



It's different now, but it WILL be over!

By Jeff Schenkel
Publisher

Freeways and roadways are almost empty – from the 71 in Pomona to the four-level interchange in downtown Los Angeles. Schools, beaches, parks and most stores remain closed and residents remain “safer at home” with the exception of running out for essential services. And late last month the U.S. Navy moved its U.S.N.S. Mercy into the Port of Los Angeles to act as an emergency hospital.

That plan initially was intended to provide the ship as a huge medi-

cal resource with its 1,000 beds, 1,200 medical personnel and 70 crew members, operating rooms and more for non-coronavirus patients in an effort to free up beds in Los Angeles County's shore-based hospitals for an anticipated incoming wave of COVID-19 patients.

Gov. Newsom earlier this month shifted that plan to include using the Mercy to help “decompress” skilled nursing facilities in the Los Angeles area by taking non-COVID-19 patients from those facilities



MERCY ARRIVES IN LOS ANGELES -- California Gov. Gavin Newsom, at the podium, speaks during a “virtual” news conference in front of the U.S. Navy's U.S.N.S. Mercy after the huge humanitarian support ship tied up in the Port of Los Angeles late last month to provide back-up emergency hospital capabilities during the COVID-19 crisis. Pictured, at right, is Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and, at center in rear, is U.S. Navy Rear Admiral John Gumbleton, who was credited with handling logistics to bring the Mercy to Los Angeles. Also pictured are representatives of the Region IX Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the California Office of Emergency Services.

Pool photo by Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times

on board the hospital ship.

The move was part of Newsom's approach to protect residents and employees of California nursing home and residential care facilities, where the virus has been reported to be spreading.

“Older Californians and those who are medically fragile are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill due to COVID-19,” Newsom said in a news release.

Newsom said in a news briefing last month the state “had been organizing ourselves around a surge” that requires a two-thirds increase in the hospital system.

And he issued a call for retirees in the medical profession or those nearing graduation in medical schools to sign up to get on the “platform” as paid professionals to

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DRIVE-THROUGH SERVICE IN THE RAIN -- Pomona Unified School District food service workers say it's just what they do. The rest of us might say this is another part of the “new normal” we're all living in. But for the 3,000 kids receiving 6,000 meals a day, five days a week (including breakfast and lunch), the school district's drive-through “grab and go” program is an important part of their day -- and of their life. With the schools now closed, workers have moved the program outside on the curb -- and they are delivering the meals rain or shine, as is evident in this photo on a rainy day this month. Pictured in a pink rain suit with four sacks for one customer in front of Ganesha High School is Elizabeth Gutierrez and, in blue on the sidewalk, Imalda Aldrege, both regular food service workers all year round at Ganesha. (See story page two.)

Mayor Sandoval says Pomona is complying with COVID-19 mandates but doubts President Trump's May 1 goal for re-opening the country is realistic here

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said businesses and residents in Pomona seem to be complying with all of the COVID-19 mandates but on President Trump's newly announced strategy to reopen large sections of the country by May 1, he was less than optimistic that could happen here.

Sandoval said he would defer to health officials like Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer, but that he believes there could be a “serious impact” resulting from opening the country back up too soon and then having the COVID-19 curve go back up.

He was asked by La Nueva Voz if the president's May 1 re-opening date would be realistic in Pomona.

“I doubt it,” he said.

His comments came in a virtual “Coffee Connections” on-line event sponsored this month by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce

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Adjusting to the new normal... A message from Tri-City Mental Health

The COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly altered how we live, work, learn and connect. Everyone is doing their best to adjust to a life where quarantine, physical distancing, virtual meetings, virtual connections, working from home and home school is now part of the course.

If you're feeling the emotional and mental weight of this new reality, you're not alone. While we cannot control the changes and challenges we currently face, we can control our thoughts, behaviors and reactions around them. We can allow ourselves to let go of the way of living we once knew and embrace new plans and routines. We can practice self-care and get creative about activities that we can control at home. We can be self-compassionate and forgive ourselves for not knowing how to manage these new demands, whether it means being a parent and a teacher at the same time or a hard worker suddenly unemployed.

It is important to live in the present moment and focus on the things in your life that bring you joy and pleasure. Understand that while we are physically distant, none of us is alone and we are all going through this together. Reach out virtually to your family, friends, neighbors and community. Start a new hobby, add humor to your day, be spiritually grounded, practice gratitude and be of service to others. We may discover benefits to this new way of living which we can carry with us when life does go back to normal.

Tri-City is here for those who need support

- Call our Navigator team at (888) 436-3246 for resources
- Call our Wellness Center at (888) 593-4448 for available telehealth support groups
- Are you experiencing serious emotional distress and not a Tri-City client? Call our Supplemental Crisis line at (909) 623-6131 for 24/7 phone support
- Need someone to talk to? Call (909) 623-6131 during business hours and ask for Chris Anzalone to be connected to non-emergency support



Pomona Unified's food services team keeps free lunch program up and running – rain or shine – during COVID

Pomona Unified School District's food services team has moved its free breakfast and lunch program out of the kitchen and onto the curb for a "grab and go" drive-through program at six schools during the COVID-19 school closure – and team members are delivering as many as 6,000 meals a day, rain or shine.

La Nueva Voz caught up with Daryl Hickey, the school district's director of food and nutrition services, outside Pomona's Ganesha High School this month during the fourth week of the drive-through program.

"Our first day we served about 500 kids (districtwide) and each kid gets a sack breakfast and lunch . . . and then Friday we did over 3,000," Hickey said. He explained since each student receives both a breakfast and a lunch, the number works out to 6,000 actual meals a day.

He pointed out that the number has grown based on a combination of demand and more people learning about the program.

"As this situation changes and evolves, we've seen more participation as things have become more scarce in the grocery stores," he said. "We've seen a lot of genuine gratitude."

Hickey said comments from parents include thanking team members for the fresh produce and milk, which has been difficult at times to find in the stores.

He said one team member walked to the back of a car as the trunk was "popped" and found a little "thank you" sign inside.

"Every day whatever we serve we prepare more than (we'll need) so we don't run out," he added, although he admitted it was difficult to know what to expect during rainy days this month.

But many of the food items can be reused the next day.

District trucks drop off supplies at the six schools and unload in the kitchen, where food services team members go to work preparing lunch for the following day. There were four team members inside at Ganesha and two "servers" outside on the curb along with two school security officers providing assistance, but Hickey said staffing depends on the size of the school and how many meals they

are serving.

"This is what we do," he said when asked about working in the rain. "It just shows the dedication of the staff out here – that we're all wanting to make sure that no matter what goes on, that our families are taken care of."

When La Nueva Voz stopped by, breakfast was milk, juice, a cereal bar and an apple. And lunch was a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, carrots, an orange and milk.

"Inside" team members roll out additional supplies when needed, he said, adding that everything remains refrigerated until it comes out.

"Sanitation and safety are still the utmost concern when we are serving these meals," said Hickey, who has a bachelor's degree in hotel and restaurant management with a business minor from Cal Poly University Pomona. A resident of La Verne, he's been in school food service for 22 years, the last 17 in Pomona. He worked for Pizza Hut and Universal Studios before going into school service.

Hickey said anybody is eligible and there are no income restrictions – students simply must be

Same-day COVID-19 tests available for Los Angeles County residents

Los Angeles County's COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center reports that free, same-day tests are now available for all Los Angeles County residents who have symptoms of COVID-19.

Symptoms include fever, cough and difficulty breathing. Eligibility is not affected by immigration status, insurance status, age or underlying health issues.

The county currently offers 29

operational sites including both drive-up and walk-up sites. Appointments are necessary and can be obtained by visiting lacovidprod.service-now.com/rrs to determine eligibility.

Test results may take up to three to four days. Positive test results will be notified with a telephone call.

For a full list of locations visit covid.19.lacounty.gov.



A Pomona Unified School District food services worker rolls out the next load of breakfasts and lunches for distribution at a drive-through "grab and go" program – in the rain – in front of Pomona's Ganesha High School. The school district is offering the free meals to any student who wants them and because of COVID-19 the program has moved out of the cafeteria and onto the curb – and they are giving away a total of 6,000 meals a day Monday through Friday at six schools offering the drive-throughs.

Pomona Unified reports three COVID cases, steps up 'distance learning' planning, turns free breakfast, lunch program into a drive-through

Despite having three confirmed cases of COVID-19 among their colleagues, officials at Pomona Unified School District are working double time to adapt to the world's "new normal" – in everything from distance learning to maintaining service of as many as 6,000 drive-through "grab and go" meals a day.

The district's first two COVID-19 cases were reported – in a March 28 letter from Supt. Richard Martinez to the district's parents, guardians and community members – "onsite at Lexington Elementary and/or potentially the Visual and Performing Arts Office at the Village at Indian Hill."

It was not known if either staff member had contracted or had been exposed to the virus prior to the district's full-scale closures on March 13.

The district immediately went to work disinfecting the Lexington site and, two days later, embarked on a program of disinfecting all district locations.

Both employees were reported recovering in their homes.

Martinez said he had "reason to believe" the third employee, reported to the community on April 11, only had contact and exposure in the district's administrative headquarters at 800 S. Garey Ave., Pomona.

