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# La Nueva Voz

The New Voice, a Bilingual (English/Spanish) Publication  
Pomona's *only* community newspaper!



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member

Issue No. 146

Thursday, September 23, 2021

## Carvana appears to be in compliance with city timetable demands to begin moving stored cars out of Fairplex parking lot

Neighbors of Fairplex in North Pomona are continuing to keep a close eye on activities at Fairplex but it appears that online used auto dealer Carvana is holding up its end of the bargain with the City of Pomona on its endgame here and moving its cars out of the Fairplex "blue" parking lot at Gate 9 off of White Avenue – many of them leaving the way they came in loaded on 80-foot auto transport carriers.

In fact, a Carvana employee at the storage lot who was not authorized to speak on behalf of the company confirmed a La Nueva Voz estimate earlier this month that it appeared roughly half the number of cars in storage there the previous month had been removed and transported to other Carvana locations on a temporary basis until additional permanent storage could be arranged.

The controversy was centered around the use of Fairplex for a large auto storage facility due to numerous trucks moving into and out of the parking lot loading and unloading cars and reportedly creating noise, air pollution and wear and tear on local streets.

"The most important thing to take away from this is Carvana is leaving," Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval told La Nueva Voz in

a telephone interview. "They're shutting down. That's been agreed upon."

"As far as all the details (regarding numbers of cars on site, loud music complaints and the like)... that scope of work is on-going," Sandoval said. "I don't have specific numbers. That information will become available at some point. I don't have that information at the moment."

"I think the most important thing is we came to an agreement," he added. "We talked. This didn't involve a chaotic fiasco type situation where ultimately the residents that had real concerns about the operations we're having is that through a process of communications and sending a cease and desist letter and getting them to leave is a good thing" for both the city and the neighbors who live closest to the area.

Sandoval said the final agreement between Carvana and the city was "just recently officially signed" and likely will go to an upcoming closed session of the Pomona City Council for review.

He said he will ask some of the questions La Nueva Voz asked him.

"But the impression I got is they are leaving, they want to

Carvana... pg. 15



**LEAVING FAIRPLEX** -- A fully loaded 80-foot auto transport carrier pulls out of the "Blue Lot" at Fairplex this month as online used auto dealer Carvana appears to be complying with an agreement with the City of Pomona by shutting down its auto storage operation that has been there since March. Controversy erupted over allegations of trucks at all hours, noise, vehicle emissions, wear and tear on the roadways and operating without a business license.



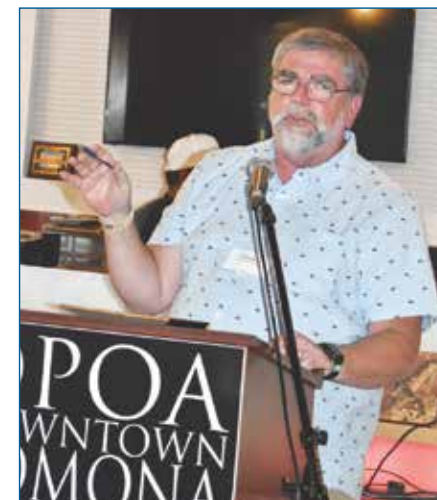
**David McElwain**  
1961 - 2021  
(See story p. 2)

## DPOA annual meeting shows Downtown Pomona survived pandemic and is working on recovery

The Downtown Pomona Owners Association – often using creative approaches – made it through the pandemic, helped business owners adapt and now is ramping up marketing efforts to support those same business owners as they recover and return to what for some time likely will be a new normal.

The recap of the past year's activities was the subject of both a PowerPoint presentation and a video during last month's annual prop-

Downtown Pomona... pg. 2



Jeff Keating, President  
DPOA Board of Directors

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### The impact of community collaboration on mental health services

In 2004, California voters approved Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). It provided the first opportunity in many years to expand county mental health programs for all populations across the state: children, transition-age youth, adults, older adults, families, and most especially, unserved and underserved communities. It was also designed to provide a wide range of prevention, early intervention and treatment services, including the necessary infrastructure, technology and enhancement of the mental health workforce to support it.

Since then, community members have played a significant role in determining how MHSA funding is spent toward the development of mental health programs and services. Tri-City Mental Health (TCMH), the local mental health authority for the cities of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne, is committed to engaging community stakeholders in the process of identifying the diverse needs of local communities.

"A community stakeholder is any person, group or organization in Pomona, La Verne or Claremont with an interest in the supporting their community," said Dana Barford, MHSA Projects Manager at Tri-City Mental Health. "Our MHSA stakeholders provide informed recommendations and guidance on MHSA projects and programs, both current and future. They are individuals who want to make a difference and be a voice for their community."

Stakeholders consist of consumers of mental health services and their families, community members, educators, law enforcement and representatives of local agencies, community groups and service providers. This ongoing community collaboration has provided a lifeline for effective program development within TCMH, resulting in services that are recovery-focused, culturally-inclusive and community-based.

"The value of our stakeholders is their perspective and collective experiences," said Barford. "It is through their involvement that we can identify gaps in services and create a truly consumer-driven mental health system of care that is responsive to the needs of the people it serves."

Engage your passions and share your expertise. Let your voice be heard as an MHSA stakeholder. Together, we can develop a shared vision for mental health services and community well-being. If you would like to become a stakeholder, please join us at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30 for a virtual orientation to the MHSA community stakeholder process. Details are available at [www.tricitymhs.org](http://www.tricitymhs.org). For more information on becoming an MHSA stakeholder, please contact Dana Barford, MHSA Projects Manager, at [dbarford@tricitymhs.org](mailto:dbarford@tricitymhs.org) or (909) 623-6131.





## Downtown Pomona... from pg. 1

erty owners meeting attended by both property and business owners at Downtown Pomona's El Jefe Cocina Mexicana.

"It's been an interesting year, an interesting 18 months for all of us," said DPOA Board President Jeff Keating of Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences and a member of the DPOA Board for the past 11 years

"Through it all, the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, in partnership with all of you and all of our member businesses in the many blocks that we cover, as well as the City of Pomona somehow has figured out a way to soldier on and to keep adding value to what we do for the Pomona Business Improvement District," Keating said, "despite the fact that we were up against a lot."

The DPOA – under the direction of its 13-member board of directors – operates under a million-dollar annual budget to provide its core services of security, maintenance and marketing to the 277 parcels within its boundaries, all funded by the property owners themselves to create a vibrant Downtown Po-

mona and improve economic vitality in the area.

Executive Director Lorena Parker, with 22 years of experience in the property business improvement district field, joined the DPOA in May 2020 only two months after what has been defined as the beginning of the pandemic in March.

"Over the past year, our security and maintenance teams have remained hard at work and now that our local businesses have started to open up, we are accelerating our marketing efforts," Parker said.

"We did have some challenges last year," Parker said, referring to what she called the "ever changing" Los Angeles County protocols. "We were trying to do what we could to have some kind of an event of some sort, but it was a never-ending challenge."

"We did persist," she added.

The organization went to work to establish a curbside pickup program for the Downtown Pomona restaurants, and the City of Pomona was quick to establish a program called "Activate Pomona," which allowed businesses to set up outside of their businesses when



Photo by Renee Barbee

**INTRODUCING TEAM DPOA** -- Downtown Pomona Owners Association Executive Director Lorena Parker introduces the staff at last month's DPOA annual property owners meeting at El Jefe Cocina Mexicana in Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Operations Manager Fatima Fazal, Parker, Creative Director Marco Argote, Maintenance Supervisor Augusto Vivanco, and Jose Vidal of the DPOA maintenance staff.

they were on lockdown orders, Parker said.

She helped them develop their plot plans, establish rules for the program, help them with the process and assist businesses in obtaining available loans.

And, of course, the DPOA held its annual Christmas parade, for the first time ever as a "drive through" event in which the floats remained in place and the participants drove through the downtown area.

That event, which each year involves an entire committee made

up of community members, was "achieved on sheer determination," Parker said.

Through it all, the DPOA maintenance staff continued to perform its entire laundry list of tasks they complete on a daily basis beginning at 5 a.m.

The four-man team removes graffiti, pressure washes sidewalks, operates sweeper trucks, cleans parking lots, waters planters and constantly picks up trash.

