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Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member

Issue No. 145

Thursday, August 26, 2021

PUSD board approves ethnic studies requirement

Pomona Unified School District board members voted unanimously last week to establish an ethnic studies high school graduation requirement – a move that will result in a planning and approval process so that ninth graders will become the first students taking the classes in the 2025-2026 school year.

The curriculum will include a year-long course of no less than 10 credits or two five-credit classes, according to an “ethnic studies requirement and integration” resolution.

tion.

As a part of the process, the entire K-12 curriculum will be reviewed in order to implement ethnic studies throughout all grade levels.

“Authentic appreciation of ethnic diversity and critical knowledge of social action to promote anti-racist social change constitute a core competency that every student should have to contribute constructively to an inclusive and healthy society,” the resolution

continued.

Assistant Supt. of Educational Services Lilia Fuentes told board members that an ethnic studies curriculum task force would form a committee consisting of the superintendent, board members, administrators, teachers, staff, parents, students, and community members that will recommend a strategic plan that will outline the best way to implement the ethnic studies re-

quirement.

The task force will be required to present an action plan to the board by a target date of Jan. 31 for approval.

Fuentes explained that the California Department of Education released the state’s ethnic studies guidance for high school on March 18.

She said the model curriculum framework cites researchers’ find-

ings that developing and including ethnic studies as part of the curriculum can improve graduation and college grades for all students.

The model curriculum is aimed at empowering students, she said, “by illuminating the often-untold struggles and contributions of Native Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans and Asian Americans in California.”

Ethnic studies approved... pg. 11

PUSD school board meetings going ‘live’ – at least for now

Pomona Unified School District’s school board meeting last week was transmitted “live” – by both YouTube and over the district’s web site – for the first time ever, perhaps as an unintended consequence of more than a year

of “ZOOM” meetings with board members at home or in their office.

Last month’s board meeting – the first one back in the board room as COVID-19 rules began “Live” board meetings... pg. 11

Carvana agrees to shut down controversial car storage lot at Fairplex but neighbors still leery

It turns out that a fight to kick Carvana out of the parking lot at Fairplex was pretty much over before it started – or was it?

It kind of depends on who you ask.

The City of Pomona issued a press release last week announcing Carvana, an online vehicle retailer that sells used cars, trucks and SUVs, has agreed to terminate its operations at Fairplex using a phasing out schedule and completely ceasing all operations at the site within 120 days.

But Pomona City Councilmem-



Photo by Renee Barbee

Hundreds of used cars -- and even a couple of transport carriers in the back row -- fill a parking lot at Fairplex last week. The cars, part of a Carvana car storage controversy prompting complaints from the neighborhood, should be removed from Fairplex grounds within the next four months.

ber Robert Torres – and more than 90 residents of the area at an “emergency town hall” meeting last week at the Ganesha Park

Bandshell – essentially said they’ll believe it when they see it.

And they were urged by Torres **Controversial car storage... pg. 4**



Donna Smith

(See stories, information on services, pg. 2)



Marie Macias

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Help is available for California renters and landlords struggling with rent

The Housing First model, the philosophy that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before being able to address other areas of their lives, guides the day-to-day work of the Tri-City Mental Health (TCMH) Housing Division. To assist people with housing stability and individual well-being, the Housing Division supports the communities of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne through landlord outreach, Coordinated Entry System (CES) case management, housing referrals, informational groups, on-site supportive services, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) housing opportunities, Continuum of Care voucher support, and more. TCMH clients who are low-income or experiencing homelessness can work with the Housing Division to get connected to available housing options and supportive services including rooms for rent, shared living, senior housing, sober living, market-rate housing and permanent supportive housing through CES.

Housing is the foundation for mental well-being and life improvement. As our community continues to recover from the health and financial impacts of COVID-19, the TCMH Housing Division is dedicated to helping individuals access and maintain safe and stable housing during this time of transition. It has partnered with the local Public Housing Authority in Pomona to assist the community with the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief applications through the [HousingIsKey.com](https://www.housingiskey.com) website. With the state’s eviction moratorium set to expire by September 30, the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program provides financial assistance for rent and utilities to income-eligible California renters and their landlords who have been impacted by COVID-19 and have fallen behind on unpaid payments dating back to April 1, 2020 and future payments through September 30. For eligibility information and application help, call the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Call Center at (833) 430-2122. For assistance in another language or to get help completing the application call (833) 687-0967. Below are additional resources available to the community:

- **Housing Rights Center** is a non-profit organization which offers free services such as landlord tenant counseling, outreach, education and discrimination investigation. Call the Housings Rights Hotline at 1(800) 477-5977 or visit [HousingRightsCenter.org](https://www.HousingRightsCenter.org).
- **Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSLA)** offers free legal representation, advice and education to combat poverty in our community. Contact the NLSLA Pomona Self-Help Legal Access Center at (818) 485-0572 or email PSHpublic@nlsla.org.
- **TCMH Community Navigators** are available at (888) 436-3246 for linkage to local resources and additional housing information.

For more information, please contact Mary Monzon, Housing Manager, or Rosemary Perich, Housing Supervisor, at (866) 623-9500.



Former Pomona City Clerk Marie Michel Macias victim of traffic accident in Colorado

Former Pomona City Clerk Marie Michel Macias, who retired from Pomona in 2012 after 26 years of service, died July 29 following a tragic vehicle accident while traveling in Colorado. She was 69.

A native of Santa Ana, Macias was a homemaker who was dedicated to her children until they were all in school. She returned to the workforce in 1986, beginning her public service career in the City of Placentia.

She started in community development and community services before transferring to the city clerk's office as deputy city clerk in 1995.

In 2004, she left Placentia to become city clerk in Pomona. During her tenure here, she implemented the Pomona Enrichment Program and the Youth in Government Day, both projects that worked with kids in the Pomona Unified School District.

According to her family, she was passionate about elections and the democratic process, and

she loved children, so it was only natural for her to find a way to make a difference with both.

Among her many accomplishments, Macias served as president of the City Clerk's Association of California.

After her retirement from Pomona, Macias continued working on a contract basis with several Southern California cities, including Moreno Valley, Irvine, Rancho Cucamonga, Lake Forest, Azusa and, finally, even back to Pomona for a short time.

She and her husband Luis Macias enjoyed traveling and spending time with their children and grandchildren.

Mayor Tim Sandoval, remembering Macias at a city council meeting this month, called her an "amazing" person.

Macias attended Orange High School in Santa Ana and met her husband-to-be when she was 16 and vacationing in Mexico.

The two wrote to each other for three years and on her 20th

birthday in 1972, they were married at La Purisima Church in Orange.

The family lived in Orange, Fullerton and Placentia and eventually settled in Corona in 1995.

A devout Catholic, she attended St. Mary Magdalene Church in Corona, where she also taught catechism for several years.

She is survived by Luis Macias, her husband of 48 years, her three children Celeste, Andrea and Daniel, 10 grandchildren, and her siblings Debbie Michel and Anthony Michel.

Macias was preceded in death by her parents Antonio and Mary Michel, her brother James Michel and her daughter, Maria Clara Macias.

According to her family, her mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 3, at Holy Family Cathedral in Orange. Burial will follow at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Orange.

The Pomona City Council adjourned in her honor this month.

Memorial services held for former Pomona Mayor Donna Smith

Private memorial services have been held in Fontana for former Pomona Mayor Donna M. Smith who died this month following a relatively brief illness. She was 67.

Smith, who had been living with family in Fontana during the illness, served as mayor of Pomona from 1987 to 1993. She was the city's first female mayor and the first woman to join the Pomona Kiwanis Club.

Despite all of her many positive accomplishments as a sports mom, Garey High School Booster Club member, Olympic torch runner and more, she likely will be remembered as Pomona's "shotgun mayor" for an incident in 1987 when she allegedly pointed a shotgun at an 18-year-old college student who had parked his car in front of Smith's south Pomona home.

According to reports at the time, she accused the Cal Poly University Pomona sophomore of buying drugs around 11 p.m. at night as he dropped off a friend in the 1500

block of Palomares Street.

Smith claimed the gun was pointed at the ground at the time. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office declined to file criminal charges citing lack of evidence.

Under the California penal code, brandishing a firearm is a misdemeanor that is punishable by three to six months in county jail or imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$500.

Smith, who died on Aug. 2, and her husband, Robert Smith, Jr., operated Pomona Generator Co. from 1976 until the property was taken through eminent domain by the railroad during construction of the Reservoir Street underpass in the early 2000s, according to Teddy Smith, her youngest son.

"She really enjoyed and loved being part of the community and helping out children along the way," Teddy said. "She visited so many schools as a councilmember and mayor and was involved in PTA and Little League."

Donna Smith... pg. 12

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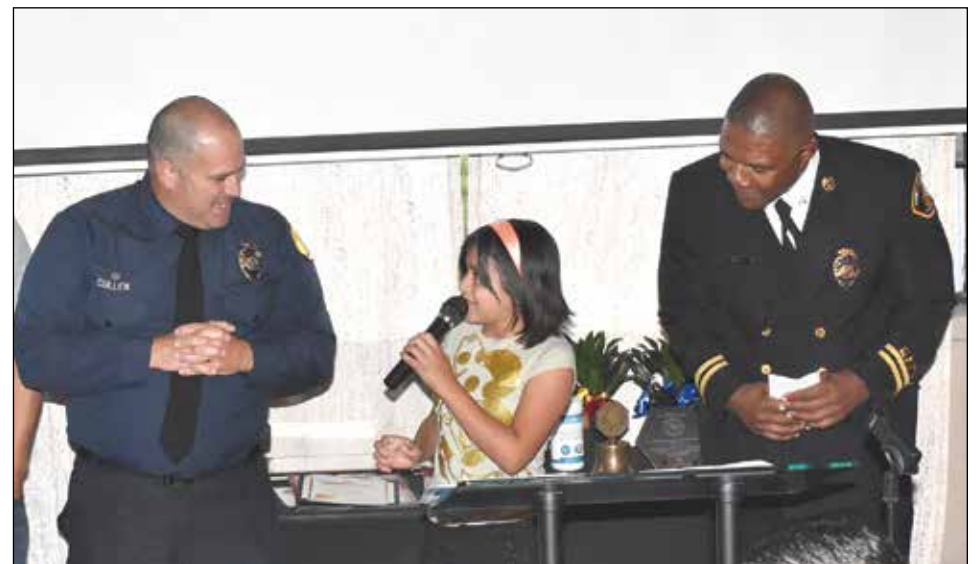
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Pomona Optimists honor police and fire, this time with surprise ending

Pomona Police Officer Ruth Flores and Los Angeles County Firefighter Paramedic Christopher Cullen were honored this month by the Pomona Optimist Club as "2020-2021 Public Safety Officers of the Year."

But with all the stories, commendations, awards, and certificates in a room at Pomona's Metro Ale House filled with nearly 90 well-wishers, the one everyone will remember was one little 9-year-old girl who took the microphone and thanked Cullen for saving her life when she was trapped in a burning building.



THANKING THE FIREFIGHTER WHO SAVED HER LIFE -- Eileen Coreas, 9, takes the microphone at this month's Pomona Optimist Club's "Public Safety Officers of the Year" awards to thank Firefighter Paramedic Chris Cullen, at left, who saved her life when she was trapped in a burning building last year as Battalion Chief David Toigo, at right, who was on the scene of the fire, looks on.

County Fire Battalion Chief Steve Bowie described the scene last December on East Kingsley Avenue when fire crews responded to a structure fire with a possible person trapped. The dispatcher updated the information to a little girl trapped in a burning apartment.

Surprise ending... pg. 13



Pomona's Unity Church Rev. Jan Chase, bottom left, and Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, both members of Compassionate Pomona, accept a proclamation last month from the Pomona City Council as Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, top left, and Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole look on. The city proclaimed July 2021 as "Compassion Month in the City of Pomona," with wording in the proclamation stating that "we must work to heal our social division (to) overcome racism and historical inequity which make us unhealthy as a nation." "I think as we can and do lift each other up, and compassion is the way to do that, as we really can think about what other people are experiencing," Chase said. Barbee thanked everyone who attended the group's "Kindness Carnival" in June, and Andy Quinones, who initiated it. She said the committee has agreed to hold another event next year.



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An estimated 10 to 30 percent of COVID-19 survivors are experiencing post-COVID-19 health issues lasting for months after recovery. Shortness of breath, persistent fatigue, cognitive "brain fog" issues, difficulty eating and drinking, speech and language problems, cardiac issues, plus the anxiety or depression often associated with these challenges, can affect almost every aspect of life and make resuming previous activities harder than expected.

FOR APPOINTMENTS AND MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 909.865.9810



Controversial car storage... from pg. 1

to put lawn signs up, keep up the social media campaign, sign petitions and pack the Pomona City Council chambers when the item comes up.