The individual was reportedly "doing well . . . under doctor's orders and is doing everything required to fight effectively against the COVID-19 diagnosis," Martinez said.

The employees were not identified because of confidentiality requirements.

Employees who may have been in proximity to the exposed team member have been notified, and administrative headquarters staff members were relocated while the building was "thoroughly disinfected," Martinez said.

He encouraged community members to remain "vigilant" in following public health guidelines to keep families healthy and safe.

"We will get through this public health crisis together," he said in the letter.

His notifications of employees testing positive were being distributed to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Los

Angeles County Office of Education, Pomona Unified School Board members, union leadership, staff members, parents in 22,000 households and 3,000 business partners and non-profits connected with the school district in some fashion.

The information also is provided on the district's social media platform including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and the district's web site.

Upon request from La Nueva Voz, members of the news media now have been added to the list since, as La Nueva Voz pointed out, some residents and businesses in the area of confirmed coronavirus cases may not have children in the school system or otherwise have access to the district's reports.

The school district, the seventh largest in Los Angeles County, serves more than 22,000 students and maintains a staff of more than 4,000 teaching and non-teaching employees.

'Distance learning' technology update

Meanwhile, in a rare Saturday telephone interview with La Nueva Voz, Martinez said that while schools are closed, "distance learning" or, simply, working at home on computers, is proceeding on track.

He said educational resources were available online for all grade levels for the first two weeks of closure before spring break.

Every child has a Chromebook (laptop computer), he said, through a phased in distribution program that has been under way for the last three years. Students at the last two schools received theirs just before spring break.

"However, we are learning not everyone is on (online)," Martinez said, so the school district partnered with Spectrum to provide 60 days of free internet access to homes without access.

Parents can call Spectrum at (844) 488-8395 for arrangements.

But he said some parents were concerned with allowing a technician into the house because of COVID-19 concerns. His solution was to purchase additional mobile hot spots for those families.

Martinez said the district also is working with Cisco Technology, a worldwide information technol-

Fairplex steps up to the plate to assist with COVID but National Guard rumors unfounded

Pomona's Fairplex is not making plans with the California National Guard to have troops deployed into bivouac quarters on the Fairplex campus (for crowd control, driving seniors to the hospital or setting up hospital beds in one of the exhibition halls) and the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel is not being used to house the homeless suffering from coronavirus.

These rumors and others have been floating around on the street and in social media during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Even Pomona City Manager James Makshanoff cleared things up at a Pomona "virtual" City Council meeting early this month.

Makshanoff told councilmembers he talked to Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana

who told him he had not had contact with the National Guard.

"He assured me that's not the case right now," Makshanoff said, adding that at that time the hotel was housing 35 residents in quarantine mode for COVID-19.

He also told councilmembers the city has received a \$300,000 "transient occupancy tax" payment from the hotel for the county's use of the facility for COVID quarantine or self-isolation purposes – the first hotel in Los Angeles County to be used as a COVID facility.

The hotel has been closed to other guests since last month during the COVID emergency. The arrangement making all 244 rooms available for quarantine use will continue at least through the end

of May and possibly through June, officials said in a Los Angeles news conference last month.

Makshanoff also told councilmembers the city's residential solid waste collections during the shelter in place requirement have increased to 250 tons of trash a day compared to the typical 150 tons per day.

In addition, criminal activity and calls for service at the police department are down 30 to 35 percent.

At Fairplex, Santana told La Nueva Voz the same thing he told Makshanoff.

National Guard rumors at Fairplex unfounded

"We have not been approached by the national guard," he said in a Saturday telephone interview two

days before the city council meeting.

And, he added, the hotel is not being used for homeless COVID patients but, in many cases, people like firefighters.

"A number of firefighters there have been exposed (and) can't go home or to the station," Santana said, explaining they need a place to stay while getting their testing results or, if testing comes back positive, a place to keep away from the general public.

He also said only trained professional medical technicians are being used inside the hotel to avoid exposing volunteers to COVID. In addition, patients are being brought into the hotel through a side door to avoid unnecessary exposure in the hotel's lobby areas.

Commenting on the homeless rumor, he said Los Angeles County has contracted with a number of hotels for exclusive housing of homeless COVID patients.

"This hotel is not one of those," he said.

Drive-through testing

Fairplex also is hosting one of the county's three (to date) drive-through testing facilities for COVID-19. Appointments are required and patients must enter at Gate 17 (McKinley Avenue and Fairplex Drive).

A pre-screening process is re-

quired at coronavirus.lacity.org/testing.

Testing is available seven days a week.

Santana told La Nueva Voz 250 tests are being administered from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel and students from Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences are administering the tests to patients who remain in their cars.

Food pantry and child care

On another part of the Fairplex campus, Santana said he is partnering with Sowing Seeds for Life, a food bank based in La Verne, for a drive-through food pantry. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with events continuing April 29 and every Wednesday through May (subject to change).

The program got under way this month and Santana said more than 1,700 families drove through the Fairplex drag strip on opening day.

And the Fairplex child development center is accepting children of first responders working in the area on a "reduced cost" basis.

Santana said the Fairplex web site is updated frequently with COVID-related activities happening on the campus. For more information, visit fairplex.com and click on "Message from Fairplex CEO."

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ogy (IT) and networking provider, along with the City of Pomona, to construct internet "access points" on city-owned utility poles (the city has 7,000 poles to choose from) in areas of the city that have limited access to the internet.

The superintendent said he believes this plan will help to "narrow the gap" and can get additional students online quickly, as early as this month, as soon as funding is approved and the city manager approves the installation under the city's blanket emergency order.

And, he said, "we're able to continue even after this emergency period," using the access points for residents of the selected areas.

Breakdown of actual lessons

Then with all of these technological capabilities, what are the kids actually learning?

Martinez said for the first two weeks, the district was simply providing educational resources for all grade levels – individual students working with study materials not guided by a teacher.

The reason for that, he said, was the district initially believed the closure would be only for the two weeks before spring break.

But once all timing projections were out the window, teachers began meeting early this month and after spring break students returned to work online with actual instruction, real assignments being given, and entire classes connecting online using one of several internet conferencing services.

"And it's pretty easy to manu-

ver," Martinez said. "It's not too difficult to host a meeting."

This approach will include the district's special education students with specialists like occupational therapists or adaptive physical education support staff involved in the process.

"We want to make sure we're providing equity across the system," Martinez said, even though teachers will be working remotely.

He said the "distance learning" will continue through the last day of school, which is May 29.

"Many of our teachers, they knew this was coming" and started working right away by remaining in contact with their kids online to continue projects they were working on.

"I think the parents appreciated that," he said.

For summer school, he said the district is planning different contingencies – digital learning but also in-person summer school, depending on when things open back up.

He said summer school normally starts the week after the end of the regular school year, or the first work week of June. High school is ready for digital if they need it, he said.

And that different type of summer school, for students who may need additional support or need to accelerate, is ready for elementary and secondary students, although the district is planning to invest in a larger summer program this year.

"We are envisioning a larger summer program, larger than we've had in the last 15 years," he said,

because it is unknown when the students will be able to return to school.

But he said students normally keep their Chromebooks over the summer months anyway.

Why 15 years? Martinez said the district has received funding only for high school summer school for the last 15 years.

He said this year's summer school for elementary and middle school students will be more of an intervention type of summer school or, as he said, more of what summer school used to be, making sure they learn what they should have learned – even though it is still unclear how this will all be funded.

"We know our parents are going to say 'you've got to do more for our kids' (because of time lost during the school year) and we're going to be ready to do that," he said.

Plans for commencement exercises

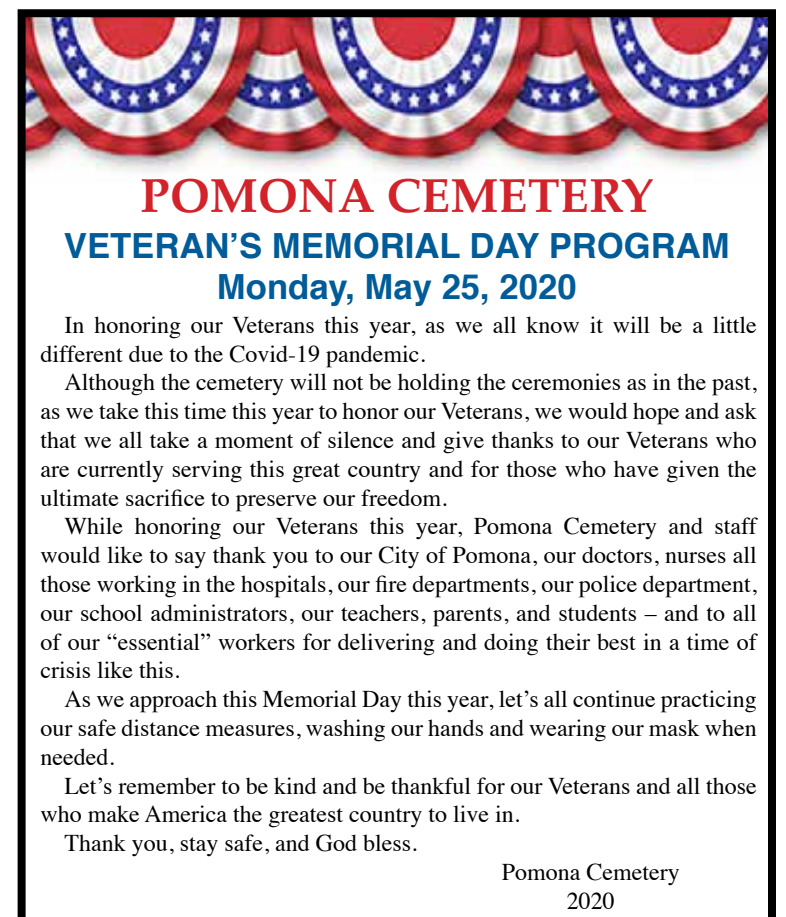
Although this part of the story is not exactly "breaking news," a lot of things that normally happen at the end of each school year are being "altered," Martinez said, although he preferred to say "postponed."