A video presentation at the event showed the team – just in the past

year – power washed 120,000 feet of sidewalk, serviced 27,000 trash cans, and removed 4,129 items of graffiti, 128 cubic yards of illegal dumping, and debris from 2.4 million feet of sidewalk.

The team also cleaned 25 parking lots and installed anti-graffiti film on business windows.

And the downtown security program continued to offer services of two full-time Pomona police officers assigned exclusively to the Downtown Pomona area and,

Downtown Pomona... pg. 8

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## Services held for Pomona educator and 'jobs expert' David McElwain

Private "celebration of life" services were held this month in La Verne for David Roy McElwain, loving husband, father, and grandfather, who died Aug. 28 after a 28-month battle with stage 4 gastric cancer. He was 60.

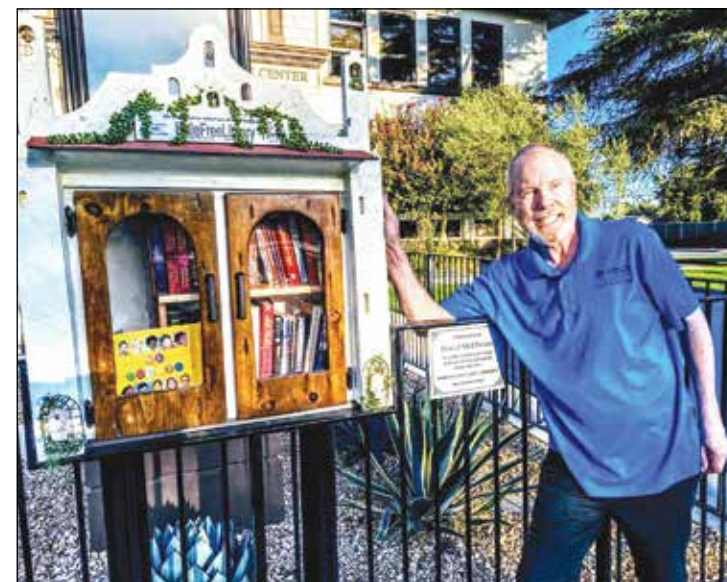
David, who was a resident of La Verne, was born during the middle of a snowstorm in Chicago on Feb. 2, 1961, to Robert and Elizabeth McElwain. He had four siblings. His family moved to Whittier when he was a child. He attended Cal Poly University Pomona, where he received his bachelor's degree in political science, and Long Beach State University, where he earned his master's degree in vocational education.

He met his wife Amy, the love of his life for 40 years, at Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor in Rosemead and they had three beautiful

children, Lindsay, Sean, and Benjamin. In 2018, David's granddaughter, whom he proclaimed was the light of his life, Luna Rodriguez, was born.

He spent his career of 30 years serving public education at the Los Angeles County Office of Education Regional Occupational Program, Head Start, and GAIN Divisions. He also served a couple of years

David McElwain... pg. 8



David McElwain last September poses next to a "Little Free Library" that was permanently installed in front of the Pomona Unified School District Offices. A plaque honors McElwain for all he did to promote books and reading. He was credited with bringing the "Little Free Library" program to Pomona.





**POMONA CHAMBER WINS STATEWIDE AWARD** -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares, at left, and Board Chair Annette Limon show off their "Affiliate of the Year" award presented to them by the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce at their 40th annual statewide convention this month in Palm Springs. The award recognizes an affiliate member for "work in leading the advancement of Hispanic small businesses and communities they serve," according to CHCC President and CEO Julian Canete. He said the award recognizes excellence in operations, member services and community leadership. The annual convention is the largest regional gathering and networking venue for Hispanic businesses in the nation. The organization is a statewide network of more than 120 local Hispanic chambers and trade associations, creating the largest ethnic business organization in the nation representing the interests of the more than 815,000 Hispanic businesses in California.



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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.

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### NEW ASSISTANCE LEAGUE BOARD

Members of the Assistance League of Pomona Valley's new board of directors pose for the La Nueva Voz camera wearing their sailor caps as part of the "Love Boat" theme of the annual installation event this month. Pictured, from left, are Roger Krechmery, treasurer; Lisa Frazier, recording secretary; Renee Barbee, public relations; Lynne Kirchoff, parliamentarian; Kellie Clafin, newspaper editor; Cathy Rockwell, golf tournament committee; Donna Spencer, vice president - philanthropic; Phyllis Veldman-Fine, vice president - membership; Jane Hubbard, president; and installation officers Cathy Harden and Stephanie Roberts. Not pictured are Stephanie Mann, vice president - resource development; Nitzi Barker, strategic planning; and Laura Romero and Rene Sippel, golf tournament. The organization is celebrating its 75th birthday this year.



Outgoing Assistance League of Pomona Valley President Denise Delgado, at left, hands over the ceremonial gavel this month to newly installed President Jane Hubbard during the group's annual meeting at Red Hill Country Club in Rancho Cucamonga. Delgado served as president for the past three years. The Assistance League provides school clothing and books to area students and families in need. Through its largest fundraiser, the "Smile with a Child" golf tournament, along with other contributions, the group also offers free dental services to qualifying children and parents.

### A 60TH BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR RAY!

-- It was a 60th birthday party for historic preservationist Ray Adamyk last week as about 60 well-wishers turned out to fill the lobby of Pomona's Fox Theater for a celebration. Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, speaking from a microphone on the lobby staircase, told Adamyk he is "a real pillar of this community." And City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole commended him for coming to Pomona and taking on the restoration of the historic YMCA building. "You teach us the true meaning of beauty -- it's a pleasure having you in the city," she said. Councilmembers Steve Lustro and Victor Preciado also were on hand. Pictured in front of a special birthday backdrop are Adamyk and his wife Michelle Jumper Adamyk. Adamyk, president and founder of Spectra Company, a historic preservation and restoration company in Pomona, has restored the Hall of Justice, the Bradbury Building and the Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles, Hearst Castle in San Simeon, and many others.



Photo by Renee Barbee

Do you have a news story?  
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**Neighborhood Services Department  
Development of the 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan  
*Your Voice Counts!***



**All residents are invited to join a Community Needs meeting to share your thoughts on the most important community needs. These meetings will assist in identifying the City's needs and funding priorities for the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs.**


October 26, 2021	Community Life Commission - Citizen Participation Kick-Off
October 26, 2021	Community Needs Survey <b>Live</b> via City Website (www.pomonaca.gov)
October 27, 2021	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM via Zoom.com
October 28, 2021	Notice of Funds Available/ Request for Proposals Release
November 10, 2021	CDBG Request for Proposal Workshop @ 9:30 AM via Zoom.com
November 17, 2021	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM via Zoom.com
December 8, 2021	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM In-Person at Pomona Council Chambers
January 13, 2022	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM via Zoom.com
January 13, 2022	CDBG Proposals Due via Zoomgrants.com
January 31, 2022	Survey Responses Due



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	¡Inicio de la participación comunitaria con la "Community Life Commission!"
26 de Octubre 2021	Encuesta sobre la comunidad estará disponible en la página de internet de la ciudad (www.pomonaca.gov)
26 de Octubre 2021	Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30 PM a través Zoom.com
27 de Octubre 2021	Lanzamiento de Solicitud de Propuestas
28 de Octubre 2021	CDBG Taller para la Solicitud de Propuestas @ 9:30 AM a través Zoom.com
10 de Noviembre 2021	Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30 PM a través de Zoom.com
17 de Noviembre 2021	Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30 PM en persona en Pomona Council Chambers
8 de Diciembre 2021	Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30 PM a través de Zoom.com
13 de Enero 2022	Fecha límite para entregar las propuestas CDBG via Zoomgrants.com
13 de Enero 2022	Fecha límite para entregar las encuestas
31 de Enero 2022	



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## Garey High School teachers launch literacy program for more than half the school, expect first results by end of year

A committee of eight teachers at Pomona's Garey High School kicked off a new literacy program for some 1,100 students last week in an effort that took 11 months to plan and is expected to show measurable results as early as the end of the school year, according to organizers.

"Our (reading) scores have been stagnant," said English teacher Cynthia Sanchez, chair of the program committee.