"We want to give them hell, that's what we want to do," Torres said.

The problem stems from ramped up operations in the "Blue Lot" accessed through Gate 9 off of White Avenue south of Arrow Highway where Carvana has stored hundreds of cars since March.

More and more cars were delivered to the lot by both flatbed tow trucks and semi-trailer

immediately address noise issues by discontinuing the use of outside speakers.

In addition, Carvana agreed to cease the shipment of any additional inventory to the site within 30 days and, within 45 days, will cease the use of all single-car haulers which is expected to decrease the number of employees on the site by more than 30 percent.

And Carvana agreed to be completely out of the site within 120 days.

Even so, from the sound of Torres and speakers at his town hall meeting held after Carvana's resolution with the city, the neighbors aren't so sure.

Torres told the group there should be financial repercussions for the wear and tear to the roads and for the pollution.

"They don't even have a business license," he said.

He called on residents of both Pomona and La Verne to contact their mayors and councilmembers.

And he wants to change the "F" zone, the city's zoning for Fairplex that provides for fair-related uses by right, according to the city attorney's letter to Carvana. He said the city, not Fairplex, needs to have rights of approval of anything that happens at Fairplex.

"We've had some success, but I think to date we haven't been able to really make the changes that we want," Torres told the group, as is evidenced by the fact that Fairplex decided to "railroad" the Carvana project. "I



Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres addresses a crowd of more than 90 residents last week at an "emergency town hall" meeting at the Ganesha Park bandshell.

auto transports – apparently at all times of day and night.

According to the city's press release, city staff was approached by representatives of Challenger Realty Pomona 1 and Carvana last summer about the possibility of Copart Inc. and Carvana using a portion of the fairgrounds for vehicle storage and the unloading and loading of vehicles during normal business hours.

The release said the city was assured there would be no live auctioning or vehicle maintenance functions performed at the fairgrounds. The city's planning staff told Carvana its proposed long-term use was not a permitted use and that steps including an amendment to the city's "specific plan" would be required to permit the use.

The press release also said Carvana moved into the lot in March without obtaining a business license from the city and, in June, began receiving complaints about transport trucks using residential streets, diesel fumes from the trucks, loud music in the early morning hours when trucks were delivering cars, and vibrations from the heavy trucks.

The city sent a "cease and desist" letter to Carvana on Aug. 3 and, on Aug. 9, Carvana's legal team contacted the city attorney requesting a meeting "to discuss a quick resolution of the dispute."

As a result of that meeting, Carvana agreed to terminate its operations at Fairplex, agreed to begin to ramp down its operating hours during the next 30 days, and has agreed to



Residents at last week's Carvana emergency town hall meeting at Ganesha Park were signing petitions and picking up lawn signs to oppose the Carvana auto storage facility that the Pomona city attorney claims has created a public nuisance.

think they got really confident and bold."

Torres said it was the "F" zone itself that allowed the cars to come in.

"And now what I'm looking for is to stop Carvana's operation here," he said. "And we want the Fair to go back to being a family fair environment and get away from being a logistics hub."

"Today it's Carvana . . . tomorrow it could be something else entirely," Torres said.

City Attorney Sonia Rubio Carvalho's four-page letter to Carvana, which copied

Controversial car storage... pg. 12



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NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

SR 71 Expressway to Freeway Conversion Project- 66-kV Subtransmission Line Relocation

SCE Advice Letter Number: 4574-E

Filing Date: August 26, 2021

Project Description:

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) is proposing to underground and relocate certain 66-kV subtransmission lines located along approximately 0.8 miles of the west side of State Route 71 between Phillips Drive and Old Pomona Road in the City of Pomona in Los Angeles County to accommodate the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) State Route (SR) 71 Expressway to Freeway Conversion Project. The proposed work on the existing Chino-Ganeshia-Plastic 66-kV and Chino-Ganeshia-Peyton 66-kV subtransmission lines is necessary to support the widening of SR 71.

Project Description: The Proposed Project consists of the following major components (see attached map below for work area):

Subtransmission Line Work

Chino-Ganeshia-Plastic 66-kV Subtransmission Line Relocation

- Relocate approximately 3,600 feet of subtransmission line 30-40 feet west of the existing structures to allow for freeway widening. This includes replacement of 14 wood poles (ranging in height from 61 to 65.5 feet) with 14 new wood poles (ranging in height from 65.5 to 70 feet).

Chino-Ganeshia-Peyton 66-kV Subtransmission Line Undergrounding

- Trenching to extend existing underground conduit approximately 90 feet in a southeast direction (parallel to the widened SR 71), installation of a new vault, and installation of approximately 93 feet of conduit from the new vault to connect to an existing TSP riser pole.

Construction of the Proposed Project is anticipated to begin on or after October 14, 2021 and is expected to be completed by January 2023.

EMF Compliance: The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requires utilities to employ “no cost” and “low cost” measures to reduce public exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMF). In accordance with “EMF Design Guidelines” filed with the CPUC in compliance with CPUC Decisions 93-11-013 and 06-01-042, SCE will implement the following measures for this project:

- Utilize pole heights that meet or exceed SCE’s preferred EMF design criteria
- Utilize underground subtransmission construction for engineering reasons

Exemption from CPUC Authority: Pursuant to CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III.B.1, projects meeting specific conditions are exempt from the CPUC’s requirement to file an application requesting authority to construct. The entirety of this project qualifies for the following exemption:

- f. power lines or substations to be relocated or constructed which have undergone environmental review pursuant to CEQA as part of a larger project, and for which the final CEQA document [Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration] finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts caused by the proposed line or substation.

Caltrans adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration/ Finding of No Significant Impact (MND/FONSI) for the SR 71 Freeway Upgrade/ Mission Boulevard Interchange Improvement Projects on June 12, 2002 (SCH #2001011125). A CEQA/NEPA revalidation was undertaken and approved on March 30, 2021, including a re-evaluation of the original environmental document inclusive of the SCE work scope, and it was determined pursuant to NEPA Guidelines and CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 there are no significant unavoidable environmental impacts caused by SCE’s scope of work.

Public Review Process: Persons or groups may protest the proposed construction if they believe that the utility has incorrectly applied for an exemption or believe there is a reasonable possibility that the proposed project or cumulative effects or unusual circumstances associated with the project may adversely impact the environment.

Protests must be filed by **September 15, 2021**, and should include the following:

1. Your name, mailing address, and daytime telephone number.
2. Reference to the SCE Advice Letter Number and Project Name Identified.
3. A clear description of the reason for the protest.

The letter should also indicate whether you believe that evidentiary hearings are necessary to resolve factual disputes. Protests for this project must be mailed within 20 calendar days after the Submittal to:

California Public Utilities Commission
Director, Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

AND

Southern California Edison Company
Law Department - Exception Mail
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
Attention: K. Kwong

SCE must respond within five business days of receipt and serve copies of its response on each protestant and the CPUC. Within 30 days after SCE has submitted its response, the Executive Director of the CPUC will send you a copy of an Executive Resolution granting or denying the request and stating the reasons for the decision.

Assistance in Submitting a Protest: For assistance in submitting a protest, contact the CPUC’s Public Advisor in San Francisco at (415) 703-2074 or Toll Free at (866) 849-8390.

Additional Project Information: To obtain further information on the proposed project, please contact:

Marissa Castro-Salvati
Government Relations Senior Advisor
2244 Walnut Grove
Rosemead, California
Office: (310) 729-7871

Pomona designates 98-year-old Black church a historic landmark

Pomona city council members this month unanimously approved a “historic landmark” designation of a 98-year-old Downtown Pomona church that local historians believe was the first Black church in the city to hold on-going programs.

The property, located at 841 S. Main St., which currently hosts the Greater New Foundation Fellowship Church, originally was the home of Pomona’s Mount Zion Baptist Church – at a time when Pomona’s population was 20,000 and included only eight African-American families, according to the city council staff report.

Mount Zion currently is located at 1541 S. Hamilton Blvd. in Pomona.

Pomona artist Gary Lett led the initiative to establish the church as having historical significance.

Council members approved the application without the consent of the property owner. According to the council resolution, the city council can override a property owner objection with votes to approve by five of the seven council members.

As the resolution pointed out, the “unique value” and “special interest to the entire community” of the building was based on the finding that the structure served as a space for a small Black community in Pomona to congregate during a time of federal “redlining” practices preventing Black homeownership in Pomona.

(Following the Great Depression, the Federal Housing Administration only contracted with real estate brokers who refused to sell properties to Black families, and refused to insure mortgages in and near Black neighborhoods.)

In addition, the structure, a single-story 2,590 square-foot structure on a 3,898 square-foot lot just south of the main Pomona Superior Courthouse parking lot, served as a space for civil rights leaders to gather in an “attempt to undo such redlining practices and other forms of statewide and local segregation to promote fairness and justice in housing and other matters,” the resolution continued.

“We as an African-American community are losing our legacies and history, mainly through gentrification,” Lett said in a pre-

pared statement to La Nueva Voz. “The historical structures that once serviced African-American events and services are being demolished at an alarming rate.”

“Therefore, we are losing our cultural heritage,” said Lett, who was able to conduct much of his research using historic newspaper clippings.

He said he applied for the historic landmark designation in October 2019 for the building he said “was once a cultural hub of the local Black community.”

“To preserve this church edifice will actually preserve our



Pastor Doug Brissette

legacy,” he said, adding that now the building “will be preserved for its cultural and architectural value.”

“For generations to come . . . when people drive by, they will know what the community that built it had to go through to establish it,” he said.

The designation, he said, would give today’s residents a glimpse of “the many conversations, events and activities once held inside those walls.”

Philip Jackson, a member of Mount Zion Church since 1964, told La Nueva Voz in an exclusive telephone interview that the designation “means a lot to me because I was a part of it.”

“Contributions of Blacks in Pomona need to be explored more,” he said, adding that he remembers seeing many Black families moving to Pomona following the Watts riots in 1965.

Jackson, 93, who grew up in a segregated South in Southeast Alabama, understands the importance of recognizing Black history.

Today, he lives in the same house he bought near Pomona High School when he moved to



Downtown Pomona’s 98-year-old church has been designated a historic landmark.



Gary Lett

Pastor Jerome Grice, who leads the congregation today, told La Nueva Voz he is very pleased with the historical designation, adding that the cornerstone there reflects the history of his own congregation.

And while Jackson acknowledges that minorities have seen significant improvement in Pomona and nationwide since the 1960s, he said there is still a ways to go.

Meanwhile, Jackson to this day attends church on Sundays at Mount Zion at the new Hamilton Boulevard location, and he is looking forward to next year’s 100th anniversary celebration of the congregation.

His wife, Margaret, who died three years ago after 57 years of marriage, was Catholic, Jackson

said, and attended church in Claremont.

Back at Greater New Foundation Fellowship Church in the now-historic landmark building on Main Street, Pastor Doug Brissette has been in charge for the past seven years.

His interest – as is Lett’s – is in continuing to teach the children of Pomona the history of the building and the Black community in Pomona, and he’ll encourage field trips from the schools to visit the church.

And he’s hard at work on a project of his own – making it possible for the congregation to buy the church from the landlord.

He’s even created a “Go Fund Me” page for donations.

He said he just wants to con-

Historic landmark... pg. 9



The Pomona Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Pomona Owners Association help cut the ribbon last month for a grand re-opening (after the pandemic) ceremony at Mariscos La Reina and Carnaval in Downtown Pomona. Pictured, from left, are owners David Cardenas and John Pena, Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, Marco Argote of the DPOA, and Pomona Chamber Ambassador Malik Wilds, of Momentum Youth Sports Training. Not pictured is Jerry Najarro, the third owner of the two restaurants.



Photo by Renee Barbee
Local residents turned out this month at the unveiling of a new “Little Free Library” (take a book, leave a book) in Pomona’s Powers Park. Pictured, from left, are Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia, his wife Catalina Goytia, Marisol Ramirez and her husband, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, and Community Life Commissioner Brian Mundy. At right is Pomona Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Fabian Pavon.

Historic landmark... from pg. 8

tinue the legacy.

Projects of the church include feeding the homeless throughout the year at monthly burger, hot dog and taco giveaways outside a 99 Cents Only Store on Holt Avenue, providing clothing to those in need and more.

“My thing is all lives matter, all souls matter,” Brissette said.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census

(2020 figures are expected out next month), some 11,000 Blacks are included in Pomona’s population of 149,000.

The city council agenda item – which had been considered at length by the Pomona Historic Preservation Commission and by previous unanimous council action granting authorization for processing without property owner’s consent – was approved without comment on the council’s consent calendar.

IVHP announces new schedule of community health education classes

Inter Valley Health Plan is offering its free “Vitality Series” classes online – featuring a wide variety of topics promoting wellness.

