21 events had already been booked for 2019 by mid-February. They only do about 25 each year just based on staffing requirements.

### Plenty of ways to get involved!

As with most non-profits, there is always plenty of work to go

around for those who'd like to get involved. The Board meets monthly and board members typically chair events during the year.

Part of the reason for the need for volunteers, Williams said, is that times have changed. When the Adobe de Palomares was restored, it was a WPA project (Work Projects Administration and an important part of the "New Deal" in the 1930s).

She said it was a time in the country's history when people re-invested in the community.

Today, of course, there is competition among non-profits. "We need people who are here, who are present, who care," Puschila

said. "We used to have that."

Williams said they need help with archiving, cataloguing objects, help with taking care of the sites and landscaping, and more.

"If somebody has a forte or job they would like to do we can probably find it for them," Clifford said. "Everybody's got a forte."

And you can become a member for \$10 (\$20 for families, \$15 for individuals and \$10 for seniors).

Sold? If you want to get involved, just give them a call or send them an e-mail.

The telephone number is (909) 623-2198 and the e-mail address is [volunteer@pomonahistorical.org](mailto:volunteer@pomonahistorical.org)

## Killer gets life... from pg. 1

lease – and then-Pomona Police Chief Paul Capraro said following Houli's arrest two years ago – that Houli also shot at the same house on one occasion before the murder and then again twice after the murder.

Houli was arrested without incident only a month after the shooting on March 26, 2017, in an unincorporated area of Pomona and booked at the Pomona city jail in connection with murder.

Capraro said in a news conference at the time that the suspect was stopped driving the vehicle believed used in the shooting. He said the suspect had in his possession the firearm believed used in the shootings.

The case was investigated by the Pomona Police Department using resources in the investigation including the FBI, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, and the San Gabriel Valley AB 109 Task Force which includes officers from several area law enforcement agencies.

"I know that a lot of effort and resources were poured into this case by not only our own department, but our fellow law enforcement partners that assisted us, and of course the district attorney," said Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri in a reply to an e-mail from La Nueva Voz. "We were pretty confident that the evidence was very strong, and we were pleased that it was successfully prosecuted with a guilty verdict and a heavy sentence."

"When tragedy hits this community, the resources that come together make this city special; it shows the heart of this community," he added. "It is hard to imagine the horrible pain that the Hwang family has and will continue to experience since the loss of Jonah. Our entire community will not forget this child."

Young Jonah, who was a resident of Pomona and a student at

ago as a group of women who could help make a difference in people's lives.

Initially, new members could join only if invited but today, in an era of competition among non-profits, new members are welcome, Delgado told La Nueva Voz.

By the time Banning retired from the Assistance League in 1948, there were 10 chapters within Southern California and because of her vision the group has grown to 120 chapters nationwide, Hardin said.

The award was created to be given to a member who not only shows leadership skills but also demonstrates enthusiasm and commitment to the community.

In addition to Operation School Bell, the group also provides Christmas gifts to children and last year provided "almost free" dental care for 350 kids.

Delgado told guests "it takes a lot of people to put this kind of event on."

"We've been around a long time

Pomona's Cortez Math and Science Magnet School, had been adopted from an orphanage in Taiwan and had been in this country for less than three years when he was struck by the stray bullet.

The story attracted the attention of nearly every news media outlet in the Los Angeles area along with national and even international news media coverage.

## Operation School Bell... from pg. 5

and we've recognized how important it is to understand our community in which we operate," she added. "We have a long history in Pomona Valley."

She said the group's volunteers working in the community have "a real pulse on needs" and "we're able to offer meaningful customized programs to fill the gap."

And all donations raised in the community stay right here in the local community.

"Our chapter members control how and where each dollar is spent," she said. "Current members tell us that they joined the Assistance League because of the meaningful community programs, and they have stayed because of the high return to the community, the one on one interaction with those in need and the unique opportunities to work alongside member volunteers who quickly became friends."

"We really would like to do so much more for the community," she said. "More members would

## Historical Society to present free historical 'fiesta' in March

"Fiesta del Rancho San Jose," an easy way to learn about the indigenous people of California and those who occupied the Pomona Valley in the 1800s, will be presented by the Historical Society of Pomona Valley next month at Casa Primera in Pomona.

The free event is open to the public and is being billed as "a way to explore the history of Pomona through the eyes of the valley's earliest residents."

The celebration of the founding of the Rancho San Jose in 1837 is scheduled for 1 to 5 p.m.

## Cops4Kids... from pg. 2

demics, physical fitness, military style drills and personal responsibility, Hernandez said. And a final "academy day" event consists of academic exams, drill protocol, obstacle courses and friendly competition.

Members of the police department participate in the final event providing demonstrations related to the aero unit, K-9, SWAT and school resources officers.

But the formal graduation is just a time to recognize everyone allow us to do it."

Most clients – underserved children and families – are referred to the Assistance League by school district personnel.

To participate, supporters can become a member, volunteer, at-

Saturday, March 23, at Casa Primera, 1569 N. Park Ave., Pomona.

Included will be arts and crafts and a scavenger hunt for children, tours, dancing, educational skits and reenactments, music, food and vendors.

Also included will be an art contest for Pomona high school students.

The event, something the entire family will enjoy, is on the site of the first Palomares family home which was built around 1837.

thing the kids have accomplished and share the experience with the students' family members.

The Cops4Kids Junior Cadet program provides an atmosphere of cooperation and encouragement to enable the police department to gain a closer bond with the kids and residents of the community.

It is sponsored by the Pomona Police Department and the Pomona Unified School District.

Congratulations, boys and girls, on a job well done!

tend fundraising events or donate either items, gently used clothing or monetary donations.

For more information, contact the Assistance League of Pomona Valley at (909) 624-6142 or visit the web site at [www.alpv.org](http://www.alpv.org).

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## New Chamber President/CEO outlines vision, plans for future

It wasn't really a "State of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce" address but it was the closest we've seen in a while as new Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares outlined her vision "to create a sense of inclusion for all businesses and community organizations within Pomona."

Her comments came this month at the Chamber's regular networking luncheon at Pomona's Metro Ale House and Grill.

Manzanares was selected by the Chamber Board in December to replace Erica Frausto heading up the Chamber's staffing team. Frausto left after four years in the position to take a similar post at the San Gabriel – Pomona Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross.

"I believe that in building partnerships amongst each other we are able to take a collaborative action to serve our community, so we continue to thrive in such areas as economic development, education to employment and public safety," Manzanares told

about 45 Chamber members at the event.

She added she believes it is important to understand members' needs and listen to what the members want from the Chamber.

"I want to be able to assist you with whatever it is that you need help with," she said.

To learn exactly what all of that will entail, she said the Chamber has developed a survey of needs that is being made available to members by e-mail "blast," on the Chamber's web site and in hard copies that were available at the networking luncheon.

Manzanares said preliminary results of the still-circulating survey show members see their biggest challenge as receiving support in marketing and advertising, as well as business development resources.

And what do members see as the benefits of belonging to the Chamber?

Networking opportunities was at the top of the list and becoming

more involved in the community ran a close second.

Members also have been indicating in their responses that they'd like to bring back the "Taste of Pomona Valley" event, along with a business "expo" and educational workshops.

Manzanares also told members they all have opportunities to volunteer to help produce the organization's three "signature" events each year, which are Holiday for Heroes, the Legislative Luncheon and Principal for a Day.

She told members as a Pomona native who grew up here in Phillips Ranch "how important and how much pride I have to represent you."

"To be able to represent (Pomona) in a different light is amazing, so thank you guys for that," she added.

A graduate of Mt. SAC and the University of Phoenix, Manzanares currently is working on her master's degree. She served the California Department of Corrections as a correctional of-



**POMONA CHAMBER VISION, PLANS FOR FUTURE** -- New Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares walks chamber members through her vision of creating "a sense of inclusion for all businesses and community organizations within Pomona" at this month's regular networking luncheon at Pomona's Metro Ale House and Grill.

ficier for nine years and left a position with the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps to take

the job at the Chamber.

She had just joined the Chamber Board in July.

**Pomona 'State of the City'**  
**6:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28**  
**Fox Theater Pomona!**

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On behalf of Los Angeles County and the First District, I proudly celebrate the life and legacy of civil rights leader, UFW founder, and champion for the Latino community, César Chávez.