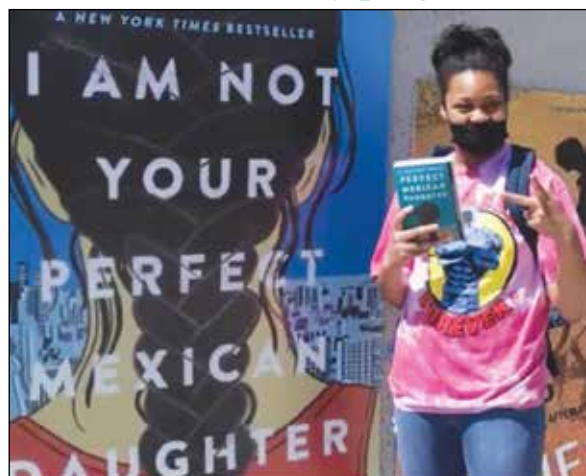
She said incoming freshmen are reading around the fourth- and fifth-grade level and, by the time they graduate, they are reading around the eighth-grade level.

"Only 18 percent are college and career ready based on the reading data that we have," she added.

Last week's lunch hour program kick-off in the high school "quad" – which attracted most of Garey's 1,700 students – included everything from balloons and Garey cheerleaders to the Garey High School jazz band and huge oversized posters representing the nine books selected by the committee for students to read.

The program was dubbed "Cafecito con libros (coffee with books), a literacy program."

Sanchez, in a telephone interview with La Nueva Voz, said she also teaches at Mt. SAC where she participated in two campus "reads" and found it inspiring. She said she pitched the idea to Rita Torres, a teacher of world history, ethnic studies, and Chicano studies at Garey, and she was "all



A Garey High School student poses with her literacy program book choice – in front of an oversized poster of the book cover for New York Times best seller "I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter."



Members of the Garey High School jazz band perform at the kick-off event for a new program for more than half of Garey's students called "Cafecito con libros." The program is designed to improve reading levels of graduating seniors, now averaging around the eighth-grade level. Oversized posters of the covers of books selected for the program are pictured at rear. And that's Garey's band director Anthony Bonner on the drums.

in from the beginning."

Torres, who is vice chair of the program committee, said the kick-off event focused on congratulating the students for participating in the program, selecting their novels, and getting them motivated and excited about reading.

Two more events are already planned – both bringing in authors who have similar backgrounds to the students.

October's program tentatively will feature author Luis Rodriguez, a native of El Paso who grew up in the San Gabriel Valley and now lives in Los Angeles. He wrote "Always Running," a memoir.

Scheduled for November is Reyna Grande, who wrote "A Dream called Home," also a memoir, recounting her early life in Mexico before moving to the United States and living in Los Angeles. She was the first person

in her family to graduate from college.

Included will be presentations by the authors, book signings and photos.

But the program won't end there as a one-time effort to improve student reading scores.

"This needs to be sustainable and on-going if we want to see results with our kids and we want to see our kids reading," Sanchez said.

"The students that are participating come from different classes," Torres said. "That's why we chose nine different novels . . . because we understand they are reading at different Lexile (a nationally standardized "framework for reading" educational tool) levels."

"We were very specific in regard to which novels we selected," Torres said, adding that the reading level of the nine books ranged

from something appropriate for special education students with learning disabilities all the way up to students who are college bound taking honors classes.

Torres said there is something in the selection of books to help everybody regardless of their reading level.

"What we want to do is get them to enjoy reading," Torres said.

Sanchez added that other factors went into the process of selecting the nine books.

"We were very purposeful in the books we selected . . . that we choose those nine culturally relevant novels because we wanted the books and the characters in those books to mirror the lives of our students," she said.

And for the books themselves, students had a choice between paperback versions or pdf files and, surprisingly in this digital age, most preferred the paperbacks. And many of those who requested pdfs still asked for paperbacks.

Then how long before teachers see quantifiable results? Sanchez said they'll be looking at data by the end of the year.

But they want it to be sustainable because they understand change will not come in a single semester or even in one year of school.

"We hope this continues," she said. "This was a process. It took



Students pose in front of the "Cafecito con libros" literacy program poster at Pomona's Garey High School with their choices of books in a new reading effort for some 1,100 students at the school.

us 11 months to plan out."

Sanchez added that they'll be looking at things that worked and didn't work "and make changes as we go along."

There's more to the program in terms of unintended consequences.

Torres said she hopes that "with the different stories . . . that it will be kind of a starter to communicate more with their parents because they'll have something to share with their parents regarding their stories."

That will result in increasing lines of communication with the students' parents, "which I think is a positive thing for students," Torres said.

Most of the teachers were encouraging students to participate in the program. Torres said English and history teachers were assigning the program as part of the class, but other teachers wanted to encourage the kids to read, so those teachers were assigning it as extra credit.

The concept seemed to be work-

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## The importance of professional wound care

By Kerry Gott, MD

*Editor's Note: Dr. Kerry Gott is an infectious disease specialist and program medical director for the Hyperbaric Medicine and Wound Care Center at Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare.*

Whether due to a diabetic foot ulcer, radiation burn, or surgical lesion, there are many reasons a patient might seek care for a wound that will not heal. It can be frustrating when the body refuses to cooperate, but left without proper medical treatment, a stubborn wound could progress to the point of infection or require emergency care.

When you're unsure about a wound, it's best to seek the opinion of a professional wound care specialist. Wound care specialists provide prevention, intervention, and treatment for open wounds, with the goal of accelerating healing, reducing complications, and preventing catastrophic outcomes like amputation.

A wound care center in an accredited hospital offers a level of expertise not found in the primary healthcare setting. Led by physicians specializing in wound assessments and the underlying causes of wounds, and supported by nurses trained to treat open wounds, these centers provide a more thorough approach that includes not just topical wound care but vascular evaluation, treatment of infection, surgical referrals when needed, and more.

A wound care specialist can measure the blood flow and oxygen level of skin tissue in and around the lesion, providing a more accurate assessment of healing potential and helping to determine the best course of care. Wound care centers offer a



**Kerry Gott, MD**  
Infectious Disease Specialist  
Casa Colina Wound Care Center

range of treatments to revitalize tissues that have poor circulation or other impediments to healing, which in turn can promote the growth of new blood vessels and healthy tissue. Wound care centers also provide critical patient education to address underlying risk factors and minimize the risk of recurrence.

For stubborn wounds that don't improve with advanced wound care, hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) may be an appropriate option. HBOT is a great mechanism for treating certain types of wounds, because it accelerates healing by enabling large

amounts of oxygen to dissolve into the tissues during the 90-minute treatment session. By receiving 100 percent oxygen in pressurized chambers, patients benefit almost immediately from the therapeutic effects of higher tissue oxygen levels.

During an HBOT treatment, a hyperbaric technician tends to the patient in the treatment chamber, who is able to listen to music or watch television. It is not a painful procedure – rather, as the pressure fluctuates, it feels like the experience of ascending and descending on an airplane. Importantly, the supervising physician is always immediately available to provide assistance.

Regardless of the level of care you need, if you have a wound that won't heal, don't wait. Led by a Certified Wound Specialist with more than 20 years' experience, Casa Colina's Hyperbaric Medicine and Wound Care Center offers comprehensive care to heal your body and get you back to the things you love. To learn more, call (909) 596-7733, ext. 3611.

## Cal Poly ranked among the best in 2022 U.S. News college ranking

Cal Poly University Pomona has been ranked third among the "Top Public Schools in the West" and 14th among "Regional Universities West" by the latest 2022 U.S. News "Best Colleges Ranking," according to a university news release.

The western region includes 159 universities in 15 states.

Over the last five years, Cal Poly has moved up 17 places in the "Top Regional Universities West" category, with increasing recognition for its high-quality education

Cal Poly among the best... pg. 9

## Pomona's Promise holds 'community convening'

By Stephanie Campbell, Interim Chair  
Pomona's Promise Leadership Team

Pomona's Promise, the city's collective impact initiative, conducted two sessions of an online community convening on Aug. 24 and 26 to reintroduce the initiative to the community, share accomplishments and new resources becoming available in the near future, and engage participants in conversations about how community needs can be successfully addressed through collaboration.

About 110 people attended the two sessions in total.