Log in information is available by calling (800) 886-4471 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays or by visiting the web site at www.ivhp.com/vitality.

Wednesday, Sept. 1, at 11 a.m. – GMO’s – What you need to know

Thursday, Sept. 2, at 11 a.m. – Book Club: Book of Lost Names

Friday, Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 at 10 a.m. – Friday fitness, a “Bee Happy” class

Friday, Sept. 3, at noon – Lunchtime learning: Herbs & Spices & MSG

Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 10 a.m. – Plant based foods

Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 1 p.m. – Loving care series: Creative caregiving

Thursday, Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. – Master gardener: “Grandchildren in the garden”

Friday, Sept. 10 at noon – Eat to beat diabetes

Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 1 p.m. – Loving care series: “Communicating in difficult situations”

Thursday, Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. – Cooking with the grandkids

Friday, Sept. 17 at noon – Lunch time learning: Glycemic Index vs Carb Counting

Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 10 a.m. – Eat to Beat Inflammation

Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 1 p.m. – Loving care series: Sundowning syndrome

Thursday, Sept. 23 at 12:30 p.m. – Artificial sweeteners: What you need to know.

Wednesday, Sept. 29 at 10 a.m. – Texting do’s and don’ts

Thursday, Sept. 30 at 11 a.m. – Photography with Robin: Shooting great family, pet and vacation photos

Thursday, Sept. 30 at 1 p.m. – Master gardener class: Bugs in the Garden

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State housing officials urge residents to apply for available rent relief

California's Department of Housing and Community Development has money in the bank for COVID-19 rent relief and is encouraging eligible residents to take advantage of it.

"We have two rounds of funding and we're not even through our first round yet, so we strongly encourage households to apply," said Jessica Hayes, Disaster Recovery Branch chief for the state.

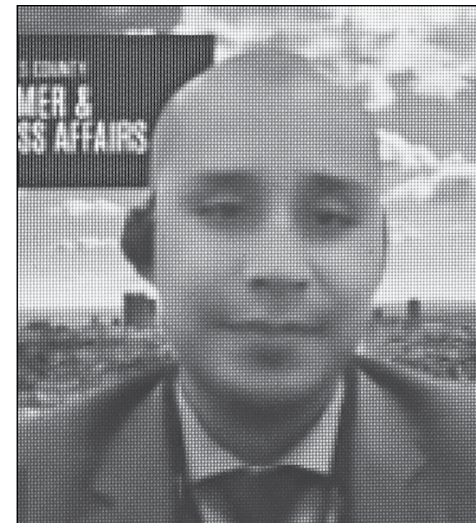
She told a recent Los Angeles County virtual "town hall" on the subject "Staying Housed in L.A. County – Accessing Rental Assistance and Preventing Eviction" for representatives of ethnic news media organizations that the pro-



Jessica Hayes



Rigo Reyes



Manny Ruiz

gram will continue until funds are exhausted, adding that approvals are not "first come first serve" but are prioritized on eviction vulnerability.

Income must be below 80 percent of the median income for the

area, she said, adding that applicants must be able to show some form of unpaid rent or utilities.

And once they receive the funds, recipients must make payment to their landlord within 15 days.

"We're really looking to make

sure that this program is available to as many people as possible," Hayes said.

She also said eviction protections at the state level have been extended to Sept. 30 and can cover up to 100 percent of rent and utilities owed.

Interested in applying? There are three ways – through the agency's portal at www.housingiskey.com, where applicants can log in and upload documents. Or, applicants can call (833) 430-2122.

Those in need of a little assistance due to disability, language issues or just technological barriers

such as no access to a computer can make an appointment with local partners who take appointments by phone, office or even showing up for a house call.

That number is (833) 687 0967.

According to Hayes, the program in California is unique in that there are many jurisdictions that opted to run their own program

and received assistance from the federal government or, in some cases, matching money from the state.

Local programs were intended to be targeted to local needs and priorities, so an on-line map was created allowing residents to pinpoint their home and be directed to the appropriate program.

Los Angeles County, however, is part of the state program, she said.

The City of Los Angeles is running its own program and was closed at the time of the briefing late last month and was not taking

Rent relief... pg. 18

Ethnic studies approved... from pg. 1

Fuentes said "multiple stakeholders" had been calling for such a program over the past year, prompting staff to begin working on the resolution.

Board member Arturo Jimenez thanked Board Vice President Dr. Roberta Perlman, Supt. Richard Martinez, Fuentes, and members of the community for leading the way forward in constructing the resolution.

"This is a big deal, it is a huge deal," Jimenez said. "There are so many American race ethnic histories that remain marginalized not known by a larger number of our

students."

More than a dozen speakers – ranging in age from an elementary school student to a couple of seniors and including a broad cross-section of Pomona – turned out in support of the resolution.

Speakers included names like Ed Samaniego, Mike Suarez, Fabian Pavon, Yesenia Miranda Meza, Jim Sanbrano, Miranda Sheffield and others.

Comments included similar themes along the lines of "we needed ethnic studies yesterday," "without ethnic studies we are no one," and how in high school

students "never saw people who looked like me."

There were no comments in opposition.

Perlman moved to approve the resolution and Jimenez seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0. Board member Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, who signed on by telephone at the beginning of the meeting, was not present at the time of this vote.

In another matter, Martinez told board members the school district included 18,000 students in its first week of school this month. Last year's total was 21,000.

"Live" board meetings... from pg. 1

to relax – was not transmitted live and only a handful attended in the board room.

Last week's meeting attracted about 15 guests in the board room, with chairs spaced out for social distancing, and another 30 or so in the district's auditorium across the hall.

And the YouTube transmission showed it received another 499 views by deadline day for this issue.

Supt. Richard Martinez told board members the "live" meetings would continue, at least for now.

"We're going to do everything possible, everything in our power to ensure that this meeting is being seen by as many people . . . during a time that people may still not be comfortable coming

to a board room or to an auditorium," Martinez said.

He added that people with comments can send them in to the school district the morning of the meeting and board members will have an opportunity to see them before the meeting. Their written questions also will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

In addition, he pointed out, the YouTube videos will remain archived on YouTube.

"With this (COVID) variant, we have to be flexible," Martinez said, adding that things could change again by the time of the next board meeting with COVID rules becoming either less restrictive or even more restrictive.

He stopped short of continuing to transmit the meetings "live" on an on-going basis.

Board members had indicated to La Nueva Voz in the past that they had been considering taking the meetings "live" for some time, long before COVID restrictions prompted the "ZOOM" meetings essentially all last year.

Those "ZOOM" meetings typically attracted a viewing audience on YouTube ranging from 300 or 400 to as many as 700 or even 1,500 on April 21, 2021, and 1,600 on March 3, 2021.

The Feb. 17, 2021, meeting has had 1,800 views, March 17, 2021, meeting has received 2,300 views and the July 15, 2020, meeting has received 3,900 views.

The "live" meetings decision appeared to be a staff action and was made without board consideration.



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Controversial car storage... from pg. 4

Fairplex Interim Chief Executive Officer Walter Marquez, said the matter was referred to her office (law firm of Best, Best & Krieger) “for an enforcement action because the city has determined that you are operating an illegal vehicle storage business which includes the unloading and loading of vehicles” at the Fairplex site.

“Your business is not a fair-related business,” she said. “While the city’s zoning allows for the parking of vehicles on the site, such parking is of a temporary nature and is allowed in connection with events taking place on the fairgrounds.”

She added the property is not intended for long-term parking and when used properly as a parking lot, there are no large transport vehicles unloading and loading vehicles in the early hours of the day and late into the night.

“Therefore, your vehicle storage activities are prohibited and unlawful,” she said.

In addition, she said, the vehicle storage business is unlawful because it is conducted without a city business license and without a required environmental review un-

der the California Environmental Quality Act.

“Your current operations have created a public nuisance,” she said. “The city is authorized to file a civil complaint for public nuisance seeking injunctive relief to abate these violations.”

The letter demanded the company immediately – and no later than 30 calendar days – cease and desist operating the storage business, within one day acknowledge receipt of the letter and compliance with the demand in writing, and within seven days schedule and undergo an inspection by the city’s code enforcement staff confirming compliance.

It said the city’s policy is to obtain voluntary compliance with applicable laws whenever possible, but that without compliance the city may proceed with an enforcement action against the company in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Dr. Reyna Garcia-Ramos, one of a handful of speakers at the town hall meeting, said her family has lived in Pomona for four generations.

“We need to take back the ‘F’ zone so we can have a say in what

happens,” she said.

Members of the audience questioned such issues as the money – “Where’s our money” to Pomona from the Carvana project and from the federal government’s use of Fairplex for housing up to 2,500 unaccompanied minors in a temporary intake site.

Others complained about the “eyesore,” noise, traffic, air pollution from vehicle exhaust, wear and tear to the city’s streets and more.

One said they have “put up with” the LA County Fair for years but “this is unacceptable.”

Residents were signing a petition calling on officials to “immediately address” the Carvana issue and opposing a proposed 190,000 square foot Carvana building on the site.

A second petition was circulated calling for revision of the Fairplex “F” zone.

La Nueva Voz reached out by e-mail to Carvana’s media relations and real estate development offices for comments regarding a list of six questions but did not receive a response before deadline for publication.

Donna Smith... from pg. 2

“She loved being a team mom,” he added, “and she loved watching all the kids grow and become adults. She really loved Pomona.”

And, of course, he said his mom loved her family very much.

“She loved watching her grandchildren grow up,” he said.

Smith, a native of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, moved with her family to Pomona when she was about 12. Her father, Dave Fekay, was an immigrant from Syria.

Her father returned to the East Coast, so Smith and her siblings were raised by their mother, Theresa (McAleer) Fekay.

Smith graduated from Garey High School in Pomona in 1970.

She was named Women Achiever of 1985, Humanitarian of the Year in 1986, one of five outstanding Californians in the California Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1990, received the Parent-Teachers Association Honorary Service award in 1985, and the Parent-Teachers Association Honorary Lifetime Service award in 1986.

She served as a member of the policy committee of the Rapid Transit District, vice chair of Tri-City Mental Health, member of the Pomona Valley handicapped and senior citizens committee,

American Red Cross and the Old Baldy Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

In 1991, she was a U.S. Olympic torch runner and a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and she served as a member of the advisory board of the National Coalition Against Pornography.

She was honorary chair of the March of Dimes, a member of the California Republican Central Committee, a member of the California Elected Women’s Association, and a member of the Pomona Business and Professional Women’s Association.

And she served as vice president of the Pomona Valley Republican Women Federated, received a distinguished service award from the Pomona Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1988, and she was active in the National League of Cities, the League of California Cities, Kiwanis, Fraternal Order of Police and Women of Moose.

She is survived by three sons and their wives – Robert Smith III and Terence (Teddy) Smith, both of Fontana, and Sean Smith of Lacey, Washington, along with seven grandchildren with one great grandchild expected this month.

Youth Prevention Council holds

‘Kindness Campaign’ at Pomona Art Walk

A little kindness goes a long way!


And helping to prove that point, Pomona’s Youth Prevention Council conducted an actual

“Kindness Campaign” last month at the Art Walk in Downtown Pomona.

Initiated by former activities Kindness Campaign... pg. 15



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Surprise ending... from pg. 2

When Station 183 arrived, firefighters found heavy smoke and fire coming from a second story apartment in the building with family members and neighbors alerting them to the girl upstairs.

"Firefighter Paramedic Chris Cullen immediately donned his personal protective gear, hooked into his breathing apparatus and hurried upstairs to the second story apartment," Bowie said.

And, with support from his crew, Cullen and his partners entered the burning building with high heat and zero visibility, crawling through the burning apartment looking for the little girl.

He found Eileen Coreas, 8, unresponsive lying in a bathtub behind curtains, carried her downstairs and initiated advanced life support.

While his partner notified Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Cullen placed her on oxygen, started an "IV" (intravenous) line, and administered medication to assist her with her breathing.

Later that night, the little girl was transferred to the UC Irvine burn center where her treatment continued.

"The following morning, I arrived at the station," he said. "(Battalion) Chief (David) Toigo was on scene that night so he witnessed the event."

When he was briefed, he said he did not expect a good outcome.

But before going to the hospital to visit the family, he called to speak with Natalie Coreas, Eileen's mom, to ask how she was doing.

And he was told Eileen was fine, that she was sitting up in bed watching cartoons.

Bowie said Cullen would say he was just "doing his job and doing his job well is what saved little Eileen's life."

Eileen, now age 9, since has made a full recovery against the usual odds in similar cases, according to Cullen.

She was introduced to the audience, gave Cullen a hug and took the microphone to thank Cullen and his entire team.

"We come here every day to do a job, and it may say L.A. County Fire on our patches, on the engines . . . but we're all your hometown firefighters," Cullen said. "We love what we do. We choose to be

in this city."