## Daughters of Utah Pioneers a hit at Pomona Library's annual Laura Ingalls Wilder Gingerbread Sociable

The Pomona Public Library held its 53rd annual (yep, there have been 53 of them!) Laura Ingalls Wilder Gingerbread Sociable this month and, for the first time, members of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers turned out to help with the festivities.

To clarify, it was their first time – not just at the Pomona event but anywhere.

It turns out they just thought it would be a good fit, given that whole pioneer theme of Wilder's books whose "Little House on the Prairie" children's book series, released from 1932 to 1943, provided the inspiration for the 1970s television series of the same name.

(Wilder, who lived from 1867 to 1957, based her books on her own childhood in a pioneer family.)

And boy, were they right! The "Daughters" provided games and crafts, all from the pioneer period, of course, some of them discussed pioneer living and showed what some of the household items looked like at the time, and the kids – and their parents – loved it all.

Everything was centered in the Children's Room at the library which, of course, is named after Wilder (hey, there's even a permanent year-round Wilder display at the library). And in this room at the library, as you can see in the photo accompanying this story, adults must be accompanied by children.

Even Pomona City Councilmembers Steve Lustro, Victor

Preciado, Rubio Gonzalez and Nora Garcia were on hand to help out, along with Pomona Public Library Foundation President John Clifford.

(For the record, Garcia pointed out that once inside the library, she's not known as a councilmember – just President of Friends of the Library will do. And it was the Friends who provided refreshments, with Garcia herself cutting slices of gingerbread for the kids. She told La Nueva Voz the gingerbread was provided by Kitty's Café and Bakery in Downtown Pomona, and La Nueva Voz can attest to the fact that Kitty made a good batch.)

But the big news this year was the Daughters of Utah group of about 10 ladies dressed in pioneer fashions. Member Donna Dresp, of Rancho Cucamonga, told La Nueva Voz the local "camp" includes about 35 members from throughout the Pomona Valley area – from Claremont and Montclair to Chino Hills.

And there are camps all over the country.

She said in the old days, it was almost a "legacy" type of organization – you had to be born into it. And it has always been one of those social groups.

"But we also always have service projects, collect donations for House of Ruth and different local community groups that need help," she said.

All of our families were a part of the original Mormon pioneers that came west up until about 1860," Dresp said. "Once the

railroad came through, it was considered way too easy to be considered one of the really rugged pioneers. The early pioneers came across the plains from 1847."

And when La Nueva Voz pointed out that would have been in "Conestoga wagons," she quickly added that some of them pulled handcarts.

"There were groups of them that pulled handcarts 1,400 miles across those plains and so there's a lot of pride in our personal history," she said.

Not a direct descendant? While you can't sign up as a full member, you can get involved as an associate member and, while she



Pretty cool, how you can just sit down and make your own doll, huh, especially the way these turned out?



Even the children's room at the Pomona Public Library is named in honor of author Laura Ingalls Wilder.



Those Daughters of Utah Pioneers came in handy when it was time to explain to the kids how those old-time toys and games worked, especially since there were no batteries or touch-screens involved. And yes, that's Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lustro looking on from behind the bookshelves.

said not many do that, it is an option, "especially for women who are interested in being involved in community service projects . . . they are always welcome."

Dresp pointed out that Wilder herself was not a Mormon.

"But the fact that she has a pioneer heritage we thought this was a good opportunity to share our love of pioneer history," she said. "Everyone has some kind of pioneer history," she added.

"Everybody's family came from somewhere and there is always within your family history those people who made that fearful trip, leaving their homeland, leaving their comfort zone and moving and so we feel like everyone's pioneer history is equally important."

Of course, in Utah, she said, her organization is "huge" – they have their own meeting buildings, they have museums and they

have sponsored a lot of pioneer museums around the country.

She pointed out that the pioneer museum in San Bernardino was sponsored to a large extent by the Daughters.

(And, she said, San Bernardino was settled by the Mormons originally, when they bought the rancho Spanish land grant titles.)

Still interested? Mormon pioneer programs are held in Old Town San Diego every year.

Spokesperson Marlene Anderson said a primary mission of the Daughters is to "collect and preserve and share the history" of the pioneers.

"As you can tell, we have a lot of fun doing it," she said, adding that their groups meet once a month from September to May.

Want to learn more about the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Inland Empire Company? Or interested in supporting their activities or even joining?

You can reach them by e-mail at [daughtersofutahpioneers.inland@gmail.com](mailto:daughtersofutahpioneers.inland@gmail.com).

Or visit the web site at [www.dupinternational.org](http://www.dupinternational.org).

The event was co-sponsored by the City of Pomona and Friends of the Library.



Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia, at left, also President of Friends of the Pomona Public Library, serves the gingerbread while John Clifford, President of the Pomona Public Library Foundation, pours the "champagne" at this month's 53rd annual Laura Ingalls Wilder Gingerbread Sociable at the Pomona Public Library.





Photos by Monique Cardenas

**SEN. LEYVA PARTNERS WITH MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR 'COLLEGE AND CAREER DAY WITH CONNIE'** -- State Sen. Connie Leyva once again visited Pomona's Marshall Middle School this month for another "College and Career Day with Connie." Leyva, who chairs the Senate Education Committee, is committed to increasing the educational attainment of students throughout her district, according to a prepared statement. "By exposing students to the college and career paths of local community members, we can work together to support the aspirations of our students," she said. Speakers visited all 25 classrooms to talk about their careers. Leyva herself spoke to students in a special needs class including students with autism. According to Leyva's office, data shows 18 percent of Inland Empire students receive a bachelor's degree compared to the statewide average of 32 percent. Pictured, at right, is Marshall Principal Juan Ortiz welcoming visitors to the campus. Guests, from left, included Frank Gonzales, of Pomona's U.S.A. Fit Force Taekwondo; Dr. Enrique Medina, of Pomona Unified School District's adult school; Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez; and Sen. Connie Leyva.

## Gingerbread Sociable... from pg. 8



John Clifford, at left, President of the Pomona Public Library Foundation, and Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia, at right, also President of Friends of the Pomona Public Library, chat with Donna Dresp, of Rancho Cucamonga, a member of Daughters of Utah Pioneers. Members of local Daughters of Utah groups participated for the first time this month in the Pomona Public Library's annual Laura Ingalls Wilder Gingerbread Sociable.



Marlene Anderson, at left, of Daughters of Utah Pioneers, helps explain how several artifacts from a bygone era were used to a young visitor.



Toys used by pioneer children were a big hit at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Gingerbread Sociable.



So this is really how they made their own dolls? What, no Toys 'R' Us?

## Anything on your calendar for Wednesday?

If not, block it out now and plan on stopping in for "Music at Noon," a free Wednesday concert presented by the Repertory Opera Company, Pomona's own opera company.

It will be worth your time – every Wednesday, the group presents 40 minutes of musical beauty and serenity with Brian Farrell at the piano.

The location is Trinity United Methodist Church of Pomona, 676 N. Gibbs St.

And as always, the concert is free, but donations are accepted.

And if you like Gilbert and Sullivan, the group is presenting three performances of "The Best of Gilbert and Sullivan" – 2 p.m. Saturday, March 23, 2 p.m. Sunday, March 24, and 2 p.m. Saturday, March 30, all at First Christian Church, 1751 N. Park Ave., Pomona.

Tickets are \$25.

Children, students and accompanying adults are free.

For tickets, visit [www.repop-eraco.org](http://www.repop-eraco.org).

And for more information, call (909) 230-4949.

## Latino/Latina Roundtable to hold 15th annual Cesar Chavez breakfast next month

The Latino and Latina Roundtable will honor leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to service and values of Cesar Chavez at its 15th annual Cesar Chavez breakfast next month.

Registration begins at 7 a.m., seating is at 8 a.m. and the program gets under way at 8:15 a.m. on Friday, March 29, at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center.

This year's honorees will be community organizer Sylvia Carranza of UFCW Local 1428; community organizer Eddie Gonzalez of SEIU Local 2015, a former organizer with the Pomona Economic

Opportunity Center; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; and community-based attorney James Sanbrano, who will receive the community star award for his consistent efforts in defending the human and civil rights of the community.

