



Community meeting on 71 Freeway update stirs emotions over traffic, maintenance

Pomona's latest community update this month on the "71 Expressway to Freeway Conversion Project" stirred up a bit of a "hornet's nest" reaction from residents concerned about everything from future increased traffic congestion on Rio Rancho Road to claims that Caltrans' lack of maintenance makes Pomona the "dumping ground of the region."

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez hosted the information session for about three dozen residents on a Saturday morning in the Westmont Park Community Center with officials on hand from Los Angeles Metro and Pomona City Hall in addition to the California Department of Transportation.

"This project's long overdue, this should have been done years

ago, but now we're here and we're going to start seeing some of the work on the infrastructure," Rodriguez said.

Residents of both Phillips Ranch and Westmont expressed concerns that added closures of streets now used to enter their neighborhoods would make existing peak-time traffic congestion on Rio Rancho Road even worse.

But Pomona State Farm insurance agent John Forbing said the major problem is at the other end.

"The number one reason for the back-up on the northbound 71 is the intersection with the 57, and with the new freeway it is going to be worse," Forbing said. "What are you doing about the intersection of the 71 onto the northbound 57?"

He explained two lanes of the 71 now merge with traffic from the westbound 10 Freeway transitioning north, all into one lane of an on-ramp to the northbound 57 Freeway.

Project highlights

And with the new 71 project converting an existing four-lane expressway to an eight-lane freeway, there will be even more cars attempting to merge at the northbound bottleneck.

Caltrans Supervising



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez

Transportation Engineer Osama Megalla, project manager, said his office would look into it but, unfortunately at least for now, that northern interchange is considered a separate project to be addressed at some point in the future.

Those eight lanes of the new freeway, he said, will include three "general purpose" lanes plus 71 Freeway update... pg. 4

Attorney Jim Sanbrano receives 'Community Star Award' at Latino and Latina Roundtable's Cesar Chavez breakfast

Claremont attorney Jim Sanbrano, long known for providing support and "pro bono" legal services to area non-profits, was honored with the "Community Star Award" at this year's 15th annual Latino and Latina Roundtable Cesar Chavez Breakfast last month at Pomona's Fairplex.


Roundtable Board President Jose Calderon said the award is presented each year to recognize individuals who work behind the scenes.

He lauded Sanbrano for taking on cases of people who don't have funding and for working alongside Roundtable members on a variety of issues through the years.


"He's been on the front lines with us," Calderon said, adding that Sanbrano is "a fighter Cesar Chavez breakfast... pg. 2



Pictured, from left, are attorney Jim Sanbrano, winner of this year's Latino and Latina Roundtable "Community Star Award;" and Roundtable co-masters of ceremonies Angela Sanbrano, Sanbrano's wife, and Jose Calderon.



Pomona Unified is the Proud Recipient of the 2019 Magna Award from the National American School Board Journal for "Literacy Equity for Birth through 3rd Grade Hispanic Students and Their Families."



#PROUD2BEPUSD

Cesar Chavez breakfast... from pg. 1

for our community.”

Calderon said Sanbrano joined the Roundtable 11 years ago during the city’s multi-agency checkpoint issue and began providing legal services at no cost.

In accepting the award, Sanbrano said the issue 11 years ago – and on numerous battles since that time – was an “equal protection problem” in which enforcement efforts violated the 14th

amendment of the U.S. Constitution which guarantees equal protection under the law, or due process. The amendment was adopted in 1868 following the American Civil War to address the rights of former slaves.

Sanbrano said the same amendment was used in Texas when authorities attempted to deny public education to undocumented children. He explained

the Texas Supreme Court ruled the students were within the jurisdiction of the state so they were entitled to equal protection under the law.

“We are really behind education as you have seen,” Sanbrano said. “That’s one of the main things that I’ve been focused on – we are trying to ensure that our kids get educated because we have to pass the baton on to them to carry on all the work.”

Other honorees at the event – with a record attendance of nearly 600 – were Pomona Mayor

Tim Sandoval and community organizers Eddie Gonzalez and Sylvia Carranza.

Mayor

Tim Sandoval

Calderon introduced Sandoval as someone who “always puts to the forefront trying to do what is best for the community.”

He said the award was for his “ongoing visionary and practical commitment to equity and bettering the lives of the Pomona community.”

Sandoval told the group the award “is really for my mom.”

He said his mother was born in San Fernando in the 1940s “and she ultimately got to the 12th grade at San Fernando High School and got pregnant and to this day my mom never learned how to read or write because, as you well know, not a lot was expected of the Mexican-American people at the time.”

He said she struggled and worked as a factory worker and for more than 40 years as a housekeeper.

“When I was a kid I struggled to learn how to read and my mom did everything she could to fight so that I could read,” Sandoval said. “And I still remember her spending time in the office talking to the principal, talking to my teachers, and it was that love and that care that made all the difference in the world to me.”

He added that his mom also taught him the importance of service to others.

Eddie Gonzalez

Also honored was Eddie Gonzalez, a community organizer at SEIU Local 2015 working for long-



State Sen. Connie Leyva, at right, speaks on the need for affordable education at last month’s Latino and Latina Roundtable Cesar Chavez Breakfast as this year’s scholarship winners are introduced. Pictured, from left, are Roundtable Board members Melissa Ayala and Ion Puschila and scholarship winners Francisco Osuna Zayas, a student at Mt. San Antonio College; Marisa Garcia of iPoly High School; and Julianna Pina of Diamond Ranch High School. Not pictured is Diana Valencia of Garey High School.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at left, is honored at this year’s Latino and Latina Roundtable Cesar Chavez breakfast by Roundtable President Jose Calderon.



Latino and Latina Roundtable Vice President Angela Sanbrano addresses a room filled with 600 attendees from a podium displaying a photograph of labor leader and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez.



Honoree Eddie Gonzalez, at left, receives his plaque from Latino and Latina Roundtable President Jose Calderon.



Honoree Sylvia Carranza, at left, poses with Latino and Latina Roundtable Board President Jose Calderon.

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Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



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Thursday, May 30
at 7:00 p.m.

Pomona High School
Football Stadium



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Center, Pomona



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Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



Ganesha High School

Friday, May 31
at 7:00 p.m.

Ganesha High School
Football Stadium



*Diamond Ranch
High School*

Friday, May 31
at 7:00 p.m.

Diamond Ranch HS
Football Stadium

71 Freeway update... from pg. 1

a carpool lane in each direction as the entire roadway is re-aligned between Mission Boulevard and Rio Rancho Road.

Also included will be the construction of sound walls along the freeway and the construction of a new pedestrian overcrossing near 9th Street.

Other new bridges will be built replacing the Valley Boulevard “undercrossing,” East Spadra and West Pomona “overheads,” and ramps will be improved at Rio Rancho Road, Mission Boulevard

and Valley Boulevard.

Additional activity includes the acquisition of 17 single family residences, of which 13 have already been acquired or are currently in escrow. Negotiations for the remaining four are under way.

Six homes already have been demolished, and four homes were expected to be demolished by the end of April. Caltrans also is working on relocating a Southern California Edison easement that will result in moving facilities to make way for additional lanes, and temporary construction easements or property rentals are being worked out to make it possible to build retaining walls at various locations.

Phase 1, the southern segment, a 3.1-mile stretch from Mission

Boulevard to the 60 Freeway, will begin construction in summer of 2020 and should open to traffic in summer of 2023.