"Cancellation is not an option," he said – his intention is to schedule these sometime in June, July or August.

After all, he said, these are important "celebrations" for kids who have put in 13 years of school.

And he's going to see that they happen "whenever they allow us to

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POMONA CEMETERY
VETERAN'S MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM
Monday, May 25, 2020

In honoring our Veterans this year, as we all know it will be a little different due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Although the cemetery will not be holding the ceremonies as in the past, as we take this time this year to honor our Veterans, we would hope and ask that we all take a moment of silence and give thanks to our Veterans who are currently serving this great country and for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedom.

While honoring our Veterans this year, Pomona Cemetery and staff would like to say thank you to our City of Pomona, our doctors, nurses all those working in the hospitals, our fire departments, our police department, our school administrators, our teachers, parents, and students – and to all of our "essential" workers for delivering and doing their best in a time of crisis like this.

As we approach this Memorial Day this year, let's all continue practicing our safe distance measures, washing our hands and wearing our mask when needed.

Let's remember to be kind and be thankful for our Veterans and all those who make America the greatest country to live in.

Thank you, stay safe, and God bless.

Pomona Cemetery
2020

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“meet the moment over the next number of weeks as these numbers continue to rise.”

Hospitals everywhere are running out of personal protective equipment for staff members and are calling on the public to help with donations and homemade masks.

And one doctor in Mississippi was receiving news media attention for coming up with a way to produce ventilators (breathing machines) for COVID-19 patients for under \$100 using a garden hose, a lamp timer and other items readily available at the local hardware store.

What sounds like it could be a low budget '50s sci-fi “B” movie or a novel by either Ray Bradbury or Stephen King is happening in “real life” in cities and towns throughout Southern California, across the country and around the world. And the way of life it is creating – complete with daily news updates from President Trump, Gov. Newsom, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and officials from Los Angeles County – is becoming

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with more than a dozen chamber members, board members, ambassadors and guests participating.

Later that same day, Los Angeles County Health Officer Dr. Muntu Davis issued a revised order extending the county’s “safer at home” order – which applies to Pomona – to a new date of May 15, obviously two weeks beyond President Trump’s May 1 target date for re-opening the country. The revised order was announced in the county’s daily news briefing.

Sandoval said Pomona seems to be doing a good job complying with the stay at home and social distancing mandates, although he said he is spending most of his time at home.

“For the most part, I see people being very responsible,” he said, adding that he sees very few people on the streets but that even at the market his sense is that residents are making the effort to comply.

He pointed out that the City of Los Angeles has enacted a mandatory face mask requirement and that Los Angeles County is recommending wearing face masks when out in public.

Sandoval said he wears his face mask when he goes out.

He thanked members of the Po-

the “new normal.”

And nobody really knows how long it is going to last. President Trump is talking about his plans to begin a phased in re-opening of the economy beginning May 1, although Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval told La Nueva Voz that’s not likely here.

In Los Angeles County alone, as of Tuesday, county officials have reported 15,140 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 663 deaths. A total of 97 cases have been reported in Pomona. The first recorded fatality in Los Angeles County was in Pomona, as reported in last month’s La Nueva Voz.

And confirmed cases in Pomona – although patient names are not disclosed due to patient confidentiality requirements – have included two employees at Cardenas Markets – one at each of the two stores on Holt Avenue – and three employees of Pomona Unified School District, including one inside school district headquarters on Garey Avenue.

In addition, two employees at nearby Mt. San Antonio College

mona business community “for their resiliency of this moment” in stepping up in a variety of ways.

“I know it hasn’t been easy,” he said.

As an example, he said he recently received a call from a councilmember regarding a food pantry that was running out of cardboard boxes used to deliver food to families in need.

He contacted a manager at Pomona’s Home Depot and the store was able to donate four pallets of boxes, or about 500 boxes.

“I see this every single day, people stepping up,” he said.

Sandoval told business owners that there has been a lot of concern over a March 31 deadline for some business license renewals, but said the city is going to work with individual businesses on a case by case basis.

“If you cannot pay it, we’re going to work with you,” he said, adding that business owners can call city staff to work out arrangements.

He said the city plans to extend the moratorium on foreclosures or evictions beyond its original six months limitation. The city’s original temporary suspension on residential and commercial fore-

tested positive last month for COVID-19, according to a notification from Bill Scroggins, college president and CEO. The college’s physical campus has been closed since Newsom’s stay at home order on March 19, with classes and services moved online.

Mental health agencies are advertising resources and support for stress, anxiety and depression, and domestic violence agencies are advertising hotline telephone numbers, shelters and advice on seeking help from law enforcement.

City council meetings and meetings of other public bodies, along with press briefings and news conferences, all are virtual, and all live events everywhere have been canceled or postponed. And even Nashville’s Grand Ole Opry, the center of the world for country music, is playing on stage to an empty house (and with the performers maintaining social distancing) every Saturday night with music televised and streamed over the internet – all to keep America’s longest running radio broadcast on the air during the pandemic. The Opry

closures required residents to catch up on payments within six months following the lifting of the local emergency.

But he said it will be up to the state and federal government to figure out how to handle financial aid for renters and property owners.

Sandoval said the city is in the process of setting up a hotline for residents and businesses to request information on anything from dealing with the city to what they can do if their electricity is about to be cut off.

However, he pointed out that essential city services are continuing – from water to police and street sweeping, although all parks have been closed.

And he said the city has received \$1.2 million from the federal government for community development block grants, something the city council will be looking at to determine where those funds should be allocated, possibly including residents and businesses in need.

He said the city is also creating an emergency action “Post COVID-19” committee to focus on priorities once the city begins its

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has broadcast more than 4,900 Saturday night shows since 1925.

There is some good news as California begins to flatten the curve on COVID-19. When Gov. Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti staged their virtual news media briefing just after the Mercy tied up late last month in the Port of Los Angeles, Newsom told reporters California was still experiencing double digit percentage increases of new COVID-19 patients – at the time that figure was 26 percent over the previous day. Percentage increases now are down to mid-single digit increases (although, in fairness, they are based on larger numbers).

“We now are seeing a spike that we were anticipating, that we were modeling, but that we were subsequently preparing for,” Newsom said. “Part of that preparation is exemplified with the ship you see behind me – the capacity of up to 1,000 beds within that ship at the peak consideration, about 550 at the lower end.”

“It’s just one of many assets that we are already pre-positioning throughout the State of California,” he added, explaining that the state at the time had identified roughly 4,000 beds of some type to prepare for the surge. “We are making progress on every front – we’re not waiting around.”

He said by continuing physical distancing and stay at home orders “we can bend that curve, we can meet that moment,” laying the

foundation of preparation “so that we can save lives and we ultimately can meet this moment working collaboratively and working together.”

Garcetti called Newsom “the first governor to take the move that we needed in this country and to lead the way.”

“This truly is mercy on the water,” Garcetti said.

U.S. Navy Rear Admiral John Gumbleton, commander of Expeditionary Strike Group 3, was credited with handling the logistics for the Navy to allow the Mercy to move from San Diego to Los Angeles.

“We’re honored to be here in Los Angeles supporting FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), the State of California and the city (of Los Angeles) in this on-going COVID-19 crisis, Gumbleton said. “The Mercy behind me is uniquely outfitted for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, one of the Navy’s core missions for these ships to perform around the world.”

“Our embarked medical professionals are highly skilled and trained and ready to support COVID-19 response efforts,” he added. “By providing care to patients in need of treatment not related to COVID-9 . . . they will in effect serve as a relief valve allowing local hospitals to increase their focus on treating COVID-19 patients.”

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Publisher: Jeff Schenkel
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Layout and Design/Translations: Dora Cruz
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Pomona resident Jeff Hodge honored by Historical Society for donation of estate

Long-time American Legion Post 30 (Pomona) member and supporter Jeff Hodge was the honored recipient in February of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley's first Jacobus Award "for helping to preserve the rich history of the Pomona Valley."

Hodge, a self-described lifelong history buff, received the honor after donating his entire estate to the Historical Society including his well-known collections of, in his words, "all things Pomona" memorabilia – including everything from business cards to postcards of places long gone and more.

"I'm big into that," he told La Nueva Voz.

The gift will also include his house, automobiles and even several Salsbury motor scooters – in the class of Vespas and Cushman's – that were manufactured in Pomona after World War II from 1947 to 1950.

Hodge, who grew up in the San Bernardino area but spent most of his life in Pomona, was awarded the honor at the Historical Society's annual meeting at the Ebell Club House in Pomona.

