



Pomona's new city manager goes to work restoring trust in city staff

New Pomona City Manager James Makshanoff said the biggest difference in his approach to the job and those who have gone before him is his interest in maintaining transparency in how the city manager and his staff operate.

La Nueva Voz asked the first public question at this month's "meet and greet" in the Pomona City Council chambers with the city manager, city clerk and city attorney.

In his response to what he sees as different about his approach, he said transparency gives the public confidence in what the city is doing.

He pointed out that there is some "activism" out there with

efforts to "take more control" over what the city is doing and efforts to have more oversight over the government.

And while he stopped short of pointing a finger at his predecessor, he said this type of activism can come from a lack of transparency and a lack of consistency in the past – and it can make it more difficult to move forward.

He said the way around that is to build up trust with the residents and the business community over time.

The second part of a



New Pomona City Manager James Makshanoff responds to a question from the audience at this month's "meet and greet" for the city manager, city attorney and city clerk.

two-part question from La Nueva Voz was how he views the city's role in going after new business to bring to Pomona.

First, he said he has a staff that focuses in the area of economic development.

"I think part of that bringing businesses to Pomona is going to be based upon new housing," he added, explaining that establishing a bigger base for business to draw on will help bring more businesses to Pomona since businesses tend to focus on the bottom line.

"They have a formula and they look at so many variables... and if it doesn't pop out correctly, then they're not going to come," Makshanoff said.

"I think we have to look at our housing stock and how we address that and how we address new projects," he said. "I think the Maya theaters (project) is hopefully going to be an economic engine and drive some of that synergy for the area to bring in new businesses and attract."

He added that hopefully the tax credits Maya is waiting for will

come through "and we can get that project going."

"The staff will keep on meeting with retailers and commercial people and try to sell Pomona," he said. "I think that's important, but we have our work cut out for us."

Makshanoff, who described his job as implementing the decisions of the city council, said a big part of that is developing a budget for the city – a process he said has already begun for the city's July 1 to July 1 fiscal year.

He said the city has 600 employees and, by latest estimates, 165,000 residents.

"My job is to make sure we're all kind of rowing in the same direction," he said.

He added he has an open door policy for the public yet he views his department heads as experts in their departments and wants them to "feel empowered to do their job."

And, he said, he tries "not to overstep and micromanage them."

He said in general, city managers "want to do things, we want to improve things, we want to make things better."

"You're always looking for challenges and I think with Pomona there's great opportunity here,"

Pomona's new city manager... pg. 2

OPINION

The U.S. Census is coming to town and Pomona needs your help!

By Jeff Schenkel, Publisher

For those of you who pay close attention to the calendar on your wall, you already know – and for those who may not track these things so closely, you still might have heard – it has been another 10 years and the U.S. Census is again coming to town in a huge process in which every resident in the United States is counted.

Actually, some of you may remember we published a similar

message in this same space and on this same page 10 years ago. Seems like only yesterday, huh? (La Nueva Voz, page one, Jan. 28, 2010).

As we mentioned last time around, the entire process is required by the Constitution of the United States – Article I, Section 2 – to take place every 10 years.

And it is important for a variety of reasons. First, Census tabula-

tions will help determine the way billions of dollars in federal funding are spent. Of course, we want as many of those federal dollars to end up in Pomona as possible.

This year, Pomona and cities and counties everywhere have already set up their own "Complete Count" committees which are hard at work on plans to help get, well, a complete count in the Census.

U.S. Census coming to town... pg. 4

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Pomona's new city manager... from pg. 1

he said. "It's almost a blank canvas."

He also assured the room that Pomona would be his "last job."

"There's great opportunities and great things in front of us," he said, pointing to housing projects, Maya theaters and the Gold Line coming through North Pomona.

Makshanoff, who was in week number four on the job at the time of the "meet and greet," is a resident of San Clemente. He has been working for cities since receiving his bachelor's degree in

1990 from Cal State University Long Beach. He also earned a master's degree in public administration there.

He worked for Brea, Covina, Downey, Azusa and San Clemente before coming to Pomona. And he has served as a city manager for the past eight years.

Pomona City Clerk Rosalia Butler, on the job for the past 13 months, grew



Members of the public this month had an opportunity to meet and chat with Pomona's new city manager, city attorney and city clerk. Pictured, from left, are City Clerk Rosalia Butler, City Manager James Makshanoff, and City Attorney Sonia Carvalho.





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up in Covina and is a resident of San Dimas. She holds a bachelor's degree in public administration and a master's degree in

business administration.

She worked in Covina, Bell Gardens and West Covina before joining the staff in Pomona. She has worked in local government for the past 14 years.

And City Attorney Sonia Carvalho, an attorney with the firm of Best, Best and Krieger, has

been on the job in Pomona for the past six months. A resident of Fullerton, she grew up in Azusa and graduated from UCLA law school.

She has been with Best, Best and Krieger for the past 27 years and has been a partner for 20 years.

Authors to participate in 'Local Authors Day' at Pomona Public Library

The Pomona Public Library will hold a "Local Authors Day" on Saturday, March 28, at the library.

Residents will have an opportunity to meet authors working in the Pomona area and learn how to publish their own work.

The event will be held from 1 to 5 p.m.

at the library, 625 S. Garey Ave., Pomona.

Local authors interested in participating can submit their information online at <https://forms.gle/ewp6tPjYXpg-FRF917>.

For more information, call (909) 784-5220.

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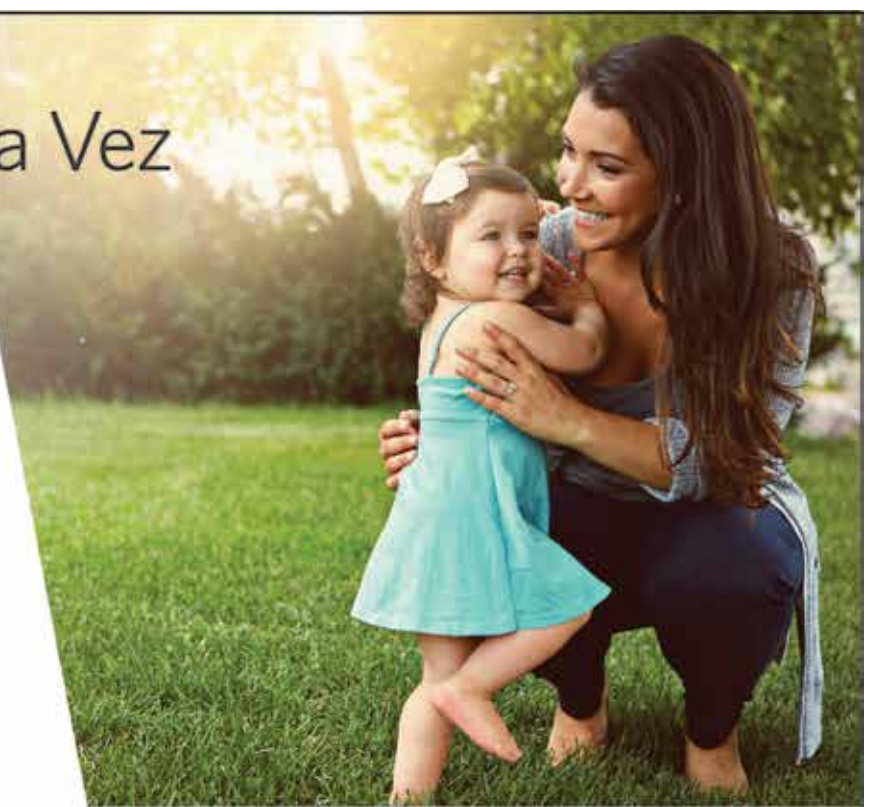
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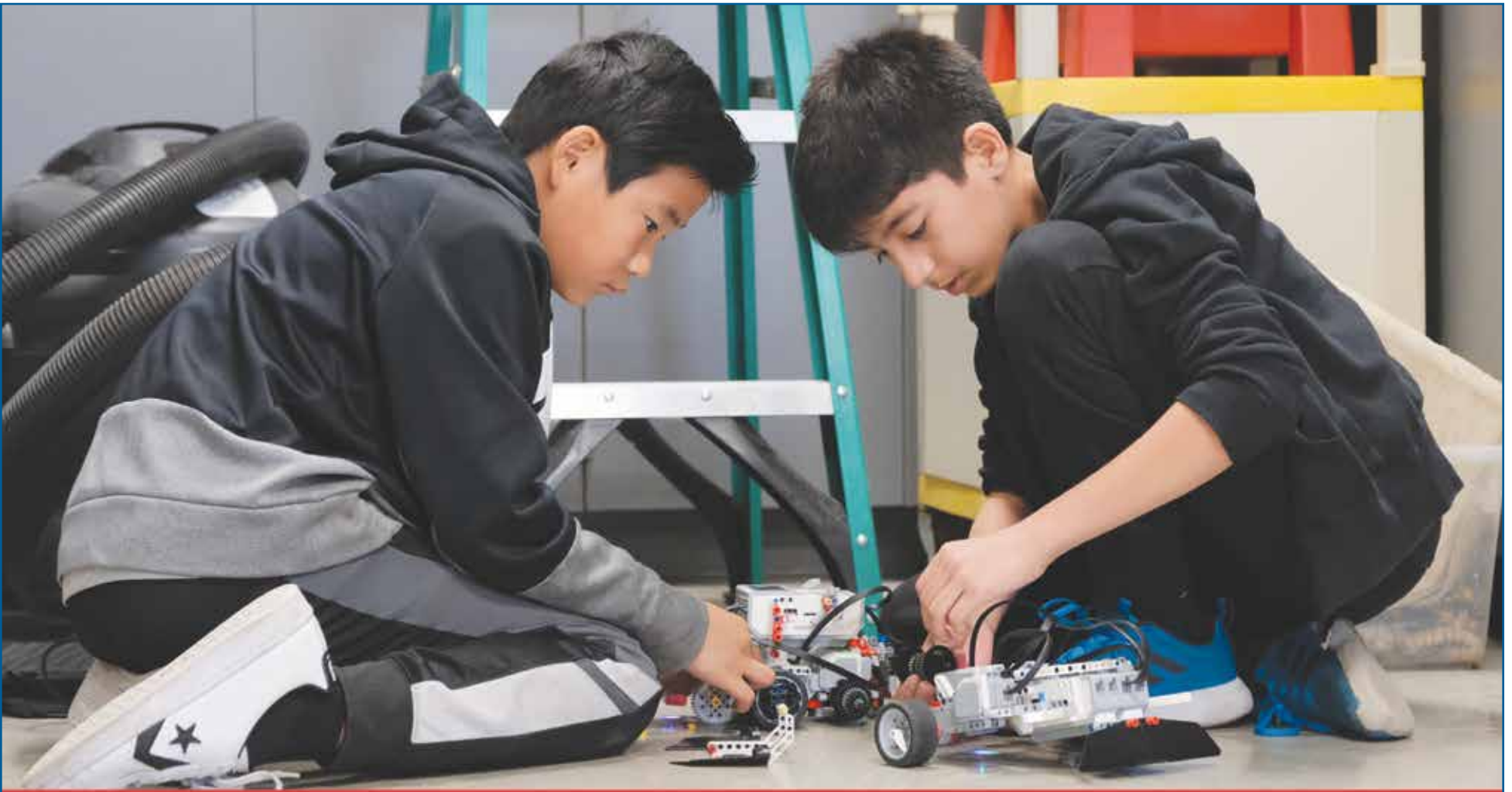