Social justice scholarships will be presented to students from the region who exemplify the values of connecting their studies to community engagement and social change.

Tickets range from \$50 to \$800.

For more information, visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) or call (909) 480-6267.

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## Pomona Chamber's 'Principal for a Day' program gives business community insight into education today



Photo courtesy of Pomona Chamber of Commerce  
 Participants in this month's "Principal for a Day" pose for the annual group photo at the end of the event, presented by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and the Pomona Unified School District. Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez is at back left, Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board Chair David McElwain is at the podium on the back row (at center), Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares is in front of McElwain, and participating Pomona City Councilmembers included Victor Preciado, just right of center; Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, front row sixth from right; and Steve Lustro, second from right.

Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board member Michelle Lemoine of Chaffey Federal Credit Union learned a lot about Pomona Unified School Dis-

trict's dual language immersion program at Westmont Elementary School and was impressed.

And Pomona Planning Commissioner Ron Vander Molen spent the morning at Simons Middle School and learned that, well, things are a lot more organized at what used to be called junior high schools than they were back in the day.

annual "Principal for a Day" program last week in which about 40 members of the business community spent the morning shadowing "real life" principals at their schools to learn a little more about what goes on in the world of education these days.

Take that number of 40, double it to include the "real" principals, then throw in a few teachers, a few Pomona City Councilmembers and several Pomona Unified School District Board members and there were probably close to 150 people gathering for lunch

and "debriefing" after the event at the Village at Indian Hill Conference Center.

La Nueva Voz stopped first at Westmont Elementary and learned that about 270 students in kindergarten through fourth grade are participating in the dual language immersion program, with classes taught half the day in Spanish by one teacher and the other half in English by another.

The program is being phased in a year at a time with fifth graders to be added next year and

sixth graders the year after that, adding about another 100 students to the program, according to Principal Cynthia Badillo.

"It's very rare for our entering kindergarten students for the parents not to want that - it's recognized as an advantage that they want to take advantage of," Badillo said. "So in the rare case where they don't want the program, then they usually opt to go to another school."

Lemoine said the program was "amazing."

Principal for a Day... pg. 15



Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares, at left, introduces Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval at a luncheon for all Principal for a Day participants last week at the Village at Indian Hill Conference Center.

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**Denny Mosier, Steve Lustro elected to Lions board of directors**

Pomona Host Lions Past President Denny Mosier was elected to the club's board of directors as first vice president and Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lustro was elected a lion tamer in recent elections of officers, according to a news release.

Mosier will serve until June, after which he will become president. Lustro will serve in his new role until June 2020.

Other board members include Anne Henderson, president; George Kopiloff, second vice president; Beverly Sugerman, secretary; Ben Selters, treasurer; Jack Lightfoot, financial secretary; Clark Selters, operations; Jo Fulton, community service; Barbara Smith, publicity; Gil Smith, membership; Steve King, lion tamer; Carmen Morris, immediate past president and fundraising; and Ana Lorenz and Steve Storbakken, both tail twisters.

The Pomona Host Lions meet at 12:10 p.m. the first and third Thursday of each month at the Pomona Valley Mining Company. Visitors are welcome. Membership is by invitation only.

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



Photo by Renee Barbee

**GRAND OPENING AT MINERVA'S FLOWERS**

It was a grand opening on Valentine's Day in the rain this month but the beautiful new Downtown Pomona location of Minerva's Flowers and Craft still drew a crowd for an official ribbon-cutting. Minerva Hernandez told La Nueva Voz she started her business 24 years ago with only \$13 at the swap meet at Ramona Avenue and Mission Boulevard in Montclair. After that, she opened her shop on Third Street next to the Fox Theater in Downtown Pomona, where she operated for 13 years. She was located in a shop at Main and Second Streets for two years before moving to her present location. Today, she operates a full service flower shop and serves as a professional event planner as well as providing floral arrangements for all occasions. And there's even a banquet hall conveniently located upstairs that handles weddings and other special events for up to 300 people. Pictured with Minerva during the grand opening in the shop is Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, at left, with her Valentine roses, a gift from Minerva. For more information, contact Minerva at (909) 636-9918.



**DINING OUT**

**Mr. D's listens to Pomona, rolls out new menu items!**

Mr. D's Diner is all about Pomona and this time it shows.

We knew a new menu was coming, one with items responding to customer requests, and when we stopped in for dinner this month, we saw it for ourselves – starting this month, those changes went into effect and you've got to try them out.

La Nueva Voz went with sizzling house shrimp fajitas on one side of the table (also available with steak, chicken or "grande," with all three meats) and a new hummus with pita bread and an old stand-by Chinese chicken salad on the other.

Of course, we're in the words business here but for this one, words fail us – seriously. Just look at the photograph accompanying this review – homemade rice, beans, salsa, an amazing guacamole, tortillas and the shrimp with grilled bell peppers and onions – and it was still sizzling on that table service skillet when it came out.

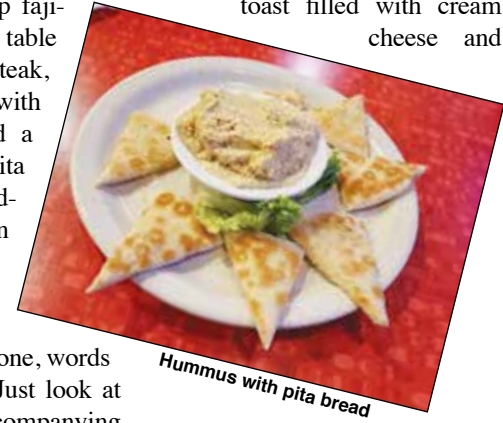
The hummus was both delicious and huge – more than

carne asada and eggs, pork chile verde and eggs and more.

There's also a chile verde cheese omelet topped with homemade pork chile verde.

Need more to get you in for breakfast? There's "pigs in a blanket," which is two large pancakes rolled with two savory sausages.

And there's stuffed French toast filled with cream cheese and



Hummus with pita bread

topped with your choice of strawberry, blueberry, apple or nutella topping.

Plus, there's an entire \$5 plate menu on a table card that includes things like meatball sub sliders, pulled pork sliders, Baja shrimp tacos, carnitas tacos, a Mediterranean sampler platter with hummus, tzatziki sauce, pitted kalamata olives and pita bread and 3M – a sizzling skillet with meatballs, marinara and mozzarella.

And those items marked with green "VE" are vegetarian dishes.

All of this, of course, is in addition to the regular favorites ranging from meatloaf to burgers and steaks, and equally amazing pies and that chocolate cake.

We give it all a thumbs up and we always have.

If you haven't been in lately, you've got to get up there and try one of the new items – or one of the old standbys.

Tell Aristos that La Nueva Voz sent you.

The restaurant is located at 401 E. Foothill Blvd., Pomona, between Towne and Garey Avenues.



House shrimp fajitas

enough and the leftovers went home for another day.

But there's more!

The new items all are marked with little "sunbursts" on the menu so you can find them easily.

Just to name a few, Mr. D's is now offering shrimp skewers with the Mr. D's signature organic herb blend and, under the "South of the Border Breakfast Favorites" section, seven varieties of breakfast burritos, huevos rancheros, chorizo and eggs,



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## Pop culture announced as theme of 2019 LA County Fair

Attention, well, pretty much everybody – from baby boomers to millennials – the LA County Fair has announced its theme for 2019: “LA County Fair Goes Pop!” as a celebration of pop culture.

But wait, there’s more – Fair officials have announced they won’t be raising prices this year, and they are bringing back the popular \$6.60 value meals available at all Fair concession stands (last year that number was chosen as part of the Route 66 theme at the time).

Plus, as has been the practice, the Fair once again will celebrate specially priced community days for Los Angeles County and Inland Empire residents.

And as a completely new feature, the Fair has plans this year for arts and music festivals to be held each weekend in the infield.

On that whole pop culture concept, the Fair will be looking at decades of cultural phenomena – from art to clothes to technology and toys, all with a spotlight on Los Angeles’ influence.

So, you’ll be able to immerse yourself in delights, décor and “doo-hickeys” from the 1950s on – frozen dinners, Elvis, the squawk box, space flight, disco, electric cars and more.

“The Fair is where nostalgia and relevancy collide,” Fair officials said in a news release.

