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Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member

Issue No. 144

Thursday, July 22, 2021

U.S. Secretary of HHS Becerra, visiting Pomona to tour 'unaccompanied minors' at Fairplex, East Valley Community Health, urges Pomona residents to 'get vaccinated'

By Jeff Schenkel

Secretary Xavier Becerra, who heads up the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in President Biden's Cabinet, responded to a question from La Nueva Voz during his visit this month to Pomona by urging Pomona residents to get their COVID-19 vaccinations.

La Nueva Voz told Becerra that Pomona, of course, has remained a high-rate area for COVID and a low-rate area for vaccinations.

"Take care of your loved ones," Becerra said. "You want them to be safe, you want to be able to hug them, get vaccinated."

"Listen to facts, not myths, don't

pay attention to the untruth," he continued. "Get out there, protect your family. If you love your family, if you want to hug your child, you want to hug your grandmother, get vaccinated."

At the time of his visit, Pomona's overall rate of vaccinations for COVID (population age 16 and older) was only 59.7 percent.

In addition, also at the time of his visit, Pomona had recorded 24,567 cases of COVID in a population



BIDEN CABINET MEMBER XAVIER BECERRA MAKES TWO STOPS IN POMONA -- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra toured the "unaccompanied minors" at Fairplex this month, followed by a tour of a COVID vaccination facility at Pomona's East Valley Community Health Center. Pictured is Becerra chatting with East Valley CEO Alicia Mardini. From left are Becerra, Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, East Valley's Pomona clinic manager Floribel Diaz, who conducted the tour, at rear, Mardini, and, at far right, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.

of 155,931, which was the fourth highest in Los Angeles County behind Long Beach with 53,650 cases, East Los Angeles with 25,073, and Palmdale with 24,983.

The City of Los Angeles reports COVID cases by individual communities which have logged smaller individual numbers.

Pomona has recorded 460 COVID-related deaths behind Long Beach with 945 and Glendale with 629.

La Nueva Voz, in a brief one-on-one interview with Becerra during his tour of Pomona's East Valley Community Health Center, pointed

U.S. Secretary visit... pg. 9

Pomona school board adopts \$328 million budget in 70 seconds without discussion, a week after public hearing with no public comment

Pomona Unified School District board members voted unanimously to adopt a new \$328 million budget last month for the 2021-2022 fiscal year – and they took care of the entire agenda item – including a voice vote – in one minute and 10 seconds – and no board members had comments before taking the final action.

In fairness, a week before, the board first had the annual budget review on the agenda and heard a complete staff report and held a

public hearing. That agenda item lasted 20 minutes, but no members of the public had anything to say.

And, since the final approval came at a board meeting on June 30, the school district was able to comply with provisions of the California Education Code calling for school districts to have a new budget in place before the beginning of the new fiscal year which begins each year on July 1.

But nobody even bothered to ask if they could find a few extra

dollars somewhere, even if only to clean up the weeds by the street in front of Ganesha High School, as La Nueva Voz suggested in an e-mail request for comment to Supt. Richard Martinez and board attorney Jim Moore.

(This obviously was a less than serious example, although clearly there are many alternatives and options when it comes to developing a spending plan for a school district with 21,000 students and,

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New nine-acre campus of the private Oak Crest Academy will be opening soon in Pomona serving students from Pomona and all over the world. (See story p. 2)

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Become a Peer Mentor - You can make a difference in your community

Support from friends and family is important, but sometimes talking to someone who has gone through similar life experiences can be the most significant way to improve well-being.

The Peer Mentor program at Tri-City Mental Health trains volunteers ages 18 and older who want to learn how to provide emotional support to peers in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne. Comprised of a culturally diverse team of individuals, peer mentors are trained on a wide range of skills to enhance their ability to connect and appropriately support peers and help them feel that they are not alone. Through their own lived experiences, peer mentors are uniquely qualified to offer encouragement, guidance and hope to their peers. For every individual they meet with, the role of peer mentors is to listen, help identify strengths and areas of need, identify supports and suggest resources to help address an individual's concerns.

Do you or someone you know need peer support? This free supportive service is offered to community members ages 18 and older in a variety of languages and includes confidential one-on-one mentoring, wellness group activities and community events. Individuals who can benefit from support are paired up with mentors who share similar interests or life experiences. You can talk to someone about stressful life events, coping skills, relationships, work and school issues, family challenges and any other areas you want to address for your well-being.

Are you interested in providing well-being support to individuals and gaining hands-on experience in mental health? The Peer Mentor program is accepting new applicants for the 2021-2022 program year which begins in September.

"The Peer Mentor program offers individuals the dual opportunity to learn about and support diverse communities that we serve and to gain vital insight into their own mental health and well-being," said Jennifer Phang, LMFT, MHSA Well-being Supervisor for the Peer Mentor Program. "People from all walks of life, with different stories and experiences, enter the program—from individuals starting their academic and career paths in mental health to peers on their own journey of recovery who want to give back to their community. All are dedicated to helping people find hope and determine their own path to wellness."

For more information on program requirements, application process or how to receive peer mentor services, please contact:
Jennifer Phang at (909) 326-4648 or p2p@tricitymhs.org or visit bit.ly/TCMHpeermentor.



BRIEFLY

Another look at Memorial Day ceremonies in Washington

Last month's top of page one story in La Nueva Voz recounted the travels to Washington, D.C., of local Marine Vietnam veteran Jesse "Bulldog" Gonzales and his friend Richard Gonzalez, also a Marine Vietnam veteran, where they attended Memorial Day ceremonies in front of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

The story began with a quote from Bulldog.

"They didn't die alone," he said, referring to "a lot of those guys on the wall."

"We held their hand to their last breath," Bulldog said in the story.

Back home at Pomona's American Legion Post 30, Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff, also a Vietnam veteran, had his own take on Bulldog's comment.

"We're still holding their hands," Radcliff told La Nueva Voz, referring to year-round activities of Post 30 and, we're thinking, holding their hands by honoring their memory.

New nine-acre private Oak Crest Academy nearing opening in Pomona to serve students from local area and around the world

A new nine-acre campus of the private Oak Crest Academy – a concept in education founded in 2014 for inspiring and challenging gifted and talented students – soon will be opening its new headquarters location in Pomona providing both a school for students who want to succeed and jobs for dozens of local residents.

Board member Wayne Gan told La Nueva Voz during an introductory tour of the K-12 facility last week that the school is fully accredited for Pomona and is ready to go, awaiting only a certificate of occupancy permit from the city.

The anticipated opening follows four years of work in refurbishing the four buildings on the

campus, located at 2350 S. Garey Ave., Pomona (at Olive Street).

"If they really want to learn, they dream to become someone that's successful, we have a place for those kids," Gan said, adding that one of the reasons his



Serena Gan
Development and
Advancement

group of partners is creating this school is that they share one view.

"When we were growing up, for the time for my environment, money was not an issue, nobody had money, but at the time we had good

Oak Crest... pg. 3

FOR THE RECORD -- CORRECTION

Last month's page one "lead" story was an account of an important event on an important day – Memorial Day – on what is widely considered hallowed ground – the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and the nearby "The Three Soldiers" (also known as "The Three Servicemen") bronze statue, both part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

La Nueva Voz learned that local Marine veteran and activist Jesse "Bulldog" Gonzales, of Pomona/Ontario, and his friend, also a Marine veteran, Richard Gonzalez, of West Covina, were traveling to Washington for the annual Memo-

Clarifying story in June 24 La Nueva Voz

rial Day ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and we reached out to him for our story.

It was important to Bulldog to take his friend Richard, a double amputee, back to the event, and we respected him for that. In fact, we even helped arrange and fund special shuttle transportation to and from the airport for Richard's electric wheelchair.

Unfortunately, after our story appeared in last month's La Nueva Voz, we learned from representatives of two local veterans' organizations (and they learned from their friends who attended the event in Washington) – and after days of telephone conversations and e-mails with Bulldog before the trip regarding his plans in Washington and what he intended to say – that, while Bulldog and Richard attended the event, they did not speak or otherwise participate in the official activities.

We confirmed this reporting error two ways – we viewed the entire ceremony at the Memorial Wall online by visiting the web site of its producers at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, and we communicated through numerous e-mails with Heidi Zimmerman, vice president of programs and communications for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

The result of all of this, unfortunately, was that our story last month was not completely accurate – Bulldog and Richard did not participate in the official ceremony at the Memorial Wall and, while they may have participated in a ceremony of their own at "The Three Soldiers" statue, there was no official ceremony there at all.

La Nueva Voz published photos of Bulldog and Richard seated in the audience at the event and of Bulldog standing at the podium after the event, but they did not speak during the official ceremony.

"He was not invited to speak," Zimmerman said. "These two were in attendance as part of a group to honor either a name addition or a status change (on the Memorial Wall) from 2020 or 2021."

"I produce the official Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memo-

rial which includes "The Three Servicemen Statue," she continued. "There is no part of the ceremony that happens at the statue. That doesn't mean he couldn't have stood at the statue and said something, as anyone could do that, but it wasn't part of our ceremony."

Naturally, we regret this error in reporting and we regret that it occurred in connection with something as important to so many people as a Memorial Day observance. We hope it does not take anything away from the sentiment, emotion and remembrance of those who served that Bulldog and Richard intended to express by making this journey across the country.