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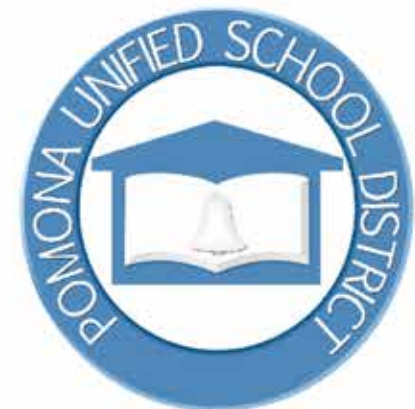
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U.S. Census coming to town... from pg. 1

La Nueva Voz has been involved in some of these meetings and we've run stories on their progress.

The problem 10 years ago was a concern in Pomona that many people may not trust the Census, may be concerned over what government officials will do with the information and may not be clear on exactly who is supposed to be included in the count.

Fast forward 10 years and, frankly, not much has changed in that department.

In fact, historically, Pomona has been undercounted because it is a "hard to count" community – it is large, it has a high percentage of renter population, it is overcrowded with numerous multi-generational households, low-income households, foreign born, homeless, young adults moving around during their college years and, well, you get the idea.

And if we don't get a representative count, we not only leave dollars on the table – we also end up with elected officials with smaller sized districts than otherwise would be the case.

Benita DeFrank, Pomona's

neighborhood services director, told the Complete Count Committee last summer when it went to work that Pomona had less than a 73 percent response rate in the 2010 Census, ranking it high among other hard to count communities in Los Angeles County.

Look at the numbers. The federal government allocates more than \$675 billion to communities based on Census figures – money for highway planning, medical services, supplemental nutritional funds, transportation, education, youth and family services and more.

So how much of Pomona's share is left on the table? Officials estimate that in California, every person who is counted is "worth" \$2,000 annually in federal funding. Based on those undercounted 10 years ago, that \$2,000 per person works out to more than \$5 million a year or more than \$50 million in the 10 years the Census numbers remain in effect.

We're thinking we could do a lot around here with that \$50 million.

So, the Census is a good thing, and being counted is important.

And everybody counts – homeless individuals, children age 4 and

under, senior citizens, everybody – citizens and non-citizens alike, just as long as you are in Pomona at the time the Census is taken.

Plus, a key message is that the results of the U.S. Census are confidential – they are shared only in a statistical form and individual results may not be shared under penalty of law.

Also, once it is compiled, the information is available to everyone in statistical form – businesses deciding where they want to open their next store, engineers working on environmental impacts of projects, even students working on completing a school project.

So, work with us on the Census this time around, folks. The Census is a good thing, a complete count will only benefit the community and everyone in it, there are no legal downsides to providing your information, and we all have everything to gain and nothing to lose.

Most of us will be answering the Census questions online, so this time it will be even easier than ever.

But it will be up to each one of us to do our part and complete the Census.

Just as we said in this space 10 years ago, it only takes a few minutes and it costs you nothing, but it pays for itself many times over in the benefit we all will receive in federal funds and economic impact over the next 10 years.

Pomona non-profit sets date for 'Help Immigrant Families Thrive' gala

Pomona non-profit Newcomers Access Center has scheduled its "Help Immigrant Families Thrive!" fundraising gala and silent auction for Sunday, April 5, in Abernethy Hall at Pilgrim Place in Claremont.

Keynote speaker for the event is Dustin Craun, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

A creative media strategist, filmmaker and ethnic studies scholar, Craun will share ideas about im-

migration issues and interfaith activism.

Tickets are \$60 per person (\$420 for a table for seven) and are available on line at www.newcomersaccesscenter.org. To purchase tickets by mail, send payment to Newcomers Access Center, 401 N. Gibbs St., Pomona, CA 91767.

The organization serves refugees and immigrants in the community.

For more information, call (909) 455-3248.



Photo by Mark Gluba

TRIVIA BEE WINNERS -- Who knew they were that good? Winners of the 30th annual Pomona Public Library and Pomona Heritage Trivia Bee last month at the Pomona Ebell Auditorium were members of the Pomona City Council Team. Pictured from left, modestly showing off their winner's trophy, are Pomona City Councilmembers Steve Lustro, Nora Garcia and Victor Preciado. Congratulations to the winners and all the participants!




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Dustin is a creative media strategist, filmmaker, writer and ethnic studies scholar (both BA & MA degrees) and a community organizer. He is widely published globally. Dustin has traveled to 25 countries and worked in Malaysia, Ghana, Morocco, and Mexico. He will share ideas about immigration issues and interfaith activism.

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Purchase tickets online or via check payable to Newcomers Access Center and mail to address below. If for some reason you are unable to attend, a donation will be most appreciated. Thank you for your support.*

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Retired Teachers Association meetings set on legislative advocacy, pensions

Everything from legislation advocacy to a presentation by Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens on native plants in landscape design will be on tap at next month's meeting of the California Retired Teachers Association Division 13.

The meeting is scheduled for 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, March 11, at the Hillcrest Retirement Community, 2705 Mt. View Drive, La Verne.

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

The group also will host a free pre-retirement workshop on pension basics from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12, in the Bonita Unified School District Board room, 115 W. Allen Ave., San Dimas, featuring speakers from the California State Teachers' Retirement System.

L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis opens county's first new 'Wellness Community' in Pomona

A Los Angeles County-owned building in the Pomona Civic Center that has long provided medical services to the community opened its doors this month as a repurposed and expanded Pomona Center for Public Health – Pomona Wellness Community, providing everything from medical to mental health to trauma prevention and even recovery from alcohol and substance abuse.

The facility, located at 750 S. Park Ave., Pomona, now is designed as a place for community members to gather, find resources or participate in wellness activities.

Included will be everything from physical activity classes to nutrition and health resources and more – and all activities are free and open to the community.

Parktree Community Health Center will continue to provide services alongside the new community partners who will be staffing the facility.

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, told more than 100 guests – mainly community representatives and public health officials – that the facility is one of the

county's 14 clinics but is the first of seven to combine outside partnering agencies in a total wellness approach.

"This is the model of how we move forward in all of our communities and you guys are going first," she said.

As an example, she said their substance abuse prevention and treatment program focuses on the prevention side.

"And that's how this is possible by acknowledging that preventing



Dr. Barbara Ferrer
Director, Los Angeles County
Department of Public Health

substance abuse really means investing in folks so that they can be emotionally well and feel supported," she added.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis thanked Ferrer for taking the leadership "to really repurpose and regenerate and reinvest in this community."

She reminded guests that she once lived in Pomona while attending Cal Poly University – an

experience that she said "compelled me to stand up and say, 'you know what, Pomona deserves so much more.'"