Founded in 2014, Pomona's Promise is a structure through which agencies large and small, along with individual residents, can align their efforts to achieve improvements in five interconnected areas: Education & Career Readiness, Health, Economic Development, Community Safety, and Community Engagement.

### Deadline next week for Pomona Hope's annual gala

The deadline is Thursday, Sept. 30, to RSVP for next month's Pomona Hope Annual Awareness and Fundraising Gala to support the organization in its work toward a transformed city where all people find hope and a future.

A reception gets under way at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 16, at Kellogg West on the campus of Cal Poly University Pomona.

Dinner and the program begin at 6:30 p.m. and will include special video presentations, raffle prizes, a silent auction and more.

Tickets are \$65 per person or \$500 for a table of eight.

Pomona Hope programs range from after school and summer enrichment programs to the arts, young adult scholars, a parenting support group, a community garden and internships.

Its community center is located in Pomona's First Presbyterian Church, at 401 N. Gibbs St., Pomona, and includes a gymnasium, a stage, three kitchens, five large group rooms and more than two dozen small classrooms.

For more information or to RSVP for the gala, visit the web site at [www.pomonahope.org/](http://www.pomonahope.org/) gala or contact Executive Director Jeff Johannsen at (909) 921-3618, ext. 3.

The event included presentations on the Health Access Network of Pomona's Promise, which links providers of health and mental health services into a well-coordinated referral network, and on the input gathered at two summits held in 2019 exploring what features are needed to promote early childhood well-being among our city's youngsters.

In a number of breakout groups, participants were given the opportunity to share their thoughts on collaborative efforts they have participated in and what made them successful; how priorities have changed since the early childhood summits hosted by Pomona's Promise in 2019; and the assets currently in place in our community that help children thrive.

Since the community convening was held on Zoom, participants got to use Jamboard, an online brainstorming tool that allows all participants to contribute their ideas on electronic post-it notes.

Pomona's Promise has recently obtained a grant from All Children Thrive (<https://act-ca.org/>), a state-

funded agency that is supporting 23 cities, including Pomona, to promote the well-being of children, families and communities. Part of the grant will support the strengthening of Pomona's Promise's data tracking infrastructure in a way that will contribute to and align with the work of other collaborative efforts in the city.

Pomona's Promise will be planning a follow-up convening toward the end of this year. Another event being planned is a presentation on results of a survey taken last May by fourth and seventh graders revealing the status of their social and emotional health and well-being, positive relationships with peers and adults, proper nutrition and sleep, healthy and creative after school activities and more. All Children Thrive will also be providing training for community members on how to do asset mapping and data storytelling.

Pomona's Promise welcomes new people and new energy! Anyone wishing to connect may write to [communityengagement.pp@gmail.com](mailto:communityengagement.pp@gmail.com).



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## Need a Medicare health plan? Here are three things to keep in mind!

*Editor's note: The following tips were provided to La Nueva Voz by Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan.*

Medicare's annual enrollment period is fast-approaching – Oct. 15 through Dec. 7. It can be overwhelming when looking at all the Medicare Advantage health plan options available and struggling to figure out which one will meet your needs.

If you are thinking of switching your Medicare Advantage health plan, or enrolling for the first time, here are three things to keep in mind:

1. Don't focus only on cost

There is much more to a Medi-

care health plan than premiums, prescriptions, and copays. Think about the free tools and resources they can provide their members such as social classes, preventative health education, the plan's reputation, the quality of customer service and so much more.

2. Be sure to check your healthcare provider network

Each healthcare plan uses a network of doctors and hospitals. You need to make sure that the health care providers you want to see are in your plan's network.

3. Make sure the Medicare health plan has your best interest in mind

Before you sign the dotted line

with a new health plan, take a deep dive into the Medicare Advantage plan you are considering and how it operates. You want to know how long the plan has been in business, and that the plan treats its members as real people, not just a member number. Also consider if the plan is local. Local health plans offer the same great benefits as the 'big guys,' but with the added benefit of more personalized care you deserve.

What is covered in each Medicare Advantage health plan can vary. What works for your friends and their health needs might not be the right fit for you.

## Literacy program... from pg. 6

ing. In a telephone interview before the kick-off program, Cassandra Castro, a senior from Pomona, told La Nueva Voz the literacy push will help students "become better in the future."

Castro, who plans to go on to college next year and major in political science with a minor in English or Spanish, and then possibly on to law school, described herself as a first-generation student in this country. She will become the first in her family to go on to college.

"What motivated me is I'm vice president of ASB (the associated student body at Garey) and cap-

tain of the cheerleading team," Castro said. "I also really enjoy reading."

She added that it also helped that the program was "being run by teachers I've had in the past that I know are good educators."

"Being able to read is really important," Castro said. "It's one of the things that is most important in helping you in college and having good literacy skills really puts you above others."

She agreed with her teachers that she and many other students were interested because the stories that were selected were stories

they could relate to their personal lives.

And she's even interested in just reading about the authors' lives.

"It's cool to see someone who had similar struggles to you become successful," Castro said.

Teachers on the organizing committee in addition to Sanchez and Torres were Janette Duran, an English teacher; Alicia Perez, math; Karen Ralston, culinary arts; Diana Torres, social science; Crystal O'Kelly, English; and Ion Puschila, history – all with the support of Principal Roddy Layton.

## David McElwain... from pg. 2

at the Pomona Unified School District. Additionally, David was an active member of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, including a term as Chamber Board Chair.

Despite his illness, he was able at the end of his term to hand over the ceremonial gavel to Dr. Enrique Medina of Pomona Unified School District at the chamber's annual installation and awards banquet in July 2019 at Pomona Valley Mining Company.

According to his family, David's passion was making lives better. He believed a positive impact could be made by teaching literacy, furthering access to it, or helping people find jobs, create resumes, or achieve expungements. He did just that, one person at a time, and collectively helped thousands of individuals and families in Los Angeles County.

Among his most cherished and important accomplishments,



David McElwain hands over the ceremonial gavel to Pomona Unified School District's Dr. Enrique Medina as he steps down from his term as Board Chair of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce in July 2019.

David was especially proud of bringing the "Little Free Library" concept (small "birdhouse-like" boxes in parks and front yards offering the free "take a book, leave a book" program) to the streets and neighborhoods of Pomona, giving back and sharing his love of reading and the gift of literacy

with Pomona residents, just as he did with his granddaughter.

David is survived by his wife, Amy, his three children, and his beloved granddaughter Luna.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made in David's honor to City of Hope in Duarte.

As the Medicare annual enrollment period approaches, it's important to do all the necessary research to ensure the plan you choose covers your unique healthcare needs.

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## Downtown Pomona... from pg. 2

when they are off duty, a new private security firm that takes over and responds to calls – often received through a 24-hour security hotline telephone number.

The downtown security camera program also has been upgraded during the past year.

In the area of marketing, the DPOA's social media presence also has been upgraded with social media followers increasing 44 percent – or more than a 3,700 increase – during the year. In addition, the DPOA now has a total of 12,100 Instagram followers.

And Parker reported that a monthly marketing campaign focuses on different segments of the market each month (this program includes monthly ads in La Nueva Voz).

The DPOA over the past year also introduced a summertime children's play zone on Saturday mornings, and planning already is under way for the annual holiday parade, scheduled for Dec. 11. Parker said the City of Pomona

has confirmed they will return with their "Holiday in the Park" festivities in Shaun Diamond Plaza.

In addition, planning is under way for a holiday-themed mural in the plaza that will be in place throughout December, accompanied by holiday music to provide a "Santa's workshop" for families, friends and photo opportunities.

"Second Saturday" art walks are continuing, and plans are in the works for a concert series downtown.

And the DPOA is continuing to advocate for economic development in the downtown "so that we could move forward in the 21st century and have a dynamic downtown (with) robust economic vitality," Parker said.

The DPOA has managed the Downtown Pomona Business Improvement District for more than 17 years.