"It was an honor," Hodge said in an interview. "I was happy to get it."

He told La Nueva Voz his attorney was so impressed with his gifting gesture he prepared the paperwork at no charge.

He added that the Historical Society will be able to retain some of the items on display for their historical value and sell others to support the organization and the community as members see fit.

Jan Braunstein, a member of the Historical Society's board of directors, presented the award to Hodge.

Historical Society Board President Deborah Clifford said Hodge has "an incredible Pomona archive."

She said the award was named in honor of Sarah M. Jacobus, an early librarian in Pomona, who was



Photo by Duane Smith
POMONA COLLECTOR JEFF HODGE RECEIVES FIRST 'JACOBUS AWARD' FOR DONATION TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY -- Pomona resident Jeff Hodge, who collects "everything Pomona" and has been doing it for years, received the first-ever "Jacobus Award" recently for his generous donation of, well, everything to the Historical Society of Pomona Valley. Hodge, a U.S. Army 1st Special Forces unit veteran from the Vietnam era, is a long-time member and supporter of Pomona's American Legion Post 30. Pictured presenting the award to Hodge is Historical Society board member Jan Braunstein.

instrumental in creating the Historical Society in 1916. She served as the city's third librarian from 1906 to 1940.

The Historical Society plans to present the award to donors on an annual basis.

Hodge, who served with the U.S. Army 1st Special Forces unit during the Vietnam era, was honored for his military service by Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and members of the Pomona City Council last November.

Pomona complying... from pg. 4

return to normal.

One result of that committee already has been a one-page information sheet that is being distributed through markets and in water bills, since all residents do not have access to social media and other information sources.

"Those who have information will have an advantage over those

who don't," he said.

The committee will be focusing on five areas – basic needs such as food and shelter, educational needs, fundraising from the philanthropic community, business and economic development, and health and wellness.

"I don't think there's any entity... that was fully prepared" for this

development, whether at the federal, state or city level, he said.

"In Pomona, we have an emergency operations team" prepared to take action to preserve the safety of the community, he added.

He said he is continuing to encourage everyone to be responsible, to stay at home, to wash their hands and wear a mask.

Distance learning... from pg. 3

congregate once again."

"I'm already planning for that," he said.

Unfortunately, for senior proms and "grad nights," he said he doesn't know what he can do about that. But he has committees working on all of this with parents involved in the process.

"There are just so many moving targets," he said.

Keeping the lights on

Even so, the district is still functioning – food services employees and other essential service providers are still working and being paid, and teachers are receiving their full salaries, thanks in part to an agreement hammered out by Gov. Newsom between teachers, classified employees, school boards, superintendents and principals to work together to provide quality distance learning to California's students.

"While schools might be physically closed, class is still in session," Newsom said in a news release this month. "The announcement means that more California kids will have tools to learn at home during this crisis."

The agreement includes a collaboration framework for school employers and employees to work together on matters of labor and management to minimize any impact to students through the end of the school year.

City council names Mike Ellis police chief

Pomona's Interim Police Chief Mike Ellis became the city's 22nd police chief this week following his appointment by City Manager James Makshanoff and his unanimous confirmation by members of the Pomona City Council.

Councilmembers took action on the matter in a closed session immediately before their regular meeting Monday and made the announcement at the beginning of the meeting. His appointment will become effective on April 26.

He had served as interim chief since January when Chief Mike Olivieri retired.

Ellis joined the Pomona Police Department in October 1998 and moved up through the ranks of corporal, sergeant, lieutenant and captain. He was appointed deputy police chief in October 2019.

"Everyone is getting paid, including the instructional aide, the noon supervisor," Martinez said, adding that the state's ADA (average daily attendance) funding, normally based on the number of students attending classes each day, is based on attendance figures on Feb. 29.

It normally would have been calculated based on April 15 figures but students, of course, were at home.

Martinez said the district expected to receive 97 percent of what was promised.

Even the business services professionals, custodians and warehouse workers are being paid – some are called in from time to time for specific tasks and they receive the same pay as their counterparts sitting at home, Martinez said.

And he said the food service distribution program, something that is always of vital importance to students in many parts of Pomona, is continuing – and is serving as many as 6,000 "grab and go" drive-through meals a day.

"My food service workers are the incredible silent heroes," he said. "They are coming out every day and just feeding our kids."

The drive-throughs are set up each weekday at six schools in the district operating from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., handing out both breakfast and lunch.

Ellis holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice management and a master's degree in law enforcement and public safety leadership. He is also a graduate of the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Command College and a member of the Pomona Kiwanis Club.

In a city news release, Makshanoff said he has worked with Ellis over the last few months and believes "he will provide strong leadership for the police department."

"It is truly an honor to serve this great city as police chief," Ellis said. "The men and women of the Pomona Police Department are second to none and it is through their hard work that this department succeeds."

He said his goal is to "continue improving the quality of life in Pomona through ethical, transparent and progressive policing."

Closing Announcement

All Eyes Optometry, located at 1035 S. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA 91766, is permanently closed. We appreciate your business through the years and are very grateful for your trust in taking care of your eye health and vision.

We have found awesome doctors to take over your eye care needs. Please visit their website fog2020.com and give them a call if you need assistance.

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Fontana Optometric Group
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Fontana, CA 92335
(909) 428-2020
Info@fog2020.com

Thank you.
Michele Atiz OD



Police Chief Mike Ellis

Mt. SAC provides laptops to students caught without technology in shift to ‘all online’ classes

Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut – like schools and universities everywhere – has transitioned to all-online classes because of coronavirus pandemic restrictions, but the community college learned quickly that the move left some students without the necessary technology to continue their studies.

College officials looked at available funding sources for “loaner” student computers and the problem was solved.

Some 700 students who signed up online are receiving their computers through a series of drive-through distributions on campus.

“Part of the challenge has been securing enough technology to give out to the students because there is limited supply,” said Tania Robles, director of high school

outreach and manager of the “Promise Plus” program that provides resources to students. “As you can imagine, all the colleges, all the K through 12 districts are urgently trying to get the technology for their students.”

She said initial funding came from student equity and achievement funds in the chancellor’s office, but they may be able to obtain reimbursement funding through the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency using COVID-19 disbursements.

The program is for any student at Mt. SAC who needs one “because we understand that there is great need.”

Students have a choice of either a laptop or an iPad with a keyboard. They can also receive a wireless hotspot if they need an

internet connection. Everything – including the wireless connection service fee – is paid for by the college.

Generally, she said, students will return their equipment at the end of the spring term.

“But if they register for the following term and we are still not offering physical classes, they will be able to keep the technology so that they can continue,” she said.

The first distribution last month provided computers to 200 students. And on a rainy day this month a little more than 100 were signed up, although the school plans to have additional distribution events.

(As a side note, this month’s distribution was held in the shadow of Mt. SAC’s new \$105 million sports stadium -- and a \$32 million parking structure -- just across the street that Mt. SAC Associate Dean of Student Success and Equity Eric Lara said was



Mt. San Antonio College Associate Dean of Student Success and Equity Eric Lara, at left, hands a “loaner” computer to a student participating in a “drive through” technology distribution program this month at the school. Some students were caught without computers when Mt. SAC shut down actual classroom instruction and shifted to online learning and the college came up with a program to solve the problem.

supposed to have its grand opening the previous weekend. Before COVID, the stadium was set to be used for the first time as the site of graduation ceremonies in June.)

Staff members from the college library, student services, information technology and several college security officers to help out all handed out equipment from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with an appoint-

ment schedule set up to handle 18 students every half hour.

“So far it’s been nice and smooth, students drive up, we ask them for their information, we already know ahead of time what they would like and we bring out the technology and then they just pick it up at the table,” Robles said. “We’re trying to keep a minimum contact.”

COVID survivor plasma needed

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center reports that if you are a COVID-19 survivor, their patients need you – you can save lives by donating convalescent plasma.

Visit the American Red Cross to learn more at rcblood.org/34KdqXS.

According to the Red Cross, people who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus.

The Red Cross web site includes eligibility requirements and a donor eligibility form.



APRIL AND MAY SHOWERS...

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In Southern California as much as 70% of water goes to outdoor use - landscaping. Most plants do not need daily watering, even when it’s hot.

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*\$500 hacia cualquier automóvil Honda 2019 o modelo más reciente cuando financias o arriendas mediante Servicios de Financiamiento Honda® (HFS). Vea a Metro Honda para detalles sobre la oferta para clientes y elegibilidad de vehículo. Para clientes que califican, sujeto a aprobación por HFS. Solamente una oferta \$500 Honda Asistencia de Gratitud a Primeros Auxiliadores y Profesionistas de Cuidado Médico por vehículo hacia pago de entre o reducción CAP mediante HFS. La oferta no puede ser combinada con Zero Pagadero durante Programa de Firma de Arrendamiento. La oferta se debe aplicar a un vehículo nuevo y valido Honda APR, Liderazgo de Arrendamiento Honda o con el Programa de Liderazgo de Compra mediante HFS. Ofertas en efectivo no son elegibles. La oferta no es válida en Auto Usado Certificado Honda o en vehículos usados. La oferta es válida hasta Julio 6, 2020 y puede ser cancelada en cualquier momento.