Phase 2, the northern segment, a 1.1-mile stretch from the 10 Freeway to Mission Boulevard, is expected to begin construction in winter of 2022 and open to traffic in summer of 2025.

Total cost of the project is expected to be \$320.847 million, with funding allocated from repurposed federal dollars, Measure M, the SB1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program, the Traffic Congestion Relief Program, and the State Transportation Improvement Program, Megalla said.

Rio Rancho Road congestion

On the Rio Rancho Road congestion issue, Caltrans Design Manager Oji Kalu said the original plan called for an overcrossing or undercrossing at North Ranch Road to help provide added access into Phillips Ranch, but the community opposed it.

One Phillips Ranch resident asked what the impact of the project would be on Rio Rancho once the new freeway expansion project shuts down access to the remaining streets into Phillips Ranch.

“Well, we’ll see what happens but right now there’s no plan,” Kalu said.

Pomona’s Interim Public Works Director Rene Guerrero acknowledged there is congestion on Rio Rancho Road during peak times.

“I would say that a lot of the traffic you see in those peak times are drivers who are looking to avoid the congestion on the 71,” he said, explaining that they exit and use surface streets to drive around the most heavily congested areas.

“The hope is that when this project is done, when the widening is done, those people that get off the freeway . . . won’t have to do that anymore,” he added, resulting in alleviating some of the congestion on the city streets.

“The city does not have any plans to widen Rio Rancho,” he said.

Pomona Police Sgt. Anthony Catanese, who heads the police



Pomona Interim Public Works Director
Rene Guerrero



Pomona City Councilmember
Victor Preciado



Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member
Carlos Goytia



Caltrans officials Osama Megalla, at left, and Oji Kalu.

department’s Homeless Encampment Action Response Team (HEART), was on hand to ask how long the homes being acquired for the widening project would be vacant, explaining the department’s concerns that homeless individuals would move into the vacant homes.

Caltrans officials explained that mold and lead inspections were required prior to demolition, but that at most they would remain vacant for three months.

Catanese asked for addresses of the homes to pass on to homeless liaison officials.

Concerns also were raised over the potential for graffiti on the sound walls. Caltrans officials said it was the state’s responsibility to remove any graffiti.

But Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia, who represents South Pomona on his board, wasn’t so sure.

Lack of maintenance from Caltrans

“I’m very upset with Caltrans, Union Pacific, a lot of agencies that run through Pomona,” he said. “We are not the dumping ground of the region. We are tired of the lack of maintenance that we get from Caltrans.”

Goytia added that other areas in the region have well-maintained offramps “but then you come

to Pomona and it’s really, really shoddy work. We want a better expectation from you.”

He also pointed out that planning on the project has been going on for “a decade or so.”

“Why was there not a junction in the plan from the 60 to the 71 and also a junction on the other side?” he said.

Goytia said there was no bottleneck when the 210 Freeway was built through the foothill cities “but yet Pomona has been enduring the bottleneck for as long as I can remember.”

“We want to set the bar high and we expect that you gentlemen and individuals meet that bar,” he said, adding that he was out that same morning with Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, who attended the presentation, cleaning up trash. “I’m cleaning up your mess . . . off the 57 Freeway. I’m cleaning up your lack of maintenance.”

“We care about our city – enough is enough,” he said. “It’s time to change the mentality of how we do things in the city of



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Two break-ins reported at Pomona's Youth and Family Club, officials appeal to public for support

The Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley, formerly the Boys and Girls Club of Pomona Valley, is reaching out to the community for support after two burglaries at the Pomona facility this month that club officials said resulted in a loss estimated at \$35,000 in damage and items taken.

Victor Caceres, executive director of "The Club," said the alleged suspects in what police are calling a commercial burglary were seen in early-morning video recordings moving around the facility and that Pomona police investigators were able to obtain fingerprints and other evidence.

Pomona Police Department spokesperson Aly Mejia, however, did not respond to a La Nueva Voz request for a copy of the police report or for summary information contained in the report.

"The only information I can provide at this time is that we've spoken to the reporting party, our detectives are working some leads, and it's possible that the suspect is a transient," she said in an e-mail reply last week.

Caceres said what appeared to be a total of five suspects forced open various doors in both the main building and the program and education center between the two incidents.

He added that items taken included two cell phones, seven Apple iPads, a camera, about 10 computers that were used for programs for the kids, music equipment and sports equipment, all with a combined replacement cost of between \$10,000 and \$12,000.

Caceres said most of the cost will be in repairing doors, locks, a safe and other damage.

He said the Club hopes to

Local Lions clubs to host free vision screening

Pomona Host and Chino Valley Lions Clubs are teaming up in June to provide free vision screening and eye glasses to those without vision insurance by hosting a "Friends in Sight" event at Pomona's Fremont Academy.

Volunteers will be on hand from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June

install a commercial version of the "Ring" alarm security system "so we can be more proactive in responding to intruders on the property trying to get in."

The two incidents clearly were expected to cause a disruption in services – from help with homework and tutoring to music, sports, recreation, swimming and more – to kids and families in the area who use the facilities.

"I think it's sad that neighborhood people treat a local youth program this way," said Club President John Forbing. "They have no respect for what we are trying to do for the youth of Pomona and the community we would like to have stand with us in supporting whatever we can do to help the youth grow to be good adults and parents and community-minded people."

"The Club needs to pay for its staff and operating expenses so anything that the community can do to help finance the annual budget will be appreciated," Forbing said.

The Club is appealing to the community for financial support to help replace items and repair damage. While the Club is insured, Caceres said he does not plan to file a claim due to concerns over rate increases and the possibility of cancellation of coverage.

For more information on making contributions, contact the Club at (909) 242-1110 or call Caceres directly at (310) 863-2805.

The Club also has created a "GoFundMe" page.

The Club, a non-profit organization which has provided services to children and families in Pomona and surrounding communities for more than 50 years, is located at 1420 S. Garey Ave., Pomona.

1, at Fremont, located at 725 W. Franklin Ave., Pomona.

Optometrists and optometry students will volunteer their time to check vision and write prescriptions as Lions members search through hundreds of eye glasses to fill the prescriptions on the spot.

Free vision screening... pg. 12

Supervisor Solis kicks off year-long U.S. Census campaign to encourage all residents to be counted, regardless of status

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis kicked off the county's participation in the 2020 U.S. Census this month with a Cesar Chavez Day news conference and rally in the Los Angeles Civic Center, claiming that if Cesar Chavez himself was on the stage with her, he would say that "all voices count, everyone deserves to be counted."

In her countywide "Census Call to Action," Solis said in the year 2000 Census "there was an undercount in L.A. County of our residents and it resulted in a loss of over \$650 million," an amount she said could have provided shelters, housing units and Head Start (federally funded early childhood education) programs.

"The Census . . . is used to determine our elected representation," said Solis whose first supervisorial district includes Pomona. "But we're also talking about a lot of money, about \$800 billion in federal funding that is distributed to all our communities (nationwide)."

She said in Los Angeles County, it is particularly difficult to count people, especially those in communities that are under-served.

"We're talking about vital services, like education . . . we need education for our children, we need food assistance, we need housing, we need infrastructure... and other critical services and programs that we currently receive money for," Solis said.

"One year from today we will depend on all of you and many of our partners . . . to help us with the accurate count," she added. "L.A. County, we have to make sure that we get our fair share. And that means that every adult, and every child, regardless of immigration status, it doesn't matter, you are counted. We have to make sure . . . that you are involved in the Census."