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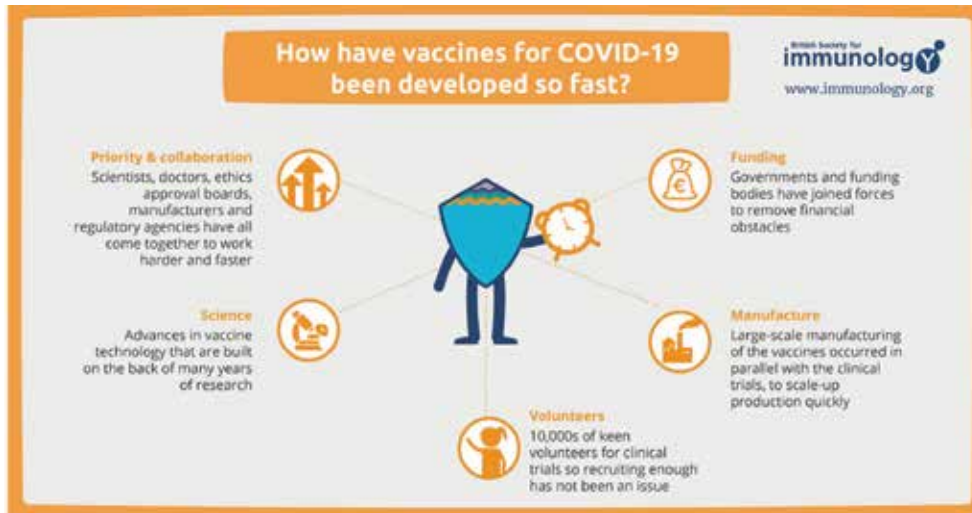
**SAFETY FIRST** By Jose Bermudez, Certified Safety Professional

**Why Vaccinate?**

In the work setting, safety and health professionals utilize the Hierarchy of Controls developed by the National Institute of Safety and Health to reduce exposure and risk to employees. Similarly in Pomona, and globally, public health agencies and medical professionals are applying the Hierarchy of Controls system which is generally listed in chronological order, although

the same time, there are questions in general about all vaccines and ones specific to COVID-19. These questions in addition to ones covering the development, efficacy, and safety of the vaccines are answered below.

There are specific vaccine preventable diseases, including measles, polio, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough, diphtheria, and HPV – Human Papillomavirus. Small-



here we list it in reverse: 4) Masks (Personal Protective Equipment - lowest phase but often most accessible and practical); 3) Policies, procedures, training, signage (Administrative Controls phase); 3) Social Distancing – Isolation (Engineering Controls phase), and 1) Vaccination functioning as the Elimination phase which prevents viral infection by inoculating individuals. At

pox vaccine was the first one discovered. Throughout the world, smallpox killed 300 to 500 million people in the 20th century. Smallpox is the only disease that has been eradicated. According to the Centers for Disease Control, two vaccine preventable diseases, namely whooping cough (pertussis) and chicken pox are still prevalent in

**Vaccinate... pg. 13**

**Cal Poly among the best... from pg. 7**

and commitment to experiential learning and professional readiness.

The university was recognized for “stellar performance in undergraduate teaching, innovation in higher education and providing an education that helps students climb the economic ladder of success following graduation.”

In those areas, Cal Poly ranked third in “Innovative School West,” tied for sixth in “Best Undergraduate Teaching West,” and tied for seventh in “Top Performers on So-

cial Mobility West.”

Nationally, Cal Poly’s College of Engineering was recognized among the best, tied at number 11 for “Best Undergraduate Engineering Program” where doctorate degrees are not offered, and third in California.

The computer engineering program was rated third nationally, civil engineering fourth, electrical/electronic/computer engineering fourth and mechanical engineering ninth.

U.S. News rated 1,466 colleges and universities nationally for the rankings.

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The east wall inside the Green Room in downtown Pomona features, for decorative purposes only, a remembrance of days gone by.

Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce stopped by to help Dana Gourmet Cafe cut the ceremonial ribbon this month. Pictured, from left, are community volunteer Alice Gomez, at rear; Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares; Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; Claudia Castaneda, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; David Perez, owner of Dana Gourmet Cafe; Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis; Dana co-owner Miguel Santiago; Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley Executive Director Victor Caceres; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Jeff Johannsen, Executive Director of Pomona Hope; Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; community volunteer Don Martens; Susan and Ron (at rear) Vander Molen; and State Farm agent John Forbing.



The hors d'oeuvres at the Dana Gourmet Cafe ribbon-cutting were amazing, just like the many selections on the menu. And you've got to try the bacon-wrapped stuffed jalapenos before you do anything else. They are amazing! We're just sayin'...

The presentation of certificates ceremony was held inside Dana Gourmet Cafe during a Pomona Chamber of Commerce grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony this month. Pictured, from left, are Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis; Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang; Claudia Castaneda, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; and Dana Gourmet owner David Perez. The restaurant, which is on the "short list" of La Nueva Voz favorite restaurants, is located at 1087 E. Holt Ave., Pomona. Make sure you go on a weekend morning and have the skillet breakfast for brunch (this is only available on Saturdays and Sundays).



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## Cal Poly's 'Pumpkin Fest' is back throughout October

Cal Poly University Pomona's 28th annual "Pumpkin Fest" returns throughout the month of October, featuring the traditional pumpkin patch with some 30,000 Cal Poly-grown pumpkins, farm demonstrations, live entertainment, great food, and a variety of activities.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends and 3 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays. And pumpkins cost between \$5 and \$7 each.

Included will be hayrides, a corn maze, a petting farm, a sunflower patch, rides on the Moo Moo Cow Train, and "The Marketplace."

The children's garden is back, and the "kid's country fair" area has been expanded this year.

The event will be held at Cal Poly's AGRScapes Center, 4102 S. University Drive, Pomona.

Due to COVID, to ensure everyone's safety, advance tickets are required this year to limit the number of attendees, and masks may be required for some activities. Walk-up admission will not be allowed.

Additional information and tickets are available at pumpkin-

festival.cpp.edu.

Weekend tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for children ages 3 to 12 and for seniors and those with a Cal Poly Pomona identification card.

Friday admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children, and admission is free on Wednesdays

and Thursdays. However, visitors must register on the web site to receive a free ticket.

Sign-ups for field trips are now being accepted.

Proceeds help support the Huntley College of Agriculture's farm operations, student clubs and outreach activities.



Lynn (Linnie) Talia Ferro, a member of Pomona's Eagles Auxiliary, happened to be passing by at just the right time and, always a good sport, helped La Nueva Voz publisher Jeff Schenkel finish the last line of "Honky Tonk Women" by the Rolling Stones last week. Linnie was helping run "Street Taco" night at the Eagles where Schenkel performed a two-hour set of oldies.



**CUTTING THE RIBBON** -- Officials got together on the company's actual first day in business this month to cut the ceremonial ribbon and get "The Rotten P" Clothing Store open. Pictured, from left, are Claudia Castaneda, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang; Caroline Magana and her fiancé, store owner Sergio Bautista; Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares; and Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz.



Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz shows off her purchase on opening day this month at "The Rotten P" clothing store in Pomona. She was the first customer to buy something at the new store when she was there for the Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting. She got out of there with a tote bag and a pair of tie-died shorts. Owner Sergio Bautista is pictured at right with his Square charge reader in his smart phone.



**NEW CLOTHES STORE IN TOWN** -- Looking for Pomona T-shirts, sweatshirts and more? You've got to check out "The Rotten P" Clothing Store at 1621 N. Garey Ave., Pomona. They've got it all, locally branded and created, and prices are reasonable. And they are located right across from Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. Pictured, at left, presenting a grand opening certificate from State Sen. Connie Leyva during a Pomona Chamber of Commerce grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony this month, is Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares. Accepting this certificate -- along with a half dozen others -- are owner Sergio Bautista and his fiancé Caroline Magana. Bautista told La Nueva Voz the company started out in "e-commerce" in 2019 but launched the brand in December 2015.



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Mitchell Todd, Joel Diaz, Nina Hernandez, Rudy Urrea  
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## Vaccinate... from pg. 9

this country. Nevertheless, other cited diseases are still a public health concern today. Even if they are not prevalent in the U.S., they are of concern in other countries that do not have the benefit of our public health network. When Americans travel abroad or when international visitors arrive in the U.S., we must guard against exposure to these diseases through vaccination.

What are vaccines?