In a telephone conversation last week with La Nueva Voz in an attempt to clarify all of this, Bulldog essentially said he and Richard were invited back to the official ceremony at the Memorial Wall as part of a group to honor two veterans whose remains he was involved in helping return to the U.S. for burial, resulting in a change of status on the wall.

He further explained that his blessing and burning of sage at "The Three Servicemen Statue" was unofficial and was an offering with brief comments for the 200 veterans who happened to be there at the time.

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Oak Crest... from pg. 2

schools,” he said. “We had dedicated teachers.”

“And one or two of those teachers really inspired those people, including myself,” Gan added. “A single teacher can make a big difference.”

Gan, a resident of Pasadena, said Oak Crest Academy’s Pomona campus will be creating a “certain environment.”

“This place could be the place for those kids who really want to make a difference,” he said, whether they are kids who really want to learn or whose parents want to really support their kids.

The campus itself, on a patch of ground with four former corporate office buildings that have stood idle for several years, is bringing new life to a site that includes some 150,000 square feet of space for an



A completely new cafeteria with all new equipment will serve up to 400 students at Pomona’s new Oak Crest Academy.

administrative building (with offices, conference rooms and a cafeteria), a classroom building and two complete dormitories, one with a complete gymnasium, to make the school’s boarding school concept possible.

Gardens complete with classical sculpture, fountains and trees are everywhere.

And when the kids come to see it, Serena

Oak Crest... pg. 8



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Pomona's Metro Ale House named chamber 'Member of the Year,' Mt. SAC's Annette Limon sworn in as new board chair at annual awards banquet

Annette Limon of Mt. San Antonio College was sworn in as the 2021-2022 board chair of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce last week in a "back from pandemic" live event in which Jason Abboud's Metro Ale House was named this year's "Member of the Year."

"Let's continue the collaboration, let's continue working together, let's continue – myself, Monique (Manzanares, the chamber's President and CEO), the board working to continue to provide you business resources, opportunities to grow your business," Limon said.

"We're just so thankful to be here and to have you in our presence," she added.

Outgoing board chair Dr. Enrique Medina, who heads up adult education for Pomona Unified School District, thanked the group for "allowing me the honor" to serve them as chair for the past two years.



Chamber President Monique Manzanares presents "Community Service Organization of the Year" to Victor Caceres and the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley.

He has served in various capacities with the chamber for the past 12 years.

Pictured on stage at the Pomona Chamber of Commerce Installation and Awards event are, from left, outgoing Board Chair Dr. Enrique Medina, incoming Board Chair Annette Limon, and Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares. Board members standing in front, from left, are Jim Dale, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center; Jeff Johannsen, Pomona Hope; Daniela Franco, Metro Events Center; Lisa McKay, Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare; Michael Thomas, Pomona Valley America's Job Center; Kirk Pelsler, City of Pomona; Josh Landis, Foothill Transit; Leo Arredondo, Uppercuts Barber Shop; Victor Caceres, Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley; Jeff Keating, Western University of Health Sciences; Renee Barbee, La Nueva Voz; and Nef Cortez, ReMax Universal Realty. Not pictured is Daniel Thomas of Forest Lawn.

"It was a great honor to see the incredible transformative work that is taking place between the business community in partnership with educational, governmental and many other agencies which continue to provide the best 21st century opportunities to those who serve in Pomona and the region," Medina said.

He added that those partner-

ships continue to produce positive change for businesses, the community, families, and individuals.

And, he said, he is confident that Limon, with the support of the board and the chamber's President and CEO, "will continue forging past and new partnerships."

In addition to "Member of the Year," awards included the "Image Award," which went to AJ's Super Pawn and Doug Alvey and "Community Service Organization of the Year," which went to The Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley and Victor Caceres.

"New Business of the Year" went to Justin Manriquez of 3rd Street Graphics, and "Employer of the Year" went to Jim Dale and Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.

Two new board members were sworn in at the event – Lisa McKey of Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, and Jeff Johannsen, of Pomona Hope.

Nearly 200 members and guests attended the event. (See photos pg. 6)



Doug Alvey of "AJ's Super Pawn" wins the Pomona Chamber "Image Award."



Chamber President Monique Manzanares presents this year's "Employer of the Year Award" to Jim Dale and Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.



TRADITION AND CEREMONY -- Outgoing Pomona Chamber Board Chair Dr. Enrique Medina, at right, hands off the ceremonial gavel to Incoming Board Chair Annette Limon as Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares looks on.

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Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval grabs a couple of laughs as he swears in members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board.

Western University announces veteran educator Sylvia Manning as interim president

Higher education veteran Dr. Sylvia Manning has been named interim president of Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences by the university's board of trustees.

The appointment was effective July 1.

Manning's record of leadership in higher education includes chancellor at the University of Illinois at Chicago from 1999 to 2007. That university's health sciences programs were located at the Chicago campus and its regional campuses.

She also served as vice president for academic affairs for the University of Illinois from 1994 to 1999 and, from 2008 to 2014, headed the largest regional accreditation commission in the U.S., the Higher Learning Commission, where she accredited more than 1,000 institutions in 17 states.

From August 2015 to January 2016, she served as interim president at Shepherd University and was a member of the board of trustees as Rosalind Franklin Uni-

versity of Medicine and Science until this month, stepping down to join Western University.

"I am deeply honored at the opportunity to work for the good of Western University of Health Sciences," Manning said in a news release. "The University's fundamental commitment to align science and medicine with empathy, integrity and service draws me to it during this critical transition period in its history."

"Support for the faculty, staff and administration of the university to continue providing high-quality education to its students will be my guiding purpose for this interim appointment," she said.

Judge Consuelo Callahan, vice chair of the board and member of the board committee selecting Manning, said the board was pleased in identifying an individual with the depth of experience and skills that so aptly meets Western's current administrative imperatives.

"Dr. Manning's professional experience makes her uniquely qualified to serve our university at this time," she said.

Manning began her career in higher education as an assistant professor of English at California State University Hayward and later served as executive vice provost and professor of English at

USC.

She received a bachelor's degree from McGill University and her master's and doctorate degrees from Yale University.

Her appointment to the interim role of president was made under the auspices of the Registry for College and University Presidents, which facilitates interim appointments for senior higher education leaders.

The search for the regularly appointed president is on-going, utilizing the search firm services of Witt Kieffer with a target appointment by Jan. 1.

Manning replaces former Western University President Dan Wilson who was appointed to the position in 2016 to replace founding president Phil Pumerantz, who served since 1977. Pumerantz died in 2017 at the age of 85 after stepping down as president in 2015.

At the time of his retirement, Pumerantz was the second-longest serving sitting president of a college or university in the United States.

Wilson resigned effective July 1. He had received a "no confidence" vote from the university's faculty assembly last year.

The university has campuses in Pomona and Lebanon, Oregon, and is an independent non-profit health professions university.



Jason Abboud and Pomona's Metro Ale House were named "Member of the Year" by the Pomona Chamber. Pictured, from left, are outgoing Chamber Board Chair Dr. Enrique Medina, incoming Chamber Board Chair Annette Limon, Chamber President Monique Manzanara and, representing Metro Ale House, Chamber Board member Daniela Franco of Metro Events Center, and Metro owner Jason Abboud.



The "New Business of the Year" award went to Justin Manriquez of Pomona's 3rd Street Graphics. Pictured, from left, are Incoming Pomona Chamber Board Chair Annette Limon, Chamber President Monique Manzanara, and Manriquez.

La Nueva Voz...

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- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



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according to Deputy Supt. Darren Knowles, 4,000 employees, including both full and part time workers.)

Then what happened?

First, a little background.

The budget document itself consists of 111 pages and, clearly, had been in the works for months. In fact, in districts of this size with budgets as large as this, the spending documents really are much like painting the San Francisco Bay Bridge – they are in the works throughout the year, keeping track of changes in actual revenue coming in – both before and after the budget is adopted and, once it is approved, the process really starts over once again.

La Nueva Voz asked both Martinez and Moore for their comments, although only Martinez replied – were there board workshops on the budget, were there public workshops on the budget, and did the board ever discuss the budget in those closed “executive” sessions held at the beginning of each board meeting.

Martinez confirmed, of course, that the June 23 board meeting included the staff report and a public hearing.

“This was done during open session,” Martinez said. “We did not hold board workshops prior or public workshops leading to this budget.”

And, he added, there was no discussion of the budget in closed session.

“I very much agree with you that discussing budget in closed session would be a violation of (the) Brown Act and only the following can be placed on the agenda (in closed session): personnel evaluation, labor negotiations, pending litigation and real estate negotiations,” Martinez said in his e-mail response to La Nueva Voz.

“The board did not discuss budget during closed session,” he said.

La Nueva Voz also asked if notifications went out to the public beyond the legally mandated posting of the board agenda on the district’s website (and in that little glassed-in frame on the front porch of the school district).

It appears there were no letters home with students, no “blast” e-mails to parents, no advertisements in local newspapers and no news releases to local newspaper editors.

“We followed the posting re-

quirements and timelines,” he said.

The “YouTube” presentation of the June 23 board meeting which included the public hearing showed only 435 views and 290 on June 30 in what is believed to be Los Angeles County’s seventh largest school district.

Martinez did point out that as the LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan) is being developed and revised, “it does go through various stakeholder groups and several meetings through spring that is also requiring board approval in June.”

But LCAP has its own separate “budget within a budget” required by the education code that states all local educational agencies must adopt and annually update an LCAP, which is a three-year plan describing the district’s annual goals and specific actions to address state and local priorities to support outcomes for specific student groups as compared to “all students.”