She explained that the U.S. Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution to be conducted every 10 years and to include every one living in the United States.

"It doesn't matter where you

were born," she said, adding that Los Angeles County is home to 3.5 million immigrants.

"That means there are well over 200 languages that are also spoken and that means that sometimes it is difficult to reach out to these populations," Solis said.

In addition, she said residents of the county are living in a "climate of fear, where people are facing harsh immigration policies and increased immigration enforcement, so much so that people don't even want to sign up for services that they and their families are entitled to."

"We're standing together with all of the people to tell them not to be afraid," she said in both English and Spanish.

She said the proposal to include a citizenship question on the Census would be harmful in the immigrant communities.

"It will heighten fear amongst our population," she said. "And that's why I'm glad that the County Board of Supervisors joined

U.S. Census campaign... pg. 20

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Illustration of downtown Pomona buildings and a street scene.

Pomona Deputy Police Chief Hector Rodriguez retires following 30-year career

Pomona Deputy Police Chief Hector Rodriguez retired from the department this month, ending a 30-year career that Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri said helped make the entire police department more successful.

“Your ethics and your compassion for our employees, our community is admirable,” Olivieri said at hour-long retirement ceremonies at Avalon at Fairplex before an audience of nearly 300 family members, friends and fellow officers.

Olivieri said Rodriguez provided him with “unwavering support and guidance.”

“We’ve made a great team, I’ve relied on your expertise and I know that I and the whole department was more successful because of you,” Olivieri said.

Rodriguez’ brother, Pomona Police Sgt. Ryan Rodriguez, served as master of ceremonies for the event.

“Being retired you’re still going to see law enforcement, you’ve been in their boots before, and you’re always going to appreciate them so you’re not

leaving the job, the only thing you’re doing is leaving work,” Ryan Rodriguez said. “You’re not leaving the brotherhood, you’re part of the greatest fraternity in the world and you’re still part of, in my opinion, I know your opinion, too, the greatest police department around.”

Recounting his brother’s career, Ryan Rodriguez said he began as a police explorer in 1982 where he served for four years before enlisting in the U.S. Army and becoming an Airborne Ranger and paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division.

He was sworn in as a Pomona police officer in 1990 after completing police academy at Rio Hondo College.

Over the course of his career, he worked special assignments,

major crimes task force, major narcotics unit, gang unit, L.A. Impact (a task force of numerous federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County investigating major crimes, with an emphasis



Retiring Deputy Police Chief Hector Rodriguez, at left, shows off his “retired deputy chief” badge presented to him by Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri at Rodriguez’ recent retirement ceremony.

on drug trafficking organizations), homicide, honor guard, explorer advisor, part time air observer and served on the SWAT team for 15 years where he “performed about 250 high risk warrants, the great majority of those going through the door,” his brother said.

In 1993 in support of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program, he

rode a bicycle with several other Pomona officers from Seattle to Santa Monica and in 2000 he rode a bicycle from Florida to Pomona – riding 150 miles a day for 31 days.

And in 1994 he received a medal of commendation while a member of the major crimes task force working undercover with another officer buying narcotics.

“They went up to buy, were approached by a member of the Mexican mafia who was not happy because the drug dealer

was not paying taxes,” his brother said, adding that the alleged Mexican mafia member held all of them at gunpoint, although in the end, “all the bad guys went to jail.”

“Hector has a reputation of being a cop’s cop, a leader of men,” he said, adding that he was born in Pomona, raised here, still lives

Hector Rodriguez... pg. 14



Pomona’s retiring Deputy Police Chief Hector Rodriguez, at left, is presented a “Goddess of Pomona” statue by Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval at Rodriguez’ retirement ceremony this month at Fairplex.



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County supervisors call for ordinance allowing pets in county-funded housing

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, on a motion by Supervisor Hilda Solis, last month directed staff to return to the Board in 90 days with a draft ordinance requiring all county-funded housing to allow residents to have pets.

A news release from Solis' office pointed out that on any given night, about 40,000 homeless individuals in the county remain unsheltered. And, the release continued, about 10 percent of the homeless in Los Angeles County have pets, while many supportive and permanent housing options lack the infrastructure to care for pets or simply prohibit cats and dogs.

This option places many homeless individuals in the position of having to either abandon a pet or experience homelessness.

The motion was co-authored by Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

"Studies show that individuals with pets experience fewer symptoms of depression and loneliness," Solis said. "Pets provide emotional stability and protection for those who lack

Pet ordinance... pg. 12



Dr. Ken Brown and his wife Marian were among the guests at the hospital foundation's 25th annual Heartbeat Gala last month.



Retiring medical director of the hospital's Stead Heart and Vascular Center was honored for his visionary work and contributions to the development and success of the heart center at last month's Heartbeat Gala fundraiser.



RAISING FUNDS AT HOSPITAL'S HEARTBEAT GALA -- Bill and Carole Stead, benefactors of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, were among the 400 guests at the Hospital Foundation's 25th annual Heartbeat Gala last month at the DoubleTree Hotel in Ontario to raise funds for the hospital's Stead Heart and Vascular Center's Endowment Fund.



Pictured, from left, are Cheryl McCollum, her husband and Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Board member Bill McCollum, and Jane Goodfellow, a Board member of both the hospital and the hospital's foundation and co-chair of the Heartbeat Gala fundraiser held last month in Ontario.



A new medical director of the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's Stead Heart and Vascular Center and a retiring medical director were honored last month at the hospital foundation's 25th annual Heartbeat Gala raising funds to support the heart center. Pictured, from left, are new medical director and cardiologist Dr. Jayapal Reddy, hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum, and retiring heart center medical director Dr. Rama Thumati, who was credited with playing a key role in the development and success of the heart center at the hospital over the past 32 years. The annual fundraiser has generated more than \$2.4 million to support the nationally recognized heart facility.

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Cesar Chavez breakfast... from pg. 2

term health care workers rights, and former community organizer for Pomona's Economic Opportunity Center.

Calderon called him the "heart and soul of the day laborers in this region."

He was honored for his continuing dedication to defending the rights of undocumented and documented workers and their families.

"The Pomona Economic Opportunity Center which just last year celebrated 20 years of existence has fought for social justice and I happened to be a part of that back in autumn 2008," Gonzalez said.

He said he moved to Pomona from Los Angeles and realized things were not the same here with checkpoints in the morning near public schools while working parents would drive their children to school.

He added that day laborers would arrive at the center and say their car was impounded on the way there.

"It was a decision to consider whether you drive your child to school, go to work or come home without a vehicle . . . which is a necessity to get around," Gonzalez said.

He said he found his calling at the day labor center in community organizing for worker

Pomona."

Goytia said the bottleneck issue needs to begin planning now before costs of construction rise.

Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado said four lanes in each direction is going to bring more traffic.

"That doesn't solve the problem for more cars that are going to come and then more cars are going to want to get off the freeway and head 60 west and more cars are going to come on the freeway and want to head 10 east," Preciado said.

"And we don't have a solution for that," he added. "And we haven't even seen an attempt from Caltrans to say 'OK, maybe 10 years down the line, this is how we can possibly do it.'"

In the meantime, Preciado

and immigrant rights, trying to take action and raise awareness through organizing, education and outreach and holding workshops on worker rights, health and safety and wage theft.

But he said it was Calderon who was a mentor to so many youths and to himself.