Solis said she noticed the county building during a visit months ago at a homeless facility across the street at the Pomona armory and



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis stops by the Tri-City Mental Health table during her tour of Pomona's new Center for Public Health - Pomona Wellness Community. Pictured, from left, are Solis, Tri-City community navigator Gabriela Cruz, and Tri-City mental health specialist Ernie Avila.

asked her staff to see what could be done to transform the facility.

"Now it isn't just a public health center, it's a wellness center which exceeded even my expectations at the time," Solis said, adding that it will be a place "for all of the community," even in helping people

find jobs.

Yet she said it could not have been completed without the participation of the various "partners."

"All of you helped to make this quilt what it is – diverse, strong, and the fiber of the community."

Wellness Community... pg. 17



La economía de Trump sólo trabaja para los ricos.

La desigualdad en Estados Unidos ha llegado a un nivel histórico, y los recortes a impuestos que Trump le ha regalado a los ricos y a las corporaciones sólo han hecho que el problema sea peor. Al contrario de Trump, yo soy verdaderamente un empresario que se hizo a sí mismo, y soy alguien que sabe cómo hacer crecer la prosperidad para todos. Mi plan fiscal garantizará que los ricos paguen las mismas tasas de impuestos que todos los demás – lo que significa que podremos darle un recorte de 10% a los impuestos del 95% de las familias estadounidenses.

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Pomona resident Mike Cargile challenges incumbent Congresswoman Torres for 35th District seat

Pomona resident Mike Cargile, the lone contender challenging incumbent Congresswoman Norma Torres in next week's primary election, said he is a family man with an objective – and an overwhelming motivation in the race – “protecting, preserving and providing for our families.”

“As a husband and a father with many good friends, I feel truly blessed to have the opportunity to be a representative for some of the most wonderful people I've ever met,” Cargile said. “Through the years I have been a coach, a crossing guard for my kids, a booster president and fundraiser and a deacon at my church.”

The Republican candidate said professionally, he has been a writer, an actor, a director, a producer, an editor and a marketing director.

“Additionally, I helped run a small ‘indie’ music label and managed a rock band from Australia and somewhere in the middle of all that, I helped handle the private label manufacturing for ‘The Power Rangers’ food products,” he added.

A resident of California since 1991, Cargile served as a quartermaster Army officer before going “individual ready reserve” after Desert Storm.

He and his wife Nan have raised their two children in Southern California.

“I understand that to whom much is given, much is required,”



Mike and Nan Cargile

he said. “And from that is borne my desire to serve the people of the 35th Congressional District of California.”

“At a time of unprecedented assault on our freedoms, our traditions and our Constitution, we need representatives willing to stand in the gap on behalf of the American people,” Cargile said. “Our citizens deserve to be treated with dignity, respect and unwavering support.”

According to his web site, Cargile believes that “life begins at conception,” he believes “the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed – period,” and he believes that “we as a nation have the right and responsibility to demand that anyone seeking to enter the United States use our designated ports of entry.”

But at the same time, he says “if you are in the country illegally... you need me to get elected”

because he plans to “do something to fix our broken immigration system.”

And on impeachment, which he said was the “straw that broke the camel’s back for me,” he said the House of Representatives does not get to dictate to the executive branch how it conducts foreign policy.”

On health care, he believes “the biggest roadblock to a robust healthcare system is government intrusion.” He said it should be based on a free market system using competition to drive prices down.

For more information on Cargile, who describes himself as both business and family friendly, visit the web site at www.cargileforcongress.com.

Services pending for former Pomona Councilmember Steve Atchley

Funeral services were pending for former Pomona City Councilmember Steve Atchley who reportedly died of a heart attack on Feb. 16 at the age of 68.

Atchley, who enjoyed everything from swearing in board members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce to conducting a ribbon cutting in Pomona and even occasionally grabbing the microphone and singing at holiday parties, represented Pomona’s District 6 on the council.



Steve Atchley

A California native and a Pomona resident since 1963, he was first elected to the council in 2007. He served for six years. Before that, he served as a member of the Pomona Planning Commission for two years.

He served on numerous boards and commissions while on the council and served as past chair of the Pomona Valley Transit Authority and as a member of the Tri-City Mental Health Association.

Atchley regularly served as master of ceremonies at performances of the Pomona Concert Band, and he was a member of the Blue Ribbon Committee of the Los Angeles County Fair Association.

In his private life, Atchley taught economics, finance and MBA classes to undergraduate and graduate college students at Kingston University in Norwalk, where he was later named president.

He was a devout Catholic, a member of the Knights of Columbus and a lector during Sunday Mass for years.

Atchley also was well known as an amateur magician and regularly performed at business and private events both in Southern California and across Asia during his business travels.

He leaves his wife, Patrice, and eight children – one son and seven daughters.

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ASSISTANCE LEAGUE VALENTINE TEA -- The 21st annual Assistance League of Pomona Valley Vintage Valentine Tea -- this year with tickets sold out for the first time ever -- was held at Pomona’s historic Ebell Club this month. And, as always, the event had it all -- volunteer student tea servers, raffle items, baked goods for sale (all donated by members), and more. First Vice President of Membership Cathy Harden, at the podium with Pomona Valley Historical Society President Deborah Clifford, at right, told guests one admission ticket to the event purchased three or more warm jackets for kids the group serves in its Operation School Bell program providing free school clothes. Funds raised at the event also supported the group’s dental center program. President Denise Delgado said more than 200 guests attended the event. She added that the Assistance League has presented a fundraising golf tournament for the past 20 years. This year’s tournament is scheduled for May at Red Hill Country Club in Rancho Cucamonga.

New \$4 million Pomona park named in honor of Phil and Nell Soto

Pomona's newest park – a \$4 million upgrade in one of Pomona's oldest neighborhoods – was officially opened this month in ceremonies attracting about 300 guests naming the park in the memory of Pomona residents Phil and Nell Soto, described as two of the most influential Latino politicians in California history.

The 1.76 acre park, located at Park and Orange Grove Avenues in the Wilton Heights Historic District, was created as a "passive" park which, according to the architects, means it is designed for residents of the immediately local community who can walk to the park.

"All of us know the value of green space and all of us know the value of parks," said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. "It's not just an environmental issue, but it's also a social issue, it's also an access issue, it's an equity issue, it's making sure that members of our community have access to a park within walking distance."

He said homes in the area were built as far back as the 1880s.

The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy provided grants totaling \$2.5 million to purchase the land and design the park. And a \$1.39 million "urban greening" grant from the California Natural Resources Agency combined with \$141,000 from the City of Pomona's park and recreation improvement fund rounded out the financial package.

Work on the project got under way in 2014.

"Phil and Nell Soto did so much for this community," said State Sen. Connie Leyva, adding that the first campaign she worked on was former Pomona City Councilmember Nell Soto's campaign for the California assembly – when Leyva was 25.

"Pomona has a big heart, especially for the love of Phil and Nell Soto," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis.

"I wish we could pop these up everywhere . . . because that's re-



A special box of butterflies is released into the air to mark the opening of the new Phil and Nell Soto Park. From left are Former Miss Pomona Princess and former Pomona City Councilmember Adriana Robledo, former Pomona City Councilmember Danielle Soto, former Miss Pomona Princess Lorena Gonzalez and former Miss Pomona Princess and former Parks and Recreation Commissioner Lauren DeMott.



Former Pomona City Councilmember Danielle Soto



State Sen. Connie Leyva

deserves to have a park in their community."

And this park, she pointed out, incorporates elements of water efficiency, energy efficiency and re-

source conservation.

Solis, who said she served with Nell Soto in the California legislature, called Phil and Nell Soto two prominent leaders who "dedicated their lives" to helping stabilize California's communities "through relentless fighting for social justice, economic freedom and environmental causes."

She said Phil Soto, one of the first Latinos elected to state office, fought alongside the farmworkers, for students and the poor, marched with Cesar Chavez and campaigned with both Robert and John F. Kennedy.

And Nell Soto, a native of Pomona, was elected to the assembly at the age of 72, she added.

Former Pomona City Councilmember Phil and Nell Soto Park... pg. 12



A visitor to the park tries out one of the exercise machines available.

ally the urgency I think that our communities are waiting for," Solis said. "Because with good parks come good health, come good relationships, reduces stress, helps to clean the environment but also allows for a good environment for everyone, and everyone



One of two bridges in the new Phil and Nell Soto Park was already in use on opening day.

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L.A. County Supervisor Solis honors African American leaders during Black History Month in Pomona

Five African American leaders – including three from Pomona – were recognized as honorees on Valentine’s Day this month by Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis at her inaugural Black History Month reception at Pomona’s St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

“We need to think back about the times that so many people made so many sacrifices including for me,” Solis told nearly 200 guests crowded into the church patio. “I don’t stand here alone on anything that I’ve done by myself.”

“I stand on the shoulders of so many other people that worked so hard to make it available for a daughter of an immigrant family, first in her family to go to college, people fighting for affirmative action, people fighting for civil rights, people fighting for the right to vote, and the right to be recognized and treated equal, all of those things happened because



Dr. Soraya Coley



Pastor Ivory Brown



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T.J. Campbell

so many other people fought so hard,” she continued.