“We are thrilled to offer a new theme with new programming

at the same affordable price as last year,” said Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana. “We understand that our guests are cost-conscious. The value meal was incredibly popular last year, with both our guests and our concessionaires.”

He said the Fair sold thousands of ice creams, “tasti chips” and mac ‘n cheese and buffalo chicken cones.

“Our goal is to offer a family outing or date night at a terrific value,” Santana added.

It is pop culture that weaves our society together, according to Fair officials, by giving us our shared heritage, a common culture.

“From hippies to hipsters,



A new logo for the 2019 LA County Fair helps communicate the “pop culture” theme this year.

played on the hillside with “larger-than-life” pop art paying homage to LA’s movies, music, art and architecture.

“The LA County Fair and county and state fairs in general are a part of pop culture, so what a perfect theme for us,” Santana said. “The Fair traditionally celebrates the attitudes and ideas of pop culture past, present and, presumably, future.”

He pointed out that the Fair historically has been at the forefront of popular culture – the first generation of electric wash-

ing machines was sold at the first Fair in 1922, the Frisbee was discovered at the Fair, and more.

The Fair is also continuing a recent phenomenon of pop culture – collector boxes. Souvenir collector ticket boxes, which have become “all the rage” with festivals, will be introduced for the second time – a “Pop Box” for \$75 (four season passes with blackout dates, parking passes

and more, a \$200 value), and the VIP box for \$175 (four season passes, parking passes good each day of the Fair, wine tasting passes and more, a \$350 value).

The boxes are available from March 1 to 21 only.

This year’s LA County Fair runs Aug. 30 to Sept. 22 at Fairplex in Pomona.

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



Ice cream and the Ferris wheel are always popular at the LA County Fair.

from big band to rap, from . . . sitcoms to reality tv, pop culture is the currency of the current,” the announcement continued.

Part of the theme will be dis-

### Local California Retired Teachers group scheduled to hear updates from area school superintendents

Eleven local school district superintendents have been invited to share their unique innovative programs, challenges and achievements at next month’s meeting of the California Retired Teachers Association Division 13.

The meeting is scheduled for 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, March 13, at Hillcrest Retirement Community, 2705 Mountain View

Drive, La Verne.

The retired teachers group continues to support education by providing scholarships at Mt. SAC, Citrus College and Cal Poly University Pomona, as well as awarding grants to classroom teachers and supporting legislation to strengthen public education.

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

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## Food and drink discounts offered in celebration of 2019 Green Ribbon Week

Wearing a green ribbon for “Green Ribbon Week?” Wear it into a participating local restaurant and receive a discount next month from March 18 through 24.

Green Ribbon Week, observed locally by Tri City Mental Health, was created to help reduce the stigma and to help people have everyday conversations about mental health.

No ribbons? Contact Jamie Ritchey at Tri City, (909) 326-4636, for ribbons and help planning Green Ribbon Week programs.

Participating businesses in Pomona are Mi Cafecito Coffee, 101 S. Main St., 15 percent discount; Lily’s Tacos, 901 N. Garey Ave., 10 percent; Brick Market and Deli, 105 E. Arrow Highway, 10

percent; and J&J’s BBQ and Fish, 751 Indian Hill Blvd., 10 percent.

In Claremont, they are Baskin Robbins Ice Cream, 973 W. Foothill Blvd., 10 percent; Boca Burger, 425 W. Foothill Blvd., 10 percent, and Yogurtland, 101 N. Indian Hill Blvd., 5 oz. off your yogurt.

And in La Verne, participants – all offering 10 percent discounts – are The Bowl, 2087 Foothill Blvd., La Paloma, 2975 E. Foothill Blvd., House of Wings Sports Bar, 2317 D St., Argo Mediterranean Grille, 2313 D St., The Corner Butcher Shop, 2359 Foothill Blvd., Baskin Robbins Ice Cream, 1528 Foothill Blvd., and Red Devil Pizza, 1465 Foothill Blvd.

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



**COUNCILMEMBER NORA GARCIA HOLDS FIRST COMMUNITY MEETINGS** -- Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia hosted her first two District 3 community meetings this month. Pictured is Garcia speaking to the group in both English and Spanish in the community center at Pomona’s Philadelphia Park. Included were presentations from Rene Guerrero, the city’s interim public works director (on streets, traffic signals and sidewalks), the Pomona Police Department’s crime prevention team on everything from Pomona’s “Great Campout” at Fairplex for kids to how to go about setting up a new neighborhood watch group, and a representative of the city’s code compliance office. Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado held his first community meeting at the Pomona Public Library the same day.



**CRIME PREVENTION ANSWERS QUESTIONS AT DISTRICT 3 COMMUNITY MEETING** -- Members of the Pomona Police Department’s crime prevention unit were on hand to make a presentation and answer questions at Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia’s community meeting this month in Philadelphia Park. Corporal Ernesto Rios, now heading up the Pomona Police Department’s crime prevention department and a city employee for the past 10 years, is pictured at center.

Please visit our web site at [www.lanuevavoz.net](http://www.lanuevavoz.net)

to see the latest issue of **La Nueva Voz**, past issues and more!



# Green Ribbon Week

## March 18~24 2019

Green Ribbon Week was created to help people have every day conversations about mental health and the stigma associated with it. The more people are talking about mental health conditions, the more people will feel safe asking for help. The lime green ribbon represents life and growth.

Join us in the conversation.

**Fun and Simple things you can do to celebrate Green Ribbon Week:**

- **Wear green ribbons every day**
- **Share messages on social media promoting stigma reduction**
- **Initiate conversation with friends and loved ones about [Room4Everyone.org](http://Room4Everyone.org)**
- **Host an activity or event for your community**

If you would like Green Ribbons or help planning for Green Ribbon Week please contact Jamie Ritchey. We can answer questions, help you explore ideas, and help you get started.



For more information contact: (909) 326-4636 or [JRitchey@tricitymhs.org](mailto:JRitchey@tricitymhs.org)



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## Principal for a Day... from pg. 11

“I mean, who wouldn’t want your child to be bilingual in today’s work force,” she said.

She also was impressed with a student garden on campus that Badillo said “evolves and is constantly changing.” (OK, it is a student garden but teachers, parents and, on occasion, even the school principal all pitch in.)

“I am just amazed, I think it’s fabulous,” Lemoine said. “They’ve got a program where they use music to teach different concepts and, gosh, all kinds of things and the dual immersion is just amazing. If you just look at the culture of the school, it’s very friendly, it’s very relaxed.”

“Everybody’s having a good time and the most important thing, they’re learning while they’re having a good time,” she added.

The school also places a huge emphasis on parent involvement – La Nueva Voz saw a group of parents in the parent volunteer lounge helping out by assembling kindergarten homework packages for the following week.

And because it was a Friday

(school starts an hour later on Friday because of teacher training programs in the morning), a group of volunteer parents was stationed at a table out front offering hot coffee to visitors.

Want to support the school? They are holding a “Color Fun Run” one mile run at 1:30 p.m. (after school) on Wednesday, March 13. Cost is \$10 per participant but we’re pretty sure

they’ll take donations even if you don’t participate. The goal is to raise funds for school activities and field trips. Stop by the office at Westmont for more information.

Meanwhile, across town at Pomona’s Simons Middle School, Ron Vander Molen was “shadowing” Shirley Martinez who came out of retirement to serve as interim principal (she was



“Principal for a Day” Ron Vander Molen had a chance to meet the White brothers, twins who graduated from Pomona’s Garey High School and the University of La Verne before coming back to Pomona as teachers at Simons Middle School. Pictured, at right, is Kevin White, teaching students in his AVID class (working on college or career preparation) while his brother, Keith White, at left, looks on. Keith can normally be found in his classroom across the hall but he posed for a photo at the request of La Nueva Voz.



“Principal for a Day” Ron Vander Molen discusses his day with Simons Middle School Interim Principal Shirley Martinez.

principal at Alcott Elementary School before she retired).

Vander Molen learned Simons has about 784 students in grades six seven and eight and pointed out that, in his opinion, Simons is one of those schools people don’t hear about very often.

“I think it’s because they’re a smooth-running machine,” he said. “They should be mentioned a lot more is what I’m thinking because what they’re doing here could be emulated a lot – I’m very impressed.”