The plan must describe actions being taken to increase or improve services for low-income students, English learners, and foster youth.

Essentially, the budget contains a separate \$67.5 million spending plan for these special groups.

Martinez told La Nueva Voz that funding establishes a base grant with supplemental and concentration “add-ons” to provide increased or improved services for English learners, free and reduced-price meal eligible students and foster youth students.

The LCAP’s total expenditures budget of \$193.3 million, which includes funding for services for both high-need students as well as districtwide services for all students, includes that \$67.5 million.

And all of that is part of the district’s \$328 million combined general fund unrestricted and restricted budget.

District staff consulted with teachers, principals, administrators, other school personnel, parents and pupils in the development of this plan, and the plan was presented to the district parent advisory committee and English learner committee prior to the public hearing, according to the LCAP staff report on the June 30 agenda.

It actually is a mechanism to “shift the state away from a system of rule compliance measured by audits to a system of accountability

PUSD... from pg. 1

based on local needs,” according to the district’s budget review.

And during the board’s review of the LCAP budget, which also was approved unanimously by the board, only Board Vice President Dr. Roberta Perlman commented, asking if it would be possible to find funding in the LCAP to pay for scheduling buses to take students on field trips. She was told by staff there was, in fact, \$1 million added this year that could be used for this purpose.

There were no comments from the public.

“Our community normally is engaged in LCAP development that addresses how students will be supported,” Martinez said. “I do not recall too many speakers during public hearings in past years.”

He added that board members did have an opportunity to review the budget between the public hearing date and the date that they take action.

This year, he said, two board members met with staff to “get a better understanding of the document,” Martinez said.

As the district’s budget overview explains, the most significant aspect for determining district income is the calculation of the average number of students who are in school and in attendance on a daily basis. This average daily attendance, or ADA, is multiplied by the district’s local control funding formula (LCFF) base grant rate per ADA to determine the total income for the district.

As the document points out, the district’s continuing trend of declining enrollment over the past several years has had an impact on the budget – with ADA declining from 23,418 in the 2015-2016 school year to 21,123 students last year.

The staff report at the June 23 board meeting was even more dramatic – board members were told the district reported a total of 35,000 students in 2003 and projects only 18,900 students in the 2023-2024 school year, or about half the 2003 level.

Also at the June 23 board meeting, Perlman asked staff several questions for the benefit of the public, listening in online in the virtual meeting, regarding ADA and the practice of handling what the district refers to as “deferrals” in the budget. District Director of

Fiscal Services Sandra Garcia explained that is really a cash flow issue in which the state provides ADA funding to the districts on schedule but from time to time, based on their own books, is required to hold funding over for a month. Local districts are required to make adjustments to expenditures appropriately to accommodate for this practice.

On ADA, Garcia explained that during the pandemic, Gov. Newsom issued an executive order providing relief to school districts when attendance was down, allowing districts to base their ADA on their pre-pandemic numbers in the 2019-2020 fiscal year in order to remain stable.

And Board member Arturo Jimenez asked the superintendent to elaborate on the birth rate in California. Martinez said, in essence, that the declining enrollment was due to the high cost of living in California and residents moving out of the district and out of California.

In addition, he said, data shows millennials are not having as many children as past generations, partly because of the high cost of living.

He told board members this trend is impacting other area school districts including Walnut Valley and Chino.

“We’re not alone in this,” he said, explaining that the district is trying to live within the means through funding of ADA and will continue to adjust as student population decreases.

And, as the budget document says, even a small fluctuation in the ADA can mean a gain or loss of tens of thousands of dollars in revenue.

The continuing decline in enrollment – part of a statewide trend, the superintendent said in his budget message – already has forced the district to consolidate some schools in 2022-2023, as reported in the May 27 La Nueva Voz.

Diamond Point and Montvue Elementary Schools will be closed and the facilities “repurposed,” and Palomares Academy of Health Sciences will be relocated at the end of the next school year – all in an attempt to consolidate student populations and “maintain solvency.”

This year, as is typical, most of the district’s expenditures are com-

PUSD... pg. 8



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Gan, who heads up development and advancement for the school, said, “they always have one question – when can we come?”

Then where will the school’s 400 students come from?

She explained that two-thirds of the incoming students will come from overseas in a program called “Experience America” – students from France, Ukraine, Asia, Ja-

the arts,” she said. “We’re really excited.”

And, she said, they will be rotating through on three-month and six-month study programs.

The remaining third of the students – about 130 students – will come from Pomona and surrounding communities. And, she added, there will be both tuition payment plans and full and partial scholar-



Dancers enjoy a new floor in the dance studio that comes complete with a Baby Grand piano (at rear) and ballet bars (at right out of photo) next to the mirror.

pan, China, Indonesia, Germany and Korea.

The international students will study everything from American history and international history to music, the arts and STEM classes (science, technology, engineering and math).

She said the “feeder” schools will include one of the largest private schools in Beijing that has 1,000 students and offers studies abroad in the U.S. as part of their program.

“Our largest program will be an international boarding school program with a focus on STEM and

ships, all reviewed on a case-by-case basis in which everything from family income to student potential will be considered.

For now, the staff is busy getting things ready – furnishing the dorms and the classrooms, installing completely new bathrooms and shower facilities, outfitting a completely restaurant-quality kitchen in the cafeteria and more.

The cafeteria itself – which includes both a large dining room and a private dining room for parties and events – already has been fully permitted by the Los Angeles County Department of Health

PUSD... from pg. 7

Angeles County Sheriff’s Deputies at schools in the Diamond Bar portion of the district. The district has not funded police services now for the last three years.

The resource officers in the past had been provided as dedicated officers assigned to district school campuses during instructional hours.

This one decision was applauded last month in a June 29 news release from Gente Organizada, a public advocates organization, and the ACLU of Southern California.

“Advocates are celebrating PUSD’s decision as a shift in philosophy away from punitive and policing practices for youth in

Oak Crest... from pg. 3



A room full of Apple Macs is set up and ready to go in Oak Crest Academy’s computer arts classroom.

Services, the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the City of Pomona Building Department.

Artwork is in place throughout the campus, and tapestries have been installed over huge skylights which provide attractive and energy-efficient lighting.

There’s a science laboratory for high school students, a language classroom for Mandarin, computer and multi-media classrooms, even a computer art classroom, and a music room filled with electronic digital pianos, guitars, kettle drums, a dance studio with ballet bars and more.

And a bookstore on the “quad” will provide books and supplies for the students.

Officials already are conducting open house workshops for parents and kids, and members of the community have been invited in for tours.

Asked by La Nueva Voz how the school is handling COVID

schools and towards more effective and supportive solutions,” the news release said. “PUSD’s decision is also a signal that school districts are beginning to accept the research showing that school police do not increase school safety.”

And, the superintendent continued, despite everything, PUSD continues to have its high schools listed among U.S. News & World Report’s “2021 Best High Schools in the Nation” and Park West High School was once again named a “Model Continuation School” by the California Department of Education.

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precautions, Serena Gan said each room is equipped with its own air conditioning system and windows. Staff currently is working on specific COVID protocols that will be in compliance with county, state and federal guidelines.

“We also consider that safety is the number one concern with our kids,” she said.

Working with local schools and school districts

She added that the school will be working closely with local schools and school districts and has already met with Pomona Unified Schools Supt. Richard Martinez.

And because Oak Crest is offering a private school environment with a boarding school model, with most of the students coming from overseas, the school will

be serving a different level of the student population and will not be competing with public or charter schools.

But for Pomona area students, the school will provide “a resource that is unique.”

At the same time, she said, it will provide more jobs for hiring local teachers, staff and maintenance workers, tax revenue for both the city and the county, and throughout construction the school has continued to source materials and labor locally.

In addition, families of students will bring commerce and tourism to the area, benefiting restaurants, shops, and hotels.

And the school’s meeting rooms and indoor and outdoor assembly spaces will be available to the community for events and gatherings.

Graduates from Oak Crest matriculate to top U.S. universities and world-renowned performing arts conservatories.

The school currently is operating two additional campuses on an on-line basis due to the pandemic – one in downtown Los Angeles at the Colburn School, a school of performing arts, and another in Weston, Massachusetts, located only 15 minutes from Harvard University Square.

Oak Crest Academy purchased the site originally built as an office complex site from the city. It was previously owned by Pomona Unified School District.

La Nueva Voz

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U.S. Secretary visit... from pg. 1

out that there is a small group of Pomona residents objecting to the current use of Pomona's Fairplex for housing up to 2,500 unaccompanied minors in a temporary intake site which his Department of Health and Human Services oversees.

La Nueva Voz asked Becerra what message he has for those residents.

"We understand the Fairplex, what it's there for, and we hope it continues to be out there because for a lot of families in all of Southern California, the Fairplex has been a place of joy and a lot of contentment, so it will be there," Becerra said. "And meanwhile, the county, the Fairplex have reached out and were willing to work out an arrangement for us to help a whole bunch of kids have a safe place to live and sleep and hopefully get reunited with family members at some point."

"We work with the county, we work with a lot of the community groups that are there, and it's been a fantastic partnership," he added. "Fortunately, things have gone well for those kids and it's gone well, I think, for the Fairplex and the county and we look forward to having good partnerships."

"We're going to be good citizens while we're here," he said, "and we appreciate that everyone in the Pomona area that we've worked with have been fantastic citizens."