TO OUR PATIENTS, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, WE ARE PREPARED TO CARE FOR YOU DURING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC



As your trusted community hospital, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) wants to assure you...we are prepared to care for you during this unprecedented time. Adhering to the infection control and testing protocols set forth by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PVHMC remains a safe, high-quality hospital to seek medical care.

Our highly-skilled, compassionate Associates and Physicians stand at the ready to care for you. At the same time, it's important to be aware of a few key changes at PVHMC:

HOSPITAL UPDATES

<p>VISITOR RESTRICTIONS To keep patients and hospital staff as healthy and safe as possible, we have implemented new visitor restrictions. We know family and friends want to be at the bedsides of loved ones. We ask for your patience and understanding and encourage you to stay connected through mobile technology. Women delivering babies are allowed to have one healthy support person with them during their stay. Please visit www.pvhmc.org for details on visitor policies.</p>	<p>POSTPONEMENT OF SOME ELECTIVE PROCEDURES We have postponed some elective surgeries and procedures that can be safely delayed without risk to patients to limit potential COVID-19 exposure to staff and patients and preserve critical resources such as personal protective equipment. This also allows us to manage hospital beds that may be needed in the event of an increase of patients.</p>	<p>PLEASE DONATE BLOOD We are facing a regional blood supply shortage. If you are looking for ways to help and you are healthy, please give blood. You can call the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment at a location near you. PVHMC will host a blood drive at the hospital on May 1, so mark your calendar. You can donate blood safely, even while practicing physical distancing.</p>
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HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

<p>REMEMBER, YOU ARE SAFER AT HOME Physical distancing is the most effective way we can all do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19. By remaining at home, you protect yourself and your loved ones, and help reduce the strain on our entire health care system. This helps ensure that all hospitals have sufficient capacity to treat</p>	<p>the most critically ill: Those who require intensive care for heart attack, stroke and trauma—as well as patients who may become seriously ill from the coronavirus. Physical distancing saves lives. You are safer at home. For more information about physical distancing, visit www.pvhmc.org.</p>	<p>FEELING MILD SYMPTOMS? PLEASE STAY HOME Our goal is to minimize exposure to the public, vulnerable patients and healthcare workers. To that end, if you're experiencing mild symptoms please stay home and self-isolate.</p>
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WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL CARE

If you are experiencing severe shortness of breath with cough and fever seek medical care. Or if you are experiencing symptoms that could be an indication of a heart attack or stroke, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1 or seek care at our Emergency Department. **Our Emergency Department is safe.** Delaying care may increase the severity of your condition and put your health at greater risk.

TAKE CARE, STAY SAFE, AND KNOW WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

We will see you on the other side of this pandemic if we each take the recommended precautions to protect ourselves, our families and each other. Stay safe at home. Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently. Keep all surfaces you touch clean and disinfected. And maintain at least six feet between you and others and wear a cloth face covering when going out for necessary supplies.

FOLLOW US ON  or visit www.pvhmc.org for updates.

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Sowing Seeds for Life partnering with Fairplex for drive-through food pantry grows into overwhelming success

The word's out on a highly successful Sowing Seeds for Life drive-through food pantry at Pomona's Fairplex with more than 2,100 cars lining up in warm weather last week.

Sowing Seeds spokesperson Fran Robertson said that figure is the equivalent of households totaling about 8,400 people, and that with a successful April 1 event that attracted about 1,680 cars and the next "drive-through" set for April 29, an estimated 22,000 people will have been served this month.

Of course the unintended consequences of increased traffic congestion in the area was duly noted in e-mail chains and social media conversations, mainly involving local residents, but Pomona police and Fairplex security worked to keep the roadways clear and even cut off access to the Fairplex campus when it appeared there were as many cars inside that could be serviced by food supplies for the day.

The event, which was first reported in last month's La Nueva Voz and has been covered by newspapers and television everywhere, was huge with Los Angeles television stations covering it both on the ground and in the air videotaping from helicopters.

And even with LA County Fair-style traffic control on the streets, cars were backed up on McKinley Avenue to the east to Park Avenue,

"I only wish we could serve more people," Santana told La Nueva Voz. "This (turnout) obviously shows what a huge need there is in our community."

"We're glad we're able to help in this way and partner with Sowing Seeds," he added. "We just need to find a way to be able to do more because there's such a huge need – so many families who never imagined a month ago (they) would be in line to receive free food and yet here they are."

He added that unfortunately it looks like "this is what it's going to look like for a while."

"So we need to do everything we can and I hope others do the same to serve those who are being affected," Santana added. "People know about it, they are coming out, they are getting the food that they need."

He pointed out there are a lot of families without access to an automobile.

"We need to find a way to service them as well," he said. "So I think



Seal Beach resident Josiah Borg, at left, a volunteer with Feeding America Los Angeles, places five pounds of meat in the trunk of an attendee at last week's food pantry at Fairplex.

change based on restriction modifications and availability of food supplies.

The organization has held first and third Wednesday distributions at its La Verne headquarters since 2007, adding pantries along the way at Charisma Life Church in Pomona, one in Grand Terrace in San Bernardino County, a mobile pantry, and senior, vets and senior living deliveries. Those pre-COVID distributions combined generally served between 7,000 and 8,000 people a month.

Cars driving into the Fairplex event were instructed to stop at a series of stations as teams of volunteers placed everything in their trunks – from potatoes, oranges, onions and grapefruit to canned goods, and five pounds of pork, sausage or turkey breast (out of a refrigerated truck) – even carbonated drinks, Gatorade and bottles of water.

Also included was a pre-packaged box of dry goods and canned goods from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Johnson said.

What kind of a reaction were the volunteers getting from the attendees?

"Very favorable, very grateful, very gracious and kind, saying 'God bless you' and 'thank you for doing this' and 'we so appreciate this,' so very positive feedback," said Johnson, a resident of nearby Glendora.

She said at least 65 volunteers were on hand today – some "regulars" from the La Verne event and some just for the first time due to COVID – in addition to a handful of support staff from Fairplex. About 30 or 35 volunteers typically serve attendees at the regular La Verne distribution.

The Sowing Seeds team of volunteers were "from all over," Johnson said – from the California Conservation Corps, from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, from California Baptist University, from Feeding America Los Angeles and neighbors



A Channel 2 / Channel 9 news photographer interviews Sowing Seeds for Life Program Manager Joyce Johnson at last week's drive-through food pantry at Fairplex -- right after La Nueva Voz wrapped up an interview of its own.



Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana, at right, is interviewed in Spanish by Channel 34 at the Sowing Seeds for Life food pantry at Fairplex last week. Fairplex and the NHRA partnered with Sowing Seeds for the event which will continue on Wednesdays into May.

and friends of all ages and from throughout Los Angeles County.

Santana said Fairplex supplied six or seven employees to help with the project in addition to a lot of private security.

"We have about a couple of dozen staff who are still working," he said, following furloughs of about 80 percent of the staff when the crisis hit and about 30 events were canceled or postponed.

"We're all working very hard to make sure that we're meeting the need in our community," he said.

"Of course, the whole thing is run by Sowing Seeds and they have an amazing network of volunteers," he said. "We're supporting them, we're fortunate that the NHRA is also a partner."

He said the NHRA was providing use of the racetrack and is "finding ways to help financially to support Sowing Seeds and to build awareness among the racers."

"This is one of our most significant assets on our campus, the birthplace of drag racing, and we're glad we're able to use this space for this purpose," he said.



Sowing Seeds for Life volunteer Shelby Farrand of La Mirada, at left, representing Feeding America Los Angeles at the drive-through food pantry at Fairplex, reviews supplies of meat products with Sowing Seeds for Life Program Manager Joyce Johnson. Farrand told La Nueva Voz the meats were packed in 40-pound boxes and that there were hundreds of pounds, all kept in a refrigerated truck. Each attendee received five pounds of meat in addition to other items.

to the north on White Avenue at least to Fairplex Gate 5 (service entrance) and to the south on Fairplex Drive past the entrance to Mountain Meadows Golf Course.

Partnering with the La Verne-based Sowing Seeds were both Fairplex and the National Hot Rod Association, according to Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana.

this is an unfortunate time but we're glad we're able to be part of the solution."

Joyce Johnson, program manager for Sowing Seeds, told La Nueva Voz the next food distribution at Fairplex (enter at Gate 17) will be next Wednesday, April 29, followed by distributions every Wednesday in May through the 20th, subject to



A Fairplex employee on a Fairplex forklift pitches in to help at last week's drive-through food pantry on the NHRA drag strip. Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana told La Nueva Voz about a half dozen Fairplex employees and a lot of private security officers from Fairplex were on hand to help out.

Our 'new normal' shows up in different ways around Pomona!