“I’m going through the classrooms, I’m listening to the

teachers,” he said, “their creativity that they’ve done in some of these classes, I’m just going, wow!”

“I was just impressed because everywhere you looked was student involvement, getting them to look at things, thinking about the future, different parts of ecology . . . all over the room, there wasn’t a blank wall,” he added.

Martinez, although new to the school site, echoed Vander Molen’s comments.

“They have made huge strides in implementing the AVID pro-

Principal for a Day... pg. 22

# THANK YOU!

You have done an excellent job conserving water these last few years. However, droughts create long-term impacts and they have a habit of returning.

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Azusa, Boy Scouts of America-Firestone Reservation, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, City of Industry, Claremont, Covina, Covina Irrigating Co., Diamond Bar, Glendora, Golden State Water Co., Hacienda Heights, La Puente, La Verne, Mount San Antonio College, Pomona, Pomona-Walnut-Rowland Joint Water Line Commission, Rowland Heights, Rowland Water District, San Dimas, Suburban Water Systems, Valencia Heights Water Co., Walnut, Walnut Valley Water District and West Covina





## Slip and fall injury prevention

Among bipeds – humans, Tarzan and Big Foot – walking upright is the principle mode of travel. Others, among primates – chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans – also walk, although knuckle walking for the great apes is their preferred mode of movement. Children learn to walk within a year or two after they are born, while apes walk a few months after birth. Humans, therefore, acquire a sense of balance at an early age that will sustain them throughout life or until medical condition such as heart disease, dementia, hypotension (low blood pressure), poor vision, lack of physical fitness/weight, and inner ear conditions develop, especially as we age. We will review these and other conditions that result in falls and injuries and are part of living. Then we will address preventive strategies.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, slips and falls are the third leading cause of workplace injuries. Falls result in 21 percent of total deaths and 31 percent of non-fatal injuries. Regardless of where they happen, falls have severe consequences. Whether on the job or at home, the leading fall accident causes, as frequently as they happen, are preventable.

In addition to medical issues and aging, falls and injuries often are caused by a lack of awareness regarding unkept, wet and slippery surface conditions and one's behavior. These conditions fit into the following four areas that can be remembered with the acronym SAFE:

- Surface – Maintain the floor or outside surface clean, dry, and uncluttered. Consider use of area based on weather conditions (if outdoors) and anticipated foot traffic. Assure the area has enough lighting and that furniture, objects, and clutter is removed when inside home or interior area.
- Awareness – Always be mindful of surroundings. Slow

down, do not be in a hurry. Practice walking safely: shorten your stride and keep a larger portion of your foot-wear sole in contact with the surface during each step.

- Footwear – Wear proper footwear for the anticipated conditions. Make certain that shoe soles have enough tread for given floor or outside surface. Worn shoes that do not provide traction should be discarded.

- Environment - When the weather is inclement due to rain or below freezing temperatures resulting in ice, slow the walking pace for better awareness of the inherent hazards and conditions. Consider sidewalk, street, and parking surface conditions and areas where water may be present. Ice is unusual in our area but can be a real slipping hazard when it occurs. At home in bath tub and shower, use hands when climbing and walking in and out. If necessary, add grab bars inside and outside of your bathtub or shower and next to the toilet. Put railings on both sides of the stairs, and make sure stairs and hallways have good lighting, especially at night. (MEMIC Safety Blog)

The National Safety Council "Safe Ladder Use" recommendations (with home and work application) are provided below:

- Ensure stepladders have a locking device to hold the front and back open
- Always keep two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand on the ladder
- Place the ladder on a solid surface and never lean it against an unstable surface
- A straight or extension ladder should be one foot away from the surface it rests on for every four feet of height and extend at least three feet over the top edge
- Securely fasten straight and extension ladders to an upper support
- Wear slip-resistant shoes and don't stand higher than the third rung from the top
- Do not lean or reach while

on a ladder, and have someone support the bottom

- Never use old or damaged equipment; check thoroughly before use

- Always use a safe ladder and do not substitute a table, chair, bucket or anything on wheels

When medical conditions develop, engage in daily physical activity:

- Consider walking as a viable and convenient activity
- Try Tai Chi to maintain your flexibility and balance
- Do weight lifting or other "resistance" activities

Before beginning a physical fitness regimen, consult your doctor. Your hearing and vision must be examined regularly. Monitor your medication and review possible side effects of prescribed drugs and over-the-counter medication with your doctor or pharmacist. Scrutinize directions on medication so you are aware of potential reactions with other medications. If your medication causes dizziness or sleepiness, adjust your activities so you are not at risk of falling.

Whether young, middle aged or elderly, falls and injuries can affect an individual to varying degrees based on physical fitness and medical condition. The best defense against all personal health and safety challenges that may contribute to falls is to be aware, proactive, and physically fit throughout life.

*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.*

## Cal Poly President Soraya Coley tells Pomona's Primm Tabernacle that Cal Poly is making college available to today's students

Cal Poly University Pomona President Soraya Coley told worshippers at Pomona's Primm Tabernacle A.M.E. Church Sunday that "talent is equally distributed, but opportunity is not," and she wanted them to know that Cal Poly is committed to making opportunity available to today's students.

"For those of us who have the good fortune . . . and opportunities, it is incumbent upon us to pass it on," Coley said. "And this is why I think what we're trying to do is to make sure that people understand that Cal Poly Pomona is your university."

Speaking to the predominantly African-American congregation, Coley said graduation rates of African-American students have increased since 2010 and are still growing.

In addition, she said 89 percent of today's 19-year-old African-American students hold a high school diploma, up three percentage points from six years earlier.

She also pointed out that nearly 80 percent of California State University undergraduate students receive non-loan financial aid, or money they are not required to pay back.

"Many times, people don't ask for it and the school is being more proactive in getting the information out there," Coley said.

Yet 65 percent of the African-American high school graduates haven't completed the necessary course work in order to gain admission to the California State University or University of California systems.

"In going to high school, it is not sufficient to just take courses – it is important that you know which courses are going to put you on the path," she said, adding that she brought university staff members with her to provide information on course requirements, college admission and financial aid following the services.

"Cal Poly Pomona is about opportunity, it's about access," she said, adding that she grew up in the church in North Carolina be-

cause her father was a Southern Baptist minister.

"I understand that when you engage in the things that are happening in life you've got to have that strong foundation," she said. "It doesn't matter the makeup of the church, it matters that you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and we need to get this information out to you that college is essential," Coley said. "We know that it is becoming increasingly difficult – in the past year, nine out of the 10 jobs created (in the United States)



Cal Poly President Soraya Coley speaks at Pomona's Primm Tabernacle

went to individuals who have college degrees."

"What we recognize is that hope is very much tied to creating opportunities," she said. "Providing people with the sense that who they are, their talent, their gifts matter and we need all of those talents on the table of our society."

Her comments were part of the Cal State University system's 14th annual Super Sunday during which presidents and administrators from California State University Chancellor Timothy White on down were visiting nearly 100 African-American churches across the state to promote higher education and provide resources to help students and families in order to foster a college-going culture at home.

"The 23 campuses stretch across that state – we are the large-



## Pomona students recognized with scholarships at Sarah Ross Science Fair

Six Pomona high school students won scholarships of \$1,000 each – and one received an honorable mention worth a \$500 scholarship – in an essay contest at this year’s Sarah Ross Science Fair last weekend at the Village Academy Conference Center in Pomona.

And a whole lot of other students at a variety of grade levels won trophies and took home medallions for their science fair projects, most of which were impressive if not amazing.

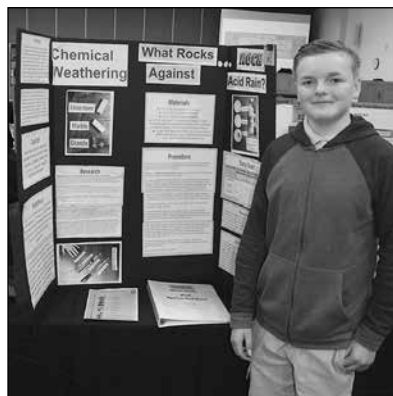
Bob Ross, a special judge in the competition and husband of late Pomona teacher Sarah Ross, drove up from Orange County to present the scholarships from the Sarah Ross Foundation as he has for the past five years.