“We know about the adversity, we know about discrimination, we know about the shameful legacy of slavery and Jim Crow and how African Americans have fought the good fight for all people, they helped to lead the way on civil rights so that all of us could have these treasured rights,” Solis said.

“And they truly built this country, African Americans . . . their history and their footprint is everywhere and . . . it means so much for the sacrifices that they made for this country and for us,” she added.

Honorees recognized at the event – all representing Solis’ first supervisorial district – were Brian Williams, executive director of the Los Angeles County Sheriff

Civilian Oversight Commission; Pomona Pastor Ivory Brown, executive director of the non-profit Project: Caring and Sharing; Jeanette Ellis-Royston, President of the Pomona Valley Branch NAACP; Cal Poly University Pomona President Dr. Soraya Coley; and the San Gabriel Valley NAACP, represented by President T.J. Campbell,

Solis, who told the group she walked twice across the civil rights landmark Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma, Alabama with Congressman John Lewis, said there are many similarities in the civil rights movement with people from her community – Latinos and immigrants who have “toiled in the field.”

“I feel so strongly about the learning that I was blessed with to understand how the power of sacrifice and non-violence can move people,” Solis said.

“We need to . . . educate the entire country so wherever there have been historical moments we need to get the county government, the state government and the federal government to shine a light and not forget what our his-

tories are because they are intertwined,” she said.

“Each one of us is carrying the responsibility to carry forth black history,” she said.

“If some of us do not have our full freedom, then none of us have our full freedom,” Solis said. “The stakes today are too high and the soul of our country is at



Pomona’s Washington Elementary School singers performed at this month’s Black History Month observance, along with the Garey High School jazz ensemble. Pictured are half of the Washington singers (the other half, not pictured, are on another stairway).



Supervisor Hilda Solis

risk.”

Every American President has designated February as Black History Month since 1976 to honor and celebrate the achievements of African Americans and to recognize the role they have played in American history.



Photo by Renee Barbee

CONGRESSIONAL ‘APP’ CHALLENGE WINNERS -- Four students at Pomona’s Lorbeer Middle School were honored last month by Congresswoman Norma Torres as winners in the Congressional App Challenge, considered the most prestigious prize in student computer science. Members of Congress have hosted competitions in their districts each year since 2015 for middle and high school students, encouraging young “coders” to develop original applications and inspiring them to pursue careers in computer science. Winning apps may be put on display in the U.S. Capitol building for one year. Pictured, from left, are Torres, Arthur Lo, 13, Alessandro Chuta, 13, Hector “Benny” Aquino, 14, Nathan Paz, 13, and their teacher, Patrick Trejo. Their app was designed to help people locate jobs in their area so they could better access work opportunities, according to Principal Krista Fairley. Each student received a \$250 gift card to Amazon.

Four minority panelists give Tri-City Mental Health program participants a look into minority mental health for Black History Month

Tri-City Mental Health celebrated Black History Month this month with a “Myth Busters and Minority Mental Health Mindfulness” program calling on the experiences of four local people who have experienced mental health issues.

The program was billed as a “life changing and life saving” community conversation held in the meeting room at Claremont Public Library.

Rimmi Hundal, director of Mental Health Services Act and Ethnic Services for Pomona’s Tri-City Mental Health, said Tri-City maintains a committee that is open to the public that focuses on the issue of mental health and minorities, as well as looking at how mental health and mental illness is defined in different cultures.

She said people with mental illness die 12 to 32 years earlier than the general population and only 30 percent of people in need of mental health services are receiving them.

The first panelist was Dwight Pennington, who described a series of events in his life in which he was asked to leave Mt. SAC



Rimmi Hundal



Jamie Ritchey



Dwight Pennington, at left, and Toni Robinson



Mayor Larry Schroeder



James Curtis, at left, and Gamaliel Polanco

because he experienced a psychogenic seizure on campus.

After a long depression, he moved to Los Angeles where he became homeless before moving in with an aunt in Fontana just before joining the U.S. Army.

He was medically discharged from the military following another emotional breakdown.

He moved back to Pomona, enrolled in Citrus College for a few semesters but experienced another breakdown and left. After a couple of interim jobs, he ended up on staff at Tri-City where he has worked for a year.

“I am living proof that mental health patients can recover,” he

said.

Toni Robinson, also an employee at Tri-City, serves as the agency’s innovations coordinator for the MHSA Division.

She said she became interested in mental health while working on her first master’s program in public policy.

She wrote her thesis on the way the public health system treats black women when it comes to mental health and the stigma around it in the black community.

Robinson explained there is a level of dehumanization among African-Americans going back to the days of slavery but that there is also a resiliency factor that can help black women deal with elevated levels of stigma.

James Curtis explained he experienced his first mental health crisis when he was 8, living in the San Fernando Valley.

He moved with his family to Detroit after a grandfather died, but then his father moved out of the household. He began having trouble in school after previously earning top grades.

The family moved back to California where he became the first in his family to enter college but he experienced his second break-

down following a breakup with a girlfriend, and he ended up dropping out of college.

He ended up back in school and earning a law degree, became a national television host earning “middle six figures,” but a divorce, “multiple sequential deaths” and losing his job caused yet additional problems.

“I did not know anything about mental health, mental illness, therapy, psychiatry, drugs, I didn’t know any of that,” he said.

Today he works for the National Alliance on Mental Illness and “found” Tri-City.

“I can say now that as cool as it is . . . to be able to look at folks like our parents or other people that we see and put them in the role of hero, because they can do things that seem to be magical, having the ability to understand what is going on with us gives us the ability to be our own heroes,” Curtis said.

And Gamaliel Polanco, who has managed Tri-City’s Wellness Center in Pomona since it opened 10 years ago, said he is a first generation immigrant from South Central Los Angeles.

Through the friends he met, he saw “gaps” and “missing pieces” that prompted him to get into mental health.

“It’s always been kind of my passion to get to know people and figure out where they are in their journey,” he said, adding that, if possible, he tries to support them in their journey.

He worked in juvenile hall case management and ended up with a degree in social work from USC and working in his old neighborhood as a community outreach worker before taking the job at Tri-City.

Claremont Mayor Larry Schroeder, a former Tri-City board member, helped open the event.

“Black history . . . hasn’t been re-written, it has been ignored and just buried in the background,” he said.

Moderator Jamie Ritchey, community capacity organizer for Tri-City, said she uses education to help eliminate the stigma toward suicide and mental illness.

“Our charge (is) to reduce stigma in our community so that people feel safe enough to ask for the help when they need it and understand how to identify when someone needs help and how to support them or connect them with the help that they need,” she said.

The panel discussion was one of a series of community events being offered by Tri-City.



HOME DEPOT PITCHES IN AT AMERICAN LEGION -- Volunteer employees from the Pomona Home Depot showed up for two days this month at Pomona’s American Legion Post 30 to help out with a renovation project in the historic building’s upstairs hall. The work and materials were provided under a \$7,300 grant from the Home Depot Foundation. The volunteers painted the hall -- including the ceiling -- and installed new ceiling fans and stage lights in the stage area. The auditorium also was updated with new LED lighting. Crew members plan to come back to install new carpeting in the stage area. Lunch was provided to the workers by American Legion auxiliary and booster members. The upgraded hall is expected to be available to rent to groups in the next few weeks. For more information, call (909) 620-0943.

Olivieri retires as Pomona's 21st police chief

Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri – who retired this month as the city's 21st police chief following a 36-year career in law enforcement and a year and 10 months after been sworn in as chief – recounted his accomplishments while in office at his retirement ceremonies at Avalon at Fairplex but said he is "so proud of the men and women of the Pomona Police Department."

"I'm just so damn proud of Pomona P.D., I'm so proud to be a Pomona cop," he said. "I love this department as much today as I did 30 years ago when I started."

He said as chief he created a new professional standards unit, an undercover special investigative unit, a recent human trafficking unit and a quality of life unit.

He said homicides were down 29 percent last year, homeless and quality of life issues are being addressed at many levels and the department's transparency in police relationships is at an all-time high.

Yet Pomona Police Officer "Alex Nguyen being shot and Officer Gregory Casillas was certainly the most devastating tragedy I have ever faced professionally, personally, let alone having to lead a department of 280 people through," Olivieri said.

Nguyen was shot and Casillas was killed in March 2018 just before Olivieri was sworn in as chief.

The tragedy occurred when Pomona police were attempting to take a suspect into custody



Pomona's Interim Police Chief Mike Ellis, at right, presents outgoing Chief Mike Olivieri with his retirement badge.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and members of the Pomona City Council present retiring Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri with a "Goddess of Pomona" statue which, Sandoval said, is the highest honor anyone can receive in Pomona. Pictured, from left, are City Councilmembers Rubio Gonzalez and Steve Lustro, Olivieri, City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Sandoval.

following a series of events that began with an officer responding to a report of erratic driving.

Olivieri said during his term in office he tripled the size of his leadership team including those who participate in the "every other

day" chief meetings. He said he even had to order a bigger conference table for the 15 leaders who met regularly in a team approach.

"We did amazing things," Olivieri said. "Their brain power is mostly responsible for the success we've experienced."