Becerra stopped first at Fairplex to tour the emergency intake site for the kids, one of two

in Los Angeles County (the other is at the Long Beach Convention Center) before visiting East Valley and touring its vaccination clinic, the overall clinic operation, and even a food distribution center provided by Pomona's God's Pantry outside in the parking lot.

During his tour of the intake site, he was accompanied by Congresswoman Norma Torres, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis, and agency and facility officials.

On that tour, he learned the current goal is to release the kids to family members or foster care within 14 days.

According to "pool" notes from the Associated Press, the intake site is using about 50 acres of the Fairplex facility's 500-acre campus.

The Associated Press reported that as of Becerra's visit, there were about 1,380 children at the Pomona facility – just over 1,000 were boys and the vast majority were teenagers. Fewer than 300 were 12 and under.

Nearly half the children were from Guatemala, 30 percent from Honduras and 15 percent from El Salvador. Seven percent were from other countries including Nicaragua, Ecuador, Mexico, Belize, Peru, Venezuela, and Cuba.

At the time of the tour, there had been 1,160 reunifications from the site and 63 children transferred to other facilities.

The total number of children served at Pomona

U.S. Secretary visit... pg. 20

Unemployed single mom in need of car comes to Pomona church – and wins that car!

A lucky resident of the high desert who is a single mother, unemployed and looking for work was the winner of a free car presented to her last month by the Way World Outreach Pomona campus at a "grand opening" service, according to representatives of the church.

April Sanchez was invited down the hill to Pomona by a friend who lives here to possibly win a car – and she did!

She even had to get a ride to the event in front of the church because

her car had just broken down. She was on the verge of losing her job and struggling to support her young daughter without a vehicle.

According to church campus Pastor Christopher Morgan, the winner of the 2008 Saturn Vue was chosen live on June 27 from those who had registered and were in attendance.

"Our 'Adopt A Block' team went out into the Pomona community over the course of several months and found many needs," Morgan told La Nueva Voz. "Some of the greatest needs were groceries, paying utility bills, furniture and transportation."

"This compelled us as a church to meet those needs," he said. "We delivered gro-

ceries, paid utility bills and met various needs in this community."

He added that since transportation was one of the greatest needs, the church was able to get a car donated by a local business to raffle off at its "grand opening" service.

Pastor Marco Garcia is senior pastor at the church, which is located at 1420 S. Garey Ave., Pomona.

The church is partnering with the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley and is holding its weekly Pomona campus services on their property at 11 a.m. Sundays (1:30 p.m. in Spanish).

"We are both passionate about the Pomona community and excited for this new partnership," Morgan said.



April Sanchez poses in front of her new car moments after her winning ticket was selected.



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Dra. Tasha Dixon, Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Los Ángeles

1. ¿Cuáles son las posibilidades de que la vacuna tenga efectos secundarios a largo plazo que afecten en mi salud?

No se conocen efectos negativos a largo plazo de la vacuna. Después de recibir la vacuna contra COVID-19, es posible que sienta algunos efectos secundarios leves, al igual que sentiría después vacunarse contra la gripe. Algunos de los efectos secundarios más comunes incluyen dolor en el brazo, fiebre leve o dolor de cabeza. Pero estos síntomas desaparecerán después de 24 horas. Si siente alguno de estos efectos secundarios, no se preocupe. Esta es la forma en que su cuerpo le dice que está desarrollando inmunidad y que lo está protegiendo contra COVID-19. Al final, el único efecto secundario duradero es la protección. La vacuna lo protege de enfermarse gravemente, y de la posibilidad de hospitalización o algo peor.



Dra. Tasha Dixon
 Departamento de Salud Pública
 del Condado de Los Ángeles

2. ¿Cómo sé si mis vacunas me protegerán de nuevas variantes que empiezan a circular que pueden ser más infecciosas y peligrosas?

Los científicos están trabajando día y noche para constatar que las vacunas contra COVID-19 son eficaces contra las nuevas variantes que pueden ser más infecciosas o peligrosas. Hasta ahora, las tres vacunas han demostrado ser efectivas contra variantes, manteniéndolo y a sus seres queridos seguros y protegidos contra el virus.

3. ¿Necesitaré recibir una vacuna de refuerzo y, de ser así, cuántos meses después de haberme vacunado por completo?

Todavía no sabemos si necesitaremos inyecciones de refuerzo o vacunas anuales, pero los científicos están estudiando esto ahora. Lo que sí sabemos es que, ya sea una vacuna de refuerzo, una vacuna anual o simplemente la vacuna inicial, es importante que todos hagamos nuestra parte para evitar que el COVID-19 se apodere de nuestras vidas, nuestros trabajos y nuestras comunidades.

4. ¿Qué deben saber los padres sobre las vacunas para menores de 16 años?

Si queremos proteger a todos nuestros seres queridos de este virus mortal, todos debemos vacunarnos. Las vacunas contra COVID-19, como otras vacunas que reciben sus hijos, son seguras y efectivas y nos ayudan a erradicar enfermedades en nuestra comunidad. Recuerde que solo la vacuna Pfizer está disponible para personas de 12 a 17 años.

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Photo by Renee Barbee

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES -- Maria Velasquez, at right, poses this month with Pomona artist Cheyne Ellett next to her newly-painted "little free library" which, she said, was one of the first in the Pomona area 10 years ago. The take a book, give a book library was painted as a tribute to Eric Carle, children's author and illustrator, who wrote "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." Carle died in May at the age of 91. Her latest contribution, a "Little Pomona Pantry," is pictured at left. She said she launched that effort last year during the pandemic lockdown. Both can be seen at her house at 414 West McKinley Avenue in Pomona. Velasquez said she built her original library 10 years ago -- for both children and adults -- at a time that the Pomona Public Library was having budget difficulties. She said her first customer was a little boy who stopped only 15 minutes after her little free library was open for business. She explained she saw another little free library in Ontario and was inspired to build one of her own, adding that David McElwain, credited with building the little free library program in Pomona, did so after he saw hers. Velasquez said "the neighborhood has come together" to support both the library and the pantry. Ellett attended iPoly High School in Pomona and graduated from Cal State University Long Beach. Interested in helping with the project? Either stop by the house or e-mail her at modexclusives@gmail.com. "Cheyne and I are brainstorming on next year's," when they will dedicate it to another author so the "kids will be excited about reading."



Photo by Renee Barbee

OFFICIALS TOUR NEW 'CHERP' FACILITY IN POMONA -- State Sen. Connie Leyva, at left, and Devon Hartman, center, president and CEO of Locally Grown Power and CHERP, Inc., chat with CHERP's Director of Manufacturing Jason Flejter, at right, at a solar panel cutting table during this month's tour of the Community Home Energy Retrofit Project (CHERP) solar panel manufacturing center in the Village at Indian Hill. The 6,000 square foot facility, billed as the world's first non-profit solar factory, in the works for the past six years, will install solar panels at no cost for homeowners in disadvantaged areas of Pomona and Claremont. Dr. Enrique Medina, who heads the Pomona Unified School District's adult and career education program, was instrumental in bringing the company to Pomona.



RIBBON CUTTING AT STIIIZY -- Officials cut the ribbon last month during a Pomona Chamber of Commerce grand opening ceremony at Stiiizy, Pomona's first legal marijuana dispensary. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares; Chamber Board member Leo Arredondo, of Uppercuts Barbershop; Shryne Group, Inc., Director of Communications Audie Vergara, an original team member with the company; Norma Perez, general manager of the Pomona store; Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; and Claudia Castaneda, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez. The company's 5,000 square foot retail location at 1605 W. Holt Ave., Pomona, was the company's 13th store to open. Corporate headquarters of Shryne Group, Inc., the parent company, are in downtown Los Angeles.



AN INSIDE LOOK -- Audie Vergara, at left, director of communications for Shryne Group, Inc., parent company of Stiiizy, chats with Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board member Leo Arredondo, center, and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval during grand opening ceremonies last month at the new Stiiizy location in Pomona.



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Translation will be available.

HIGH SCHOOL HONOREES -- High school honorees at this month's Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley outstanding student awards ceremonies are, from left, Khang Nguyen, 4.0 GPA, Claremont High School; Cathy Le, 4.5 GPA, Colony High School; Goldie La, 4.3 GPA, Claremont High School; Eddie Nguyen, 4.33 GPA, Pomona High School; Kenny Nguyen, 4.2 GPA, Claremont High School; Brian Tran, 4.5 GPA, Pacifica High School; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; Dr. Huu Vo; and Queenie Ta, 4.54 GPA, Ontario High School. Not pictured are Stephanie Ngo, 4.2, Village Academy High School; Andrew Nguyen, 4.1, Ayala High School; Tony Bui, 4.71, San Geronio High School; Jonathan Le, 4.4, Claremont High School; and Henry Tran, 4.13, Aquinas High School.