Photos by Jeff Schenkel



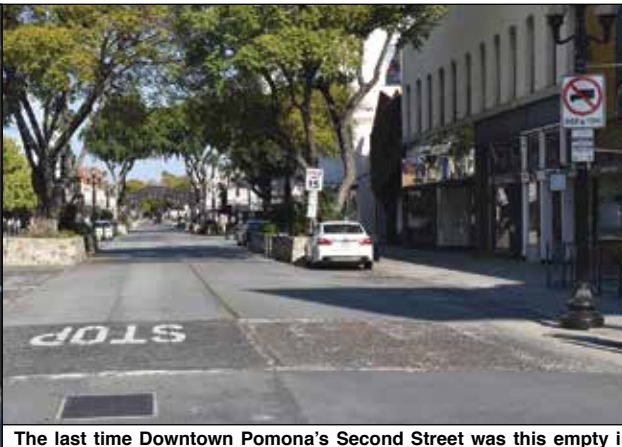
Nurses outside Pomona's East Valley Community Health Center at 1555 S. Garey Avenue are suited up and ready to accept patients -- wearing personal protective equipment including masks and face shields, gloves, shoe and leg coverings and gowns. Need to stop in? Be prepared to have your temperature taken (in your ear), have your blood oxygen level tested with a finger clip and to answer and sign a form with 15 questions in either English or Spanish (had a cough, had a fever, had shortness of breath, traveled outside of the country and others). The U.S. Census form only asks 12 questions! The nurses told La Nueva Voz if anyone had coronavirus symptoms, they were denied entry and asked to return to their car where a nurse administered a COVID-19 test using the nasal swab technique. The patient would have to wait several days until negative test results were back before they were allowed inside. And they were seeing several patients with symptoms every day.



We are reluctant to suggest there are upsides to the COVID-19 crisis -- more time with family, time to take care of projects at home, etc. Another, of course, is the freeways are almost empty throughout the day, nearly taking traffic congestion out of the Southern California travel equation. Of course, the California Highway Patrol is reporting that because of all of this, many cars are traveling at higher rates of speed, in some cases resulting in traffic accidents. Pictured is a "wide open" 71 Freeway in a photo taken at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1 -- a time that normally would see traffic pretty much at a standstill in both directions. The photo is looking south from the Grier Street pedestrian overcrossing in Westmont.



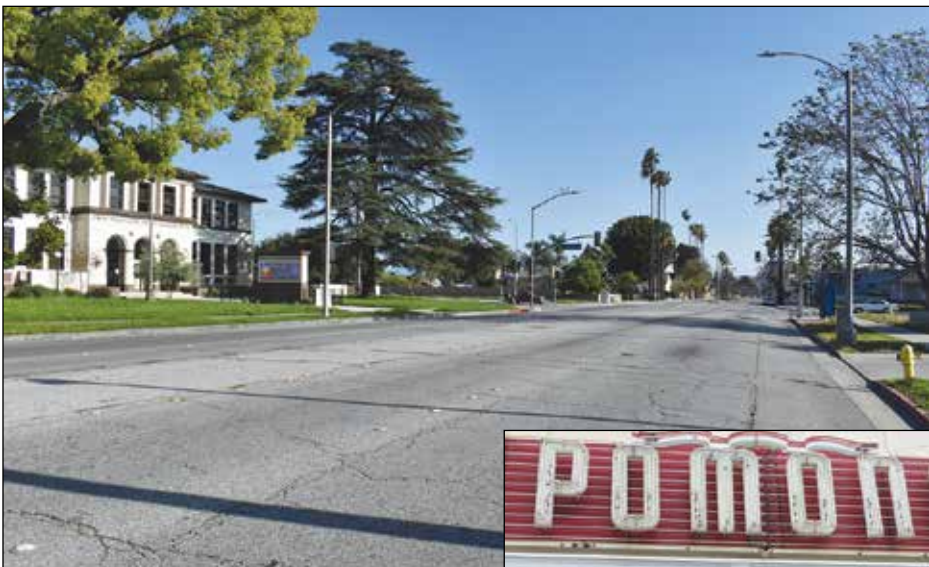
Two security guards in the distance keep a watchful eye out over a campus without students this month at Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences.



The last time Downtown Pomona's Second Street was this empty in the middle of a weekday they were shooting a movie. But unfortunately, this time it is no movie -- just the result of COVID-19 business closures and stay at home orders.



Even Pomona's post office is on high alert -- both customers and postal clerks are wearing masks and protective plastic sheeting has been dropped down to counter level to protect employees and customers alike.



Pomona's Garey Avenue in front of the Pomona Unified School District administrative offices this month almost looked like a postcard photo in the middle of a weekday afternoon. But there were very few cars at all and, of course, absolutely none at times as pictured here.



Pomona's Home Depot is one of several stores in the area limiting the number of customers allowed in at one time. La Nueva Voz noted the same practice was in effect at Trader Joe's in San Dimas. And, of course, customers are observing six foot social distancing while waiting in line.

INTERMISSION? A very long intermission at Downtown Pomona's Fox Theater and, well, pretty much everywhere in Pomona, throughout California and across the country as the nation begins to work out the details of opening the economy back up.

Photo by Renee Barbee

Photo by Renee Barbee



Photo by Renee Barbee

THOSE CALIFORNIA SUNSETS ARE STILL THERE! -- COVID or no COVID, those famous Renee Barbee sunset photos are still there just waiting to be admired. Pictured is a shot this month looking west from San Dimas Avenue in San Dimas (alongside the 57 Freeway at Walnut Creek Park) toward Pasadena and Los Angeles.

Pomona senior meals available for pickup

The City of Pomona's neighborhood services department's meals for seniors are available for pickup at two locations during the COVID closures.

Meals are available for individuals who are 60 years old or older regardless of whether they were part of the pro-

gram previously. Pickup hours are 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at Palomares Park Senior Center, 499 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona, or Washington Park Senior Center, 865 E. Grand Ave., Pomona.

Inland Valley Hope Partners offers food assistance

Inland Valley Hope Partners is offering food resources to no and low-income families and individuals during the COVID-19 crisis at seven area locations.

Food pantries include locations in Pomona at 209 W. Pearl St., Suite 103 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday) and 810 S. White Ave. (9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursdays and 4 to 6 p.m. Sundays).

Other locations include 110 E. Third St., San Dimas (2 to 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays) and 660 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont (12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays).

For information, call (909) 622-3806.

The organization has been providing food and emergency shelter to the community since 1968.




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All ages welcome. Must be 21 and over to consume alcohol. Free to participate.

A personal note on the coronavirus to our readers

By Renee Barbee

Am I sad??? YES. Am I angry??? YES, but not at any of our loyal readers and friends.

My BFF Susie Magdalena Perales has been stuck inside her Westmont house with her husband Angel for nearly three months. She has major health issues and the rainy weather wasn't helping. I pray for her, Susie's family and many others daily as this COVID-19 continues to isolate all of us.

All meetings and events both indoors and outdoors have been cancelled or postponed.

We have NO idea how long this health crisis will last. It's depressing many of us.

Those who have children (kids ages 5 to 17 or younger) now may be forced to either take them to work or stay home. Home schooling is becoming difficult for many parents who are able to stay home and/or work from home. They are frustrated just like the rest of us.

Many public places are now closed until further notice. Only markets, the post office, banks, drive-thru dairies, hospitals, pharmacies and doctors' offices are open.

Social distancing has become the new way of living. No hugging anyone out in public.

Our world has changed dramatically since last month.

However please do not believe the rumors about martial law and having the entire country on lockdown. It's not true!

We are allowed to go out to any business that is open ... unfortunately restaurants have closed but are available for takeout orders.

Many retailers such as Target, Walmart, Walgreens, etc., in Pomona and other cities have limited supplies.

One interesting part of all of this is how the pandemic has changed people – we're being more polite and considerate in the market and on the street – little things like offering someone a shopping cart, sometimes a little gesture like that. We've seen it happen at Pomona's Stater Bros. – between people from two different worlds who wouldn't normally take the trouble to engage, even for something so simple.

Another example of a positive out of all of this comes from the arts and entertainment world – singer

Willie Nelson recently sponsored a free online concert for more than 65,000 viewers with numerous musicians leading up to and concluding with Paul Simon, Jewel and Willie himself.

Also, the world-famous Grand Ole Opry is broadcasting weekly Saturday night musical programming live from Nashville – with no audience.

And Pomona's own School of Arts and Enterprise is now offering a free showing of student artwork on the school's Instagram TV to provide a creative outlook during all of this.

Hopefully some of these unintended consequences like this will make us stronger and more caring after this is long behind us.

Remember we are all in this together. We will survive this. However, if you experience any of the symptoms of COVID-19 please get to your doctor or the hospital IMMEDIATELY. Do not wait until it's too late.

God bless each and every one of you. Stay safe and if Jeff and I can help in any way please reach out to us. We will do our best.

Cuentito for Today

Coronavirus Symptom!?

By Susie Perales

I never thought in my life that we'd be stuck in our house to hide from a deadly virus! We usually don't go out that much, but this is the nightmare I want to wake up from. I've gotten to the point where I don't even want to touch my mail! I can now relate to people who are full blown Germaphobes!

We've been locked up in our house for eight weeks now. I told my sister that we've watched so much TV our eyes are starting to look like TV screens!

We are part of the group that is high risk for this crazy virus. So, we haven't dared to go out into the mad crowds of people who are stampeding to go grab all the toilet paper, water and other groceries.

We decided Instacart was the safest bet! They don't have everything we want, but we are happy to get more than half of what we order.

On the bright side, I'm losing a little weight, I dyed my greying hair, and helped my hubby paint our bathroom cabinets and towel racks. We've been putting that off for a few years. Next, we are plan-

ning to shut off the dang news and reupholster a foot stool project that we abandoned two years ago!