Deputy Chief Mike Ellis took over as interim police chief.

"With Deputy Chief Ellis, the

department will be in good hands and the leadership team will ensure that continues," Olivieri said.

And with that, Olivieri gave Ellis the keys to his car, which he said was parked outside, "and it needs gas."

Olivieri's career in law enforcement began in 1986 as an Explorer with the Chino Police Department.

Olivieri retires... pg. 18

EL POMONA ROTARY CLUB Y POMONA'S PROMISE LOS INVITA A

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ONE NEWSPAPER TO ANOTHER -- Christopher Garcia Moreno, publisher of Pomona's Barfield Elementary School's "Barfield Times" newspaper (holding a copy of La Nueva Voz), receives a surprise visit from Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, at left, dropping off copies of last month's paper featuring an article on Christopher's new venture into the world of journalism. Barbee and Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez interviewed Christopher, now 11 and in the fifth grade, recently for the story. Also pictured is most of the newspaper "club" and instructional aides, from left, Rayleen Dudley, Latesha Robinson and Adriana Vega.

Upcoming events scheduled at American Legion Post 30

Following is an update of on-going and one-time events scheduled by Pomona's American Legion Post 30, with a golf tournament in April and steak night returning this spring heading the list.

An \$8 champagne breakfast will be held at the post at 9 a.m. every second Saturday, a \$10 steak night returns at 6 p.m. on every third Saturday beginning in April, and menudo and wing dings will be on the menu every third Sunday.

Menuendo will be served at 8 a.m. for \$7 and wings will be served at noon for \$5.

Post 30's golf tournament is scheduled for April 17 and the Women's Auxiliary bunco event will be held March 14.

American Legion Post 30 is located at 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona.

All events are open to the public.

For more information, call (909) 620-0943.

SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS



CELEBRATED ALL MONTH LONG

On behalf of the County of Los Angeles and the First District, and in recognition of Black History Month, it is my pleasure to recognize and support the achievements and contributions of all people of African and African American heritage.



Phil and Nell Soto Park... from pg. 7

member Danielle Soto, who said she grew up across the street from the park, credited former Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz with the suggestion to name the park after her grandparents.

"It's up to us to keep telling the story, to keep the history alive and why it was named after Phil and Nell," she said, adding that Phil Soto was the only legislator to walk with Cesar Chavez from Delano to Sacramento (a 300 mile farm workers protest in 1965 during the grape strike and boycott and the longest protest march in U.S. history).

"If it hadn't been for Phil, there wouldn't have been a microphone for Cesar and there wouldn't have been a stage that day for that historical moment – he pulled it together," she said.

And her uncle Tom Soto, who said his mother was a seventh generation Pomona resident, recounted serving as a pallbearer for Chavez alongside his father.

Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, whose council district includes the new park, pointed out it is the city's first park named for a woman.

The park includes recreational opportunities, native plants, a bird sanctuary and more.

Nell Soto served in the California assembly from 1998 to 2000 and again from 2006 to 2008. She served in the state senate from 2000 to 2006.

She served on the board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District and, while serving as state senator, championed water causes and was able to secure \$20 million in funding for clean water resources.

She died in 2009 at the age of 82.

Phil Soto served on the La Puente city council from 1958 to 1962. And he served in the assembly from 1962 to 1966.

In a show of support, he once spent a night in jail with Cesar Chavez and later spent another night in jail with Dolores Huerta after she was arrested for organizing farm workers.

He later was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to help set up economic development and job training programs in East Los Angeles. He retired in 1988 as director of the U.S. Small Business



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, at the podium, presents a special certificate to the entire Soto family at the dedication this month of Pomona's new Phil and Nell Soto Park.

A permanent marker at the entrance to Pomona's newest park provides the history of the area and background on why the park was named after Phil and Nell Soto.

Administration's minority business development program.

He died in 1997 at the age of 71.

The two lived several blocks away from the park.



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THEATER REVIEW By **Jeff Schenkel**

‘Miracle Worker’ production by School of Arts and Enterprise does good job telling difficult story

Two weeks to come up with one miracle? No problem. And it was no problem for the cast from Pomona’s School of Arts and Enterprise telling the story of Helen Keller in “The Miracle Worker” this month – they had the attention of the audience two or three scenes in and held it all the way through.

Helen Keller, of course, was an American educator, advocate for the blind and deaf and co-founder of the American Civil Liberties Union. She was left blind and deaf when stricken by an illness at the age of 2.

The Broadway production of “The Miracle Worker” opened in 1959 and the movie was released in 1962. The

School of Arts and Enterprise had its first crack at it three years ago with an entirely different cast.

Setting our own stage for this review, La Nueva Voz enjoyed the sixth of 13 performances of “The Miracle Worker” – a classic piece presented in a classic and historic theater, the Covina Center for the Performing Arts in Downtown Covina – a thoroughly re-imagined version of the old Covina Theater complete with chandeliers hanging from the ceiling.

And, indulge us here, show of hands – how many of our readers knew the School of Arts and Enterprise has been renting this beautiful theater for 13 weeks a year – and

they’ve been doing it for the past five years?

With about 150 audience members per performance, director Phil Miller (artistic director at the School of Arts and Enterprise) told La Nueva Voz the venue works well for the show – particularly when it is bringing in young audiences from seven area school districts (some 1,500 students and families all free of charge).

It worked well for a Saturday night adult audience as well.

A projection on the back **Miracle Worker... pg. 17**



MIRACLE WORKER -- Alexa Yamila Ocana, who played Helen Keller in this month’s School of Arts and Enterprise production of “The Miracle Worker,” and director Phil Miller, artistic director at the school, pause for a photo after a Saturday night performance outside the Covina Center for the Performing Arts in Downtown Covina. And yes, the dog played a role in the show as well.

Join Us for an Upcoming Community Meeting



Major Construction From Glendora to Pomona Is Starting This Summer!

The Foothill Gold Line light rail project from Glendora to Montclair will extend Metro Gold Line service to the cities of Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair. The first nine miles of the project, from Glendora to Pomona, is fully funded and will begin major construction in late summer (and take five years to complete). If the additional funding needed is secured before October 2021, the entire project from Glendora to Montclair will be completed altogether under the same design-build contract and take eight years.

Sign Up to Start Receiving Construction Alerts!

Make sure you get electronic updates on this important project by signing up on-line at www.foothillgoldline.org.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETINGS

Attend a community open house to learn the latest about the project, meet the recently hired Kiewit-Parsons design-build team, and gain information on how and when construction may impact you. Each station artist/artist team will also be available to discuss the public artwork planned at their city-specific meetings.



Foothill Gold Line

There will be no formal presentation; arrive any time between 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM:

Thursday, March 5, 2020
Glendora Library, Bidwell Forum
140 S. Glendora Ave., Glendora, CA 91741
Station Artist: Michael Hillman

Tuesday, March 10, 2020
La Verne Community Center
3680 D St., La Verne, CA 91750
Station Artist: Blue McRight

Wednesday, March 11, 2020
Palomares Park Community Center
499 E. Arrow Hwy., Pomona, CA 91767
Station Artist: Stephen Farley

Thursday, March 12, 2020
Stanley Plummer Community Building
245 E. Bonita Ave., San Dimas, CA 91773
Station Artists: Eugene and Anne Olsen Daub

NOTE: Future meetings will be held in Claremont and Montclair when funding is secured.

Si necesita información del proyecto o servicios de interpretación en español, llame a Yesenia Arias al 626.305.7012

SAFETY FIRST By Jose Bermudez, Certified Safety Professional

Mindfulness – important for personal safety and well-being

We live in a world and an age of distraction. Televisions, cell phones, computers, and electronic devices keep us tethered to our jobs, games, and screens. In tandem with our technology devices, the fast pace of our culture, our personal responsibilities, our jobs and the demands placed on all keep us going and going – stressed out. Consequently, these obligations and distractions remove us from day to day living, time with our families, and the reality of our immediate environment, whether at work or at home. We will look at ways to remove ourselves from mindlessness to mindfulness. We will merely touch on mindfulness; books, articles and websites devote more extensive focus on the practice.

Mindfulness originated within Hinduism and Buddhism in India thousands of years ago. In this country, the current wave of mindfulness therapies, coaching, exercises and meditation practice began in the 1970s by Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn, a professor of medicine at the University of Massachusetts.

Mindfulness in occupational health and safety started after Kabat-Zinn's initial introduction of the process. Some in the safety profession referred to mindfulness in work safety as "present moment thinking." The work safety outlook was to have employees who were distracted by many things while performing a job or task focus on the moment and work activity being undertaken. The following table compares the categories of

mindless behaviors with mindful thinking and frame of mind.

Taking mindfulness off the job into the home and personal setting, it can apply to any activity being undertaken. While driving, we can all identify with times when being on autopilot, we go from Point A to Point B and we cannot explain the time in between. Also, while performing a task, at once we may be on the phone, watching a movie, and writing an email to demonstrate an extreme example of multi-tasking. There are people that claim that they perform each task well and see themselves as productive in this mode, although studies have shown that one cannot focus on several tasks at one time, with-

and deepens our appreciation of everyone and everything. All elements that make up our lives need to be savored and appreciated for our safety and our well-being. Life is too short and precious to do otherwise.

and deepens our appreciation of everyone and everything. All elements that make up our lives need to be savored and appreciated for our safety and our well-being. Life is too short and precious to do otherwise.