He thanked the other firefighters who were on the rescue call with him.

"Everything worked perfectly," he said.

Cullen, who has 27 years of experience in fire service, is a 13-year member of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. He serves as a mentor for younger firefighters in the station and in the battalion.

He and his wife Kelly have been married for more than 20 years and they have two sons – Joey, 16, and Nick, 14.

Officer Ruth Flores

On the Pomona Police Department side of the room, Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis said he was particularly proud of Officer Flores.

"I'm a little biased – she was my trainee at one point," he said.

Ellis described her career – which began when she was sworn in as a Pomona Police Officer in 2005 after graduating from the Rio Hondo Police Academy – as including serving in patrol, working on the sexual exploitation and trafficking team, and serving in the mental health unit, on the homeless outreach services team, in police dispatch, as a background investigator, as a field training officer and as a crisis negotiations team member.

In 2006, she began assisting with the Pomona Police Department Explorer Post as an advisor and, at the same time, she was employed by the Rio Hondo Police Academy training new police officer recruits.

From 2008 to 2010 she worked exclusively in the Downtown Pomona area, and in 2014 she was selected as a member of the department's peer support team assisting employees who have had difficulty after experiencing critical job-related incidents.

And since 2015, she has assisted the department as a field training officer.

Ellis said that between 2017 and 2020 she became "exceptional in her ability to identify drivers driv-

ing under the influence" and she focused on "DUI" arrests while assigned the night shift.

"During these years she arrested and removed numerous drivers that were DUI, saving untold lives," Ellis said. "For her efforts, Ruth has been honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving with several awards."

Last year, Ellis said, she took



M. Joyce Bakersmith, at right, of the Pomona Optimist Club, presents Los Angeles County Fire Department Capt. Brian Cieslak his "Public Safety Officer of the Year" award from last year. He did not receive the award in person due to COVID restrictions.



Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis, at right, recognizes Pomona Police Officer Ruth Flores as Pomona's "Public Safety Officer of the Year" at Pomona's Optimist Club awards banquet this month.

fect on our community."

In the past six months, she has assisted the city's mental health partners providing homeless outreach services that resulted in housing 12 people in permanent housing and placing 15 more in the city's Hope for Home homeless shelter.

She was also selected earlier this year to work with the depart-

"Thank you, Ruth, for all you do," Ellis said.

"I'm bursting with joy and I'm so proud for this award," Flores said. "I became a police officer because I felt in my heart that I could make a positive impact."

"I learned very early in my career that citizens remember us not for what we can do for them but for how we can make them feel in



Members of the Pomona Optimist Club and award recipients and their families pose for the camera at this month's "Public Safety Officers of the Year" banquet at Metro Ale House in Pomona. Optimist President Lorraine Canales is pictured at center.

an interest in combating human trafficking, assisting the team in recovering trafficking victims, often juveniles, in the department's prostitution suppression efforts in Pomona.

And this year, she began assisting the department's mental health unit.

"It was apparent that she found a passion for this assignment and has worked a high number of hours to create change in our city," Ellis said, adding that her work ethic in this "sensitive and vital unit has had a profound ef-

ment's crisis negotiation team that assists the department's SWAT team on critical incidents.

And she already has assisted on three major incidents that had a high probability of ending in violence but, Ellis said, thanks to her none of them did.

"Ruth's actions as a crisis negotiator were paramount in the same conclusion of all three incidents," he added. "Officer Flores clearly meets the requirements for this reward – a public safety member who performed above and beyond the basic functions of your job."

a time of need," she added. "It has been an honor and a privilege to wear this uniform and serve this community."

"I love this city," she said. "There's not a day that goes by that I don't want to wear this uniform."

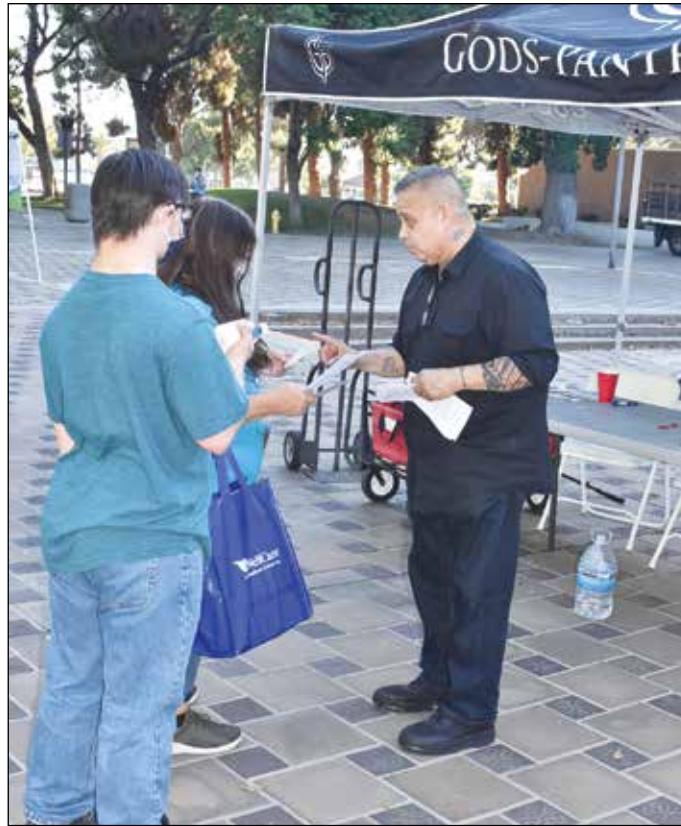
Flores was joined at the event by her wife, Holly, her daughter, Emma, and her mom, brother, best friend and others.

Capt. Brian Cieslak

Los Angeles County Fire Department Capt. Brian Cieslak, last
Surprise ending... pg. 18



Members of the Assistance League of Pomona Valley were at the Pomona Connect Resource Fair this month explaining how they provide clothing and dental services to kids and adults.



Pomona's God's Pantry, which provides food and services to those in need, staffed the Pomona Connect Resource Fair to explain what they have available to the community.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval welcomed everyone to the Pomona Connect Resource Fair which he said came about through a collaborative effort involving various community groups. He said it is important to get the resources to the residents, particularly those in need, "and we're going to be organizing trying to bridge that communication gap that we know exists."



Chara Swodeck kicks things off on the steps of Pomona Public Library at the Pomona Connect Resource Fair. Swodeck, the city's COVID Community Outreach Coordinator, said after the event more than 400 visitors attended during the afternoon stopping by the various exhibits and receiving one of 113 Stater Bros. gift cards, made possible through Pomona Compassion Funds collected through Pomona's COVID Action Committee. The group is planning another event for the fall. Still need resources? Call (909) 620-2453.



Reggie Clark of Volunteers of America was on hand to explain the agency's role in assisting Pomona's homeless community. And yes, that's former Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz in the background, at left, talking to Benita DeFrank, Pomona's neighborhood services director.



Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center was providing free blood glucose screenings at the event. Oh, and La Nueva Voz Publisher Jeff Schenkel had his blood glucose screened and passed with flying colors! And it really didn't hurt a bit.

Los Angeles County health care workers were on hand at the Pomona Connect Resource Fair providing walk-in (no appointment needed) COVID vaccinations, courtesy of Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis.







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American Legion Post 30 Commander Roberto Arnold – state’s youngest commander ever when installed two years ago – re-ups for new term

Pomona’s American Legion Post 30 Commander Roberto Arnold – who was believed to be the youngest ever to serve in the position in California when he was originally installed two years ago at the age of 34 – was reinstated for another term this month in ceremonies at Post 30 headquarters.

Post 30 Adjutant Sam Cafiero was honored at the ceremonies when he was presented the “Legionnaire of the Year” award.

Others installed included Alejandro Escobedo, finance officer; Jeff Hodge, historian; Stephanie Huff, executive to the commander; Bob Radcliff, 2nd vice commander; Sean Liske, sergeant at arms; and Pedro “Pastor Jay” Jauregui, chaplain.

Officers not present were Joseph Paczkowski, 1st vice commander; Pete Martinez, service officer; and Javier Hinostroza, judge advocate.

Ralph Larriva, past 18th district commander for the American Legion, of Rowland Heights, headed up the ritual team of past commanders which conducted the installation ceremonies.

Larriva called on the officers to fulfill their responsibilities and



Ralph Larriva, past 18th district commander for the American Legion, is pictured conducting installation of officers ceremonies at Pomona’s American Legion Post 30 headquarters this month.

work toward the legion’s goals – the ideals of justice, freedom, democracy and loyalty.

Arnold thanked the incoming officers for their service.

“Throughout the pandemic the team has remained resilient,” he said. “Because of the team, we have been able to host food distributions for the Pomona community, different blood drives, have monthly digital news to keep our members informed, and we started our annual ‘Field of Valor’ and ‘Field of Freedom.’”

He added that during the past



Pomona’s American Legion Post 30 officers taking their oath during installation ceremonies are, from left, Sean Liske, Alejandro Escobedo, Sam Cafiero, Jeff Hodge, Bob Radcliff, Pedro “Pastor Jay” Jauregui, and Roberto Arnold.

year Post 30 has conducted consistent “buddy” checks of all the members, reorganized the legion and launched a new Post 30 Legion Riders chapter to provide motorcycle escort services at various ceremonial events.



Pomona’s American Legion Post 30 Adjutant Sam Cafiero was named this year’s “Legionnaire of the Year” in ceremonies this month at Post 30 headquarters. Pictured at left is Cafiero, receiving the award from Post 30 Historian Jeff Hodge, center, and Commander Roberto Arnold.

Kindness Campaign... from pg. 12

chair Evelyn Aguilar-Andrade and other youth “advocates,” the campaign was designed to address the stress and depression caused during the COVID-19 shut-down.

Members created and last month distributed “affirmation” cards with a group of 10 advocates and three facilitators sharing more than 300 cards on windshields of parked vehicles, within books at Cafe Con Libros on Second Street in Downtown Pomona, and with attendees, both vendors and shoppers, participating in the Art Walk.

Included on the cards were student-submitted quotes and “affirmations” on a pandemic theme reminding recipients that “you are doing a great job,” “the rainbow comes after the rain,” encouraging quotes from a favorite song and the like, according to Renee Arroyo, a facilitator for the group and an outreach specialist for Project Sister Family Services.

Recipients were asked to post a

picture of their card on Instagram and tag @pypc_with #PYPCK-indnessCampaign!

It was the first in-person community activity for the organization since the pandemic started last year.

The mission of the Pomona Youth Prevention Council is to provide a safe and supportive space that empowers young people ages 12 to 17 in Pomona to develop ideas, opinions and elevate concerns in an effort to advocate for positive and sustainable change in their communities.

It is the youth action council of Partnership for a Positive Pomona, a coalition of Pomona residents and community leaders working together to prevent substance abuse in the community.

The group also is supported by Project Sister Family Services, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, and Prototypes.

For more information, contact pomonayouthpc18@gmail.com.

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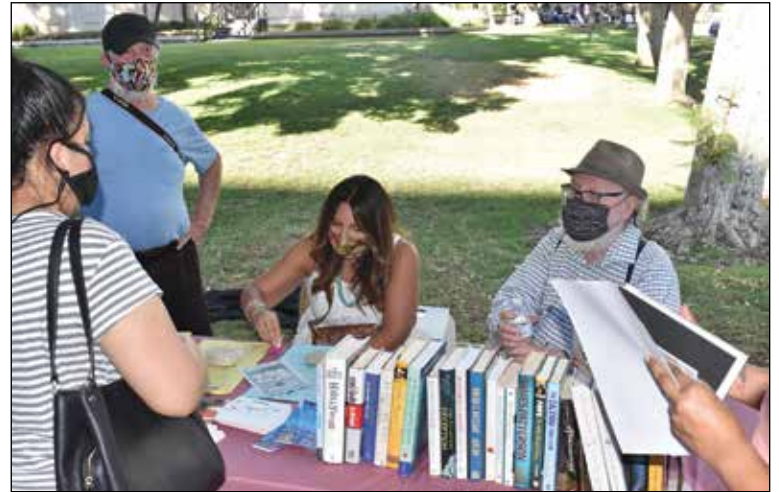


The Pomona Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Pomona Owners Association help cut the ribbon for a “grand re-opening” and 20th anniversary celebration this month at Downtown Pomona’s Latino Art Museum. Also recognized was founder and original director of the museum Graciela Nardi, who passed away suddenly in December of cancer. Her son, Matias Nardi, has stepped in as acting director. Pictured, from left, are Downtown Pomona Owners Association Executive Director Lorena Parker, Marco Argote of the DPOA, Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang, Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Matias Nardi, Eva Thiel-Maiz (at rear), representing Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis, Latino Art Museum Board Secretary David Pion-Berlin, State Sen. Connie Leyva, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, and Miguel Garcia Ramos representing Congressman Norma Torres. The museum, located in the Pomona Arts Colony at 281 S. Thomas St., Suite 105, is a non-profit organization created to promote the works of talented Latin American contemporary artists living in the United States.