We are both having a hard time getting to sleep over this frightening nightmare called the coronavirus! But we are lucky we are retired and can nap anytime we want.

Recently my honey brought me a bowl of grapes with a glass of wine while I was doing the yearly tax paper scavenger hunt! I was so thankful when he brought that in. Those are the little perks that you get to enjoy to try and forget that you're living in a Stephen King horror movie!! I miss the days when I was afraid to go outside because we were being attacked by invisible mosquitoes!

But it is never a dull moment in our house. The other day we bought every type of thing we could order to wipe our hands, face and other delicate parts. We both didn't realize that the puff tissues I bought were infused with Vick's! I used it for bathroom tissue!! I told my hubby that I felt weird. We looked at each other and thought, "is this a coronavirus symptom?!" Isn't life funny! One minute we are freaking out over this insane flu and the next we are laughing our heads off!

Tips from Pomona Valley Hospital

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center officials issued a reminder that face coverings may be of some benefit to reducing asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 but are not a substitute for physical distancing.

The best defense against coronavirus is washing hands frequently, avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, avoiding being around sick people, physical distancing (six feet apart), and staying home.

Assistance League making face masks

Members of the Assistance League of Pomona Valley are hard at work making face masks for use during the COVID pandemic.

The masks are being donated based on need to convalescent homes, residents of senior living

facilities, local nurses and retail operators such as service stations and markets.

To help with the project or to donate to help buy supplies, contact Nitzi Barker at nitzibark@gmail.com.

Gov. Newsom provides relief to small businesses

Gov. Newsom has signed an executive order that will provide tax, regulatory and licensing extensions for businesses.

The order allows the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to offer a 90-day extension for tax returns and tax payments for all businesses filing a return for less

than \$1 million in sales and other business taxes.

That means small businesses will have until the end of July to file their first-quarter returns.

In addition, the order extends the statute of limitations to file a claim for refund by 60 days to accommodate tax and fee payers.

Harvey Mudd homework hotline

Harvey Mudd College's homework hotline, a free over-the-phone math and science tutoring service for students in grades four through 12, has extended its hours to help more elementary and high school students as they manage their classwork from home.

The hotline is staffed by high-

achieving students from Harvey Mudd. Tutors receive training to effectively communicate with callers, are equipped with books and materials from local school districts and have a "Dropbox" (computer file hosting) link so callers can upload materials if necessary.

Tutors are working from their

homes since Harvey Mudd has moved to online instruction due to the pandemic. They are working from 12 states and average 3,000 calls per academic year.

For help with homework, call the hotline between the hours of 3 and 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday (until May 1) at (877) 827-5462.



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Services held for Pomona native Dolores Banales

Services were held in Ontario this month for Pomona native Dolores Banales, who died last month of cancer. She was 72.

Banales attended Pomona schools including Sacred Heart Elementary and Pomona Catholic High School.

She went to work in customer service in Pomona at Josie's El Burrito, Ted's Liquor, Judd's Pak A Bag and Mo's Records but earned the nickname "U.S." when she became a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.

Banales received a bachelor's degree from UCLA, becoming the first in the family to graduate from college.

She went on to work at the Riverside County Department of Social Services as a social worker for adult and child protective services, a career that spanned more than 30 years.

Always well-respected by her co-workers, she often received requests for recipes after sharing her homemade guacamole, cheesecakes and chile rellenos.

Congresswoman Torres announces COVID funding

Congresswoman Norma Torres has announced nearly \$2 million in emergency relief funding – with nearly half going to a Pomona facility – for medical facilities in the Inland Empire as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Stimulus Act.

L.A. County opens drive-up testing sites

Los Angeles County opened three drive-up testing sites this month – one of them in Pomona – and is developing many others throughout the county.

The Pomona site is located on the Pomona Fairplex campus (enter at Gate 17 at West McKinley Avenue and Fairplex Drive).

Testing is by appointment only and tests are limited to residents of Los Angeles County who are in the most high-risk categories and most vulnerable.

Residents interested in being tested first must register on the screening web site at coronavirus.lacity.org/testing.

She enjoyed both freshwater and deep-sea fishing and could grill her catch to perfection.

Upon her retirement, she looked after both parents and took on the role of full-time caregiver for her mother after her father died in 2013, taking her mom to her favorite restaurants around Pomona or to coffee at Angelo's Burgers in the morning where she knew the employees by name.

A softball player in high school, she enjoyed watching baseball and traveled often to support her nieces and nephews at their sports events.

Banales was preceded in death by her father, Philip V. Banales, and is survived by her mother, Lydia Banales, siblings (including sister Christine Perez of Pomona), nieces and nephews.

Services at Draper Mortuary were livestream broadcast on Facebook. To leave condolences or memories and view a tribute video, visit the web site at www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/ontario-ca/dolores-banales-9102225.



Dolores Banales

Services held for former Pomona Unified board member Agnes Jackson

Funeral services were held this month at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier for former Pomona Unified School District Board member and English educator Dr. Agnes Moreland Jackson who died on April 8 following a long illness. She was 89.

She was predeceased by her husband of 56 years, Rev. Hal Jackson, who died in January at the same age.

Agnes Jackson, a resident of Pomona for more than 50 years, served on the Pomona Unified School Board from 1981 to 1989.

She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands, her master's degree from the University of Washington and her doctorate from Columbia University.

Jackson was a Distinguished Professor Emerita of English and Black Studies at Pitzer College in Claremont. She also taught at Spelman College in Atlanta, Boston University, and Cal State University Los Angeles, and was a visiting professor at Claremont School of Theology and the University of Redlands.

Well known as a social justice

community advocate and community leader, she was a charter member of the Pomona Valley Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Among her accomplishments, she received a National Endowment of the Humanities grant in 1980. She was a member of the Society for Values in Higher Education, was on the nominating committee and board of directors of the Girl Scouts of America in Pomona and was a member and delegate of the Modern Language Association.

A native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, she was the daughter of Nathaniel Edmund Moreland and Rosa Lorenda Mae (Wood) Moreland Keaton.

She is survived by children Lucretia Drane Peebles Jackson and

Barbara Ruth Arnwine Jackson.

A memorial service to honor and celebrate her life will be planned at a later date due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In honor of her memory, donations can be made by telephone, online or by mail to the Agnes Moreland Jackson Diversity Program Endowment Fund or the Agnes Moreland Jackson Annual Scholarship at Pitzer College.

Online donations can be made at www.pitzer.edu/advancement/general-donation-form or by telephone at (909) 621-8432.

Checks payable to Pitzer College can be mailed to Stephen Tanenbaum, Pitzer College, Office of Advancement, Box A-102, 1050 N. Mills Ave., Claremont, CA 91711-6101.



Agnes Moreland Jackson



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SAFETY FIRST By Jose Bermudez, Certified Safety Professional

Coronavirus: Fact vs Fiction

By Jose Bermudez

We have been inundated by the media with news, opinions, facts, and misinformation on COVID-19. The coronaviruses of which COVID-19 is a part can cause illnesses such as the common cold, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). COVID-19 was identified as the cause of a disease outbreak that originated in China in November of last year.

It is now a pandemic that has spread globally and is being extensively researched to determine who is at greatest risk, the symptoms, mode of transmission, and to provide testing and develop an effective vaccine.

We will briefly review this disease and cite information from both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) who, in cooperation with international public health agencies, are working to combat COVID-19. Reference documents from these agencies are cited in this review.

We easily mistake a cold for the flu and vice versa. Also, some of us

often assume that the flu affects us in similar fashion to Coronavirus because they are both viruses. Even though each disease is transmitted by a virus, their symptoms are different. We have developed vaccines for various strains of the flu and, over time, we have acquired a certain level of natural immunity to

coronavirus, cold and the flu — by looking at the table below.

In protecting ourselves from COVID-19 airborne cough and sneeze droplet transmission, respiratory protection is the practical method of choice. Workers in industry and the public use N-95 disposable masks. Surgical masks are generally used by medical personnel to prevent transmission of their saliva and droplets when treating patients and performing surgery. The table at right derived from the CDC describes the differences.

Respiratory Protection Differences

In addition to knowing the differences between COVID-19, the flus, and the common cold, we need to stay informed and engaged with recommendations and directives provided by our government: federal, state and local.

We must remember to isolate, sanitize, and use good personal hygiene – wash hands and face with soap and water, as applicable.

We are living through trying times but working with each other in our respective neighborhoods

SYMPTOM CHART: WHAT TO WATCH FOR			
Symptoms	Coronavirus <small>Symptoms large from mild to severe</small>	Cold <small>Gradual onset of symptoms</small>	Flu <small>Abrupt onset of symptoms</small>
Fever	Common	Rare	Common
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
Cough	Common* <small>(usually dry)</small>	Mild	Common* <small>(usually dry)</small>
Sneezing	No	Common	No
Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Diarrhea	Rare	No	Sometimes for children
Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No

Sources: World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

these various flu strains. COVID-19 is a new unknown virus that is difficult to treat because of its relatively short existence within the human population.

Let us begin by showing the difference in symptoms of each —

and our community will help us in going through this challenge.

Stay engaged and be safe.