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.

Mindlessness	Mindful Living
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autopilot • Thought After Thought • Multi-Tasking • Self-Criticism • Habitual and Unconscious • Judgmental • Tense Muscles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary; Purposeful • Quiets Brain Chatter • Being in the Moment • Non-Critical • Conscious Awareness • Non-Judgmental, Open, Curious

The difference between mindless and mindful living.

out compromising the quality and efficiency of the effort, along with the memory of the tasks. When multi-tasking activity includes operating a vehicle, machines, or tools, your personal safety can be compromised. "In the workplace, multi-tasking has been shown to steal time, take away from quality and accuracy, and even negatively impact an individual's mental health." (Cravenshaw 2008).

Transferring mindfulness to our daily lives, in addition to the benefit of being safe, mindfulness adds another significant dividend. We can change our individual version



POOLING RESOURCES FOR HOMELESSNESS -- Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, second from left, gathered last month with representatives of "Everyone in LA," "LA Voice," United Way of Greater Los Angeles, the San Gabriel Valley Consortium on Homelessness and 135 faith-based organizations from throughout the San Gabriel Valley to discuss how non-profits can pull all their resources together to help uplift individuals who are experiencing homelessness and work to bring them into stable homes. Topics ranged from mobile showers to affordable housing, winter shelters and on-site housing. The event was held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Baldwin Park.

Evento para Niños 'Día Para Jugar'

"Pomona Play Day," un concepto de educación a temprana edad para niños presentado por Pomona's Promise y Pomona Rotary, está programado para Domingo, 22 de Marzo de mediodía a 4 p.m. en el Parque Washington en Pomona.

Decenas de actividades divertidas se ofrecerán para que los padres de niños de 5 años o menos puedan reproducir en casa para estimular el aprendizaje – todo sin o a poco costo.

Se incluirán actividades vinculados con la ciencia como la jardinería, diversión con los imanes, explorando con lupas, el baile y movimiento con música, artesanía y manualidades, la lectura, construcción de títeres, y mucho más.

Los niños podrán llevar a casa algunos de los materiales junto con un libro gratis.

Información sobre recursos de interés para padres de niños pequeños también estará disponible.

"Pomona Play Day anhela lanzar una campana a través de la ciudad de Pomona con el objetivo de fomentar condiciones en la comunidad que promuevan el bienestar de los niños empezando desde temprana edad cuando el 90 por ciento del desarrollo cerebral se está llevando a cabo," los organizadores mencionaron en un comunicado. "El cuidado y la educación a temprana edad pueden empreden a los niños hacia el éxito en la mayoría de los aspectos educativos, la Buena salud y calidad de vida- beneficiándose no solamente ellos, sino la comunidad entera."

El Parque Washington está localizado en el 865 E. Grand Ave. en Pomona.

Do you have a news story?

We want to hear from you or your organization.

Send your news tips to:
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The following public service ads are courtesy of La Nueva Voz:

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footsteps2brilliance

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

Miracle Worker... from pg. 15

wall of the stage told the audience the scene opened in 1881 in Tuscumbia, Alabama – and those Southern California-style southern accents were a little hard to understand at first (and we grew up in East Tennessee which is not all that different from Northern Alabama near the Tennessee border), but you get used to it a few scenes in.

Director Miller injected what seemed to become his signature technique of layered activity early in the production by bringing some cast members on stage by walking down the aisles of the theater and others riding up through the floor of the stage on an elevator platform complete with their fold-out dining room table for an easy scene change.

And the plot develops as a young Helen Keller, played by Alexa Yamila Ocana, continues causing an on-going level of commotion around the house – so much so that Helen’s half brother Jimmy, played by Xirro Jones, begins suggesting “putting her away” in some sort of asylum, launching an entire discussion of this option.

The scene switches to Perkins Institution for the Blind in Boston (now Perkins School for the Blind, the oldest school for the blind in the U.S.), where Helen’s dad Captain Keller, played by Quintin Burrola, met former student turned teacher Annie Sullivan, played by Guinevere Silva-Deaton, and told her “no one expects you to work miracles, even for \$25 a month.”

(This was 140 years ago, after all.)

The plot continues to unfold, and audience members seem to forget they are watching a performance by high school students as they are drawn

into the story.

And there’s more of Miller’s signature layered drama as Annie experiences flashbacks to when she was institutionalized as a child, appearing downstage left (closer to the audience) during a partial blackout for a scene upstage – adding to interest and not distracting at all.

The plot – and the production company – injected a lot of believability – and a lot of emotion – into the story when Annie met Helen for the first time and Helen was able to “see” her by feeling Annie’s glasses, face and hair.

Annie wastes no time assuming her role of teacher, jumping right in with her new charge working on the alphabet using a form of signing by pressing on Helen’s hand.

And Helen gets it right away.

There were little things like flowers on the dining table a little too high and blocking a cast member during lines at times but, frankly, they had similar problems they were working on in a \$15 million Broadway re-make of West Side Story that was the subject of a pre-opening segment on “60 Minutes” on CBS last week.

The near-capacity audience in Covina didn’t seem to mind.

Clearly, Helen was a bit of a reluctant student at first, prompting Annie to become philosophical.

“Obedience is the gateway through which knowledge, yes, and love, too, enter the mind of the child,” she wrote in her log, getting one of the best-known quotes from the original play into the Covina production – and setting the tone for what Annie viewed as her approach to working what truly

would be miracles.

Yet there was still a lot of energy and there were tantrums from a young and hyper Helen, at times making it difficult for Annie and others at the dinner table – and even members of the audience – to remain focused.

For example, a lot of time was spent at the dinner table teaching Helen simply not to throw her spoon across the stage (although in Helen’s defense, by the end of the scene, she was tossing it to the same spot a lot more consistently).

But it was the little successes that had a big impact on both Annie and Helen’s family – successes like the first time Helen for no apparent reason simply folded a napkin on the table.

These little successes led in Act 2 to Annie asking for complete control of Helen – meals and all – since, as she explained, having her teacher controlling her food is a way for her to learn.

She also advocated for Helen when, as an example, she told Helen’s family she herself grew up in an asylum filled with 80 children the first year – and 70 died.

The argument was convincing, and Helen’s dad gave Annie two weeks to produce only one miracle.

It actually took a little longer, but Annie was able to get Helen to speak her first – and only – word in the production, “water.”

All in all, it was a very convincing presentation of a very complex and, for its time, groundbreaking topic – and again, these were high school kids on stage.

For more information on the School of Arts and Enterprise, visit www.thesae.org.



Photo by Eric Jung

POMONA OPTIMIST CLUB STUDENTS OF THE MONTH -- Four students at Pomona’s Kingsley Elementary School were recognized as students of the month last month at a meeting of the Pomona Optimist Club. Pictured, from left, are honorees Ximena Zuniga, fourth grade; Breanna Hernandez, third grade; Shirley Segura, fourth grade; and Lauro Hernandez, fifth grade. Lauro and Breanna (no relation) were students of the month for December and Shirley and Ximena were the picks for January. Congratulations to all four!



Photo by Renee Barbee

GETTING THE WORD OUT -- Volunteers from P3 (Partnership for a Positive Pomona) and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence visited participating liquor stores and convenience stores throughout Pomona for a week last month placing “Project Sticker Shock” stickers on display cases reminding customers that you must be 21 to buy alcoholic beverages and that it is against the law for adults to purchase alcohol and provide it to underage youth. Pictured is the sticker team hard at work at Pomona Wine Cellar #2 at 1146 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona. For more information, call (909) 629-4084, ext. 2002.

Wellness Community... from pg. 5

Toni Navarro, executive director of Pomona’s Tri-City Mental Health and one of the “partners” that will staff the new facility, thanked Solis for her work in putting the package together.

“This center and all that it’s



Toni Navarro, Executive Director
Pomona’s Tri-City Mental Health

bringing forward . . . exponentially increases the availability and access to services and I think will exponentially create more stability and wellness here in Pomona and we’re really, really excited to be a part of that,” Navarro said.

She added that health officials are talking about integrating care at the state and national levels.

“We’re doing it here in Pomona,” she said, “and it’s really exciting. We have physical health here and we have the substance abuse partners here as well as mental health.”

“I think we’re not only setting the tone for how the other wellness complexes will organize themselves and roll out for the rest of the county but we’re setting the tone for the state,” she said.



Los Angeles County
Supervisor Hilda Solis

The new facility will offer everything from anger management classes to relaxation techniques and “teen time.”

For more information, call (909) 868-0235 or e-mail pomonawc@ph.lacounty.gov.