Pomona Connect... from pg. 14




Norma Quinones, seated, explains the job training programs available at the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps while her husband, Andy Quinones, at right, borrows a little space for Compassionate Pomona.



Pictured working hard at the Pomona Public Library booth (and the Pomona Public Library Foundation and all the other groups that support the library) are, from left, Duane Smith, Debra Martin and John Clifford. Pomona Connect ... pg. 25

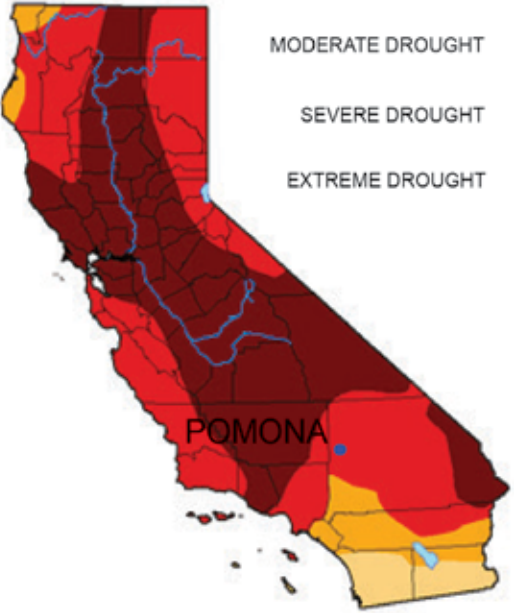
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August 17, 2021

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POMONA

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Local policy advocate forms ‘not for profit’ group for kids’ body image and eating disorder issues, has a children’s book coming out, speaks to legislators in Washington and Sacramento and still has a 4.0 GPA – and she’s 16!

There’s an old saying that if you want something done, give it to a busy person.

We think we’ve found one of those.

Kelsey Wu is a 16-year-old junior at Diamond Bar High School who experienced a body image and eating disorder for eight years beginning in the first grade.

On International Women’s Day – always on March 8 – she did something about it. She launched the “not for profit” (not yet an official non-profit organization) “For You,” a group with a mission of empowering youth of all genders, races, and sexualities to adopt a loving, positive, and courageous mindset about themselves and their bodies.

Wu, a former Diamond Bar resident who now lives in Chino Hills and who said she is a regular reader of La Nueva Voz, reached out to this newspaper (she picks it up in the Women’s Health Center at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center) – along with several others in the area in Diamond Bar and Chino Hills (it appears La Nueva Voz was the first to publish her story) last month.

In a telephone interview, she said at the age of 6 she started “having a bad relationship with food and myself.”

“I was bullied at age 6 because of my weight and I knew of other people who were bullied as well,” she added. She said it turned into an eight-year cycle of dieting and “not liking who I was” until it

reached a climax when she was 14 and became involved in an eating disorder.

She went into recovery and, about a year later when she was 15 and still in recovery, she “became aware of how prevalent the issue was among teenagers.”

“I realized I was not alone,” she said. In fact, through her research, she learned 70 to 80 percent of young adolescent girls “don’t like their bodies” and about 45 to 50 percent of adolescent boys don’t like their bodies.

“And this transports over to serious mental health consequences,” she said. For example, 50 percent of young girls and 30 percent of young boys “use really unhealthy methods of weight loss methods to lose weight.”

This can include vomiting, calorie restricting, fasting, smoking, taking dangerous products like dangerous pills and laxatives and others.

So, she created her organization to try to do something about it. Wu is the founder and CEO. She has her own board of directors and “interns” from all parts of the world who essentially are the members.

But there was another reason – “there was nothing in my community, nothing in my school, nothing really on social media that was raising awareness about this situation.”

Wu explained it is really more than just a mental health crisis – it is really a public health crisis be-

cause it affects millions of people around the world every year.

And it is growing in part because of the pandemic and the isolation that youth are in.

The result? She created her organization and established a “safe space” online.

“I’ve been really thankful and

She’s already working on getting an eating prevention disorder curriculum into the schools.

In fact, she’s already working with a public health incubator at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health where a professor is working to get the curriculum that has been created by public health

school here who has expressed interest in getting something going in the local schools in Pomona.

And the group is just continuing to get the word out – through blog posts, podcast episodes, art, “anything media wise that we use to talk about eating disorders and raise awareness.”

Because of her advocacy, this year she was invited to speak virtually both on Capitol Hill in Washington and in Sacramento.

But wait, there’s more!

Wu’s group also is working on legislation and has an entire legislative team of youth interested in legislation and policy.

“We work to pass bills that are related to eating disorder prevention,” she said.

For example, they are trying to get dangerous over-the-counter diet pills and weight loss supplements out of the hands of minors.

And they conduct their own workshops where they do exercises and talk about mental health and build community awareness of eating disorders.

All of this and Wu still maintains a 4.0 grade point average.

Plus, she’s already thinking about college – she hasn’t “completely decided” where she wants to go but she plans to major in political science and public health, tentatively, along with global relations.

For a career, she’s thinking **Policy advocate... pg. 22**



Kelsey Wu

honored that it’s gotten so much participation from youth,” she said.

And the organization continues to grow.

“We think about getting more people to see our message and to be able to do bigger projects,” Wu said.

What type of projects?

Gold Line Construction announces major milestone on Pomona project

The Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority this month announced that the 9.1-mile, four station Foothill Gold Line light rail project segment from Glendora to Pomona reached “substantial completion,” which is considered a major milestone in the Gold Line business.

Major construction on the project segment began in July 2020 and, as of this month, the project is now 36 percent complete overall.

The \$1.5 billion design-build project was awarded to Kiewit-Parsons, a Joint Venture in October 2019 and the first year of the contract was spent focused on completing enough design to start major construction.

“In addition to reaching substantial completion on the design

professionals on eating disorder prevention and body confidence.

She’s already talking to officials at her local school district, Walnut Valley Unified School District, to incorporate a similar program in the local schools.

Wu hasn’t talked to officials at Pomona Unified School District yet, but she has an intern who is in

for this important project this month, the project is now more than one-third complete overall – an extraordinary achievement accomplished during extraordinary times, said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval who also serves as board chair of the construction authority.

“More than 300 people have been working full time on the project, including dozens of engineers that have focused on completing the design for nearly two years,” Sandoval added. “Altogether, their efforts have allowed the project to move forward at an impressive pace, even as COVID-19 presented unique and unprecedented challenges.”

The project design elements go through multiple levels of approval during which they are re-

viewed by multiple agencies. This month’s announcement means that all elements of the project have reached the final level of approval, or “Approved for Construction.”

Sandoval thanked all of the partners “for their hard work and dedication to completing this project that is creating jobs, economic development opportunities, and ultimately mobility options for our region and its residents.”

The base project from Glendora to Pomona currently is six months ahead of the contractual “substantial completion” deadline of January 2025.

Living Word Inland Empire

launches new academy in Chino

Living Word Inland Empire, a faith-based organization that reaches out to help families, drug addicts, alcoholics, prisoners and others, has launched a new training academy – open to everyone at no charge – on its Chino campus.

The group operates both men’s and women’s recovery centers in Chino – the Living Word Harvest Centers – along with Sunday services at 11 a.m. and Wednesday services at 7:30 p.m. at the church, located at 12408 Mount Vernon Ave., Grand Terrace. The services are broadcast live.

Senior pastors are Edgy and Sonia Gallegos.

The recovery centers have been open since 1994 and are open 24

hours a day, seven days a week.

Another affiliated men’s home recovery center is located in Pomona operated by another division of the same ministry.

For more information, call (909) 572-6162, e-mail lwieatyourservice@gmail.com, or visit the web site at livingwordinlandempire.org.

For the men’s recovery center, call (909) 613-1495 and for the women’s recovery center, call (951) 347-9396.

Living Word accepts sponsorships of \$500 or more a month to provide one person with three meals a day, a bed to sleep in, hygiene supplies, clothing and transportation.

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Rent relief... from pg. 11

new applications.

However, even residents there were urged to continue checking back as Los Angeles has been working to obtain additional funding.

Then what if the landlord is unknown or decides not to cooperate?

Under a federal requirement, the tenant is required to make three attempts to make contact over a five-day period. After that, the state can process the application and pay the tenant directly.

“We encourage landlords to participate, and we encourage tenants to ask their landlords to participate because it speeds up our process a lot,” Hayes said.

At the time of the briefing, the state had received more than 120,000 applications statewide.

In Los Angeles County, she said, there were 32,392 active applications and 10,000 pending applications that are being processed.

She said residents who submitted applications by mid-June should have been either paid or contacted for additional information. If not, they are urged to check with the call center again on the status of the application.

“Don’t hesitate to reach out to us if you’re not sure where you are in the queue,” she said.

The bottom line is that her agency’s goal is to help households stay housed, to help prevent evictions and to keep households in their units as long as possible.

And the assistance does not count as earned income so it doesn’t impact other programs they might be seeking support from like CalFresh or WIC.

The program is open to both landlords and renters and either can initiate the application process.

Immigration status is not an issue with the program, Hayes said, and private information is not shared.

Cindy Shin, a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles that is a part of Stay Housed Los Angeles, specializes in housing rights law and provides legal representation to tenants facing eviction.

There are ways, she said, that a tenant facing eviction can leverage state law to protect themselves.

For example, if a renter was unable to pay rent for the COVID-protected months which began in March 2020 and continues at least

to Sept. 30, any renter with unpaid rent for this period of time can submit a COVID-19 impact declaration to the landlord with only a 25 percent payment of any amount due from September 2020 to September 2021 to avoid being evicted for non-payment of rent.

For back-owed rent that remains due, tenants are urged to apply for rental assistance.

Tenants may be able to get and be able to pay the back-owed rent that is due but it can also work as an affirmative defense in case the landlord brings an unlawful detainer action against the renter.

“Until that rental application is either denied or the funds are released, we can stay any eviction actions that are brought for non-payment of rent,” Shin said.

And what about tenants who can’t pay the 25 percent?

She said there’s a cap for covering that amount and that originally the requirement was 80 percent of what was owed. That amount now is 100 percent, she said, explaining the law keeps changing every time the program is extended.

But if tenants do not make the 25

percent payment by Sept. 30, the landlord can proceed on an eviction action for non-payment of rent.

Rigo Reyes, executive director of the Los Angeles County Office of Immigrant Affairs, said immigrants in particular are impacted with the

pandemic and trying to get through the challenge.

He said support services are available regardless of immigration status, and he encouraged immigrants to seek the support they need.

This is especially important in Los Angeles County where immigrants make up 30 percent of the county’s population.

“So, we need to make sure that they get not just the information to services but access to those services,” Reyes said.

The same thing applies to other county services like wage enforcement, health care support services, and others that are available regardless of immigration status of immigrants and their families.

The rental assistance programs do not trigger “public charge” issues, or anything related to immigration status.



Cindy Shin

Manny Ruiz, senior policy analyst and consumer and business affairs specialist for the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, told the group that in Los Angeles County, the Board of Supervisors recently approved an extension for local eviction protections until Sept. 30 to be in alignment with state and federal protections.

He said information on state laws and services at the state level is available at www.stayhousedla.org or by calling the hotline at (888) 694-0040.

Information also is available at the landlord hotline at (833) 223-7368.

The state’s renter’s hotline is (833) 430-2122.

Los Angeles County is home to the largest immigrant population of any region in the U.S. Immigrants represent more than one third of the county’s 10 million residents and make up 44 percent of the workforce.

In addition, immigrants in the county own businesses that generate 40 percent of the county’s self-employed income, and immigrants are parents of nearly 60 percent of all county-born children, according to the USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute.

The “town hall” event was hosted by the Los Angeles County Office of Immigrant Affairs in conjunction with Ethnic Media Services and the Pars Equality Center.

Surprise ending... from pg. 13

year’s winner of the Firefighter of the Year award, was unable to receive his award last year due to COVID restrictions but was invited to attend this year.

The 26-year veteran of fire service, including 19 years with Los Angeles County, was recognized for his 17 years of work researching data and developing a project known as “Family Instructions for Rapid Escape (F.I.R.E.)”

He produced a fire safety guide that is an educational tool for both children and adults on how best to reduce risk of injury or death when fire occurs in the home.

His research revealed that due to recent changes in home construction and furnishings, fires

tend to burn hotter, spread faster and churn out more toxic gases than before.

In the past, residents had about 17 minutes to escape their home once the smoke alarm is activated, but today that time has dropped to three minutes or less.

Cieslak told the group that in many instances the window is the best way out of a home in the event of a fire.