“Some of these kids amaze me every year,” Ross said. “We have a young lady here (Crystal Sin, a Pomona resident and graduate of Palomares Academy) who was one of our schol-

arship winners and now she’s about to graduate from Pitzer College and this fall will start at Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry.”

Sin, a friend of Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, a practicing optometrist, said Perlman was “a great role model.” She won a scholarship four years ago in the program’s second year.

Ross said they’ve been doing this in memory of his late wife Sarah Ross, who taught in Garey, Pomona and Ganesha High Schools and elsewhere in Pomona. The two liked to travel and visited Africa 17 times but on their last visit seven years



**BUILDING A BUILDING OR CREATING A STATUE? WHAT WORKS BEST STANDING UP AGAINST ACID RAIN?** -- Perry Sprigg, a seventh grader at Lorbeer Middle School, says the answer is marble, with granite coming in second. Limestone, which unfortunately was selected for Stonehenge, the prehistoric monument in England, came in at the bottom of the list. On the other hand, he said, those Green and Roman statues worked out pretty well since most of those were made from marble.



**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS** -- Seven Pomona high school students won scholarships last weekend at the Sarah Ross Science Fair. Pictured, from left, are Bob Ross, husband of the late Sarah Ross, a well-known Pomona teacher; Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez; Jorge Palafox, winner of a \$500 scholarship (he’s interested in science but undecided on where he’s going to college); Pomona Unified School District Board President Frank Guzman, at rear; and the winners of \$1,000 scholarships Vanessa Munoz Ramirez, of Pomona High School (science and heading for UC Irvine); Nicholas Meza, of Palomares Academy (science and heading for UCLA); Marlin Abundez-Alvizo, of Village Academy High School (math and heading for Cal Poly Pomona); Evelyn Casas, of Garey High School (engineering and heading for UCLA); Aaliyah Adams, of Diamond Ranch High School (science and heading for UCLA); and Carlos Valencia Amaral, of Ganesha High School (engineering and heading for USC).

ago she “picked up a bug,” in her husband’s words, and passed away soon afterwards.

“We worked together in the schools because she loved the schools,” Ross said. “We also worked in private business to-

gether. She had an amazing personality.”

Perlman, who chairs the Promoting Academic Achievement committee that coordinated the event, said Sarah Ross became concerned years ago that Pomona Unified had not had a science fair in 12 years before Ross and Perlman decided to create both a science fair and a learning “expo.”

Perlman explained it was originally created under Pomona’s Youth and Family Master Plan by the Promoting Academic Achievement task force. Last year, after talks with Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez, the school district took over op-

eration of the science fair. Previously it had been operated in collaboration with the school district but was staffed by community volunteers.

And next month, the Sarah Ross Learning Expo, that had become tremendously successful with thousands attending each year, will be handled by Fairplex.

Previously, Perlman said, Fairplex had been providing the building at no cost anyway. Beginning this year, it will become a regional event although Pomona students and residents will be admitted at no charge and with free parking.

Sarah Ross Science Fair... pg. 20

### Kennedy Austin Foundation crisis center back in business in new office in Pomona

Pomona’s Kennedy Austin Foundation, a non-profit wellness and crisis intervention center serving residents of Pomona and surrounding cities since 1993, has found a new home – back in Pomona in the Village at Indian Hill.

The group was forced out of its long-time location in a city-owned building on North Garey Avenue last year when a new business expressed interest in what was a “leftover” redevelopment agency property.

A 1,000-square-foot office in the new location, Room 182 at 1460 E. Holt Ave., Pomona, is expected to open next month.

And, while give-away food, clothing and furniture programs the group had become known for will no longer be possible in the office building environment, Founder and Executive Director Ethel Gardner told La Nueva Voz she will be making a significant increase in emphasis on programs.

For example, new programs to be added this year will include a “children and trauma” program.

“There are a lot of people out there doing clothes, food and shoes,” she said, adding that the focus now will be parents who have lost their children, anger management, mental health and domestic

violence survivors.

Another popular program that will continue is “Write the Wrong,” a journaling program with a purpose. And a special workshop will be held from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Fridays for people who have been through trauma.

“We are pleased with the arrangement we were able to make with the Pomona Unified

School District and the Village at Indian Hill,” Gardner said, “and we look forward to once again continuing to work to help those in the community that need support.”

Of course, Gardner said she is looking for more volunteers than ever, as well as donations and supporters.

Kennedy Austin is best known for its “life after loss” program which provides hope and restoration to families and individuals so they can turn their tragedy into

triumph, according to the group’s web site.

Gardner founded the group after her teenaged son lost his life in an automobile accident. Originally, the group’s mission was to educate, equip and empower women and show them they can overcome their loss.

Today, Gardner and her volunteers also serve as partners with the City of Pomona to be a “first respond-

er” to those in crisis by providing food, clothing, shelter and end of life planning resource services.

She has also partnered with Tri-City Mental Health Services to provide grief counseling and support.

For more information, contact the Kennedy Austin Foundation at (909) 480-3357 or visit the web site at [www.kennedyaustinfoundation.org](http://www.kennedyaustinfoundation.org).

Office hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.



**Ethel Gardner, Founder and Executive Director of Pomona’s Kennedy Austin Foundation, shows off her keys to the group’s new office in the Village at Indian Hill.**

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**Gold Line Authority says trains now have funding to reach North Pomona station – even though project bids won't be in until May**

In the on-going saga of what will be funded, how far it will go and when, the Los Angeles Metro Rail Board last month authorized its staff to finalize negotiations with the Gold Line Authority to ensure the extension of the light rail line to the Pomona station as a first phase.

While the item was on the Metro Board consent calendar, approval of the extension was supported by city councilmembers from area cities (including Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, who now serves as Board Chair of

the Gold Line Authority), along with representatives of State Sen. Connie Leyva, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and Congresswoman Norma Torres.

“The Metro Board approved finalizing negotiations . . . to ensure sufficient funding for the base contract for the Glendora to Montclair project to include the Pomona station, with an option to build to Montclair as part of the same contract if additional funding is secured,” Gold Line Authority Chief Executive Officer Habib Balian said in an e-

mail blast.

The Gold Line tracks currently end at Citrus College.

Balian said this means the project now has sufficient funding to extend to Pomona “while we continue to seek the estimated \$360 million needed to build to Montclair.”

He said his staff was expected to immediately go to work requesting new bids from a short list of design-build teams competing for the project, now including the Pomona station in the proposed contract.

The final cost will be known when bids are received in May. The ability to phase construction of the line is currently undergoing environmental review.

“Metro Directors (Los Angeles) County Supervisor Hilda Solis and Duarte Mayor John Fasana provided leadership in ensuring the first phase of construction has sufficient funding to include Pomona,” Balian said.

He said Metro staff had worked to identify costs that could be reduced, saving the project \$133 million.

It all means, according to a Gold Line Authority “e-news update,” that the project could reach Pomona by 2025 and, if further funding is identified, it could reach Montclair by 2028.

According to the update, the Gold Line Authority could award a contract as early as July.

The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report is evaluating, among other things, the impact of relocating the future parking facility for the Pomona station from the north side of the

Gold Line... pg. 20

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## Pomona High School grad teaches 'littoral combat ship' training for Navy

A 2011 Pomona High School graduate and Pomona native is currently an instructor for the U.S. Navy training sailors in operating the technologically advanced littoral combat ship (LCS).

Damage Controlman 1st Class Joel Aguirre has served as an instructor at the LCS training facility since June.

The facility, the first surface warfare training facility to provide integrated bridge and combat systems tactical scenario training for sailors serving aboard an LCS, is operated by the Center for Surface Combat Systems' learning site Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center in San Diego.

"Learning the basics and fundamentals several times turns knowledge into muscle memory," Aguirre said. "Reinforcing these key items is essential for my sailors to encompass before they report aboard an LCS."

An LCS is a combat ship designed for operations near shore.

Aguirre teaches a one-week Mobicon Operations course which focuses on learning how to direct, operate and supervise a Mobicon Straddle Lift Carrier.

"Sailors serving in the LCS environment demand a higher quantity and quality of train-

ing," explained Capt. Brandon Bryan, Aguirre's commanding officer. "LCS class ships drive a new approach to individual, team and unit-level training to accommodate the minimum manning and rotational crewing concepts. Our simulators integrate LCS command and control, propulsion control, and bridge control systems to support individual training in a team environment."