‘BACK TO THE FUTURE’ -- Artist Tobias “brownpyramid” Gallegos of Pasadena, holding the brushes, creator of one of Pomona’s newest murals, is pictured last month when the painting was near completion on the north wall of Pomona’s Gold Strike Market, at 416 N. Park Ave. Gallegos used mixed media for the project -- acrylics, latex paints and spray paint. He called it an “80s minimalist contemporary style” mural that included everything from the “Back to the Future” DeLorean to arcade cabinets and wind-up robots. Pictured, from left, are assistant Pedro Becerra, Gallegos and Pomona artist Antonio Zayas.

Retiring with his own Pomona street sign, Larry Egan seems to make the point that from here on out it really all will be Larry's Way. "There is so much more to do," Egan said last year. "We've taken the Downtown to a place that brings in over 1.5 million visitors a year."



DPOA President Carolyn Hemming takes the microphone at Larry Egan's going away party. She recounted how she talked to board member Catherine Tessier at the time Egan was hired. "He will be the face of DPOA and that's what we needed at the time," she remembered telling Tessier, who also spoke at last month's event.

STEPPING DOWN . . . SOONER OR LATER --

Downtown Pomona held a retirement party last month for Larry Egan, executive director of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association since 2007, even though guests learned at the event he really won't be leaving until, say, long about March. Maybe. You just have to kind of roll with it -- he's been talking about retiring for a while, then he said it would be the end of last year. "I'm going to go with an awful lot of fond memories," Egan said at his retirement party. That's if he really ever goes at all. Pictured wishing him well are Ish Arias, at left, the DPOA's assistant to the director, and Sally Egan, Larry's daughter and photographer and graphic designer for DPOA.



Olivieri retires... from pg. 10

ment at the age of 14.

He was hired as a dispatcher there in 1986 and in 1990 he was hired by the Pomona department and sent to Rio Hondo Police Academy for his initial training, graduating as class president.

As a police officer, he worked gangs, narcotics, major crimes task force, served as a bicycle patrol officer and was a member of the SWAT team.

He served as a member of the traffic bureau, worked as a motorcycle officer, corporal and sergeant and helped make the traffic bureau a model for others in the region.

Olivieri was promoted to lieutenant in 2010 and captain in 2012, where he oversaw the department's uniformed operations division.

He was promoted to deputy chief in 2014 and chief in 2018.



Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana, at right, who hosted Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri's retirement party at the Avalon at Fairplex, presents Olivieri with a basket of produce grown on The Farm at Fairplex, along with several competition goodies and a couple of bottles of wine from the LA County Fair.

"As our chief, Mike's leadership abilities have shown through," said Ellis, who served as master of ceremonies at the event. "He has continually focused the department's efforts to respond to the needs of our community, often partnering with other city departments and community-based groups to get things done."

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Pomona's Promise, Rotary offer new 'Pomona Play Day' for kids

"Pomona Play Day," a new early education concept for kids co-sponsored by Pomona's Promise and Pomona Rotary, is scheduled for noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 22, in Pomona's Washington Park.

More than a dozen fun activities will be featured that parents of children age 5 and under can replicate at home to stimulate learning – all at little or no expense.

Included will be activities related to science such as gardening, fun with magnets and exploring with magnifying glasses, moving and dancing to music, arts and crafts, storytelling and puppet-making and more.

Children will be able to take home some of the materials along with a free book.

Information about resources of interest to parents of small children also will be available.

"Pomona Play Day aspires to launch a citywide campaign that focuses on fostering conditions in the community that promote the well-being of children starting at a very young age when 90 percent of brain development takes place," organizers said in a news release. "Early care and education can launch children on a trajectory that will lead to success in most measurements of education, health and quality of life – benefiting not only those individuals but also the whole community."

Washington Park is located at 865 E. Grand Ave., Pomona.



Ever notice those protestors with signs and bullhorns at Foothill and Indian Hill Boulevards in Claremont? Some of them are regulars but others joined in this month when the U.S. Senate, in essence, acted to acquit President Trump following impeachment proceedings. The Claremont protest was one of 160 "Reject the Cover-Up" rallies held nationwide and organized by Common Cause, a nonprofit political watchdog group based in Washington, D.C. (La Nueva Voz received a news release from Common Cause, clicked on a button to find the closest event, and voila!) Susan Young, pictured at left, of the group Indivisible Claremont Inland Valley and organizer of this month's event, said 175 protestors signed up for the event and La Nueva Voz estimated 100 by 6 p.m. and more were coming in. Young said the group attracted about 1,000 people at a pre-impeachment rally. "It's really critical that we hold our government officials accountable and that's not happening right now and if we don't let people know that that's not OK, then why should they bother," Young told La Nueva Voz. A statement from Common Cause said that "any acquittal made after blocking key evidence is not an exoneration -- it's a cover-up."

New exhibit 'Japan and its Seasons' opens at Petterson Museum in Claremont

A new exhibit "The Art of Time: Japan and its Seasons" has opened to the public at the Petterson Museum of Intercultural Arts in Claremont.

In Japan, the experience of the seasons is embedded in language, celebrated in national festivals and codified in art, according to a news release.

"Over the centuries, the Japanese transformed the passage of time as portrayed by the seasons

into artistic aesthetic and metaphor as well as a cultural value," the release said.

The exhibit, which continues through the end of March, is free and open to the public at the museum, located at 730 Plymouth Road, on the campus of Pilgrim Place in Claremont.

Hours are 2 to 4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information, contact the museum at (909) 399-5544.


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School of Arts and Enterprise, Fox Theater bring 'world class' artist Shoshana Bean to Pomona

Forging an essential new cultural partnership, Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise and the historic Fox Theater have teamed up to bring world class musician Shoshana Bean to Pomona.

The one-night engagement, scheduled for March 7, is the first in the series "The School of Arts and Enterprise Presents at The Fox Theater," bringing world class artists to both students and the surrounding region.

Artists presented in this new series not only will perform in this historic venue that is the cultural anchor of the Pomona Arts Colony – they will join students of the national award-winning School of Arts and Enterprise in their classrooms to share their craft.

"Ms. Bean's fourth studio album, 'Spectrum,' thrills with a fresh new take on the classic tradition of big band," the school said in a news release. "Inspired largely by Frank Sinatra, Aretha Franklin, and Barbra Streisand, 'Spectrum' hit #1 on the Billboard and iTunes Jazz charts. Shoshana's powerhouse vocals are visceral and heartfelt as she weaves effortlessly through haunting originals, new arrangements of contemporary hits and beloved classics."

Shoshana has sold out solo concerts around the globe, lent her voice to countless films and television shows, amassed millions of views on YouTube, and performed alongside Ariana Grande, David Foster, Postmodern Jukebox, Brian McKnight, and Michael Jackson.

She is a veteran of the Broadway stage, having made her debut in the original cast of "Hairspray," starring as the very first replacement for Elphaba in "Wicked" and most recently as Jenna in "Waitress."

She won a IRNE Award for her performance as Fanny Brice in "Funny Girl" and earned a Jeff Award nomination for her portrayal of CeeCee Bloom in the pre-Broadway musical production of "Beaches."

Phil Miller, artistic director of The School of Arts and Enterprise



Shoshana Bean

(The SAE), said "when The SAE was honored as an Arts School Network Exemplary School last spring, it was a validation of the dynamic work of so many over the last seven years. This award allows us the greatest cross section of influence in our school's history and a new platform to champion the accessible arts education model we are becoming known for."

"When the opportunity appeared to begin presenting professional work at The Fox Theater, Shoshana Bean was at the very top of our list," he added. "From her dynamic voice to her creativ-

ity and passion as an artist, Sho could have easily been a SAE kid. And we can't wait to welcome her to Pomona."

"The School of Arts and Enterprise in association with The Fox Theater is pleased to welcome Ms. Bean as part of The Master's at The School of Arts and Enterprise series bringing the world's best talent to teach SAE students in a master class setting, and activate the community with their artistry at The Fox Theater," Miller added.

Following her 8 p.m. concert on March 7, Bean will return to Pomona on Wednesday, March 11, at SAE Stage @ Humanity Church to work with more than 200 SAE and other area students on their own performance skills in a unique and powerful master class setting.

Tickets for Shoshana Bean and her nine-piece big band the Huffington Post raves "defies gravity" are available exclusively at The SAE's online ticket provider, saetix.com. Use the discount code 'sholive' to save 25 percent off of purchases.

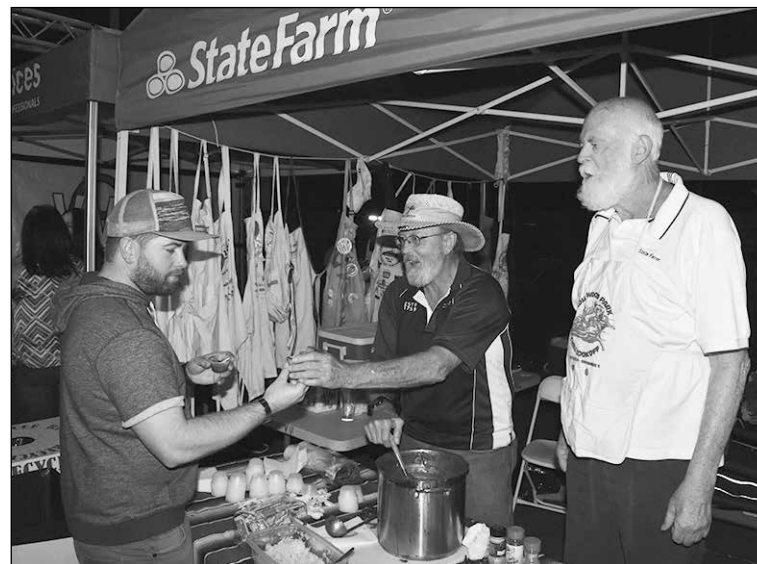


Vicki Grillot and members of her family receive honors from members of the Pomona City Council this month recognizing her late husband, U.S. Navy Vietnam War veteran John Richard Grillot, who died last November. He was active with his wife in Pomona's Post 30 American Legion and served as first vice commander.