“In the event of a fire in your residence or your apartment . . . your window may actually represent your quickest, safest and most immediate way out,” he said, adding that the program he created explains how to prepare a window for an escape.

He has been married for 25 years to his wife, Julie, and has two children.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval

said the past 15 months have been challenging for everyone “and it certainly has been challenging for both our fire department and our police department.”

“And we’re here as councilmembers to really just say thank you, we appreciate you,” he said.

He also thanked members of the Optimist Club for all they do in the community.

“I think all of you know that the role that the non-profit community plays in Pomona is huge and right at the very forefront of that work is the Pomona Optimist Club,” he said.

Community volunteer and Village Academy High School counselor Lorraine Canales is President of the Pomona Optimist Club. Rudy Herrera of Casa Herrera Manufacturers in Pomona was event chairman.

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Barry Dolgovin named Pomona's 'Veteran of the Year' by Assemblymember Rodriguez

Pomona's Barry Dolgovin was named Pomona's "Veteran of the Year" by Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez last month in annual "Summer Community Awards" ceremonies at the assemblymember's Chino office.

Rodriguez introduced Dolgovin, explaining he was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1967.

"Two weeks after graduating from basic training, he was sent to Vietnam and attached to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam," Rodriguez said. "In June 1968, he was chosen by Gen. (William) Westmoreland as the soldier of the month in Vietnam."

When he returned, Dolgovin joined the Maywood Police Department, where he served for nine years before transferring to the Pomona Police Department, the assemblymember continued.

"He retired from the Pomona Police Department after 30 years of service," Rodriguez said. "He is actively involved in the Pomona Optimist Club, serving as president, lieutenant governor and governor."

"To all our veterans being honored today, your courage, dedication and patriotism to defend our freedom will never be forgotten," Rodriguez said. "We thank you for being outstanding veterans whose successes and contributions to the military and the community have set the standard for future generations."

Woman of the Year

Sarah Crane, Pomona's Woman of the Year, was introduced as someone who was a role model and inspiration to those she works with and someone who leads by example.

"She arrived in Pomona eight years ago, she was homeless with her children and looking for affordable housing," Rodriguez said. "Pomona became her home. Eight years later, she works directly with the City of Pomona and the Hope for Home program in helping others obtain employment and housing."

"Not only does this wonder woman have a full-time job assisting many of our neediest residents, she is also serving as a Pomona Unified School District PTA board member," he added. "In her spare time, she is completing her hours to licensure as a marriage and family therapist."

Small Business of the Year

Curley's Key Shop, which has served the City of Pomona for more than 70 years providing locksmith services, security cameras and safes, was Pomona's small business of the year.

Rodriguez said small businesses have played a crucial role in providing a vibrant and successful economy.

Nonprofit of the Year

The non-profit of the year for the entire 52nd assembly district was OPARC, a Montclair-based



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presents Pomona's Veteran of the Year award to Barry Dolgovin.



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presents the Pomona Woman of the Year award to Sarah Crane.



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presents the assembly district's non-profit of the year award to OPARC President and CEO Stacey M. Proctor.



Pictured, from left, is "Everybody Loves Raymond" scholarship recipient Kelly Castillo, Raymond's mom Loretta Garcia, and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.

organization that provides training, employment and social opportunities to individuals with

disabilities.

"This organization believes that all individuals deserve the human right to be valued members of society regardless of their intellectual or physical disabilities," Rodriguez said. "This nonprofit exists . . . to be the champion to people with disabilities in the Inland Empire and Los Angeles County."

'Everybody Loves Raymond'

And the "Everybody Loves Raymond" scholarship recipient this year was Kelly Castillo, who graduated from Pomona's Garey High School with a 3.5 grade point average and is starting classes at Cal State University San Bernardino, where she plans

to major in biology and become a pharmacist.

The assemblymember said Castillo accomplished that despite experiencing a number of traumatic events at a young age but still was able to carry on with her six siblings when they were taken in by their aunt.

Rodriguez created the scholarship when he was a city council member in Pomona to honor Raymond Garcia, who was tragically killed in a drive-by shooting when he was a student athlete in his senior year at Garey High School.

Raymond's mother, Loretta Garcia, was on hand to help Rodriguez present the \$800 scholarship award.



Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon on Pomona's newest taco restaurant, California Tacos, in grand opening ceremonies last month. Pictured, from left, are owners Joshua Arias, Angela Palatios and their son, Joshua Owen Arias, 4; Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Marco Argote of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang, and Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisors Board Chair Hilda Solis. The owners told their guests they operated a catering business before opening the taco restaurant. California Tacos is located at 1637 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

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Pomona Host Lions Club to celebrate 100th anniversary – 1921 to 2021

By Barbara Smith
 Pomona Host Lions
 “Tailtwister”

Editor’s note: Members of the Pomona Host Lions will celebrate their 100th anniversary with a dinner, anniversary program and door prizes – open to non-member guests from throughout the community and beyond – scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Pomona Valley Mining Company. Tickets are \$75 and deadline for reservations is Oct. 1. Payment for tickets can be mailed to Pomona Host Lions, P.O. Box 3085, Pomona, CA 91769, and tickets can be purchased at pomonalions.eventbrite.com. Information: pomonahostlions@gmail.com.

THE BEGINNING – 1921

The Lions Club of Pomona, later known as the Pomona Host Lions Club, was formed in 1921 and became the first service club in Pomona, and the 10th Lions Club in all of California, Nevada, and Hawaii, then together known as District 4.

In February, the Los Angeles Host Lions, the sponsoring club, helped the Pomona club get started. The charter was granted on March 4, 1921. However, the charter night was delayed until July 25, 1921, so Melvin Jones, the founder of Lions, and other international officers could travel to Southern California after the

international convention in Oakland. Melvin Jones spoke at the Charter Night.

At the time of the charter approval, 37 members had joined the club; 54 members signed the actual charter, and 60 had become members by charter night.

The club’s first meeting place was the banquet room of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce in the Investment Building. In later years, it met at the St. Charles Grill, Pomona Valley Club, Robbie’s Restaurant, the Elks Lodge, Mountain Meadows Golf Course and, most recently, the Pomona Valley Mining Company restaurant.

EARLY DAYS

An early project that has had a lasting impact was the origination of an agricultural fair, originally known as the Pomona Community Fair, but soon transformed into the Los Angeles County Fair. Pomona Host Lions L. Elmer Sheets and F.W. Ritter hatched the idea for a fair, and another club member, Lloyd P. Hamilton, who was a reporter for the Progress Bulletin, publicized it. Club members promoted the idea by selling windshield stickers and by wearing straw sombreros with streaming red ribbons to business and social events. When Sheets presented the idea of a fair to the Pomona City Council, it was adopted.

Other early projects were helping a local boys’ school, sponsoring two Boy Scout troops, building playgrounds, financing orthopedic treatments for a young boy, putting on annual Christmas parties both at the Fox Theater for 3,000 children and at Casa Colina Hospital when it was in Chino. The club also gave baskets of food and toys to needy families.

THE WAR/POSTWAR YEARS – 1940 AND BEYOND

During the years of World War II, the club helped staff the USO building on the Pomona City Hall grounds, helped in bond drives, sponsored rubber drives, and did much in the area of local defense. After the war, the club undertook projects to support a home for boys from broken homes. This had been a dream of Pomona Host Lion LeRoy Haynes and finally became reality in 1946. The home was later known as LeRoy’s Boys Home and later still as the LeRoy Haynes Center (now the Haynes Family of Programs). Over a period of some years, the club donated the labor to build the swimming pool, provided funds to build a new wing (the Lions Den), and contributed money for the athletic program and table and chairs for the new dining room. Club members then donated \$3,000 to build the chapel and to purchase a Baldwin organ. The club also provided labor

during the chapel construction. During this time period, the club purchased uniforms for the Pomona High School concert band, and for the Fremont Junior High School band.

Throughout these years, the Pomona Host Lions Club continued to serve the youth, the vision and hearing impaired, and the physically and mentally disabled, as well as stepping up to meet special needs of the community. The club organized the livestock auction at the Fair for 4-H and Future Farmers of America, and it purchased a cataract bed and a magnetic unit for removing metal particles from the eye and body. It also sponsored Little League and Colt League baseball teams.

EXPANDING ITS ACTIVITIES – 1960s and 1970s

In 1964, the club began its long-term commitment to the Braille Institute in Los Angeles, financing a weekly bus to take blind residents of the Pomona Valley to the institute for classes. During this time, the club sponsored three glaucoma clinics, giving one-hour exams to a total of 3,120 patients. The club also supported the Junior Olympics, the Rose Parade, Camp Fire Girls, the Red Cross, student memberships in the Pomona Valley Concert Association, the Pomona Valley Human Relations Council, the

YMCA, and the Junior Blind.

PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY

In recent years, the Pomona Host Lions Club has developed strong partnerships with the Pomona Unified School District, Associated Pomona Teachers, and Western University of Health Sciences with many projects focused on helping students and teachers. In the early 2000s, the club led the fundraising drive that culminated in the 2002 opening of the \$95,000 Lions Vision and Hearing Center donated to the Pomona Unified School District. In conjunction first with the Southern California College of Optometry and now with the Western University College of Optometry, the vision center is used to provide eye exams for children. The Lions club purchases eyeglasses for children in need.

Some other recent service projects include classroom teachers’ mini-grants, Lions reading and math tutors, Lions Roar for Reading book distributions for first graders, Flag Day reading and flag distribution for second graders, eyeglass recycling, monthly feeding of the homeless, Operation Christmas Soldier and food drives for the hungry.

EXTENDING NEW CLUBS

The Pomona Host Lions Club also has extended or helped extend at least 12 new Lions clubs throughout the years. Club records indicate that the Pomona club extended La Verne, Ventura Downtown, Pomona Uptown, Pomona Breakfast, Costa Mesa-Newport, Claremont Breakfast, and most recently Western University Lions Club. The Pomona club also co-chartered Chino and Ontario Host and assisted in Banning, 29 Palms, and Victorville.

WE MADE IT – 100 YEARS YOUNG AND STILL GOING!

The Pomona Host Lions Club turned 100 on March 4, 2021, and in its centennial year, has faced one of its most daunting challenges – the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, it has managed to continue its century-long tradition of compassionately serving those in need. With innovative adaptations to its projects and with masks and other safety precautions, the club and its dedicated members have been able to continue helping others in this challenging time.

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Detective Fernando Flores, at right, who has been riding since he was a kid and is known for his BMX bike tricks, takes on a younger challenger in a race through the traffic cone maze during last month's Bike Rodeo in the Pomona Civic Center. Pomona Police Traffic Sgt. Alyssa Bostrom, who organized the event along with Traffic Corporal Thomas de la Vega, said it was the first bicycle rodeo presented by Pomona police in several years -- and it was the first one funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to provide education, events and safety equipment for the kids.



Mia Chavez of Pomona, first winner of a new bicycle in the raffle drawing at the Bike Rodeo, poses for the cameras.



Pomona police officers pose for the camera in front of bicycles to be given away in raffle drawings at last month's Bike Rodeo in the Pomona Civic Center. Pictured, from left, are Crime Prevention Corporal Chris Lewis, Bike Rodeo organizers Corporal Thomas de la Vega and Sgt. Alyssa Bostrom, and Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis.



Representatives of Compassionate Pomona were on hand at the Bike Rodeo last month to sell the group's T-shirts. Pictured, from left, are Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, and Rev. Jan Chase of Pomona's Unity Church. Rev. Jan is wearing one of the shirts. Several are still available in select sizes. For information, contact Renee Barbee at (909) 762-1446.



Bicycle winners came in all sizes at the Bike Rodeo in the Pomona Civic Center. Pictured with Gino Elias and another bicycle donated by Kiwanis is Gaylene Pena, age 1-1/2.



Members of the Pomona Kiwanis Club pose with the new owner of a bicycle donated by the club. Pictured, from left, are Kiwanis members Steve Congalton, Gino Elias, Ish Arias and Mark Warren. And that's Efrain Lopez, 10, of Pomona, on that new bike.



Pomona Police Corporal Thomas de la Vega teaches several young bicycle riders the rules of the road at the police department's Bike Rodeo last month in the Pomona Civic Center.

Do you have a news story?

We want to hear from you or your organization.

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OPINION

PARENTS URGED TO PROTECT SMALL CHILDREN

Landmark case concludes FCC failed in setting wireless safety standards

By Larry Ortega

“Saying it is tough to go up against a trillion-dollar industry that captured our federal agencies is an understatement,” said Ellie Marks, president and founder of the California Brain Tumor Association in response to a landmark court decision (An order of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, No. 20-1025) issued Aug. 13, 2021.