Sylvia Carranza

Calderon said honoree Sylvia Carranza has been an activist and organizer for more than 35 years, first working with the hotel workers union and later working as lead organizer with the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, where she worked with more than 300 labor unions.

Today she is the community organizer of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1428 representing workers in the food industry at Albertsons, El Super, Food4Less, Stater Brothers, Vons, CVS, Rite Aid and Kaiser.

She was a leader in 2003 in organizing immigrant workers rights.

Her plaque acknowledged her "on-going commitment in coalition building and defending the dignity and rights of workers in the work place and in our community."

She told the group she mentioned she would be receiving the honor to her 88-year-old dad

who began to share his stories of how he worked in the field.

Her dad reminded her he left Mexico at the age of 12 and survived by working in the field and singing in the streets.

"At the age of 16, he was picking cotton in Lubbock, Texas, and earning two dollars for 100 pounds of cotton," she said, adding that neither of her parents ever missed a day of work.

"They instilled in us to work hard and no matter what obey your boss," she said. "My parents worked minimum wage jobs, they were often disrespected and lived paycheck to paycheck."

But they never had extra money to enjoy all their hard work, she said. "And I knew this was wrong. If you work hard, you should not be living poor, disrespected and fearful. So I joined the labor movement."

Her first campaign was supporting the hotel workers in their battle against USC.

Quoting Cesar Chavez, she said "once social changes begin they cannot be reversed, you cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read, you cannot humiliate the person who feels pride, you cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore."

"I have been arrested 12

times for workers, I have fasted for justice, I have rallied and marched in support of many causes, I have knocked on doors and walked miles to get good people elected, I have lobbied with workers and even been detained at the border," she added. "Most importantly, I have organized in the community."

"Because of people . . . like you in this room . . . I'm blessed, I'm educated, I'm proud and I'm not afraid anymore," she said.

Social justice scholarship recipients

Roundtable Board members Ion Puschila and Melissa Ayala, along with State Sen. Connie Leyva, presented this year's social justice scholarships to four area students.

Ayala said since 2013 the organization has presented more than \$12,000 in scholarships in a program that is becoming more popular every year.

"I have this opportunity to try and guide education throughout California and one of the things we know we have to do is we have to make it more affordable," said Leyva, new Chair of the Senate Education Committee.

This year's scholarship recipients were Julianna Pina of Diamond Ranch High School, Diana Valencia of Garey High

School, Marisa Garcia of iPoly High School, and Francisco Osuna Zayas of Mt. San Antonio College.

Roundtable Vice President and co-master of ceremonies Angela Sanbrano said that while there were nearly 600 participants present this year, the first breakfast she attended was in 2008 with about 50 people.

The event "has grown a lot . . . but we have not lost the warmth that you feel when you are with familia," she said.

"This morning we are very proud to celebrate the Cesar Chavez legacy by recommitting ourselves to the struggle for social, economic and environmental justice and equal rights in our community," she added. "It is more important than ever . . . since all the gains we have made over the last 50 years are under attack."

The Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting educational programs to advance leadership, communication, effective civil participation and a proactive voice. It is committed to continuing support in building multi-racial coalitions, in service to others and in building spaces of equality and justice.

71 Freeway update... from pg. 4

explained, the result will be more maintenance for the city on both Fairplex Drive and Rio Rancho Road.

Goytia said the improvement on the 71 after the Mission Boulevard overpass was completed still left a bottleneck.

"We still feel the traffic," he said. "We need a plan. A lot of us here have been waiting for improvement for decades."

Kalu of Caltrans pointed out that the new project includes carpool lanes and more people riding in carpools would help with the congestion.

And Megalla added that the Caltrans computer model looks at socioeconomics, trip generators and housing.

Good level of service expected through 2030

"The current design of the

freeway would handle a very good level of service until 2030," he said.

La Nueva Voz asked Caltrans District 7 Public Information Officer Jeremiah Teves after the meeting what the public could expect in terms of delays over the next few years from closures of existing lanes and ramps due to construction.

"We do not know how we are going to stage the construction of this project at this time because a detailed design has not been placed," Teves said later in a follow-up e-mail. "Contractors awarded the project normally have an impact on how closures are positioned."

"However, we anticipate to keep lanes open with occasional ramp and connector closures during construction," he added.

"Caltrans always endeavors to have the least possible impact on the motoring public."

He said residents can check the Caltrans "Quickmap" for closure information, once the project begins, at quickmap.dot.ca.gov.

At the end of the hour and fifteen-minute presentation, Rodriguez acknowledged he was hearing a lot of issues. He said he would reach out to the director of Caltrans District 7 "to see what changes can be done with the current plan that we see here without impacting the plan or the design."

"We don't want the project to stop because the money has been allocated," he said. "I don't want to do any major changes because that's going to delay the whole project and costs keep going up."

He added he will also reach out

to Pomona's elected officials "to see what we can come up with... (in terms of a) future plan for the growth of the area."

Residents with questions or comments can contact Caltrans at (213) 897-3656 or visit the web site at csr.dot.ca.gov.

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POMONA LIONS PROVIDE BOOKS FOR THE KIDS -- Pomona Host Lions Club President Anne Henderson, at right, oversees the club's book distribution this month at Pomona's Allison Elementary School. The program, known as the "Roar for Reading" project, allows first-graders in the Pomona Unified School District to select which book will be their own. According to club spokesman Denny Mosier, it is often the first book they will own -- something that is important since research shows the decision to attend college is made by most children by age 8.

Pomona police head of investigative services completes FBI training course in Quantico

Pomona Police Lt. Steve Congalton, who has served the Pomona Police Department since 1996, graduated last month from the 275th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

The 10-week training program included law enforcement officers from all 50 states, other countries, military organizations and federal civilian organizations.

It is known for its academic excellence and is regarded as the premier law enforcement executive training course.

The program, following a highly competitive selection process, offers advanced communication, leadership and fitness training for officers having proven records as professional law enforcement

leaders within their agencies.

The FBI sponsors four sessions of the academy each year. Each session includes about 220 local law enforcement officers.

Students from within the United States are not charged for tuition, books, equipment, meals, lodging or travel to and from their home.

Congalton currently oversees the Pomona Police Department's Investigative Services Division.



Pomona Police Lt. Steve Congalton

Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri also completed the same program two years ago.

Pomona Chamber of Commerce annual Legislative Luncheon set for 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 26, at DoubleTree by Hilton, Pomona!



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5. Do you know how to find out about your water quality? **Visit your local water provider's website and check out their ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT.**



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State Sen. Connie Leyva offers advice to young women from Pomona who are heading to college in Pomona Optimist Club program

State Sen. Connie Leyva, speaking to 80 high school senior “wonder women” this month at a Pomona Optimist Club program for college-bound young women, told members of the group they were “destined to do great things” and “when you come back from college, come back here to this community because we need you.”

“You can make a difference in the community that you grew up in and we need more women’s voices,” she said. “There are 36 women in the California legislature out of 120. We are at our highest number right now. We’ve got a way to go.”

She added that in the entire history of the California legislature, more than 4,000 men have served compared to only 165 women.

“That is not enough,” she said. “When women are at the table, everyone is at the table.”

Leyva urged the young ladies to “be successful, be who you are.”

She said she called them “wonder women because that’s what you are.”

“You all have a purpose and a reason for being here and you’re all heading off to college,” something she said is exciting and “a little scary too.”