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 Profes-

sionals. His column is presented as a public service. He can be contacted at jsbrmdz8@gmail.com.

Understanding the Difference		
	Surgical Mask	N95 Respirator
Testing and Approval	Cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).	Evaluated, tested, and approved by NIOSH as per the requirements in 42 CFR Part 84.
Intended Use and Purpose	Fluid resistant and provides the wearer protection against large droplets, splashes, or sprays of bodily or other hazardous fluids. Protects the patient from the wearer's respiratory emissions.	Reduces wearer's exposure to particles including small particle aerosols and large droplets (only wear all around).
Face Seal Fit	Loose fitting.	Tight fitting.
Fit Testing Requirement	No.	Yes.
User Seal Check Requirement	No.	Yes. Required each time the respirator is donned (put on).
Filtration	Does NOT provide the wearer with a relative level of protection from inhaling highly infectious particles and is not considered respiratory protection.	Filters out at least 95% of airborne particles including large and small particles.
Leakage	Leakage occurs around the edge of the mask when user inhales.	When properly fitted and donned, minimal leakage occurs around edges of the respirator when user inhales.
Use Limitations	Disposable. Discard after each patient encounter.	Units should be discarded after each patient encounter and after aerosol-generating procedures. It should also be discarded when it becomes damaged or deformed; no longer forms an effective seal to the face; becomes wet; or visibility (if); breathing becomes difficult; or if it becomes contaminated with blood, respiratory or other secretions, or other fluids. Rotate from patients.

CDC, NIOSH

Inland Valleys United Way participates in statewide COVID hotline

The United Way of the Inland Valleys "211" telephone hotline has become part of Gov. Newsom's new statewide COVID-19 telephone hotline at (833) 544-2374.

The program is designed to assist the public with anything from finding resources to battle food insecurity or help in finding housing to social isolation among those over the age of 65.

United Way CEO Lisa Wright said in a recent news release the "Community Connect" 211 lines in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties have received 22,532 calls since March 9.

Pomona Eagles events postponed

The Pomona Eagles fundraising golf tournament which had been scheduled for May 15 has been postponed to a date later in the year or may possibly even be rescheduled for 2021.

In addition, all Special Olympics events have been suspended until at least June 7.



Photo by Robert Bledsoe / Mt. SAC

The Mountie Fresh Food Pantry, a mobile food pantry partnering with Sowing Seeds for Life in La Verne and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, in rainy weather this month served nearly 350 students at Mt. San Antonio College who were facing food insecurity. Due to the closure of the campus and a need to maintain social distancing, students sat in their cars and staff placed pre-packed bags of groceries in their trunks. A walk-up "grab and go" option was offered. Included was bread or tortillas, fruit, vegetables, pasta, soup, beans and a frozen meal prepared by Sodexo.

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God's Pantry takes food distribution to new level during COVID-19 pandemic

God's Pantry, a Chino Hills-based non-profit organization known for its monthly food distribution programs in six area cities, has taken on a new challenge – providing daily food distributions right out of its Pomona warehouse in response to urgent needs created by the coronavirus pandemic.

The organization launched the new program late last month and, according to a spokesman, they'll keep doing it until they are told not to do it anymore.

"We're not running out of food any time soon," said Augusto "Goose" Dolce, operation director for the group.

The organization was founded in 2012 and operates under the leadership of its chief executive officer, Pomona's own Tom Sweeney, principal of Pomona Unified School District's SEEO (School of Extended Educational Options), a PUSD charter school located at the Village at Indian Hill.

"Normal" food distribution programs rotate on Saturdays and are held from 8 a.m. to noon in Azusa, Fontana, Jurupa Valley, Chino, Covina and Pomona.

Pomona's "first Saturday" location was at the SEEO building where about 400 families normally were served each month but, with schools closed due to

COVID-19 restrictions, the group got a little creative and worked out a plan with Pomona City Hall to make it possible to shift the location to the warehouse where short lines of cars, lining up in small groups on an appointment basis, pull up along the curb just outside the warehouse parking lot.

"Rations might be adjusted but right now we're doing about 20 pounds of dried goods and fresh food," Dolce said. "We're doing eggs, we picked up a couple of pallets of milk, so we're trying to divide it up for everybody, but at the bare minimum they'll get about 20 pounds of dried goods or canned goods – rice and beans."

They also tossed in some fruits, vegetables, cheese and bread while supplies lasted.

And the program is working – some 1,764 families received food in just one week this month.

Volunteers served 250 families on opening day and another 250 on day two last month.

Dolce said technically there is an income eligibility requirement but attendees self-qualify. He said the program is intended for people that need it.

"If you are hungry and you need food, we can serve you," he said.

Volunteers don't check immigration status, income or residence

location, even though the food they serve technically is allocated for Los Angeles County.

"But we won't turn anybody away," he said.

Distributions are from 2 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at the warehouse, located at 250 E. Center St., Pomona.

In an effort to hold down traffic congestion in the area, the organization is serving attendees on a drive-through appointment basis. Both attendees and volunteers can sign up at www.gods-pantry.org.

Interested in helping out? For supplies or monetary contributions, visit the web site. Volunteers are always invited to sign up for a shift.

Volunteers also prepare "care packages" for the homeless, Dolce said, so some of the biggest needs are anything from adult diapers to soaps, socks, and diapers for babies – all on a year-round basis.

Food for the pantry is provided by three food "partners" – Feeding America in Riverside, Community Action Partnership in San Bernardino and Feeding America in Los Angeles.

God's Pantry also maintains a transitional housing facility and a care center for an after school program for children.

And the nearby Pomona Valley America's Job Center sends interns over to help out and learn a trade at the same time – anything from operating a forklift to handling produce.

They even offer help with paying bills or washing clothes at



Augusto "Goose" Dolce, operation director for God's Pantry, places a load of groceries in the trunk of a car lined up last month outside the group's warehouse in Pomona for what has now become a daily food distribution due to urgent community needs created by the COVID-19 crisis. The organization normally distributes food monthly in six communities.



Volunteers Rosalind Hyatt of Covina, at left, and Kurt Kleine of Eastvale prepare grocery packages for area residents lining up at a God's Pantry food distribution outside the non-profit group's Pomona warehouse late last month. Both Hyatt and Kleine are regular volunteers and Kleine mentioned he's been on board since the organization was founded in 2012.

no charge using washing machines in the facility, and students from Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences come to their food distributions to offer free health care services.

Dolce said they're simply trying to connect resources with people who need them.

The faith-based organization is funded by participating churches and donors.

In addition to Pomona, "normal" grocery distributions are held on the second Saturday at Azusa High School, third Saturday at Fontana

Middle School and Jurupa Valley High School, and fourth Saturday at Chino High School and Northview High School in Covina.



Photo by Paul Rodriguez

THREE GENERATIONS OF WOMEN -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce Past President David McElwain takes advantage of downtime during the COVID-19 crisis to spend a little quality time at home in La Verne with three generations of women. Pictured, from left, are his daughter, Lindsay McElwain, granddaughter Luna Rodriguez, who will celebrate her second birthday next month, David's wife, Amy, and David.

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WHO WE ARE

Durante más de 17 años, The School of Arts + Enterprise ha creado y apoyado una plataforma aprobada para resolver y sostener las pasiones y los sueños de los estudiantes a través de una base de conocimiento, creatividad y un amor por el aprendizaje.

Como una escuela **charter pública sin fines de lucro, autorizada por el estado**, nuestros estudiantes de 6^º a 12^º grado están completamente inmersos en un ambiente que los prepara para la Universidad todo basado en la excelencia creativa y académica. Con el 99% de nuestros graduados siendo aceptados en universidades y colegios en todo el país, sus historias hablan mucho del éxito de nuestros programas de aprendizaje basados en proyectos y del poder transformador del arte. Nuestro estándar **sin necesidad de matrícula y sin necesidad de audición** permite a todos y cada uno de los estudiantes la oportunidad de recibir una educación de primera clase del siglo 21 sin barreras para capacitar a ciudadanos apasionados del mundo con la confianza del conocimiento, el poder del pensamiento creativo y **las herramientas necesitadas para superarse**.

Nuestras tres instalaciones están unidas para proveer un ambiente extraordinariamente inclusivo para garantizar que los estudiantes y sus familias tengan confianza en el bienestar social, físico y emocional de sus estudiantes.

Nuestro portafolio de octavo, décimo y duodécimo año proporcionan un marco para el desarrollo de los estudiantes para que sean ciudadanos dedicados con un enfoque en habilidades transferibles. La meta es que estén preparados para tener éxito en un mundo profesional que va evolucionando. Para respaldar esto, The SAE produce una de las temporadas de artes visuales y las artes escénicas más grandes en el país, involucrando a nuestros estudiantes artistas en un emocionante y desafiante trabajo de exhibición y actuación preprofesional.

Las oportunidades extracurriculares se basan en el arte y la competencia académica a través de organizaciones estudiantiles, tutorías, bailes escolares, excursiones, puestos de internos y la revista literaria *Electric*, reconocida a nivel nacional. Además, las metas del SAE Academic Culmination y Community Arts Festival se expanden más allá de las paredes de la escuela y trascienden los modelos de aprendizaje tradicionales.

RESALTOS

- ✦ Facultad académica y artística 100% con credenciales completadas
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