Immunization via a vaccine is a method to build your body's natural immunity to a disease before exposure. This prevents you from getting infected and spreading the disease. A weakened form of the disease germ is introduced into your body. Injection usually occurs on the arm or the leg. Your body detects the invading germ (antigens) and produces antibodies to attack them. The resulting antibodies then enter your body and often stay for the rest of your life. Whenever there is exposure to the disease in the future, your body protects you from contracting disease.

How was COVID-19 vaccine developed so quickly compared to

other vaccines?

The British Society for Immunology answers this question in an infographic (see page 9):

Are vaccines safe?

The above infographic illustrates how vaccines are made, and how scientists, medical personnel, and the government continually strive for safe vaccines. Every vaccine undergoes extensive testing before approval, and vaccine safety continues to be assessed throughout the time the vaccine is in use.

Most side effects from vaccination are minor, such as soreness where the injection is given or a low-grade fever. These side effects do not last long and are treatable.

There are vaccines that contain minute quantities of additives that could be harmful in a large application. These ingredients include formaldehyde, aluminum and mercury. The vaccines are safe because of the small amount of these additives contained in each dose. To illustrate this, according to familydoctor.org, by two years of age, children will take in 4mg of aluminum. A breast-fed baby will

ingest 10mg in six months. Soy-based formula delivers 120mg in six months. Additionally, infants have 10 times the amount of formaldehyde naturally occurring in their bodies than is present in a vaccine. And the toxic form of mercury has never been added to vaccines.

What is the difference between emergency use authorization and the formal process of vaccine approval?

The principal difference between emergency use authorization, or EUA, and the routinely used protocol, a biologic licensure application, or BLA, is the collection method prior to the vaccines being reviewed for use. Comparing both protocols, the vaccines in use today (under EUA) will be no different than those that are used the day after the vaccines get full approval (BLA). The condensed timeline was due to the pandemic. But, at this point, the vaccines have been given safely to millions of people and the companies have been monitoring vaccine recipients for months. Consequently, putting off vaccination until the vaccines get "full approval" is

taking an unnecessary risk.

COVID-19 has been a sad and costly experience since it emerged and was declared a pandemic in mid-March of 2020. We are now going through a resurgence of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths due to the Delta variant. The vaccines have proven effective in adults, and with children 12 and older. The control protocols work in protecting workers and the community at large. We have suffered a tragic loss of life throughout this period. We need to respond with the tools at our disposal and beat this virus like we have other diseases. Please consult your doctor with questions you may have regarding a specific medical condition. When you go for a vaccination, you will not be asked about your immigration status and vaccinations are given free of charge. If there are other questions that you may have, review the following websites. The Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center provides vaccination site information and answers questions in Spanish.

1. Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center <https://www.pvhmc.org/patients-visitors/the-coronavirus-covid-19/>

2. Center for Disease Control (CDC) Vaccines & Immunization link <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/default.htm>

3. American Academy of Family Physicians website <https://familydoctor.org/the-importance-of-vaccinations/>

4. Immunization Action Coalition website <https://vaccineinformation.org/vaccine-basics/>

*Editor's Note: Jose Bermudez, a safety professional for nearly 40 years and a contributor to La Nueva Voz, has worked as a consultant and a regional safety and health manager for colleges, hospitals and an environmental engineering consulting firm. He received the designation of Certified Safety Professional from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. His column is presented as a public service.*

### Members needed for new Tri City Mental Health 'Transition Age Youth Wellness Advisory Council'

Tri City Mental Health is looking for youth ages 16 to 25 to serve on a new Transition Age Youth Wellness Advisory Council to help ensure local mental health services meet the needs of youth and young adults in the community.

The advisory council will provide members an opportunity to have their voice heard by sharing their ideas and experiences to improve Tri City services and transition age youth wellness.

Members who have a passion for mental health advocacy must be connected with the cities of Pomona, Claremont or La Verne through residence, work, school or volunteering.

Interested in becoming a voice for your community? For more information, contact Amanda Colt, program coordinator, at [acolt@tricitymhs.org](mailto:acolt@tricitymhs.org) or call (909) 326-4638.

## Pelosi, Solis recognize Hispanic Heritage Month

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis released statements this month in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month as a time, as Pelosi said, "to come together in celebration of our Latino communities."

Pelosi cited the accomplishments of the nation's Latino residents "who have for generations blessed our nation with their remarkable talents, fierce patriotism and an entrepreneurial spirit."

"During this pandemic, our nation has been especially grateful for the courageous service of so many Hispanic Americans on the frontlines, helping ensure our families remain safe, healthy and fed," she added.

"This month, our nation also reflects on the unique challenges that our Latino communities face, from the unjust impacts of the pandemic to decades of underinvestment to a broken immigration system," she said. "In that spirit, Democrats in Congress are

hard at work advancing President Biden's historic Build Back Better vision, which will put equity front and center by delivering life-changing investments for underserved communities."

She said the result will be millions of good-paying jobs, tax cuts and reduced health care costs for nearly every working family.

"And with the House-passed American Dream and Promise Act, Democrats are fighting to reverse decades of harmful immigration policy and secure (a) permanent pathway to citizenship," she said.

Solis released her statement last week after the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved her motion to proclaim Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month in Los Angeles County.

"As a nation, we honor the histories, cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans every year during the months of September and October," Solis said. "During this time, many Angelenos celebrate the anniversaries of their native

lands' independence and reflect on the sacrifices and struggles they've overcome in an effort to establish a sense of belonging in the United States."

"As the daughter of working-class immigrant parents from Nicaragua and Mexico, and the only Latina serving on the Board of Supervisors, I am proud to once again author a motion to recognize the contributions and achievements made by our Hispanic and Latinx communities."

ABC owned television stations will broadcast the news special "Our America: Todos Unidos" at 5 a.m. Pacific time Sunday, Sept. 26, on National Geographic and FX, at 6 a.m. again on FX and at 8 a.m. Monday, Sept. 27, on

### 'De Colores,' free program for kids, introduces children to Pomona's open spaces

"De Colores," a free pilot program offering a variety of activities for children ages 0 to 5, was launched this month in Pomona and will continue for a total of 10 consecutive Saturdays during the fall, all at different locations.

The program is a partnership between HEAL (healthy eating, active living working group of

Freeform.

The 60-minute Hispanic Heritage Month program features a collection of personal stories celebrating Hispanic and Latino cultures.

Hispanic Heritage Week was first proclaimed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 but was established by legislation that was sponsored by Los Angeles Congressman Edward R. Roybal.

In 1988, President Reagan expanded it to Hispanic Heritage Month, and it has since been proclaimed annually.

Today, there are more than 60 million people of Hispanic and Latino origin in the U.S., making up nearly 18 percent of the American population.

Healthy in Pomona, part of Pomona's Promise) and The dA Center for the Arts, with funding from Tri City Mental Health.

The goal is to bring programming for families with young children to open spaces throughout Pomona. Included will be story time (puppetry), music, art, movement, nature, and nutrition.

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**A message to members of Congress**

**Congress urged to act to protect local journalism from ‘Big Tech’s’ dominant practices**

*Editor’s note: La Nueva Voz is publishing this “op-ed” piece in cooperation with and at the request of the California News Publishers Association, of which La Nueva Voz is proud to be a provisional member pending Board approval next month. Quality local journalism is es-*

sential to creating an informed and engaged public and ensuring a thriving democracy. But local journalism has been a victim of Big Tech’s dominant practices for years. Google and Facebook use – and benefit from – our news content and audiences, but they don’t return value to news publishers. That’s why we’re asking Congress to support the “Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.”

The term “Big Media” is thrown around but, as of 2018, Google and Facebook had nearly four times as much revenue as the entirety of the U.S. news media (TV, print and digital), and those companies have grown tremendously since. Those two companies alone currently attract about 80 percent of digital ad spending and 45 percent of all ad spending in the United States.

Over the past 14 months, local journalism has been more important than ever. From COVID-19’s devastating blows to cities and towns of all sizes, to the reignited social justice movement and the explosive 2020 U.S. presidential election and its tumultuous aftermath, people have been turning to news publishers to keep them up to date on how the changes happening around the world – and in their own backyards – affect their daily lives. News has been more in-demand than at any other time in recent history. But the local news publishers who provide this invaluable information are struggling in an online environment dominated by a few big tech platforms.