But once they graduate from college, she said she believes it is important for women to have a job that pays the bills, “for women to have a job so that they can support themselves – because you won’t stay in a bad relationship if you can

Heading to college... pg. 14



FLOWERS FOR THE SPEAKER -- State Sen. Connie Leyva receives a special bouquet of flowers from Pomona Optimist Club President Lorraine Canales, at right, following Leyva’s inspirational comments to the 80 young ladies attending the Optimist Club’s “Tea for the Soul” program for college-bound students.



Senior students from Pomona’s Garey High School take their seats and try to get their hats on just right this month at Pomona’s Ebell Museum where the Pomona Optimist Club presented “Tea for the Soul,” a special “tea” for 80 young ladies to provide guidance and encouragement as they go on to college. Optimist Club member Debra Martin, standing at rear in center, looks on.



SMILING FOR THE CAMERA -- Photographer Eric Jung, at right, snaps the perfect photo this month of Diamond Ranch High School senior Pamela Corona at a special “Tea for the Soul” photo set. Each student received a book of inspirational poems to take to college, personalized with their own photo on the cover.



NOW THAT REALLY IS THE ICING ON THE CAKE -- Some of the volunteers in the kitchen at Ebell Museum prepare the cupcakes for “Tea for the Soul,” a program for college-bound young ladies presented by the Pomona Optimist Club.



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Photos by Keney Su, Pomona Unified School District
Two robotics team members make a pit stop (OK, it's not really a pit, it's more like a workbench stop) to get their computer-controlled robotics vehicle back in the competition at last month's Pomona Unified School District Robotics Field Day at Fremont Academy.



Computer controlled robotics competition attracted a gymnasium filled with students who took the subject very seriously last month at the Pomona Unified School District Robotics Field Day at Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design, a five-hour event that ended with awards for the winners. Teams in the competition registered through their individual school sites throughout the district. Pictured are members of the Arroyo Elementary School (Panthers) robotics team.

CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS POMONA CONTESTANT ON AMERICAN IDOL --

In a unanimous show of support, members of the Pomona City Council at last week's city council meeting wore t-shirts and posed for a group photograph in support of Alejandro Aranda, a 24-year-old Pomona resident and currently a top-eight contestant on television's "American Idol" musical talent search reality series. The t-shirts featured a photo of Aranda at his audition for the television show, along with the wording "Pomona ♥'s Alejandro." Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said Aranda "is an absolutely amazing talent and musician." He said members of the city council know that "going up on stage and opening yourself up -- not only to this country but to the world -- is not an easy thing to do. On behalf of the city, this is just our love for you and we hope to one day soon see you . . . performing in front of the residents of Pomona." A former dishwasher, Aranda has been playing music for four years. American Idol has aired on the ABC network since the 2017-2018 season following a 15-season run on the Fox network.



**Pet ordinance...
from pg. 7**

that type of support. For many, a pet may be their only sense of family."

She said the human-animal bond "is an important relationship we cannot afford to ignore."

"Devoted pet owners who are willing and able to care for their pet should not be forced to make the impossible decision between giving up their beloved pet or maintaining a place to live," said Susan Riggs, senior director of state legislation for the ASPCA, Western Region.

"We are grateful to Supervisors Solis and Barger for introducing the motion," she added.

Public animal shelters and animal welfare organizations have reported that up to 20 percent of pet owners abandon their animals because they cannot find rental housing that allows pets.

**Free vision screening...
from pg. 5**

If a prescription cannot be filled at the event, it will be filled and delivered to the patient.

"This is a really big event where we expect hundreds of local people to attend," said Pomona Host Lions Club First Vice President Denny Mosier. "I recall one situation where . . . we had to make glasses (for a first grader) and when I delivered (them), he exclaimed 'Wow, I can read now!'"

For more information, contact Mosier at dbmosier@cpp.edu.

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VETERAN'S MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM
Monday, May 27, 2019

Guest Speaker: Military veterans advocate Katie Strong, who is working with State Sen. Connie Leyva on Senate Bill 312 (service dogs for veterans).

Pomona Valley Memorial Park
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Gates open at 8:30 am • Program starts at 9:00 am
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142nd year of honoring our veterans!

National Anthem, Pomona Concert Band
Master of Ceremonies: Richard Haro,
Commander, American Legion Post 30

Free exhibit on writing and history of books continuing into May at Petterson Museum in Claremont

Interested in writing? Here's one you won't want to miss – an exhibit of everything from a hieroglyph inscription fragment to scrolls to cuneiform (derived from pictograms) to Latin prayer books and even a King James Bible.

The free exhibit, "Between the Pages," is running through May 19 and is open from 2 to 4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at the Petterson Museum of Intercultural Art at Pilgrim Place in Claremont.

The museum is being run by Kaitlyn Bylard, the museum's specialist.

Pomona's Pat Newton, an honorary member of the museum board, said the exhibit represents part of a collection of some 10,000 artifacts in the possession of the museum and Pilgrim Place.

"The artifacts (were) amassed by, particularly at the outset, the pilgrims who came here to live in their retirement years and Kaitlyn has done an enormous job in assessing what we have and writing

a treatise on what we are doing . . . to protect and preserve the artifacts," she said.

"(The exhibit) focuses on the art of writing and bookmaking and how both of those arts come together to create what we know as books," Bylard told La Nueva Voz during a recent tour of the facility. "This (cuneiform tablets) is an example of some of the earliest forms of writing in the world. These items were found in the Palestine area."

And fast forwarding to "modern" times, the exhibit has a Ladies Home Journal magazine from 1910, children's books made of fabric or cloth pages, and a 1946 "Child's Garden of Verses" by Robert Lewis Stevenson.

How does one end up in what seems like a fairly specialized area of museum work?

Well, Bylard was an English major (she actually had a double major – English and history) at Pacific Union College in the Napa Valley area, she earned a master's degree in history at

San Francisco State University, and is working on a doctorate in history at Claremont Graduate University. She interned before going to work in Claremont at the Hayward Area Historical Society south of Oakland.

(And Newton herself graduated in English literature from Pomona College.)

"What I love is telling the stories and each object has a story," Bylard said. "That's why I particularly love the diaries and



A Gregorian musical choir score is pictured, showing how musical notes were written before they were standardized.

things because you get to see glimpses of people's lives."

"I love trying to take care of these objects, too," she said. "I want them to last for more generations and that's been my big goal while I've been here."

She said the museum will close this summer for some renovations but until then they'll be working on the collection – both upstairs and in the basement – to continue "trying to find out what we've got (and) how do we display it, how do we take care of it and how do we preserve it for posterity."

Planning on going? The Petterson Museum is located at 730 Plymouth Road in Claremont. For more information, call (909) 399-5544.

"Friends of Pilgrim Place" was organized in 1968 to



A Zen poem "The Season of the Peaches" in calligraphy from mid-1900s Japan, translated into English, reads "Not out loud / Eyes looking down / Reciting sutras." Zen is a variant of Japanese Buddhism that emphasizes the training of the mind through meditation.



Pictured is a rare close-up look at the hieroglyph fragment, this one with "pictograms" for water, a bird and an ankh, which was the symbol for "life" in ancient Egyptian.



Pat Newton helps the camera focus on a 1917 story book, at left, created by museum founder Richard Petterson when he was seven. The book contains little stories written out by hand with hand-drawn illustrations. At right is an 1898 diary made out of a student notebook and describing the daily life of a girl who grew up in Compton. That young girl later became Petterson's mom.