HONORING ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS -- Representatives of Pomona's Vietnamese community turned out this month to recognize their top students at an annual outstanding student awards presentation at the Cultural Center of Phap Van Buddhist Temple in Pomona. High school and junior high school students with a grade point average of 4.0 and above were honored, along with students receiving bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees. Pictured, from left, are invited guests Corporal Billy Dinh, representing the Pomona Police Department; Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Thich (Reverend) Chon Tri, of the Phap Van Buddhist Temple; Dr. Huu Vo, president of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley; and Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole. Also on hand were representatives of Congresswoman Norma Torres, Congresswoman Young Kim, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and State Sen. Connie Leyva.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RECIPIENTS -- Middle school honorees at this month's Vietnamese Community outstanding student awards program are, from left, Athan Trinh, 4.0 GPA, Lorbeer Middle School; William Tran, 4.0 GPA, Day Creek Intermediate School; Kennice Le, 4.0 GPA, Wiltsey Middle School; Dr. Huu Vo; Irene Nguyen, 4.0 GPA, Bell Intermediate School; and Alisa Le, 4.0 GPA, Heritage Middle School. Not pictured are Violet Hoang, 4.0, Lorbeer Middle School; Dana Cheng, 4.0, Ramirez Intermediate School; Taylor Dang, 4.0, San Jose Elementary School; Brandon Tran, 4.0, Bell Intermediate School; and Thao Phan, 4.0, Ramirez Intermediate School.

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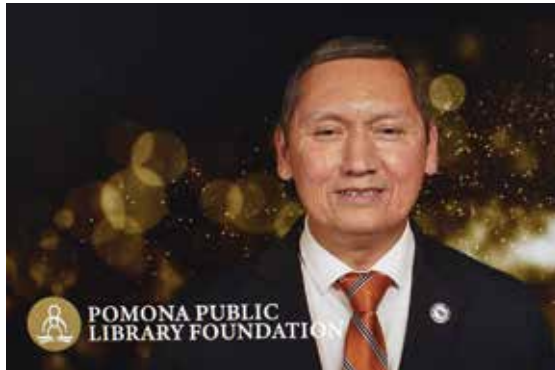


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Pomona Library Foundation Mayor's Gala brings in more than \$40,000

The Pomona Public Library Foundation held its 2021 Virtual Mayor's Gala last month on the theme "A Toast to the Future" to raise funds to support the library in a communitywide effort that brought



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval

in more than an additional \$40,000 with other pledged donations still expected to come in, according to Foundation President Duane Smith.

"In the past 12 months, the foundation has invested over \$70,000 in programs, services and equipment for the Pomona Public Library," Smith said. "This is in addition to the over \$200,000 we have invested from the state library grant that Sen. (Connie) Leyva facilitated."

"We look forward to continuing to make the library a warmer, more welcoming place, extending our efforts into the children's room, the youth center, the conference center, the whole of the library," he added.

Smith said foundation members look forward to having the home-

work club in person again after the pandemic and are making plans for adding a veterans' center and a citizenship center at the library.

"There is much yet to do but with your continued support, the Pomona Public Library Foundation is up to the task," he said.

The welcoming address from Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval reviewed what the foundation has done for the library and what members plan to do.

"Even in COVID times, the foundation works to help Pomona's children through programs like the virtual summer institute and the virtual homework club and to improve the teaching experience at the library," Sandoval said. "They

Gala... pg. 22



Photo by Irene Murray, emmajacquelynphotography@gmail.com

More than 200 family members, friends, supporters and sponsors were on hand at the Ontario Airport Hotel and Conference Center last month for the debuts of nine young women during a "debutante scholarship cotillon ball" on the theme "Pearls: Poised, polished, prepared." Scholarships totaling more than \$14,000 were awarded to the debutantes including six who had grade point averages 3.3 or higher. The top two were Taelen Cobb, with a 4.27 GPA, and Daysia Kee, with a 4.35 GPA. In addition, awards were given for outstanding essays, community service hours and even a spirit award for Lynnae Manghane, which was decided by her peers. The event was presented by PEARLS of Service, Inc., and chaired by Endy Farrow and co-chaired by Cheryl Mayhorn. Pictured, front row, from left, are Chloe E. Jones, San Dimas High School, and Morgan Watson, Etiwanda High School, Rancho Cucamonga Center, from left, are Bryan Brown; A'mya Randolph, Upland High School; Daysia Kee, Elsinore High School, Wildomar; Lynnae Manghane, Academy for Excellence, Apple Valley; Jaylen Barrios, Etiwanda High School, Rancho Cucamonga; Meisha Sharp, Chino High School; Kimberly Humphrey, Milor High School, Rialto; and Frankie Maestas. Back row, from left, are Jalen Wilson, Kreston Merville, Chance Theriot, Taelen Cobb, Pomona High School; Boston Wilson, Derick Lundy, Gregory Payne, and Nicholas Jones. PEARLS of Service is a non-profit entity of the Epsilon Eta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

OPINION

The 'digital divide' – How'd we get here? How do we bridge it?

By Larry Ortega

The COVID pandemic yanked back the curtain on the telecommunication industry's almost decade-long attempt at building out a world class telecommunication infrastructure. What we saw were millions and millions of kids without high-speed Internet at home – literally blocked from attending school – virtually – revealing the true depth of digital divide and directly contradicting reports from industry shills who wrote "87% of California was connected." Hogwash!

What an embarrassment...to the telecommunication industry. They were given extreme deference via a deregulation regime that was not unlike the deregulation in energy which caused the Enron scandal, or the deregulation in banking causing the 2008 crash. But hey, it was mostly just a bunch of Black and Brown kids

that were affected in this failed telecommunication deregulation regime. So, no big deal, right? After all, the telecommunication industry has a fiduciary duty to its shareholders to maximize profits. The fact that millions of kids were blocked from participating in distance learning were acceptable consequences of the greater goal – profits!

In 2012, then-State Sen. Alex Padilla introduced SB1161, which sailed through the legislature at break-neck speed and was subsequently codified into Public Utilities code 710 (PU 710). PU 710 codified the comingling of wired and wireless lines of businesses, stripping out all financial incentives to build out a world class telecommunication infrastructure (according to a California Public Utilities Commission Network Exam report published in 2019), and most literally stopping dead

Digital divide... pg. 20

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Kindness Carnival committee chairman Andy Quinones, at left, kicks things off at the event explaining everything to participants in front of Pomona's Unity Church as Rev. Jan Chase looks on.



Community volunteer Lorraine Canales, second from right, stops by the Assistance League of Pomona Valley booth at the Kindness Carnival.



Cristian Jimenez, at left rear, grabs a plate for the next hot dog customer at the Kindness Carnival.

Pomona's first 'Kindness Carnival' a success!

Pomona's first-ever Kindness Carnival, a free and open to the public community event to promote, well, kindness, was held last month at Pomona's Unity Church. Rev. Jan Chase of Unity served as a committee member, along with Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz and others. The event was held as an effort of Compassionate Pomona, a group of community volunteers and advocates. The successful event attracted residents of all ages and included games, prizes, art activities, four acts of live music, "name your price" tables and more.

Photos by Jonathan Williams (jonathan-images@outlook.com)



Pomona's Tri City Mental Health Services was well represented at the Kindness Carnival with Community Navigator Gabriela Cruz holding down the fort.



The Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley was represented at the Kindness Carnival.



Hey, we know these people! Why, that's Jeff Schenkel of La Nueva Voz on the Martin guitar and Victor Caceres of the Youth and Family Club on the cajon drum performing a 40-minute set at the Kindness Carnival. Miss it? Well, thanks to Renee Barbee, you can still hear one of the songs, "Sunday Morning Coming Down," on YouTube -- just type in Jeff Schenkel. Thanks to Victor for sitting in.



Pomona's dA Center for the Arts was on hand for, well, a little do it yourself art while you were at it.



ANOTHER HAPPY WINNER! -- Edward Duong, a community engagement specialist with Active San Gabriel Valley in El Monte, is pictured right after receiving his raffle prize at the Kindness Carnival, a 32-inch Vizio flat screen donated by Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz.



Four musical groups performed at the Kindness Carnival, including this group out of Claremont that had kind of a blend of country, folk and even classic rock.



Face painting was an important part of the Kindness Carnival with Kairi Jimenez, at right, pitching in to help. In fact, by an unofficial La Nueva Voz count, all four of Art and Monica Jimenez' kids were working as volunteers at the event.



Anne Henderson, at left, and Jo Fulton held down the Pomona Host Lions table at the Kindness Carnival.



There were definitely things to buy at the Kindness Carnival as pictured here at the "name your price" tables.



Committee member Don Martens, at left, helps Philip Senteno, also a member of the committee, with the blessing of the burning sage before a raffle drawing at the Kindness Carnival.

Assessor Prang helps small businesses impacted by COVID-19

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang has taken proactive steps to assist small businesses impacted by COVID-19 including launching a review of real property and business property to determine if they are entitled to property tax relief.

Although home prices have skyrocketed during the pandemic, many small businesses and retail property owners have struggled to hang on despite significant losses, according to a news release from the assessor's office.

In Los Angeles, as of Jan. 30, total small business revenue decreased by 34.9 percent compared to January 2020.

"So many have suffered through the pandemic and may not be aware that my office has a process that may provide temporary tax relief," Prang said. "I am sending letters to small businesses that may qualify with information about the 'decline in value' review program"

According to the news release, a decline in value occurs when the current market value of a property is less than the current assessed

value as of Jan. 1.

The 2021 decline-in-value filing period opened on July 2 and continues through Nov. 30.

Online applications are available.

"Once we have completed our review, those properties receiving reduced assessments will be issued a corrected bill," Prang said. "This has been an incredibly difficult time for business owners, and I urge businesses to avail themselves of this program if their real property or business personal property was negatively impacted."

A property owner can reference the current assessed value of a property at the assessor's web site at www.assessor.lacounty.gov.

Prang, first elected in 2014 and serving as the 27th assessor for Los Angeles County, runs the largest office of its kind in the nation, employing 1,200 people with an annual budget of nearly \$200 million.