Aguirre joined the Navy in October 2012 and graduated from Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, IL, that December.

"My uncle has always been my inspiration to strive forward and keep reaching new limits," Aguirre said. "When I entered the Navy, he had already been in the Navy for 12 years. I am honored that I can follow in his footsteps."

Aguirre was last stationed aboard the USS The Sullivans in Mayport, FL, as a work center supervisor in charge of 15 maintenance personnel.

Aguirre is the son of Silvia Juarez of Murrieta and Juan Aguirre of Fontana.



Damage Controlman 1st Class Joel Aguirre

"We prepare sailors to execute a wide variety of missions around the world," Bryan said. "They leave our training facility ready to stand their watch and execute the Navy's mission."

### POMONA BOXER HONORED BY POMONA CITY COUNCIL

-- Youth boxer Ernesto "Tito" Mercado, who grew up in Pomona's "Gangs 2 Grace" gym and currently is rated number one in the nation in his class, was honored by the Pomona City Council last month with a Certificate of Recognition. Tito is joining Team USA to represent his country in upcoming international competitions. His first international tournament is scheduled for March 27 to April 7 in Bulgaria. To see him a little closer to home, he'll be one of eight Pomona fighters participating in 30 bouts in a sanctioned competition on Sunday, March 10, in the Pomona High School gym. Doors open at noon and the show starts at 1 p.m. for the fundraiser event, "The Battle at P-High." Tickets are \$10 for children and \$15 for adults. For information, call (909) 417-9504.



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

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Child Abuse Services  
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or 626-966-4155  
www.projectsister.org

**Feeding the Hungry,  
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209 W. Pearl St.  
Pomona  
  
Volunteering: 909-622-3806  
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1 to 7 p.m.  
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### Sign up for Pomona Unified School District's

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footsteps2brilliance  
La Nueva Voz is a proud member of PUSD's Literacy Collaborative.

### Info on student group program at AGRIsCapes:

[www.agriscapes.cpp.edu](http://www.agriscapes.cpp.edu)

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

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Janet Roy  
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**Cuentito for today****A Stroke of Luck**

By Susie Perales

We ended the Christmas holiday festivities with quite a stir of emotions. We went from joy to frustration and quickly plummeted to devastation in one fell swoop. First, our plumbing went out in both our bathrooms. Secondly, my honey went out from under his feet! At our age these unexpected surprises can really be a nail in the old caboose! We can't handle drama anymore!

I was fast asleep when my corazón woke me up to tell me the bathrooms were running amok. I was still half asleep when I heard him say, "I was checking on Mochi and he's dead!" Now that woke me up! We are babysitting little Mochi for our granddaughter. I screamed and said, "WHAT!" "MOCHI IS DEAD!" He replied, "boy, you are deafer than I thought!" "I said, Mochi wants you to put him onto the bed!" I laughed and thought, "That was the best news I heard all night, because my granddaughter would've disowned us if we gave her back a lifeless dog!"

In the meantime, my honey, the plumber, was trying to figure out how to unclog the toilets. I did a quick search on YouTube and found a solution that would help. It took a while, but it worked like the guy said it would. But, while my honey was struggling to unclog it on

his own, I thought for sure it was going to be what killed him!

Amigos, here is the rest of this cuentito—

I took my honey bunny to the doctor, because he told me he had fallen when he was out in the backyard raking leaves. He said that both of his legs gave out and he couldn't walk. He said for a minute he thought he was paralyzed again like he was when he was 9 years old.

Little did I know he waited eight hours to tell me this. He didn't want to go to the doctor, so he thought he'd break the news to me late at night. I called the next morning to get him into the doctor ASAP.

She examined him and told us that his symptoms led her to believe that he probably had had a stroke. When they took his blood pressure it was stroke high! He was ordered to go to the ER.

On our way home he said he'd rather go to Walmart to buy treats for his dogs or go to dinner at Corky's for some of their juicy prime rib! Ay, que señorito mío!

He went kicking and groaning to the hospital. The intake receptionist let him have it for waiting so long to come in. She let him know he'd be paralyzed or worse for not taking his symptoms seriously.

He hates waiting in the ER for

hours. They called him in pretty fast and gave him a slew of tests. But as the day went on it was obvious we were going to be there most of the day.

The doctor finally came in to see him. She ordered X-rays, and three CAT scans. He looked at her and ordered take out! We were both starving. I took snacks to keep me from going into a diabetic coma, but they went fast. The doctor did have the nurse bring him food. I must have been invisible to them, because I got nothing. I was helping the nurse earlier, so you'd think a crumb of bread as a thank you would've been an appropriate gesture. My hubby isn't greedy, so he gave me half of his turkey sandwich.

The clock ticked at such a slow crawl and we were getting tired and anxious. My honey told me to climb on the bed with him, because I looked pretty peaked. I took a 15-minute power nap.

The doctor finally came back and had the results of all the tests. She told him his back or spine is what caused him to lose feeling in his legs. He didn't have a stroke!! What a stroke of luck! Tee hee—

Better yet, what a blessing! But he does need to go see a specialist for whatever is going on with his spine. He also had a bad kidney infection.

It took two hours for them to give him his release papers! As we were packing our gear, I told him, "honey, it looks like you are going to live to be 100!"

We were all set to run out the door when I felt something stabbing my sciatic nerve and I couldn't walk! I guess sitting in that uncomfortable chair for eight hours didn't help. So, my sweet patient had to walk me out to our car! My honey looks at me and says, "my love, my love, I never thought we would end up like two old, battered chanclas."

To say the least, I'm keeping a good eye on this Viejito of mine. He ditches me when it's medication time. He makes me feel like nurse Mildred Rachet!! But this time he knows he has to take his meds no matter what!

**Sarah Ross Science Fair... from pg. 17**

Plus, the name Sarah Ross still will be involved in one of the sections of the building.

So mark your calendar – the date is March 16 at Fairplex.

It is expected to be bigger than ever before, with an agricultural area complete with animals, a robotics section, and the participation of both Western University of Health Sciences and Cal Poly University Pomona.

In last weekend's event, those scholarship essays were based on "STEM" topics (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and an explanation of how the students decided to pursue their interests.

"We try to bring in the heart of Sarah Ross," said Anne Marie Gariador, a teacher at Garey **Sarah Ross Science Fair... pg. 24**

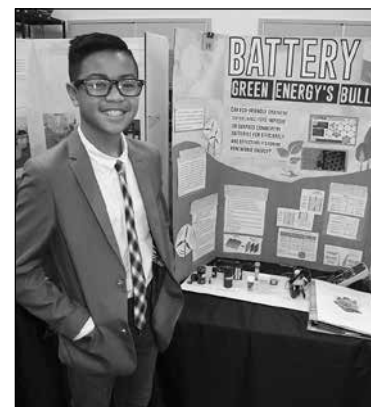
**Making college available... from pg. 16**

est system in the country, with over 450,000 students and we want to be in partnership with the community," Coley said.

"We want you to be clear that we're in this community and we care about what happens in this community," Coley added.

She told La Nueva Voz after the service that researchers at Georgetown University predict that 65 percent of all jobs in the U.S. economy will require some training after high school by next year.

Coley also added that over the past six years, the percentage of black high school graduates who had completed the course requirements necessary for admission to California State University and the University of California grew by eight percentage points (from



**NO MORE BATTERIES?** -- Khalel Cardona, a sixth grader at Pantera Elementary School, poses for a photo with his exhibit that claims that the common battery is "green energy's" bully. He proposed using eco-friendly graphene supercapacitors instead. He said they are rechargeable but so far cannot be commercially produced in a cost-effective manner, so he proposes using them with batteries to store solar energy the supercapacitors produce, ending up with a lot of capacity plus the ability to charge very quickly. "Once we know how to commercially produce graphene, we'll be one step closer to making the world run on 100 percent renewable energy," he told La Nueva Voz.

27 percent to 35 percent).

She said most undergraduates with family incomes below \$70,000 have their tuition fully covered by grants – money to support students' tuition and fees that does not need to be paid back.