Museum specialist Kaitlyn Bylard gives La Nueva Voz a close up look at a small fragment with a hieroglyph inscription, carved into stone, from Egypt sometime "BCE."

acquire, preserve and exhibit what was becoming an extensive collection of international and folk art brought to Pilgrim Place by retiring missionaries, pastors and other donors. Over an initial 20-year period, the group,

assisted by prominent local artists Richard and Alice Petterson, assembled and catalogued the growing collection.

The museum was built in 1986 to house the collection and open

Free exhibit... pg. 14



A Thai manuscript of a fairy tale from Thailand in the 1900s tells the story of an angel who disguised himself to marry a human woman.

Hector Rodriguez... from pg. 6

here and his family lives here.

The deputy chief was presented a miniature statue of the Goddess of Pomona by Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, who made the presentation on behalf of the city and called it “one of the absolute highest honors for the City of Pomona.”

“It says a lot about a person who is willing to stay as long as they have to commit their life to this city and I want to thank you for that,” Sandoval said.

He added that since Rodriguez will have more time on his hands now, he’s welcome to join in on the mayor’s signature clean-up effort on Tuesdays and Saturdays, something Rodriguez later said he would do, “riding shotgun with him in his little truck on Tuesdays.”

Ryan Rodriguez called the deputy chief a role model for his three brothers who taught them “treat people with respect and be professional at all times and everything else will follow.”

“This morning I put on my uniform for the very last time and that was extremely difficult,” Rodriguez said. “Thirty years later I’m still very, very proud to put on this uniform.”

“I am especially proud of the hard work that our police officers and professional staff do every day for our community,” he said, adding that “I literally grew up in this police department.”



Sgt. Ryan Rodriguez . . .
... master of ceremonies

“I started out as a 14-year-old boy, a teenager, and I’m leaving as a 50-year-old man,” he said. “I’ve made so many friends along the way, so many great memories, I’m going to miss everyone dearly.”

“Thank you to those police officers that I’ve had the opportunity to stand side by side with in trying to make this community a better place,” he added. “These streets can be tough. Pomona cops show a lot of courage, they show a lot of compassion and they are true heroes.”

“My advice to my fellow police officers as it has always been is always act professionally, always act with integrity and always have the courage to

do the right thing,” he said. “Please be safe. I’m going to miss you. I’m proud of the amazing job that you do every day.”

Rodriguez said his immediate plans for the future include remodeling the house and spending more time at his beach home in Mexico. He plans to work, although he’s not sure where he will end up.

He said he will continue to live in Pomona.

In addition to master of ceremonies Sgt. Rodriguez, two other brothers – Detective Michael Rodriguez and Corporal Adrian Rodriguez also work for the Pomona Police Department and participated in the program.

The deputy chief’s wife, Nicole, their two children and his mom, Blanca Rodriguez, also were on hand for the retirement ceremony.

Others making presentations during the ceremony included Pomona City Councilmembers Steve Lustro, Victor Preciado, Nora Garcia and Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, along with representatives of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Congresswoman Norma Torres, State Sen. Connie Leyva and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, as well as Downtown Pomona Owners Association President Carolyn Hemming, M. Joyce Bakersmith of the Willie White Park Focus Group Neighborhood Watch and Pomona Police Officers’ Association President Jesse Cardenas.

Former Pomona Police Chief Paul Capraro, retired Lt. Ronald McDonald and Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana also were in attendance.

Free exhibit... from pg. 13

it to the public. “It’s a little gem of a museum that very many Claremonters don’t even know is there and it been there for about 40 years,” Newton said.

The Petterson Museum is managed by a board of 13 members and seven honorary board members.

Heading to college... from pg. 11

take care of yourself.”

“I like to tell young women get married because you want to be married, not because you need someone to take care of you,” she said. “Be able to take care of yourself.”

“So you’re headed off to college and you’re trying to decide what you want to do and you may do one thing and then decide to do another, and that’s OK,” she said. “What I want you to do when you’re in college is I want you to find your passion, I want you to find what really motivates you and what really drives you.”

“In college you kind of get to explore that, through different classes that you take, clubs that you join, people that you meet,” she said.

And while she said college is “wonderful” and “awesome,” “I also want you to watch out for yourself.”

She said today’s women’s issues include pay equity, since a white woman makes 85 cents on a dollar for every dollar a man makes, “worse if African-American and even worse if you are a Latina.”

“You’re doing the job, you should get the pay,” Leyva said.

Other women’s rights are still under attack, she said, explaining the statute of limitations on rape was 10 years.

“We were able to get the statute of limitations eliminated so women victims can come forward and be survivors whenever they are ready,” she said. “I want you when you are in college to always be aware of your surroundings.”

“We always think it won’t happen to me,” she said. “Unfortunately, there are some people that are not good people in the world. So you need to keep your eyes open, your ears open and your wits about you.”

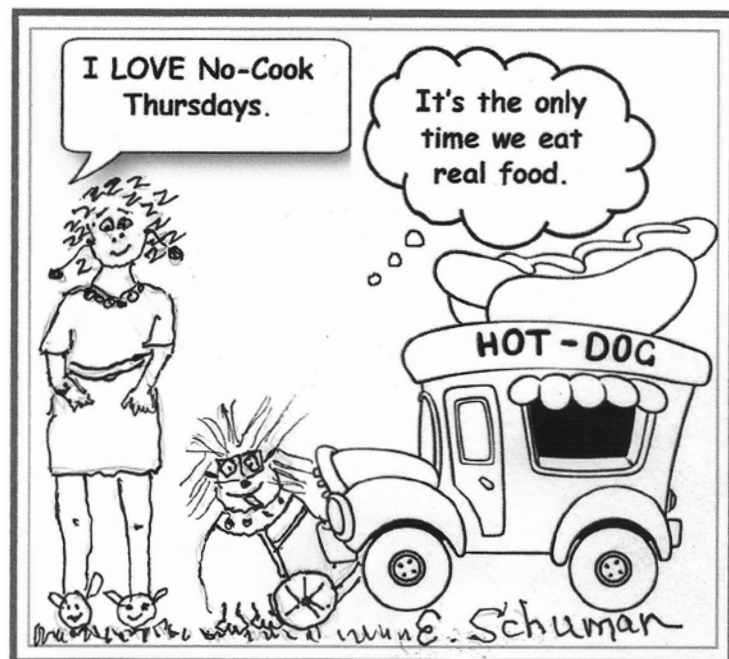
The Optimist Club program, called “Tea for the Soul,” was on a tea party theme complete with special hats, tea cups and even pearl necklaces to wear for the day.

Volunteers helped prepare sandwiches for the event in the kitchen at Pomona’s Ebell Museum and volunteer leaders in the community, mainly men, were on hand to act as servers.

The event was designed to provide guidance and encouragement to young women from Pomona who are going on to college.

Hope & Hurdles

By Evy Schuman



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

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FIRST-EVER SPANISH LANGUAGE CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY -- Thirty-seven participants in the Pomona Police Department's first-ever Spanish language Citizen's Police Academy graduated from the six-week program this month in ceremonies at Emiliano's Grill in Pomona. Classes were held weekly for two and a half hours in the City Council chambers and included presentations -- all in Spanish -- on topics including an overview of the police department, traffic, detective bureau, community programs and code enforcement. The department's victim's advocate also made a presentation to the class, along with representatives of the California Department of Motor Vehicles and the Mexican Consulate. Pictured with the graduates, at left, is Corporal Ernesto Rios, head of the Police Department's Community Programs and Youth Services Unit, along with Pomona City Councilmembers Rubio Gonzalez, left rear, and Victor Preciado, right rear. "As a unit, we decided that presenting this information to our Spanish-speaking community would be greatly beneficial," Rios said, adding that the concept was approved by the department's command staff. "Students were very appreciative . . . and have already asked about the possibility of a second class."