The 2020 assessment roll topped out near \$1.77 trillion and provides about \$17 billion in vital public services.



GRAND RE-OPENING AFTER THE PANDEMIC! -- It was a grand re-opening and ribbon-cutting this month for the Green Room, technically part of the Fox Theater in Downtown Pomona, and a lounge serving everything from drinks to food items like specialty burgers and a separate seasonal menu. General Manager Vera Mora told La NuevaVoz the lounge opened 12 years ago as "The Drink," and re-opened as the Green Room seven years ago. She has been there for the past 10 years. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Roberto Arnold, Chamber Executive Board Member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, Marco Argote and, at rear, Lorena Parker of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, Vera Mora, owner Cathy Tessier, and Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares. At right rear, from left, are Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang, and Scott Peltomaa, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez. Holding the ribbon are Mora's children, at left, James Garcia and, at right, Audrina Garcia. The Green Room is located at 150 W. 3rd St., next to the Fox Theater. Hours are Friday and Saturday from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. and Sunday from 7 to 11 p.m.

Pomona Lions welcome new District Governor

Pomona Host Lions Club Immediate Past President Jack Lightfoot said in a news release he looks forward to working with John Schroeder, Lions District 4-L4 Governor, who took office this month following a virtual installation by Lions Club International President Douglas Alexander.

"He'll do a good job," Lightfoot said. "John brings a lot of experience and enthusiasm."

And this year's Pomona Host President Dr. Jackie Allen congratulated Schroeder on his new position.

"We in Pomona Host Lions look forward to your leadership this year as we navigate our way through returning to in-person meetings and using our creativity to better serve our members and community," she said.

In the news release from former Pomona resident Denny Mosier, who is now District 4-L4 marketing communications chair, Schroeder said he was excited to lead Lions... pg. 18



La Verne prides itself on being able to maintain a small town Americana atmosphere, harking back to days gone by. And they were able to do just that this month with their annual Fourth of July parade which was back this year after missing last year due to the pandemic. And it was almost the same, just not as many entries and no school bands. But they had a rock band on a flatbed trailer and the La Verne / San Dimas Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12034 led the parade. Grand marshal this year was a "hayride" style float decked out in red, white and blue and carrying 10 of La Verne's finest healthcare heroes, recognizing their work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inter Valley Health Plan presents three free classes on healthy eating, crafts and on ‘the conversation’ with a loved one when it is time to give up the keys

Three free upcoming events have been scheduled by Pomona’s Inter Valley Health Plan in an on-going “vitality series” of classes online.

An “Eat to Beat Cancer” class will be held at noon on Tuesday, July 27, for a discussion of what foods to avoid and what foods to include more of in our diet.

And a “Bee Happy Craft Class: Kindness Rocks” program will be

held at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 28, with tips on how to create a “happy rock garden.” Participants will create a few “happiness rocks” during the class or just watch and create your own later.

River rocks and “Mod Podge” (dishwasher safe glue and sealer used in decoupage) are a must but acrylic paints or Sharpie markers in colors are optional.

Finally, an “Aging Gracefully Series: Giving up the Keys” program will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 29, focusing on how and when to discuss with a loved one when it is time to give up driving privileges.

RSVP by calling (800) 886-4471 (TTY 711) weekdays (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or visit www.ivhp.com/vitality to receive log-in information.

A message from Inter Valley Health Plan

Tips on high quality health care for Pomona residents on Medicare

If there is one thing that we learned from the pandemic, it is that our health is and should be the most important thing. We need to be proactive about our health and take care of ourselves, especially as we age. The good news is that Pomona residents on Medicare do not have to go far to receive high quality and comprehensive health care.

Inter Valley Health Plan has made it convenient for residents of Pomona who are on Medicare to receive high quality health care right in their neighbor-

hood. The Medicare Advantage health plan has partnered with Pomona Valley Health Centers (PVHC) which provides everything from geriatric medicine to family medicine to sports medicine, women’s health and more.

The center is staffed by faculty and resident physicians of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center’s family practice residency program, which is affiliated with the prestigious UCLA School of Medicine.

For more information about Pomona Valley Health Center at Pomona, visit 1770 N. Orange

Grove Ave., Suite 101, Pomona or call 909-469-9494, or visit the web site at mypvhc.com/locations/Pomona.

For more information about Inter Valley Health Plan, visit 300 S. Park Ave., Suite 300, Pomona or call 800-251-8191 (TTY 711) or log onto the web site at ivhp.com.

Sen. Leyva secures \$9.05 million for local state senate district priorities

State Sen. Connie Leyva has garnered a total of \$9.05 million projects in the new 2021-2022 state budget that will benefit families and communities throughout her 20th district including \$1.5 million for Pomona’s Fairplex and another \$1.1 million for Kids World Pomona.

The Fairplex funds will go to the Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC), which provides a wide spectrum of workforce development, hands-on and transformational programs that prepare students for long term career pathways.

The Kids World Pomona program, modeled after successful projects in Santa Barbara and Seattle, will be a large, inclusive, all-abilities interactive playground with play features attracting youth and families from Pomona and the region.

Other projects funded, according to the news release, include \$2.5 million for repairs and upgrades to the California Theatre, a 1,700-seat facility in San Bernardino, to elevate performance opportunities and the region and \$1.5 million for a Colton Fire Department 100-foot ladder truck with low-emissions diesel technology.

In addition, \$1.05 million will pay for the creation of Lake Rialto using recycled water from the City of Rialto’s wastewater treatment plant, and \$1 million will go to the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County, which works with communities by empowering residents to achieve self-reliance and economic stability.

Another \$400,000 will go for dormitory improvements for Rialto fire stations.

Pomona’s Promise invites all to ‘Community Convening’

Pomona’s Promise has scheduled an online “community convening” next month – a virtual “open house” – to re-introduce Pomona’s Promise to the Pomona community.

The event will be run twice to accommodate different schedules: 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Aug. 24, and 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 26.

A collective impact initiative founded in 2014, Pomona’s Promise provides a structure where local residents and agencies large and small can coordinate their efforts to achieve

improved community outcomes in five areas: education and career readiness, health, economic development, community safety, and community engagement.

Participants will learn about some of the notable achievements of Pomona’s Promise and be encouraged to link their efforts with those of others working toward the same goals. They also will learn about “what’s new.”

Thanks to a grant from “All Children Thrive California,” a community-led movement launched by cities throughout California to help address child-

hood trauma and focus on improving child and family wellbeing, Pomona’s Promise will have new ways to capture the voices of residents working together to create conditions in Pomona through which all families and children thrive. Public input is crucial.

Registration to attend these free events is through the following Eventbrite links:

Tuesday Aug. 24: <https://tinyurl.com/ypc953nv>

Thursday Aug. 26: <https://tinyurl.com/4rcxytbd>

Translation will be available.

Lions... from pg. 17

he was a Lions district governor and has served as an officer in several Lions Clubs in Northern California. He even once formed a new Lions Club, according to the news release.

He has been a Lion since 1977.

Lions Clubs is the largest service organization in the world with more than 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries, with 48,000 clubs worldwide.

Lions are involved in many community service projects with activities including testing and providing free eyeglasses to the visually impaired, feeding the hungry, responding to natural disasters and promoting literacy.

District 4-L4 has been heavily

involved in many service projects and recently collected more than 43,000 pounds of food for a Lions California statewide food drive.

It also obtained an \$11,000 grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation for physical improvements (ceiling fans to keep food cool and a rolling garage door for loading the trucks) for the Pomona Valley Food Bank in Pomona, as reported in the March 25, 2021, La Nueva Voz.

Since 1968, the Lions Clubs International Foundation has awarded more than 15,000 grants totaling \$1.1 billion to help Lions improve health and well-being, strengthen communities and protect the most vulnerable.

Public service ad courtesy of La Nueva Voz

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A MESSAGE FROM DELICIOUS FREEDOM USA

A tasty tradition in Downtown Pomona!

Can you imagine hand churning a garrafa full of ice cream for an hour and 45 minutes?

Making nieve de garrafa, or hand-churned ice cream, is considered a craft because it is 100 percent handmade.

The history of nieve de garrafa began with the Italians in colonial times. At that time, ice cream was made in steel and wooden tubs, the contents were beaten with a crank and the ice cream stuck on the edges was removed with a shovel.

Today, the procedure is the same and in order to be original, all the ingredients must be 100 percent natural. This tradition prevailed in the state of Jalisco, where you can still find places that sell “nieve de garrafa,” such as the popular Morelos Park in downtown Guadalajara. However, the most important thing about keeping this tradition alive is the authentic natural flavor. Its consistency is not greasy or artificial and the flavors are mainly seasonal fruits. When we migrate to another country, it is often impossible to bring our traditions with us. The good news is that more and more Latinos are starting businesses based on their own traditions. Virginia Villaseñor and her children are an example of this, originally from Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco.

“Vicky” and children started their business in Downtown Pomona’s Art Walk and for two years they worked in different farmer markets. They started selling their delicious funnel cakes, the most desired dessert of the year.

When the pandemic began, all

the farmer markets closed and they lost their main source of income, but that motivated them to open their own place in the city that always opened its doors at every Art Walk weekend – Pomona. This would not have been possible without the great support of the Tessier family, owners of @artecopartners who trusted the Villaseñor family’s handmade products, as well as Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, who shared valuable information about the help to small businesses that the city was providing due to COVID-19.