In addition to Cal Poly staff members, Coley was joined by a Cal Poly freshman and her husband, Ron Coley, who retired last year from UC Riverside after serving for 20 years as a U.S. Marine followed by a six-year career at the County of Orange as a senior county administrator.

Cal Poly Pomona, known for its hands-on learning philosophy, has about 26,000 students and is ranked as one of the nation's 50 best colleges in the U.S. for quality and affordability.

**Gold Line... from pg. 18**

station to the south side.

Previously, in November, Balian had reported a delay of at least two years in the project reaching Pomona due to increasing costs of construction representing "hundreds of millions of dollars more than the secured funding available."

The Gold Line currently begins at Union Station in Los Angeles and ends in Glendora on the Citrus College campus.

The Pasadena to Azusa segment was completed in 2015.

The Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority is an independent transportation planning and construction agency created in 1998 by the state legislature to plan, design and build the Metro Gold Line light rail system from Union Station to Montclair.

Segment number one from Los Angeles to Pasadena was completed in 2003.

The Gold Line Authority Board is made up of elected and appointed representatives from throughout the project corridor.

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

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- 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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- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona





# 'Second Saturday' always a success regardless of the weather in Downtown Pomona



Photos by Renee Barbee  
Even a chilly "Second Saturday" this month in Downtown Pomona -- with photos taken just as the sun was setting -- has enough excitement to attract a crowd.





## Principal for a Day... from pg. 15

gram (Advanced Via Individual Determination – a program to help kids prepare for college and career), implementing the PBIS program, (a behavior modification program) that has been implemented at several of the schools to help kids become more responsible,” she said.

“The students are out there but the bell rings and off they

go and there are procedures for everything, and the students understand that, which I really, really like as far as controlling in a gentle way how the school day proceeds,” Vander Molen said.

He added that for a “junior high,” that is “very impressive.”

He also met the White brothers – Keven and Keith White, twin brothers with classrooms

across the hall from each other. The two were graduates of Pomona’s Garey High School and the University of La Verne and came back to Pomona to teach.

Kevin White teaches language arts and AVID and was asked what the biggest challenge is in language with today’s students.

“Definitely the text messaging – they’re beginning to write that



First grade teacher Elizabeth Gonzalez, at right, teaches her kids in Spanish. They spend half of their day learning in Spanish and the other half learning from another teacher in English. Westmont Elementary School Principal Cynthia Badillo, at left, looks on.

“Principal for a Day” Michelle Lemoine, at center, and Westmont Elementary School Principal Cynthia Badillo chat with second grade teacher Daniel Meza who teaches students half of their day in Spanish. Another second grade teacher teaches students half a day in English.



Michelle Lemoine, “Principal for a Day” at Westmont Elementary School, discusses a Spanish writing project with first grader Julian Silva, 6. The school is part of Pomona Unified School District’s Spanish language dual language immersion program.



Pomona’s Westmont Elementary School Principal Cynthia Badillo, at left, shows off the school garden as “Principal for a Day” Michelle Lemoine looks on.

abbreviated way, the way they text, they’re beginning to use it in their writing, so that’s the biggest challenge, trying to get them to switch over to academic writing,” he said. “Because you’re at school, you stop text messaging, trying to get them college

Principal for a Day ... pg. 24

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## Comments positive as Pomona Chamber welcomes new Pomona city councilmembers

Pomona's three new city councilmembers were introduced to members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce at a "welcome reception" last month and comments on both sides were positive – from "dreaming big" to "moving the city forward."

And Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval continued in that theme, adding that all seven members of the council are engaged and

told the city council position would be a part time job, he sees it as a "full time livable life."

"We're going to do all of this as a team" moving things forward," he said.

District 3 City Councilmember Nora Garcia, introduced by Chamber Board member Jill Reiff of Valley Vista Services, also serves as President of Friends of the Pomona Public Library.

"Pomona has incredible po-



Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board members and elected officials pose for a group photo last month at the Chamber's welcoming reception for three newly-elected Pomona City Councilmembers. Pictured, from left, front row, are Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Monzanas, Pomona City Councilmembers Victor Preciado, Nora Garcia and Steve Lusto, and Pomona Chamber Board Chair David McElwain, of the Pomona office of the Los Angeles County Office of Education GAIN jobs center. Chamber Board members, back row, from left, are Luis Cetina, of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; Josh Maher, of Cal Poly University Pomona; Jeff Keating, of Western University of Health Sciences; Sandra Vaughan-Acton, also of Cal Poly University Pomona; Michelle Lemoine, of Chaffey Federal Credit Union.; Tammy Roush, of Fairplex; Larry Egan, of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association; Jill Reiff, of Valley Vista Services; Michael Thomas, of Pomona Valley America's Job Center; Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz; Jim Dale, of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center; and Nef Cortez, of RE/MAX Universal Realty.



Jill Reiff of Valley Vista Services, at left, introduces Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia at the Pomona Chamber of Commerce welcoming reception.



Jim Dale of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, at left, introduces Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado at last month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce welcoming reception.

are going to work together to solve problems in Pomona.

"This is an amazing city," he said at the event held at Pomona's Mountain Meadows Golf Course. Sandoval was introduced by Chamber Board member Jeff Keating of Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences.

District 2 City Councilmember Victor Preciado, who was introduced by Chamber Board member Jim Dale of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, said the new council will "dream big and shoot at it every moment."

He added that while he was

tential in all ways," Garcia said, adding that the community is losing that potential when the community fails to provide its children with opportunities.

"We're talking about the prosperity and success of Pomona," she said.

District 5 City Councilmember Steve Lusto, introduced by Chamber Board member Josh Maher of Cal Poly University Pomona, called his new position an educational process getting to talk to people from different parts of the city.

He said the city council is a diverse group.

"But we want the same things

for Pomona," he said, to help move the city forward.

"Pomona has a lot of opportunities," he added. "I look at

(setting policy) as a team effort."



Jeff Keating, at right, introduces Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval at the Pomona Chamber of Commerce welcoming reception last month at Pomona's Mountain Meadows Golf Course.



Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lusto addresses 100 guests at last month's welcoming reception for Pomona's three new city councilmembers.

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## Principal for a Day... from pg. 22

and career ready.”

And Keith White teaches math as well as AVID. He was asked by La Nueva Voz if there is any hope for today’s kids when it comes to math.

“The biggest difference in math today than in the past is critical thinking, a lot more writing in math, problem solving, critical thinking,” he said. “I think in the past what people want to call now the old math is just a lot of taking step by step to follow a problem out, it’s actually a lot more critical thinking and applying what you learn to like a real world problem.”

He added that not only is the problem in writing (the old “if

a train left the station at 9 a.m.” type of thing) but students are required to answer in writing and explain their answer.

Both brothers have been in Pomona Unified School District for 22 years and came here right out of college.

“It was a very good experi-

ence,” Vander Molen said.

And it was for the others as well – even Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval thanked the participants for taking time out to become exposed to “a day in the life of a principal” and showing that they “truly care about the students.”



Photo by Renee Barbee

**‘SUPERMOON’ AS SEEN FROM WESTMONT** -- Last week’s “supermoon,” pictured as a bright orange circle as it rises in the east just after sunset, is photographed from Westmont. According to Wikipedia, a supermoon is a full moon or new moon that nearly coincides with the closest point that the moon comes to the earth in its elliptic orbit, resulting in a slightly larger-than-usual apparent size of the lunar disk as viewed from earth. Miss it? You’ll have another chance on March 21. The closest full supermoon of the 21st century will occur on Dec. 6, 2052, so mark your calendar!

## Sarah Ross Science Fair... from pg. 20

High School and a long-time member of the Promoting Academic Achievement committee, “and think, well, who would she

want to choose. We all worked with Sarah.”

The science fair last weekend would have been Sarah’s 12th.



Pictured at the Promoting Academic Achievement (PAA) Sarah Ross Science Fair, from left, are PAA committee member Anne Marie Gariador, of Garey High School; Pomona Unified School District Board member and PAA committee chair Dr. Roberta Perlman; Bob Ross, husband of the late Sarah Ross; former Sarah Ross scholarship winner Crystal Sin (and an optometrist-to-be); and PAA committee member Mary Kate Francesco, of Pantera Elementary School.



Trophies and medallions are ready and waiting to be awarded at last weekend’s Sarah Ross Science Fair at the Village Academy Conference Center.

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