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Pomona's own Mr. Smith

By Jose Bermudez

How many times do most people move? How common is it to live in one location for most of one's life? How often do people change jobs and careers? While interviewing George Smith, a Pomona resident who is 90 years old and was born at San Antonio Hospital in Upland on February 2, 1929, these questions came to mind.

He has resided in Pomona since 1929, first in one residence and then in the house next door. He attended public schools in Pomona, beginning with elementary school at Emerson School which is now Emerson Village Apartments. He then completed his public school education at Garey High School. College involved two years at Cal Poly Pomona (when what was then only a college was still located in San Dimas), and two years at La Verne College, before it became a university, graduating in 1950 with a degree in education.

He taught one year of sixth grade in the Baldwin Park School District, then was drafted into the U.S. Army and served two years stateside. He was trained as a paramedic and served in a hospital admissions capacity at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, Mr. Smith resumed his teaching career in Baldwin Park as a seventh and eighth grade math teacher. He taught there for 28 years. Then he taught at the Webb School in Claremont. He attributed his inspiration and direction for teaching to Glen A. Dallenbach, his Boy Scout mentor and elementary school math teacher.

Mr. Smith remembers the Fox Theater where he saw Joe E. Brown, a comedic actor of the time, in person, and he worked at Frasher's Photography Store in Downtown Pomona part time and during the summer while attending La Verne College.

Mr. Frasher was known for his black and white photographs set in post cards of scenes and small towns that were taken throughout the Southwest. As he remembers, the Pomona

downtown area was located on Second Street at Garey Avenue. Other stores he remembers included Buffum's, Orange Belt, and Newberry's.

He recalls that there were orange groves east of Palomares Street and north of McKinley Avenue going towards the 10 freeway, which he believes was constructed around 1955. He fondly remembers walking through orange groves to reach Pomona Valley Hospital. Mr. Smith and his father rode a trolley car from the intersection of Garey Avenue and what is now the freeway to travel to Los Angeles. They traveled to L.A. to watch a baseball game between the Hollywood Stars and the Los Angeles Angels.

Mr. Smith listened to the "Lucky Strike Hit Parade" radio program and bought records of big band music and jazz. He enjoyed listening to Bennie Goodman, Count Basie, Vaughn Monroe, and Merv Griffin. While attending school dances in Baldwin Park, he was exposed to tunes like "Rock Around the Clock" by Bill Haley and the

Comets, "Only You" by the Platters, and "Story Untold" by the Nut Megs. At first, he did not have an appreciation of this style of music which became known as rock and roll. Over time, he learned to appreciate it, and frequently attended high school dances, even participating as a disc jockey.

Throughout his teaching career, Mr. Smith always enjoyed teaching and interacting with his students. He shared that his students felt the same way about him. To make this point, he explained that some of his students even today continue to keep in touch either by phone or occasionally visiting him.

Throughout his life, Mr. Smith has remained physically



George Smith

including Alaska where he drove with a Girl Scout group. While there, he was flown in an airplane over the Arctic Circle.

Going to Alaska, they drove up through Oregon and Washington, and returned through the Yukon Territory and Glacier National Park. He has also driven to all Canadian provinces. He attributes his longevity and good health to not drinking, smoking or taking drugs. He feels that good genes helped from his mother's side of the family; she passed away at 91 and her father (his grandfather) left them at 96 years of age. He also attributes his long life and well-being to his mother and father for raising him in a loving and caring household.

There is much to be said for a life with love, family, stability, and service, in this case the profession of teaching.


Editor's Note: Jose Bermudez, a safety professional for nearly 40 years and normally the "safety" columnist for La Nueva Voz with his "Safety First" column, this month changes it up a bit and sits down for an interview with long-time Pomona resident George Smith – not really a "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" story but more of a "Mr. Smith Stays in Pomona" story featuring a look back to another time. His column is presented as a public service. He can be contacted at jsbrmdz8@gmail.com.

fit. Even though he did not letter in high school sports, he became physically active with the Boy Scouts. He has hiked up to Mount Baldy (five to six times), Mount St. Jacinto (four to five times), Mount San Gorgonio (an amazing 35 times). He also hiked up nearby Mojave Desert peaks. He continued his involvement with the Boy Scouts as an adult.

He biked once to Lake Elsinore which was short of a round trip. The trip was interrupted with a flat tire near Chino Prison where he got a ride home. He did ride his bike to San Fernando and back. He has also driven to all contiguous states, and to others

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



House of Ruth's Pat Bell named new executive director

House of Ruth veteran Pat Bell has been appointed to the position of executive director following last month's retirement of Sue Aebischer.



Pat Bell

Bell, who most recently served as director of development for House of Ruth, joined the organization in 2008. Through

her efforts, House of Ruth has increased private fundraising with foundations and social media, most notably through the annual "Purple Purse Campaign," a national effort of the Allstate Foundation to support domestic violence and financial abuse victims.

She also has worked with staff and volunteers to organize major events each year.

Prior to joining House of Ruth, Bell served for more than 20 years in the private sector working in marketing and client relations, including 15 years with the Walt Disney Company in its retail division and guest services, according to a news release.

She received a bachelor's

degree from Northern Arizona University.

"The board is especially grateful to the members of the executive director search committee, chaired by Renee Young," said House of Ruth Board President Jill Grigsby. "The search committee spoke with staff members and others about the position, evaluated applicants and held interviews by phone and in person."

House of Ruth has provided life-saving domestic violence services for residents of eastern Los Angeles and western San Bernardino Counties since 1977. Programs are open to all battered women, men and their children, all free of charge.

Bell ringers invited to join new community handbell choir in La Verne

Interested in ringing?

A donation of bells has made it possible for the Windsong Southland Chorale to form a new community handbell choir, and the group is looking for bell ringers – whether new or experienced.

The Chorale, directed by Dr. Janet Harms, has acquired the set of bells donated by Dr. Donovan Gray, formerly of Azusa Pacific University.

The new group will be called "The Bells of Windsong," and will be directed by Joan Hamm, who joined Windsong in 2002 and has previously directed the Windsong Handbell Choir.

Hamm sings with the California Philharmonic Chorale

at Disney Hall each summer and has been actively involved with choral and handbell music for more than 30 years.

She serves as the director of Foothill Vibrations Handbell and Chime Ensemble, and the group "Make a Joyful Noise," a children's handbell choir at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Upland.

New or experienced bell ringers are invited to join the new community handbell choir. The only requirement is the ability to read music.

Rehearsals will be held at La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church. For more information, contact Hamm at joan.hamm@ymail.com or call (909) 982-0875.

Cuentito for Today

My Viejito – Seeing Dead People and Weird Things

By Susie Perales

Only my Viejito would get a rare side effect from an OTC medicine. He has been coughing non-stop for a few days. So, I gave him the cough medicine we bought the other day.

This morning he told me he was seeing things. I thought, hmm, maybe it's because he has a fever. I gave him some Tylenol to lower his temperature. Then, I thought, maybe he's having a mini-breakdown! But that's not really something he'd get over a simple cold and cough. My next thought was that he might be going stir crazy, because he's been stuck in the house for almost two months! First, his back went out, then he fell in the garden, and a few days later he couldn't walk, and on top of that, he couldn't sleep.