The system is stacked against news publishers. Google and Facebook pay to license music and many types of content, but they have refused to fairly compensate the creators of critical journalism. Because of this, in the last two years, we have seen at least 300 news publications close, with more than 6,000 journalists laid off. A few of the big, national news outlets may be doing okay, but local news publishers, who provide the information that sustains communities, are getting pushed out. If we don’t find a solution for local journalism soon, there won’t be any left.

The tech platforms have been allowed to get bigger and bigger, exerting their power and influence in ways that stifle competition and eat into news publishers’ revenue.

We have already seen what happened in Australia earlier this year when Facebook removed news from their feed in response to proposed legislation there that would require them to pay publishers for their content. In just two days, the void where news once appeared was quickly filled with misinformation and fake news. We cannot afford to learn what a world without quality journalism would look like. Fortunately, Facebook reinstated news and the legislation passed in Australia. Now, the rest of the world is following in its footsteps and moving toward a new and more equitable compensation system for publishers. After all, the platforms compensate music publishers and other creators. It’s now past time for them to compensate those who deliver real local journalism.

The government cannot regulate news under the First Amendment, but Facebook and Google are de facto regulators, deciding what content people see and when. They have undervalued quality news content and, as a result, the information ecosystem has become increasingly confusing and unhealthy. We have the solution that will give all forms of news media a decent shot at getting a fair return for their work and checking the power of government and Big Tech.



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## Carvana... from pg. 1

honor that agreement, it is good for Carvana, they want to be good community partners,” Sandoval said. “In a process as complex as this, there’s always going to be disagreement. But the goal was to get Carvana to leave. We accomplished that.”

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis told La Nueva Voz in a brief interview late last month at a local food give-away that she was aware of social media comments and comments from the public at last month’s “emergency” town hall meeting on the subject of Carvana at Pomona’s Ganesha Park right down the street from the Fairplex parking lot in question.

“My office urged the Pomona Fairplex and Carvana to conduct a robust community engagement process several weeks ago,” she said two days later in a prepared statement requested by La Nueva Voz. “Residents were rightfully concerned about the increased flow of traffic, wear and tear on local roads, and a surge in loud noises emanating from the trucks carrying vehicles.”

“After conferring with County Counsel and thoroughly reviewing the terms of the lease, the County as the owner of the Fairplex’s property had several questions that remain unanswered,” she added. “I will continue working with County Counsel to seek any recourse for the activity Carvana has already conducted.”

“I take these concerns very seriously and I will continue to monitor and respond as needed to address issues impacting the quality of life of residents in the First District,” she said.

The City of Pomona issued a press release last month announcing that Carvana has agreed to terminate its operations at Fairplex using a phasing out schedule and completely ceasing all operations at the site within 120 days.

Fairplex has stored hundreds of cars in the Fairplex “Blue Lot” since March.

Complaints from neighbors centered around deliveries of trucks loaded with the cars coming in at “all hours” of the day and night.

According to the city’s press release, city staff was approached by representatives of Challenger Realty Pomona 1 and Carvana



“Outside operator” flatbed trucks, Carvana flatbeds and full-sized auto transports continue to move in and out of the “Blue Lot” at Fairplex as cars are being moved out and relocated under an agreement with the City of Pomona.

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 from neighboring residents.

The city sent the “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 opera-

Carvana... pg. 16

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## The library special collections' role in our city

By John Clifford, Chair, Sustain Our Pomona Public Library (SOPPL) and Former President, Pomona Public Library Foundation

Many of us have read or heard about the city's recent legal victory that resulted in a \$48 million judgement to repay taxpayers for water cleanup resulting from citrus industry fertilization. But what the article didn't talk about was the role that our library's special collections played in the evidence for that judgement.

The Pomona Public Library is somewhat unique in that it is the repository for the rich history of the Pomona Valley. Working with the Historical Society of Pomona Valley for over 100 years, our library has collected literally tons of primary source materials relating to our history. This includes a vast collection related to the citrus industry in the Pomona Valley. While you may know that we house the largest collection of citrus crate labels in the country, most don't know that we also

have lots of documents related to the companies involved in the citrus industry and the industry as a whole.

Beginning in about 2011, the city entered into a lawsuit against the Chilean fertilizer company, Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile, known as SQM. At that time, as I've come to understand it, then Deputy City Attorney Andrew Jared approached then Library Director Bruce Guter, asking if we had any information on the citrus industry in the '30s and '40s and if that might include fertilization practices. Guter pointed Jared to material in special collections. Ever since that time, various attorneys have used the library's special collections for evidence research. Evaluation of the material continued through the COVID pandemic (at times lawyers and a sole staff member were the only

ones in the building as the library was closed). The results of this research, using the library's primary documentation, was instrumental in the success of the suit.

While citrus industry records are not really "sexy" nor are they something that the general public has much interest in, the importance of preserving our history is exemplified in this instance. What would have happened if the library had actually been closed in 2012 as was threatened? What would have happened to the materials stored there?

I've had some say, "Why are we storing all that junk in the basement? It's old and no one is interested in it. Couldn't the space be put to better use?" I feel that I now have an answer. The items maintained by the library, and by the Historical Society, are there for future discovery – for that

one time when it will be needed. The library currently stores, as an example, all of the past financial records for our Chamber of Commerce. I've had a city staffer suggest that this is all junk and should be gotten rid of. But who knows what future important information may be hidden in those records –

something that would be totally overlooked today, but a future historian might consider a significant find.

At the moment, I can at least counter arguments of the library's cost to say that its value to our community is worth at least \$48 million.

## Assistance League to hold second annual 'virtual' Scavenger Hunt

The Assistance League of Pomona Valley's annual fall fundraiser is going virtual again this year for its second annual "Great ALPV Scavenger Hunt," a family friendly scavenger hunt with 48 hours of fun and more than 50 photo and video "missions" to complete.

The event begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 22, and ends at 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24, with teams of up to five people competing to rack

up points from home and within their own neighborhood using the GooseChase mobile app.

Registration is \$35 per team and the top five teams will win Amazon gift cards.

For more information and registration, visit [www.alpv.org](http://www.alpv.org).

All proceeds from the event will remain in the local community benefitting the children and families served by the Assistance League.

The non-profit volunteer organization has been serving the community since 1946 providing new clothing to school age children, providing emergency and maintenance care through a free dental center, and providing new clothing, toiletries and other items to women and children who have been victims of assault.

For more information, contact Stephanie at (626) 536-2103 or e-mail [resourcedev@alpv.org](mailto:resourcedev@alpv.org) or e-mail [scavengerhaunt@alpv.org](mailto:scavengerhaunt@alpv.org).

## Carvana... from pg. 15

tions at Fairplex, agreed to begin to ramp down its operating hours during the next 30 days, and has agreed to 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, to cease the use of all single-car haulers which was 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.

City Attorney Sonia Rubio Carvalho's four-page letter to Carvana, which copied Fairplex Interim CEO Walter Marquez, said the matter was referred to her office

Carvana... pg. 18



An official ribbon-cutting this month opened the gates to the first-ever "Bite-Sized Fair," a "mini" LA County Fair experience apparently inspired by the pandemic to keep the Fair "spirit" alive and well after no LA County Fair at all last year because of COVID restrictions. It also marked the last time the Fair will be held in September – it is moving to May next year, just in time to celebrate its centennial celebration. Pictured, from left, are Fairplex Interim CEO Walter Marquez; Guy and Charlene Leavitt, owners of Ray Cammack Shows, the fair's carnival operator; Los Angeles County Fair Association Board Chair Heidi Hanson; John Landherr, Fair Association Board director; La Verne Mayor Tim Hepburn; and Scott Shacklett, general manager of Spectra Foods. The fair will be open for a final weekend from 3 to 9 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$2 and parking is \$10.



One fair-goer couldn't resist this huge order of chili fries and La Nueva Voz couldn't resist taking her picture. As is the tradition, "fair food" is important at the "Bite-Sized Fair" (although this selection was more than bite-sized!).



Eating and walking. After all, isn't that what the fair is all about? And that's whether the eating part is a corn dog, an order of chili fries or a huge turkey leg. There is something for everyone at the "Bite-Sized Fair" at Fairplex.



Rides both on the ground and high in the air are part of this month's "Bite-Sized Fair" at Pomona's Fairplex.