“The dam of denial has cracked,” said Marks regarding the negative health effects of wireless radiation. This landmark decision renders all existing and future state laws regarding wireless safety suspect. Specifically, California’s SB556 and AB537 make no sense until the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) can establish legitimate safety standards for wireless technology on human health and environmental impacts.

The negative health impacts regarding wireless safety have been precluded from entering state and city discussions. The reason:

“The FCC has determined that RF radiation from wireless transmission is safe...”

However, the court ruled in its decision that FCC Guidelines are “non-evidenced based.” The FCC’s statement of poppycock (guidelines) can no longer be relied on and can now be challenged in discussions concerning wireless safety. The FCC’s statement on wireless safety has had a haunting effect on all who have been harmed by RFR (radio frequency radiation). Thousands of children have wrongfully been harmed in the name of this FCC unproven safety guideline.

Marks has testified before Congress and has been a national voice in educating leaders from across the country on the negative

health effects of wireless radiation. Her husband is the victim of cell phone radiation and is in his second bout with recovering from a brain tumor. Story after story of children getting leukemia, brain cancer and other sicknesses caused by RFR are highlighted and then buried in the journals of facts to be forgotten. No one wants our wireless devices to be harmful, including me. All of us who use wireless devices wish them harmless, no doubt! Unfortunately, the reality is more than one thousand independent studies have concluded RFR is harmful.

Dr. Joel Moskowitz, Director for the Center for Family and Community Health at the School of Public Health, UC Berkeley said:

“...based on a meta-analysis of 46 case-control studies. Our main takeaway from the current review is that approximately 1,000 hours of lifetime cellphone use, or about 17 minutes per day over a 10-year period, is associated with a statistically significant 60 percent increase in brain cancer.”

None of us use our cell phones

just 17 minutes per day. On average most of us probably spend about two hours a day on our cell phones. This means we (as adults) get 500 days of usage before we jump our risk of brain cancer to 60 percent. That’s less than two years’ worth of cell phone usage. What about the children? The EWG (Environmental Working Group) study estimates the additional amount of radiation a child receives (due to a skull that is not yet fully developed) is between 200 and 400 times greater. The younger a child is, the less developed the skull and the greater the risk of experiencing negative health impacts from RFR.

Scott McCullough, the attorney representing the plaintiffs in this landmark decision said, “this case was about uncovering the truth on regulatory agencies’ exclusive service to the wireless industry,” thus revealing a complete disregard to consumers, whom they (FCC and FDA) were charged to protect and serve.

McCullough said the FCC’s statement on wireless safety can no longer be used. This represents

a huge blow to the wireless industry’s plans for complete and unfettered deployment of 5G. There were more than 11,000 pages of evidence submitted on behalf of the plaintiffs proving RFR harm.

“Excessive exposure to RF radiation causes cancer,” reiterated David O. Carpenter in a conference call this month. Dr. Carpenter is Director of the Institute for Health and Environment, University at Albany, and co-editor of the 2012 Bio-Initiative Study.

Now is the time, mom and dad, guardian and/or grandparent. Your children’s lives depend on you knowing the facts and how to

mitigate RFR dangers. Here are a few things you will need to lessen your children’s exposure to RFR:

1. Read EWG’s study: ehjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12940-021-00768-1

2. Test for high RFR in your house/office: LAOrtega.com/rf-radiation-in-home-testing

3. Read your cell phone manual: “keep device at least 1 centimeter from your head/body”

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.

Policy advocate... from pg. 17

about doing something regarding policy – global or community policy or policy at the national level.

“I feel that I am very passionate” and want to “do change through legislation,” she said.

Interested so far? Educators or kids are encouraged to visit her web site and get involved – just send an e-mail or contact the organization through the web site at www.forher.biz. Or reach out to Wu at wukelsey29@gmail.com.

What about her spare time?

She and a friend are coming out with a children’s book next month centered around eating disorder prevention and body confidence. It will be available on Amazon and she’s the author, but it doesn’t have a title yet.

The book will target kids at the

second and third grade levels.

Then what message would she have for kids who may be going through the same issues Wu did?

“Having an eating disorder or a mental health illness is not something that you need to go through alone,” she said. “It is also not something that is normal. You should also know that you have the power to pursue recovery and you have the power to make your community a better place for other people who are going through the same thing.”

“There are always resources and there are always people who are willing to help,” she said. And “more than likely there will be other people in your community going through what you are going through.”

The following public service ads are courtesy of La Nueva Voz

Project Sister Family Services
Sexual Assault and
Child Abuse Services
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or 626-966-4155
www.projectsister.org

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Pomona
Volunteering: 909-622-3806
www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

HOUSE OF RUTH
Abused by your partner
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24-hour hotline:
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free at (877) 988-5559**


Pomona Public Library Hours
New hours!
Noon to 7 p.m. Monday
through Thursday
Saturdays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Conference room
available for events!
Information: (909) 620-2043

Info on student group programs at AGRIsCapes:
www.agriscapes.cpp.edu
4102 S. University Drive, Pomona (next to the Farm Store)

Sign up for Pomona Unified School District’s
Free ‘Early Learning Literacy’ App!
It’s a fun way to improve reading skills.
Register at www.myf2b.com/register/pomona
footsteps2brilliance
La Nueva Voz is a proud member of PUSD’s Literacy Collaborative.

A new La Nueva Voz publishes each month on the fourth Thursday of the month.
Pick up your free copy of La Nueva Voz at these locations and dozens more:

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



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U.S. Navy photo by Burrell Parmer, NTAG San Antonio Public Affairs

POMONA BOATSWAIN'S MATE RECEIVES HONOR -- Aviation Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Aaron Ramirez, at left, of Pomona, assigned to Navy Recruiting Station Laredo, Division 7, Talent Acquisition Onboarding center Alamo City, is presented the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal by Cmdr. Stephanie Simoni, executive officer, Navy Talent Acquisition Group, San Antonio, at Navy Operations Support Center Corpus Christi. Ramirez was awarded the medal for his professional achievement while serving as a talent scout during the month of May. He was instrumental in assisting Division 7 in meeting the requirements for the commanding officer's 150 percent "new contract objectives incentive." The San Antonio group includes two onboarding centers which manage more than 34 recruiting stations throughout 144,000 square miles of central and south Texas.

Study by Pomona's Jason Rothman tracks COVID by sampling wastewater

It is usually a good thing to be able to jump into a project with both feet.

This time, we're pretty sure it is best not to do that literally, since the project we're talking about involves the study of sewage water.

Former Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Jason Rothman last month published a research paper (actually a "pre-print" out for peer review) describing how it is possible to track things like COVID and its variants by sampling the way they spread through the wastewater "sewer-shed" of Southern California.

"Throughout the COVID-19 outbreak, tracking SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater has been an important tool for understanding the spread of the virus," according to the abstract for the paper.

The study was based on 94 one-liter 24-hour composite "influent" wastewater samples across seven treatment plants collected between August 2020 and January 2021, representing approximately 16 million people in Southern California.

"Enriched viral libraries" identified a wide diversity of RNA viruses that differed between the

treatment plants and, over time, with detected viruses including coronaviruses, influenza A, and noroviruses.

Researchers detected several "single nucleotide variants" that are markers for clinically-important SARS-CoV-2 variants, along with SNVs of unknown function, prevalence or epidemiological consequence.

"Our study shows the potential of (wastewater-based epidemiology) to detect viruses in wastewater and to track the diversity and spread of viral variants in urban and suburban locations, which may aid public health efforts to monitor disease outbreaks," the abstract continued.

And it does that by detecting pathogens across sewer-sheds, which represent the collective waste of human populations.

Beyond that, the study showed that the data derived from wastewater "correlates well with countywide COVID-19 case data.

After all, as the introduction points out, municipal wastewater represents a matrix containing a wide diversity of microbes and is representative of the collective waste of a human population

across a "catchment" area.

The authors concluded that wastewater-based epidemiology has the potential to aid public health in monitoring the spread and severity of disease outbreaks.

And they even had a suggestion for future researchers, urging them to "employ longitudinal metatranscriptomic sequencing on wastewater samples to further understand the spread of RNA viruses and how these viruses change over time."

The project was led by Rothman and Katrine Whiteson of UC Irvine, and Rothman was the lead author of the paper.

Rothman is a Hewitt Biomedical Research Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Irvine.

The study was conducted by researchers at UC Irvine and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project.

The research was supported by Emergency COVID-19 Research Seed Funding through the University of California Office of the President Research Grants Program Office and the Hewitt Foundation for Biomedical Research postdoctoral fellowship to Rothman.

Congresswoman Torres wins grants for five area businesses, two in Pomona

Congresswoman Norma Torres this month announced \$1.9 million awarded to five businesses in her congressional district through the Shuttered Venue Operators Grants Program administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

According to a news release, Torres voted to pass this critical aid as part of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Non-profits and Venues Act and the American Rescue Plan.

Live venue operators, theatrical producers, live performing art organizations, museums and motion picture theater operators, and talent representatives were eligible to apply for a single grant award of up to \$10 million.

The program is still accepting applications. For more information, contact the SBA at (800) 659-2955.

"Entertainment venues and performing art organizations are vital for communities in my district, but the COVID-19 pandemic completely shut down their operations," Torres said. "These venues and organizations provide good jobs and educational and entertainment opportunities for my constituents but have been devastated by the pandemic."

"I supported this program so it could provide essential economic assistance to these important parts of our community, and allow our institutions to safely recover, reopen and restaff," she added.

In Pomona, an \$872,860 grant went to the Glass House Concert Hall, Inc., and an \$8 million grant went to the Los Angeles County Fair Association.

Torres has delivered \$3.38 billion in COVID-19 aid to her district.

New 'Eastside Arts' grant cycle funds available

The LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes (LA Plaza) Eastside Arts Initiative last month announced its new grant cycle offering grants from the Artist Relief Fund from \$2,500 to \$50,000 to artists and organizations serving Eastern Los Angeles County in the visual and performing arts.

Applications are now being accepted and may be submitted through Sept. 15 at www.eastsideartsinitiative.org.

"Our vibrant arts community in Eastern Los Angeles County has always found ways to persevere and to uplift us all in spite of systemic economic disadvantages – in the good times and the bad," said Eastside Arts Chair Lupe Ariola. "Through financial support, it is our on-going commitment to fill a critical need for the arts and help advance our talented artists and their work."

A total investment of \$100,000 was made to individual artists for

emergency assistance during the latest grant cycle. Included are \$55,000 in grants to complete creative projects that were stalled due to the pandemic, \$32,000 in grants for emergency relief support, and \$13,000 for grants to artists impacted by a recent fire in Little Tokyo in Downtown Los Angeles.

With the latest round of grants, Eastside Arts Initiative now has awarded more than \$1 million since its establishment in 2015.

LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, opened in 2011, is a Los Angeles County Museum and Smithsonian Institute affiliate that honors the past, inspires the future and recognizes the enduring cultural influences of Mexicans, Mexican-Americans and all Latinas and Latinos through exhibitions, programming and educational experiences.

For more information, visit www.lapca.org.

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Board Member, Pomona Chamber of Commerce

www.lanuevavoz.net



Aztec dance class students were starting to get the hang of it this month in Cesar Chavez Park. Organizer Fabian Pavon said ethnic studies and parks “go hand in hand – when you understand the history and the dynamics of parks and the way they work with the community.” He said the effort was trying to address the fact that many of Pomona’s parks had been neglected for years.

Alejandro Xipecoatl Juarez of Danza Azteca Grupo Tyoaacan, blows a ceremonial conch shell to set the proper tone for the Aztec dance class. Participants said he taught the reasons behind the rituals in addition to how to actually perform the dances.



Fabian Pavon, at right, blesses the ground with smoke from incense this month at a free weekly summer Aztec dance class at Pomona’s Cesar Chavez Park. Two more classes remain – tonight and again on Sept. 2, both from 7 to 8:30 p.m in the park at 2720 Barjud Ave., Pomona, presented by the Latina and Latino Roundtable’s Ethnic Studies Committee, the City of Pomona, Mayor Tim Sandoval and Councilmembers John Nolte, Nora Garcia and Victor Preciado. To RSVP (required), text (909) 236-6814 or e-mail fabianpavon2@gmail.com.



Dancers came to the Aztec dance class in all sizes -- and they did pretty good, too.

Pomona redistricting commission announces schedule for two remaining public hearings

Miss last month’s City of Pomona public hearing of the city’s Independent Redistricting Commission?

You still have a chance to have your say – there are two remaining hearings scheduled – Wednesday, Sept. 22, and Wednesday, Oct. 27.

Both are set for 5 p.m. but, according to a spokesperson, it is still unclear whether they will be in-person or virtual due to evolving issues with the COVID Delta variant.

Additional meetings in November and December are still pending due to the holiday schedule, but once confirmed they will be posted on the web site at drawpomona.org/schedule.