My honey isn't the type of person who likes going to a massage therapist. He had never been to one before and

said he would never go. I knew he was in excruciating pain, because after I reassured him that he'd be 100 percent better, he agreed to go see my friend, who is the best massage therapist I've ever known! He was so happy when he left there that he suggested bringing her home with us! After two sessions he was pain free and walking again!

He was just getting over all that when he got super sick. It was not a mere cold and cough. It was the worst flu bug he's ever had.

I've never seen him go through so much at once. He rarely gets sick. It was rather scary to watch him feel so miserable. But I took good care of him. That's where the vow 'for better, for worse and in sickness and in health' kicks in.

I asked him what he was seeing, and his response was, "I am seeing a bunch of dogs, spi-

ders, huge wasps, a ginormous man in the bedroom, a new TV in our guest room, and Marilyn Monroe!" That's when he asked me for a second dose of the cough medicine!! Ay, Que hombre mío!! Siempre me hace reír!

It was kind of creepy to watch him looking at these things that I couldn't see and a bit bizarre. I was getting ready to order him a strait jacket from Amazon! After all the craziness he was experiencing we voted to trash the cough medicine!

Thank God he's on the mend now, because now I am sick and it's his turn to watch over me. It's such a blessing to have someone who can take care of you and treat you like a precious jewel. Y con la cabeza dentro de un bote de basura and looking like the Llorona! (and with my head inside a trash can and looking like the Llorona).



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**PHOTOS BY
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HERE'S HOW IT'S DONE -- One Easter egg hunter obviously with a little experience under his belt demonstrates his technique for getting out there and picking up as many eggs as possible in the City of Pomona Easter egg hunt this month at Pomona's Garfield Park. The city also hosted egg hunts at Kiwanis Park, Washington Park and Ralph Welch Park, all for children ages 11 and under. Included were free games, face painting, and free activities.



ONE OF POMONA'S FAVORITE FAMILIES -- Joshua and Chara Swodeck and their kids Jackson, at left, and Brooklyn were spotted hanging out at the Easter egg hunt this month at Pomona's Garfield Park.



Experienced Easter egg hunters came in all sizes, all with different techniques and different sized baskets, bags and buckets, at this month's Pomona-sponsored Easter egg hunt at Garfield Park where city recreation officials, Pomona Police Department volunteers and Pomona Lions Club members all were on hand to assist. More than 200 people turned out at Garfield Park.



FAMILY PORTRAIT AT GARFIELD -- The Beltran kids pose for a photo at this month's Pomona-sponsored Easter egg hunt at Garfield Park. Pictured, from left, are Carimel Valenzuela, a sixth grader at Diamond Point Elementary School; Kimberly Beltran, a kindergartener at Vejar Elementary School; Leslie Beltran, a fifth grader at Vejar and Steve Beltran, a seventh grader at Vejar.

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Photo by Renee Barbee
RUNNERS -- AND BUBBLES SHOT INTO THE AIR -- WERE EVERYWHERE -- Runners and bubbles fired into the air were everywhere on Pomona's Fairplex campus this month for the annual "Bubble Run" or what organizers billed as a "good clean run." Thousands of runners of all ages and sizes were on hand for the 5k run which used a "rolling start," with individual starting times every few minutes for groups of about 200, with one of the group starts pictured. The run supports local charity "partners" and runners can make post-race donations to charities or donate during the registration process. Organizers also offer charities an opportunity to sell registrations through their own web site and keep 100 percent of the proceeds. Participants run, walk, dance and play across a three-mile course, watching out for foam "bogs" of colored suds along the way.



Pony rides were a popular attraction at this year's "Spring in the Farm" at Fairplex.



POMONA OPTIMISTS HONOR STUDENTS OF THE MONTH -- Students from "City of Knowledge" school in Pomona were honored for their outstanding academic achievement as students of the month for February and March by the Pomona Optimist Club at a recent meeting at Mr. D's Diner in Pomona. Honorees, front row, from left, are Khalil Glass, third grade; Noah Altamimi, second grade; and Ameena Abidi, fifth grade (for March) and Layal Hakkak, fourth grade; and Adam Altamimi, Noah's twin, second grade (for February). Back row, from left, are Optimist member Debra Martin, Optimist treasurer Fernando Meza, Optimist secretary and event coordinator M. Joyce Bakersmith, Optimist vice president Ruth Alvarez and Optimist member Rebecca Santana.



Photos by Renee Barbee

SPRING IN THE FARM AT FAIRPLEX -- It was time again for the annual "Spring in the Farm" at Pomona's Fairplex this month as the popular free community event brought dozens of families to The Farm at Fairplex to get an up-close look at all things associated with agriculture and farming. Included were workshops and introductions to everything from rope making and hay baling to live animals, growing, well, growing pretty much everything, and more. There was even a hay bale maze for the kids.

Hydroponics and aquaponics were an important part of the offerings this month at the annual "Spring in the Farm" event at Pomona's Fairplex.



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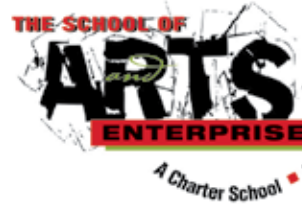
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U.S. Census campaign... from pg. 5

with the State of California in a lawsuit opposing the addition of a citizenship question in 2020.”

She said that one question would “significantly lower the estimate of people who participate in being counted,” causing the county to lose a significant amount of money providing funding for services for residents.

“We can’t afford not to be counted,” Solis said. “Everyone has to be counted. The information helps us build upon our economic stability here in the county, it helps to provide for wealth for small businesses, to help even make investments, micro-loan programs, enterprise programs, to help build our small, minority, women, and veteran and disabled-owned businesses, all of that is so important for all of us.”

She also thanked Gov. Newsom for making available \$9.4 million to Los Angeles County to invest in local community-based organizations to help “scale up the media plan” in the county’s 88 cities to better inform the public on their rightful place in being counted.

Hard-to-count populations in-

clude individuals with limited access to the internet, renters or the homeless, individuals who may have a language barrier or those who may harbor a fear of reprisal by the federal government.

“Nobody will take away your right to have your voices heard,” she said.

County officials said Los Angeles County is the “hardest-to-count” county in the country.

Solis was joined at the podium by Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Los Angeles County CEO Sachi Hamai.

“Los Angeles is a city where everybody counts and we’ll work hard to make sure everyone is counted in 2020,” Garcetti said. “Today is about standing together to reaffirm that promise and modeling a path that can be followed by cities and counties across America.”

The county stands to lose \$2,000 for each resident left uncounted. If a million residents or about 10 percent of the county are not counted, some \$20 billion



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, at podium, speaks at this month’s “Census Call to Action” news conference and rally in the Los Angeles Civic Center, kicking off an information campaign on the U.S. 2020 Census. Pictured with the supervisor, seated, from left, are Los Angeles County CEO Sachi Hamai, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

could be left on the table over the course of the next decade.

As one example, figures showed that some 47,000 Latino children alone in Los Angeles County were not included in the 2010 Census.

The news conference was held

in the Civic Center’s Grand Park a year to the day of the “reference day” or the actual launch date of next year’s official Census.

More than 100 representatives of community organizations, unions and government agencies

joined the elected officials at the news conference.

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