Thanks to the great support received, Delicious Freedom USA became the first ice cream shop in Downtown Pomona, starting with six flavors of ice cream to now 25 different flavors you can enjoy.

The community is happy to have a 100 percent artisan ice cream shop and the entire Villaseñor family enjoys their work. And, above all, they are proud because they are keeping a tradition alive.

When people tell Vicky, the owner, how good the ice cream is, she knows her hard work is worth it. The most popular flavors are lemon, vanilla and strawberry.

The taste is authentic and has more value because it is handmade. Customers are a mixture of different races and cultures, but Latinos feel more at home when they savor a lemon-flavored nieve de garrafa. This is an excellent opportunity to savor a little bit of this tradition with our children, with the hope that the flavor stays with them for years to come.



Lynn (Linnie) Talia Ferro, a member of Pomona’s Eagles Auxiliary, poses with raffle prizes all lined up that were ready for handing out to the winning ticket holders at the Eagles’ recent Mothers and Fathers Day event, their first event since the reopening of their facility.



Congratulations from La Nueva Voz

*Annette Limon of Mt. SAC,
the new Board Chair of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce
and to*

*Jeff Johannsen of Pomona Hope and
Lisa McKay of Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare,
the Chamber’s two newest Board members!*



Annette Limon



Jeff Johannsen



Lisa McKay

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Digital divide... from pg. 15

in its tracks *fiber to the premises* (FTTP) build-out. Instead, financial incentive for the telecommunication industry to digitally red-line Black and Brown communities was squarely purposed into law – a racism of the *digital kind*, exacerbating the digital divide.

Fast forward to today and we find the arrogance of the telecommunication industry brazenly offensive. They are saying, “We can fix this digital divide problem with more deregulation and less oversight, *vis-à-vis* SB556 and AB537.” They cannot be trusted to close the digital divide, and commitment to build out a world class telecommunication infrastructure is suspect, given their plans to deploy third rate technology known as 5G. Admittedly, 5G is 100 times *faster* than 4G, but it is 10,000 *times slower* than FTTP.

The biggest problem is not the telecommunication industry. The biggest problem is our California legislators have been bamboozled into thinking third rate technology will somehow get us to a world class telecommunication infra-

structure, *magically* resolving the digital divide. Many senators and assemblymembers are saying, “Let’s just let them do this (SB556 and AB537), and we’ll figure out the details later.” Dear senators and assemblymembers, that cake has already been baked. Trust in the telecommunication industry is the central reason why millions of kids’ lives were turned upside down, *educationally-speaking*.

The governor’s \$7 billion commitment to building a world class telecommunication infrastructure is an excellent plan, but is at risk of being derailed by these bamboozle bills (AB537 and SB556). Unfortunately, Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile and Comcast (Xfinity), etc., will ask the non-profits they fund to testify on their behalf, providing non-profit leaders and elected officials with scripted lines on how important it is to support these bamboozle bills. Brothers and sisters, before you take that microphone on behalf of the industry, consider the following.

To be clear, we are either building a world class telecommunication infrastructure, or we are not. If we are, we need look no

further than the 27 developed countries who are ahead of us on fiber deployment, according to an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (an intergovernmental economic organization) 2020 report – where FTTP is a mandate, not an option. The short-comings with 5G are as follows: 1) cannot penetrate doors or walls, 2) slower than cable TV, 3) 10,000 times slower than fiber optics, 4) Radio Frequency (RF) waves used by 5G are cancer causing, say federally funded studies, 5) unregulated and unaffordable, 6) will obliterate personal privacy, and the most outrageous is, 7) there are *no plans* to deploy 5G in low-income neighborhoods. This leaves families in the digital divide today, right where they are – without FTTP Internet at home.

We encourage California legislators to address the digital divide at its source. Separate wired from wireless lines of business. Make the telecommunication industry deliver on everything landline (wired) customers paid for on network upgrades. Now that PU 710 has sunset, it is time to embrace the governor’s vision of building

out a world class telecommunication infrastructure, moving California and the U.S. out of that number 28 spot in fiber deployment. FTTP is the only way we can truly close the digital divide. *Let’s not get it twisted.*

Editor’s note: Larry Ortega, a resident of Pomona, is the founder of Community Union, Inc., and a 35-year veteran in the field of technology. He has been an innovator in moving people to tech-

nology, and has been recognized as one of the country’s foremost authorities on digital divide issues. Under his leadership, Community Union has trained more than 35,000 parents and children living in the digital divide and has worked to ensure all families have high-speed fiber-optic access to on-line resources from the home, regardless of race or income level, as a way to improve quality of life for everyone.

U.S. Secretary visit... from pg. 9

na by the date of the tour was 2,605.

Joining Becerra on his tour at East Valley were East Valley Community Health Center’s CEO Alicia Mardini, Clinic Manager Floribel Diaz, HHS Region 9 Acting Director Bonnie Preston (based in San Francisco), Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona City Councilmembers Nora Garcia and Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Pomona Cultural Arts Commissioner Chair Joshua Swodeck and Pomona Historic Preservation Commissioner Chara Swodeck.

Becerra’s tour was part of a national “Celebrate America” Fourth of July tour by Biden Cabinet sec-

retaries as America reopens after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to his appointment to Biden’s Cabinet, Becerra served as California’s first Latino attorney general from January 2017 until March 2021. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Downtown Los Angeles in Congress from 1993 to 2017.

He chaired the House Democratic Caucus from 2013 to 2017, and he chaired the Congressional Hispanic Caucus from 1997 to 1999.

And he served as a California Assemblymember from 1990 to 1992.

A native of Sacramento, he received his law degree from Stanford Law School.

The following public service ads are courtesy of La Nueva Voz

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Info on student group programs at AGRIsCapes:
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One of California's first paintings restored, unveiled and back on display at Palomares thanks to the Historical Society!

A huge oil on canvas painting from the late 1700s that was believed to be from Spain and apparently once hung on a wall in one of the original California missions has been professionally restored by the Historical Society of Pomona Valley over the past two years and was formally unveiled this month in ceremonies at Pomona's Palomares Adobe Museum.

The painting, "Nuestra Senora de Los Angeles" ("Our Lady of the Angels"), actually had been donated to the Historical Society when its museum opened in 1940. It had been on display at the Palomares location for the past 80 years.

Mike Schowalter, a board member of the Historical Society and resident host at the Palomares Adobe, explained to an audience of about 60 supporters that it was a gift from the Vejar family.

The history on that, of course, is that Ricardo Vejar and Ygnacio

Palomares received the original Mexican land grant in 1837 for Rancho San Jose which included the region out of which Pomona, Walnut and other area communities were carved.

The painting was donated to the museum by the granddaughter of Vejar.

Schowalter explained Vejar purchased property for his Rancho Los Nogales and built his new house where the City of Walnut is located today.

He added Vejar was the first person in the Pomona-Walnut area to build a room in his house dedicated to worship, and that was where "Nuestra Senora de Los Angeles" was hung.

Schowalter said the Historical Society's restorer, Scott Haskins, of Santa Barbara-based Fine Art Conservation Laboratories, believed the painting dates to the late 1700s but that according to public records the Vejar house was not built until 1844, so it is

still a mystery where the painting was for 50 years before it ended up in the Vejar chapel.

However, he said, there was one priest in the late 1880s who collected artwork that had hung in the California missions, and that collection was sold to what is now the Southwest Museum of the American Indian in Los Angeles. Schowalter said it is possible the Pomona painting was one that was not sold with the collection.

He also said it was clear the painting spent a lot of time in a chapel, since there was a lot of candle smoke and dust and dirt on the piece of art. And, he said, it also lived through a fire in 1918 when the house owned by Ramon Vejar, Ricardo Vejar's son, burned



UNVEILING ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S FIRST PAINTINGS -- Unveiling a painting restored by the Historical Society that apparently once hung in one of the early California missions and originally was donated by the Vejar family are, from left, Scott Haskins, who restored the painting; Historical Society President Deborah Clifford; Marjorie Fair Dominguez, a fifth generation descendant of early settler Ricardo Vejar; and Mike Schowalter, a board member of the Historical Society who coordinated the restoration project.

to the ground.

The painting – with blistering from the fire – was saved.

Haskins, on hand for the event, said he believes the painting came from the workshops of Se-

ville (Spain) where artists were “banging out the art work to send to the new world.”

He said it likely came in through Mexico and then worked its way north into the mission system.

“This is a very important picture,” he said, explaining that it is in a small group of the earliest art works in California.

“This is a day for us to be thankful to our donors, many of whom are represented here, to people who have given us grants that allow us to survive,” said Historical Society President Deborah Clifford.

She told the audience that because of the pandemic this year was really a “forced sabbatical,” although the Historical Society was able to create a web site, file for and obtain two grants – one from the city and one from the county – to finish projects like roofing on the carriage house at Phillips Mansion and lighting improvements at the Ebell facility.

She thanked both Schowalter and Haskins for their work on the painting.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval told the audience he lives in historic Lincoln Park and knows what the historic district has meant to that area. He and Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole presented certificates from State Sen. Connie Leyva to the Native Sons of the Golden West for their grant to preserve the painting and to the Historical Society for their work.

Two new drugs – both potentially dangerous – appear in Pomona

Two new drugs of choice – both with toxic effects and, in some cases, capable of causing unpredictable actions – reportedly have reached the streets of Pomona and apparently should be on the watch list of parents and loved ones.

La Nueva Voz first learned of the appearance of the drugs locally from a contact at an Alcoholics Anonymous location in Pomona who reported they have had individuals come to them in an apparent state of distress after experimenting with the substances.