Members of the family of the late Ross Weber were on hand this month to receive honors from the Pomona City Council. Receiving the honor was Weber's grandson. Weber, who died last December, served in the U.S. Army in World War II.



Valley Vista Services got into the action at the chili cook-off at Old Stump Brewery this month. Showing off a bowl of their special formula are, from left, Jill Reiff and Angie Valenzuela, of Valley Vista Services, David Perez, owner of the company, all suited up in an apron of his own for the occasion, and sous chef Alma Martinez.



The two members of the world famous "Can't Say No" chili cook-off team Steve Johnson, at center, and John Forbing (their many cook-off aprons are hanging on the rail at rear) pass a sample of their second place chili to a visitor at this month's Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley chili cook-off at Old Stump Brewery in Pomona. Forbing is board president at The Club this year.



The Pomona Police Department's chili team took first prize in the competition this month at the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley's chili cook-off at Old Stump Brewery in Pomona. Pictured is chili expert Ernesto Rios, head of the police department's crime prevention unit, serving up another sample. La Nueva Voz thought both the first and second place recipes were amazing. Congratulations to all the participants.



Photos by Renee Barbee

OPERATION SCHOOL BELL -- Volunteers keep things running at Operation School Bell in Pomona as “customers” do a little shopping to find just the right school clothes for their kids. The program, operated by the Assistance League of Pomona Valley since 1998, has provided new school clothing at no cost to more than 22,000 children. For some, it is the first time they have had new school clothing. Doors open one day a month to families on the Pomona Unified School District’s “free lunch program” lists. “Gently used” clothes in the “community closet” also are made available to other members of the families. Pictured at the counter is Operation School Bell Operations Chairman Stephanie Roberts of Claremont. The Assistance League helps more than 1,400 children from low income families each year. It is located at 693 N. Palomares St., Pomona, and also operates a low-cost dental center next door. For information on dropping off clothes or making a donation, call (909) 629-6142.



POMONA'S FIRST LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION -- The Downtown Pomona Owners Association welcomed Pomona's first “Lunar New Year Celebration” to town last month in an event that overflowed the Shaun Diamond Plaza and featured everything from souvenirs to food items. Dancers, pictured, were also a big hit -- whether the traditional Chinese fan dancers or those scary dragon dancers. Also pictured is West Covina Mayor Tony Wu, holding the microphone, who served as master of ceremonies to open the two-day event. Pomona's own Eddie Wong, chairman of the event, is pictured second from left. So happy new year and, in case you haven't heard, it is the “Year of the Rat,” a year that Wu predicted would bring good fortune to all. The Lunar New Year is the most celebrated holiday in Asia with many large festivals and events held around the world.

GAREY STUDENTS SELECTED FOR NATIONAL STEM COMPETITION

-- A group of 36 students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) classes at Pomona's Garey High School has been selected from thousands of entries nationwide to be among the nation's 100 state winners and will receive \$15,000 in technology for its achievement in the 10th anniversary Samsung Solve For Tomorrow competition. The students also were expected to receive a Samsung video kit to create and submit a three-minute video that showcases their project development and how it uses classroom STEM skills to solve real-world issues. The video will be used for the chance to advance to the next phase of the contest and win additional prizes and educational opportunities. Only 20 schools will participate in national final competition and will be awarded \$50,000 in technology and classroom materials. Five finalists will receive \$100,000 in technology and classroom materials. The Garey project was based on the creation of an anti-vaping campaign communicating the health effects of vaping. The students built a device that will detect chemicals produced by vaping. Pictured with the students are teachers Alex Ruper, at left rear, and Antonio Gamboa, at right rear.



POMONA OPTIMISTS SIP AND PAINT -- Guests at this month's Pomona Optimist Club “Sip and Paint” sip mimosas and begin to get the hang of their painting under the watchful eye of a couple of expert artists. Pictured is Antoinette Baretto, a long-time friend of Optimists President Lorraine Canales, who came in all the way from Las Vegas for the event in Pomona's dA Center for the Arts. The fundraiser will help the Optimists fund youth programs and scholarships for Pomona kids.

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

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

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





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Community leaders, Farmworkers Union president to be honored at Latino Roundtable Cesar Chavez breakfast next month

The Latino and Latina Roundtable of San Gabriel and Pomona Valley will hold its 16th annual Cesar Chavez breakfast next month with honors going to community members whose contributions to the community mirror the values of labor leader and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez.

The event will be held at 8 a.m. Friday, March 27, at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center in Pomona.

This year's honorees will include NAACP Pomona Valley Branch President Jeanette Ellis-Royston, Roundtable board member and housing rights attorney John Nolte, and United Farmworkers Union President Teresa Romero, the first Latina and first immigrant woman to become

president of a national union in the United States.

In addition, scholarships will be presented to local students working on improving their communities.

Event co-sponsors Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and representatives of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, Local 1428, also are expected to attend.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite or by contacting the Roundtable at (909) 480-6267.

Cesar Chavez Day, celebrated on March 31, was proclaimed a federal commemorative holiday by President Obama in 2014.

Millard Sheets Center to present Print Pomona Art Book Fair

The Millard Sheets Art Center at Pomona's Fairplex will present the inaugural Print Pomona Art Book Fair next month – the first of its kind in the San Gabriel Valley – bringing more than 50 national and international exhibitors to the Pomona Valley.

The three-day event, with opening night from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, March 13, will provide a forum for independent booksellers, distributors and publishers to showcase artists' books, art catalogs,

photography monographs, drawings and other print ephemera.

It will also serve as a meeting place for artists, book lovers and publishers to discuss and exchange ideas and will include panel discussions, presentations and other programming throughout the weekend.

The exhibition will be curated by photographer and Cal Poly University Pomona faculty member Lorena Turner.

The event is free and open to the public.



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Photos by Renee Barbee

NEW DINING COMMONS AT CAL POLY -- La Nueva Voz had an opportunity last month to try out the new Centerpointe Dining Commons at Cal Poly University Pomona. Located in the center of the campus in building 72, the facility seats 680, features professional university chefs, and offers eight individual food stations -- including a salad bar with Cal Poly-grown produce. It is operated by the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, it is open to the public in addition to students, staff and faculty, and it is definitely worth driving over to give it a try. Pricing is reasonable, too -- meal plans are available to "regulars," but public walk-ins can enjoy breakfast for \$8, lunch for \$10 and dinner for \$12. For more information, visit the web site at www.centerpointedining.com.

BRING IN A USED OIL FILTER AND RECEIVE A NEW FILTER FOR FREE!

¡TRAIGA UN FILTRO DE ACEITE USADO Y RECIBA UN NUEVO FILTRO GRATIS!

Event location and dates / Lugares y fechas de evento

AutoZone	1886 S. Garey Avenue. Pomona, Ca	Saturday March 7th	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
AutoZone	2555 N. Towne Ave. Pomona, Ca	Saturday April 4th	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
AutoZone	501 E. Holt Ave. Pomona, Ca	Saturday May 9th	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

***Residents may receive up to 2 new filters in exchange for 2 used filters. (While supplies last)**

***Los residentes pueden recibir hasta 2 filtros nuevos a cambio de 2 filtros usados. (Mientras duren las reservas)**

To obtain information on used oil collection centers, recycling and disposal use: Earth911.com or www.ci.pomona.ca.us or call 1-800-CLEANUP.

Para obtener información sobre los centros de colección de aceite usado, reciclaje y eliminación utilice: Earth911.com o llame 1-800-CLEANUP.



Funded By **CalRecycle**



Pomona's Latino Art Museum announces events for March

Pomona's Latino Art Museum will feature a "Women International Show" beginning with an opening reception March 16 and including artists from all over the world. And Peruvian artist Carla Chavez-Keller will present a solo show in the Grand Salon West -- along with a "Mother Earth" book presentation -- from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 14.

Hours of the gallery are 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The gallery is located downstairs at 281 S. Thomas St., Suite 105 and 104, Pomona. For more information, contact Graciela Nardi, director, at (909) 484-2618 or (909) 620-6009.

THE POMONA ROTARY CLUB AND POMONA'S PROMISE INVITES YOU TO

POMONA PLAY DAY

A day of fun and learning for the whole family!

**Washington Park
865 E. Grand Ave
Pomona, CA 91766**

**Sunday March 22, 2020
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Free Event!

All families welcome! Join us for arts & crafts, activities for children age 0-5, and to learn more about Pomona's Early Education Movement!

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