The commission is seeking to identify neighborhoods and com-

munities of interest based on resident feedback. Identifying these areas will help the commission during its map adoption process to determine which redistricting map best reflects the city’s unique and diverse communities, according to a news release.

During the hearings, residents will learn how to define communities of interest, neighborhoods and how to draw maps of the districts using the online and paper mapping tools.

In addition, residents will have an opportunity to make public comments during the meeting or e-mail them to redistricting@ci.pomona.ca.us.

Every 10 years, local governments use new data from the U.S. Census to redraw their district

lines to reflect how local populations have changed.

The commission invites members of the Pomona community to participate in the redistricting process to help ensure district lines respect neighborhoods, history and geographical elements.

“On behalf of the commission, I encourage all Pomona residents to attend (the) next hearing and provide us with feedback on what communities of interest we should consider when evaluating city council district boundaries,” said Commission Chair Aldo Yanez Ruiz. “Participating in redistricting will give the community a voice. I encourage community-based organizations, good government groups and all individuals to learn more and engage with us.”

Public service ad courtesy of La Nueva Voz

40th Annual Celebration Pomona Inland Valley MLK PROJECT

Honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Keynote Speaker, Youth Social Justice Awards (ages 15-19),
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For more information: Email pivmlkproject@gmail.com

Visit website: pivmlkproject.org
501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization

Local dyslexia expert Marianne Cintron releases first children's book

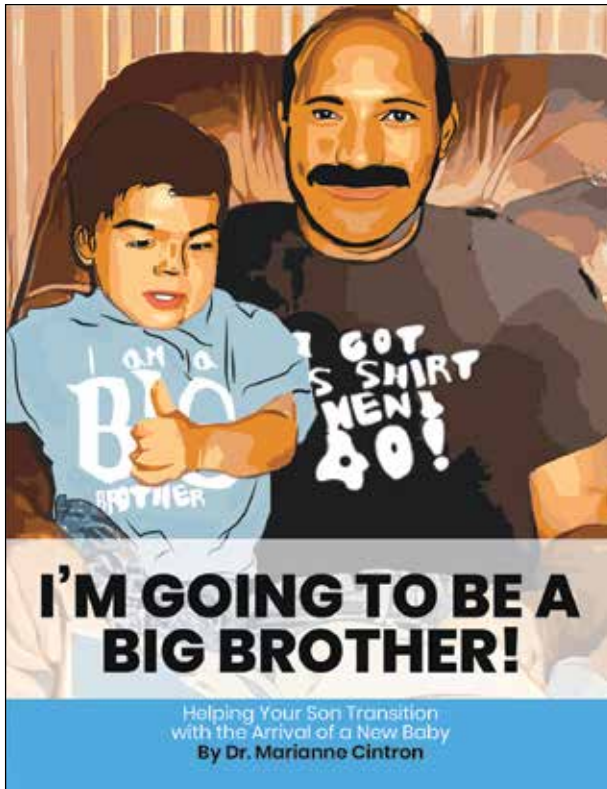
Dyslexia specialist, speaker and author Dr. Marianne Cintron of Glendora has released her first children's book, "I'm Going to be a Big Brother," which is a story told from the voice of a young son.

The book is the first in a series that will help children with their fears about a new baby joining the family.

Cintron, who said education is her third career, spring boarded from working as a substitute teacher in her children's preschool to serving as a substitute teacher in a mental health hospital.

She has earned five degrees including a doctorate and two master's degrees, has served as an educator for 22 years and a classroom teacher for 10 years.

"I never realized how scared kids could get about a new baby joining the family, and I am inspired to write a series of 12 children's books talking about a new baby coming into the home expressed in the voice of



Local author Marianne Cintron has released a new book from the point of view of a child in the family, a child," she said.

"The first book is my son's voice (and the next is in a big sister's voice, then twin siblings, an adopted son and a middle child," she said.

One home "example" will be a mom and a dad, followed by a single mom.

She said she also hopes to include multiple ethnicities and have the books translated into multiple languages.

The first book shares information about the baby's size and weight inside the womb month by month, with updates about what the baby is doing inside the mother's womb.

Cintron, a member of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, operates Step by Step Dyslexia Solutions that, among other things, teaches students by training teachers to help dyslexic students develop their literacy skills and fulfill their potential.

The book is available for pre-order. For information, visit stepbystepdyslexiasolutions.com/books.



Dr. Marianne Cintron

Pomona Connect... from pg. 16



Pomona's Joshua Swodeck, at right, and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at left, chat with representatives of Project Hope at the Pomona Connect Resource Fair.

Un mensaje patrocinado por el Condado de Los Angeles

NOTA DE UN MÉDICO SOBRE LAS PRUEBAS DE COVID-19

Dra. Erika Flores Uribe, Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Condado de Los Angeles

¿Cómo ayuda hacerme la prueba de COVID-19 para prevenir la propagación del virus?

Hacerse la prueba de COVID-19 te ayuda a saber si tienes coronavirus y evita que lo propagues a tu familia, amigos y comunidad. Si das positivo, aíslate para no contagiar a otras personas. Informa a las personas con las que has estado, para que también se pongan en cuarentena y se hagan la prueba. Así podemos evitar que el virus se propague y prevenir futuras oleadas de COVID-19.



Dr. Erika Flores Uribe

¿Son diferentes los tipos de pruebas de COVID-19 en cuanto a su precisión? Si es así, ¿cuál es la mejor?

Hay dos tipos principales de pruebas de COVID-19: moleculares y de antígenos. Las pruebas moleculares (comúnmente llamadas "pruebas PCR") son generalmente más precisas. Son procesadas en un laboratorio y recibirás los resultados en pocos días. Las pruebas de antígenos, (a las que a veces se les llama "pruebas rápidas"), pueden procesarse en cualquier lugar y los resultados se obtienen en unos 20 minutos. La Administración de Alimentos y Medicamentos (FDA, por sus siglas en inglés) recomienda hacerse varias pruebas de antígenos a lo largo de varios días para mejorar las posibilidades de identificar las infecciones.

Y recuerda: independientemente del tipo de prueba COVID-19 que elijas, debes dar una muestra de buena calidad para poder obtener resultados precisos. Si un profesional de la salud capacitado está obteniendo tu muestra, eso ayudará a asegurar que es una muestra de alta calidad. Si tú mismo/a te tomas la muestra de la nariz o la boca, asegúrate de seguir cuidadosamente todas las instrucciones.

¿Cómo puedo hacerme la prueba si el consultorio de mi médico no ofrece pruebas de COVID-19 o no tiene citas disponibles?

Si no puedes conseguir una cita o si no puedes ponerte en contacto con tu médico, visita el sitio web covid19.lacounty.gov/testing (que tiene un selector de idioma) para encontrar un lugar cercano donde te hagan las pruebas sin costo. Aunque no es necesario hacer una cita en muchos de los centros de pruebas administrados por el gobierno, hacer una cita te ayudará a esperar menos tiempo.

Si ya he recibido la vacuna contra COVID-19, ¿debo hacerme la prueba regularmente aunque no tenga síntomas?

Los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC, por sus siglas en inglés) recomiendan que cualquier persona que presente cualquier signo o síntoma de COVID-19 deberá hacerse las pruebas, ya sea que esté vacunada o si es que ha tenido el virus anteriormente. Y no lo olvides: aunque estés vacunado/a, debes hacerte la prueba entre 3 y 5 días después de haber estado cerca de alguien que podría tener COVID-19 o se haya confirmado que tiene COVID-19.

Visite VacunateLosAngeles.com para hacer su cita de vacunación.

Fledgling Post 30 'Legion Riders' receive official charter from state president

American Legion Area 6 "Legion Riders" Vice President Stacy Molina last week installed new American Legion Post 30 "Legion Riders" officers for the coming year as Legion Riders State President Rey Ruiz presented the group with its official charter.

The Post 30 Legion Riders group formed last year under the direction of President Bob Radcliff, who also serves as 2nd vice

commander of Post 30. "I know you will vindicate the trust that has been placed in you," Molina said following the official installation ceremony at Post 30 headquarters in Pomona.

It was her first official function as Area 6 Vice President.

Ruiz, based at Norco's American Legion Post 328, said he has been excited to meet with the officers and help them organize the



Legion Riders State President Rey Ruiz presents the official charter to the new American Legion Post 30 Legion Riders. Pictured, from left, are Ruiz, Post 30 Legion Riders President Bob Radcliff, and Area 6 Legion Riders Vice President Stacy Molina.



New officers of Pomona's American Legion Post 30 Legion Riders are, from left, Paul Estrada, Sergeant at Arms; Stephanie Huff, Secretary; Joe Scafidi, Vice President; Bob Radcliff, President; and Sean Liske, Historian.

new chapter.

"I look forward to big things from this chapter," he said. "They've grown since the first day I was here and will continue to grow."

The charter itself was officially signed Dec. 17, 2020.

Legion Riders... pg. 27



Bob Radcliff
President
Post 30 Legion Riders



American Legion Area 6
Legion Riders Vice President
Stacy Molina



Sunflowers were growing, well, like weeds in the back yard of Jeff and Renee of La Nueva Voz in Westmont. Then one day, Jeff spotted this huge grasshopper on the stalk of one of the biggest sunflowers of all. The next day, he spotted six green tiny little baby grasshoppers walking around on some of the leaves and (they had some nerve) actually eating tiny holes in some of those leaves. Well, fortunately, they didn't stick around very long -- not even long enough for Jeff to take daughter Stacy's advice and mix a little dishwashing liquid in with some water and spray it on the leaves. Meanwhile, Stacy, who lives in North Carolina and works for the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, happened to be growing a little crop of sunflowers of her own and had bigger problems -- bigger than the grasshoppers, that is. She said hers would be doing even better than they were if the deer didn't keep walking into her back yard at night and eating her leaves. Lesson learned -- everything is a matter of perspective. (And fortunately, there were no problems from the storm in Stacy's back yard.)



Pictured are samples of what's in store this weekend at an original circus show called "Mirage" appearing outdoors in Downtown Pomona and presented by The Stage Global, a performing arts center in Pomona. The show, directed by studio owner Jehan Izhar, will celebrate Middle Eastern artists and performers in Southern California and raise money to send medical aid and hygiene kits to Palestinian children. An artisan bazaar opens at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at 163 W. 2nd St., Pomona, and showtime is 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at www.thestageglobal.com starting at \$20.



Photos by Renee Barbee
 Pictured above are volunteers handing out some 500 backpacks last month at a special "Back to School Festival" give-away with carnival games and more at Pomona's Charisma Life Church. Below are Assistance League of Pomona Valley members Denise Crandall Delgado, at left, and Alisa Frazier at the Charisma Life event handing out everything from "beanie babies" to information on the Assistance League.



Pictured, above, inside after a ribbon-cutting out on the sidewalk are guests at a special grand reopening and one-year anniversary of Delicious Freedom USA (Garrafa Ice Cream and Funnel Cake) in Downtown Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Eva Thiel-Maiz representing Los Angeles County Supervisors Board Chair Hilda Solis, Claudia Castaneda representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang, State Sen. Connie Leyva, owner Virginia Villasenor, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, and Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares. Delicious Freedom is open late seven days a week and is located at 310 S. Thomas St., Pomona. At right, Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, poses for a picture with Villasenor in front of the "butterfly" mural.



Legion Riders... from pg. 26

The American Legion Riders organization was formed as a means of connecting with and communicating across the nation.

Typical activities include participating in the annual POW/MIA Rally held each Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D.C.; sponsoring or participating in local charity events in support of the American Legion post; sponsoring or participating in fundraising motorcycle runs; raising money for organizations like veterans hospitals, battered women and children's groups, needy

families and others; participating in countless memorial ceremonies and community parades; riding to honor fallen military men and women and to protect the sanctity of their funerals; and even teaching motorcycle and driver safety in the community and in schools.

Two riders in American Legion Post 396 in Garden City, Michigan, created the first Legion Riders in 1993.

Today, nearly 1,000 Legion Rider programs with more than 100,000 riders are in place in more than 32 states.



Photo by Matthew Akins, nomads_photos

DRAG RACING WAS BACK (DID YOU HEAR IT?) AND STRONGER THAN EVER -- And "funny car" night racing was as popular as ever last month at the NHRA's Auto Club Raceway at Pomona's Fairplex. Pictured surrounded by flames, at left, is Tarry Handdock driving a Checklistboards.com Mustang. The winner of the race was Gary Densham, at right, sponsored by Densham Motorsports, also driving a Mustang. Races had been postponed for more than a year and a half due to COVID-19, according to a spokesperson. Fairplex will host the NHRA finals Nov. 11 through 14. For information, visit NHRA.com.

ELECCIÓN DE REVOCACIÓN GUBERNAMENTAL DE CALIFORNIA

14 de septiembre de 2021

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