One drug, known as “Flakka,” is a dangerous drug that is similar to the street drug commonly known as bath salts, according to Cristina Canzonieri, a clinical supervisor at Tri City Mental Health.

According to other sources, it is typically white or pink in color and is found in crystal form. It may be eaten, snorted, injected or vaporized in e-cigarettes.

“People refer to it as the ‘devil’s drug’ or ‘zombie drug’ because of its toxic effects,” she said. “This was a big issue in Florida a few years back.”

And she referred to national news

media accounts at the time that reported the drug causes paranoia, hallucinations, possible violent aggression and deadly behavior but was easily and inexpensively available, even through the mail.

She added that desomorphine is an injectable derivative of mor-

phine, or a semi-synthetic, with a street name of “krokodil” or “crocodile.”

“Street” desomorphine is prepared by users from codeine-containing pills, red phosphorus and iodine. Canzonieri said it is popular in Russia and the Ukraine and is often referred to as a cheaper substitute for heroin.

How would they deal with it at Tri City? She said they would probably require police assistance to help contain someone using Flakka, and a medical detox would be the appropriate route, along with residential treatment.

“Desomorphine is a different beast,” she said. “The most recognized side effect of krokodil is scaly green and black skin that develops shortly after injecting the drug.”

Based on articles and documentaries she has seen, she said people don't need to use the drug for long to experience permanent and serious tissue damage that extends as deep as the bone.

According to other sources, it has more toxicity and more potent relief of pain than morphine, along with

higher levels of sedation, decreased respiration, and increased digestive activity.

Treatment, she said, would be medical attention first and, after the client is stabilized, they would transition into something like residential.

Pomona Police Capt. Eddie Vazquez told La Nueva Voz in an e-mail response that the department's drug recognition experts were not familiar with the drugs at this point,



The street drug known as Flakka is typically white or pink in color, and is found in crystal form.



DOWNTOWN POMONA OPENS BACK UP! -- Three grand openings were held by the Downtown Pomona Owners Association last month on Second Street as Downtown Pomona begins to get opened up again after the pandemic. Pictured at right cutting the ribbon is dance instructor Evie Quinones, owner of Evie Dance Studio and, at far right, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole. The studio is located at 275 E. 2nd St.



Smart ThangZ smart store and handyman services owner Leo Alva receives a certificate from Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole on "grand opening day" last month on Second Street in Downtown Pomona. The store is located at 265 E. 2nd St.



GRAND OPENING AT VERO'S BOUTIQUE -- Vero's Boutique, located at 279 E. 2nd St. in Downtown Pomona, was one of the three businesses opening back up last month in special ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Pictured receiving a certificate from the City of Pomona from City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole is Veronica Mendoza, proprietor of the store.

invested in new security and check-out technology, new e-book services and an electronic media friendly drop-off box and supported a major remodeling of the library reception area."

"Our library just reopened to the public on June 15," Sandoval added. "Please visit the library and see what the foundation and supporters like you have done."

"There are many community gems in Pomona but one of my favorites as you all know is the Pomona library," State Sen. Connie Leyva said in a recorded message. "Just one block over from my district office, the library is without a doubt a critical part of the heart and soul of the community for students, residents and community organizations alike."

"Just two years ago, I made my case to colleagues and fought hard to include \$280,000 in the state budget to support improvements at the local Pomona library," she said. "I was successful and was so proud and excited to announce the funding at the 2019 Mayor's Gala that June."

"We are looking to make the library a more functional, practical and easy to use gathering space and resource for local residents," she added. "It should be a place where they can easily come to do their homework or research, get help from librarians, use the internet, access audio visual materials or even attend programs for children and young adults."

"I so look forward to visiting the Pomona library as the work continues since I know that the improvements will be seen and experienced for so many years and decades to come," she said. "I would also like to highlight the great work of the Pomona Public Library Foundation, its president, Duane Smith, Mayor Tim Sandoval, other local leaders and certainly the new library services manag-

Gala... from pg. 15



Supporters of the Pomona Public Library Foundation stuck around after the Virtual Mayor's Gala last month for an "after party," also online.



Foundation President Duane Smith

State Sen. Connie Leyva

er Anita Torres that have been such a vital part of this process."

Pomona's inaugural poet laureate David Marcus Oliver/Judah 1 presented an original poem written for the occasion that begins "Pomona is



Pomona Poet Laureate David Marcus Oliver / Judah 1



Master winemaker Jon McPherson, at left, and Dr. Margie Ferree Jones, of the Collins College of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly University Pomona, presented a comprehensive educational wine-tasting -- all by computer -- during the Mayor's Gala supporting the Pomona Public Library Foundation.

poetry, a tapestry, a candy, a mecca, a magnet, a pathway, a portal, a path, a place, a progression in process . . . transport from our valley to the sea, from the sea to the mountains."

And in keeping with the theme of the event, the program itself was a virtual participatory wine-tasting (wine bottles and glasses had been

distributed to attendees ahead of time) conducted by Dr. Margie Ferree Jones, a certified sommelier and a certified wine educator who is also a professor at the Collins College of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly University Pomona, and Jon McPherson, a master winemaker with South Coast and Carter Estate Wineries.

Summer 'in-person' and online youth art classes at The SAE

Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise will host a program this summer called "Summer at The SAE" that will offer free youth arts classes for students in second through eighth grades.

Classes got under way this week and will continue through Friday.

The "in-person" and online classes are

ideal for creative young people with all levels of experience who have a passion for the arts.

They also are ideal for non-SAE students looking to explore an arts education and a possible future with the School of Arts and Enterprise.

For more information, visit the web site at www.summeratthesae.org.





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San Manuel partners with Cal Poly to connect Collins Hospitality graduates with new positions in this year's resort expansion

The San Manuel Casino in Highland recently formed a unique collaboration with the Collins College of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly University Pomona to connect its graduating students with new hospitality management positions being created with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians' current casino resort expansion.

The program started in May with a virtual hiring event created specifically for Collins students and alumni to inform them about the many opportunities available at both the casino and the soon to be completed resort.

Officials showcased the company's culture, recruiters were on hand for a "live" question and answer session with students and alumni, and opportunities were provided on the spot to apply for jobs.

"As we continue to focus on providing a best-in-class experience for our guests and team members, recruiting top talent is key," said Peter Arceo, general manager of the casino. "This new collaboration with the Collins College of Hospitality



An on-going expansion at the San Manuel Casino resort, expected to be completed later this year, will include a 17-floor hotel tower with views of the San Bernardino Valley and architectural inspiration from the natural elements of the San Bernardino Mountains. The 432-room hotel will include 127 suites.

Management allows us to expand our dynamic team and connect students and alumni with endless opportunities."

Collins is recognized as one of the top hospitality programs in the

world and has more than 1,000 undergraduate students enrolled. The college incorporates a "learn-by-doing" approach that helps prepare students for careers where they can quickly put that hands-on experi-

ence to work.

"We are excited to work with San Manuel to connect them with our students," said Dr. Lea Dopson, dean of Collins. "We have some very talented individuals that are poised to become the next generation of leaders in the hospitality field."

With the college less than a one-hour drive from the casino, graduating students long have been interested in careers at the casino which currently includes eight dining options, a San Manuel spokesperson said in a news release.

The casino expansion that cur-

rently is under way includes a larger gaming space, a 24-hour restaurant, a high-end dining venue, and new retail shops.

Later this year, San Manuel will open its first on-site hotel, featuring 432 luxury rooms and suites, premium dining venues, and a best-in-class venue.

Christina Allgaier, currently "VIP Services Concierge" at San Manuel, reflected on her own time at Collins and how the program prepared her for her position at the casino.

"I never thought of myself as a leader before college, but during my time at (Collins), I blossomed in that area," she said. "I learned all about dynamic teamwork and collaboration with different personality types from varying cultures and professional backgrounds. (Collins) prepared me for the multitude of career opportunities that awaited me after graduation and led me to my new position at San Manuel Casino."

San Manuel currently is hosting hiring events for food and beverage, culinary, and hospitality positions twice a week throughout the summer. Candidates applying for select cook, kitchen, housekeeping roles and more can receive up to \$1,000 as a sign-on bonus in addition to other perks.

Job seekers can visit sanmanuel-careers.com/ontario to learn more about both hiring events and current openings.

FOR THE RECORD

'Choices' provides alternate web site address

A story in last month's La Nueva Voz described confidential services available to women who may be pregnant or have questions about abortion or sexual abuse support.

The services are available through Pomona's Choices

Women's Resource Center.

The story included a general "donor" web site at www.partnerwithchoices.org.

An alternate web site for patients such as pregnant women in crisis is www.choicescenter.org.



FLAG RAISING AT CITY HALL FOR LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY AND PRIDE MONTH -- Lee Moore raises the "Pride Flag" in front of Pomona City Hall last month (on the Mission Boulevard side) in honor of LGBTQ+ Community and Pride Month. It was the first time the flag has flown at City Hall. Pomona City Council members proclaimed the month of June LGBTQIA+ Pride Month in the City of Pomona. Participants at the flag raising included Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Councilmembers Victor Preciado and Nora Garcia, Police Chief Mike Ellis, and Pomona Pride Center Board members Frank Guzman, Delana Martin, Lee Moore, Doug Durado, Stephanie Rios, Lakisha Adams, Rio Romeo and Bridgette Carrillo.

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