## Los Angeles County remembers 9/11

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs commemorated the 20th anniversary of September 11 as a “milestone of the four coordinated terrorist attacks against the U.S. (on a) day when the world changed forever.”

Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis, in a video produced by the county, said the day “left an impressionable mark, not only in New York but across the nation.”

“I recall that day very vividly,” Solis said. “At the time I was a freshman serving in Congress working in the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. There was so much anguish, confusion, anxiety and uncertainty over what had happened.”

“I will never forget how the Capitol police helped us feel safe,” she added. “We were evacuated from the Capitol but we could not

### Protect local journalism... from pg. 14

Local news publishers just want the ability to band together to fight for their future. Ironically, however, current antitrust laws actually protect Big Tech from publishers taking any organized action.

To help resolve this crisis, we are asking all of our members of Congress – including our own Congresswoman Norma Torres – to support the “Journalism Competition and Preservation Act” (also known as the Safe Harbor Bill), which would give news publishers the ability to seek fair compensation for use of their content, and which would allow them to continue to invest in the critical news-gathering and reporting on which Americans depend.

With the passage of this bill, all

### COVID shots available next week at Lorbeer Middle School

Pomona Unified School District in partnership with East Valley Community Health Center is offering a free COVID vaccination clinic for all on Friday, Oct. 1, at Lorbeer Middle School in Diamond Bar.

Hours are 2 to 6 p.m. in the cafeteria of the school, located at 501 S. Diamond Bar Blvd., Diamond Bar.

Parking is in the lower parking lot. Enter through the gate near the gym.

Pfizer vaccine will be available



Supervisor Janice Hahn



Gen. Ruth Wong



Supervisor Hilda Solis

go home. The streets were backed up with traffic, the Metro was closed, and the cell towers were overwhelmed with calls from people across the country reaching out to loved ones to check in.”

“But the attack on 9/11 demonstrated a core truth about this country and who we are as Americans,” Solis said. It demonstrated that we are fighters, that we are a country grounded in unity, sympathy and humility for one another.

news publishers, especially small and local publishers, would finally be able to ask the tech platforms for the compensation they need and deserve.

We applaud those members of Congress across the country and on both sides of the aisle who have already shown their commitment to local journalism by co-sponsoring the “Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.” But we need support from every member of Congress. We hope our state representatives in Washington will agree that the quality reporting we provide for our community – and the future of all local journalism – is worth fighting for and will co-sponsor and support the Safe Harbor Bill today.

for those ages 12 and older. Bring your identification and if this is not your first dose, bring your COVID vaccine card.

Registration is online at myturn.ca.gov, although walk-ins are welcome.

Those under 18 must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian.

T-DAP immunizations (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) also will be available. Bring your child’s immunization card/information.

And it also demonstrated that we have the capacity to come together in our most difficult moment to take action.”

“In that darkness, we were carried through with the support of one another but especially with the support and sacrifices of the heroes that valiantly fought for our nation in response to this tragedy,” she said. “So to all those who courageously stepped up I want to take this moment to express my deepest gratitude for your service. And to our veterans and our surviving families I want you to know that we stand by you and we are here for you and we will never forget.”

Supervisor Janice Hahn said ev-

eryone remembers “where we were and what we were doing when we heard a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center.”

“We all lost something that day,” she said. “But as we remember the fear and the grief we felt on this day, we remember too the impossible heroism of so many of our fellow Americans.”

“We remember the firefighters and police officers who, without question or hesitation, ran into the buildings to get others to safety – many of whom also lost their lives that day.”

“Two decades since that fateful day, and we have lost much of the unity that brought us together

as a country in the days and years following the attacks,” she added. “But as we remember those who lost their lives that day, I hope this is an opportunity to come together in the spirit of solidarity and hope.”

And Gen. Ruth Wong, U.S. Air Force (ret.) and director of the county’s Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, said she had “just returned from Washington, D. C. after a nine-year tour of duty and thought of my colleagues at the Pentagon and those assigned to bases throughout Washington, and prayed for their safety.”

“Twenty years ago, we watched as fellow citizens fell to unspeakable acts of terrorism and vowed that we would never forget,” she said. “We came together as a nation to defend our country and our freedom.”


“Now, 20 years later, we need to again unite and recognize the importance of fighting for our freedom, and we’ll not let anyone take that away,” she said.

Veterans or family members in need of assistance can call (877) 4LA-VETS to speak directly with a veteran service officer.

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Dozens of pelicans -- along with seagulls and other birds -- were, well, pretty much everywhere in Upper Klamath Lake just outside of Klamath Falls. Renee Barbee captured this shot at a boat launch ramp.

La Nueva Voz spotted this classic movie theater during a tour of downtown Klamath Falls.



Old-style street lights give downtown Klamath Falls that historic look.

Here's a marketing tip that's up for grabs in case any of Pomona's shops along Second Street want to give it a try. This one was on the sidewalk in front of a boutique in downtown Klamath Falls. And speaking of credit cards, La Nueva Voz learned you can't pump your own gasoline in Oregon -- a state law requires an attendant to do that for you, kind of a throwback to the old days, huh? Apparently the legislation was based on both jobs and liability.



Klamath Falls City Hall, prominently placed near the center of downtown, blends in well with its surroundings with a bit of modern combined with an historic look from days gone by (with the help of those classic Greek Ionic columns).

### Photos by Renee Barbee



A perennial fog surrounding San Francisco International Airport was visible out the window of the airplane shortly after taking off following a change of planes in the city by the bay. La Nueva Voz learned from a "local" who works for United Airlines that the fog is so well-known they gave it a name -- "Karl the Fog" -- 11 years ago on Twitter and it took off from there.



Jeff Schenkel and Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz spent a long weekend in Klamath Falls, Oregon (population 42,000), this month visiting Renee's dad, James Barbee, and celebrating his 87th birthday. Pictured at his home is Barbee with his daughter. Jim also has a son, Todd Barbee, living in Cameron Park, and a daughter, Suzanne Jones, living in Visalia. And he has a cat named Charlie. Happy birthday, Jim!



Gun store signage is different in Klamath Falls. And yes, that huge replica of an old-time Western six-shooter is mounted on the side of the building with the flag that serves as the actual sign appearing to have been shot out of the barrel.

### Carvana... from pg. 16

(law firm of Best, Best & Krieger) "for additional 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."

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 under 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."

Pomona's Deputy City Manager and Public Information Officer

Mark Gluba said the city currently would have no comment beyond last month's official city statement, and Fairplex news media spokesperson Renee Hernandez told La Nueva Voz that Marquez was unavailable for comment on a list of four questions e-mailed to his office.

La Nueva Voz also reached out again this month to both the media relations and real estate development offices at Carvana but, as last month, neither responded before deadline for this issue.



## Supervisor Solis, speaking in Pomona, reports that county has distributed six million tons of food during pandemic

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis, in Pomona last month to kick off a food distribution and vaccination clinic at Pomona's Charisma Life Church, told participants that the county – working with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank – has distributed some six million tons of food to more than 100,000 households across the county since the pandemic began.

And that, she pointed out, is in a county with 10 million people.

Solis said the county has enjoyed “a big partnership with the City of Pomona and all their staff.”

“They have been just so welcoming to me in the last almost eight years that I’ve represented the district and Pomona,” she said.

“We’re still not out of this, we’re still not out of the pandemic unfortunately,” Solis added.

“What it tells me, it calls us to all come together and know that we

are a team, we are a family, and that we are all partners.”

She said the event was prepared to distribute some 1,000 boxes of food items for many families that are still in need of nutrition and sustenance.

“There are many people that are still suffering so let’s not forget them,” she said.

Included, she pointed out, are people who don’t have a job, people who are at risk, young people, immigrant families, veterans and those experiencing homelessness.

She urged those eligible who are 12 years old and older to come in and get vaccinated to protect the children and future generations.

“As of Aug. 19, I want to inform you that about 11.5 million doses have already been administered right here in L.A. County,” Solis said.

“And of that amount, nearly 6.5 million received their first dose and about 5.6 million are now fully vaccinated. That’s well more than half of the 10 million people in L.A. County.”

But she said she wants to do better, particularly with the new Delta variant.

“About a week ago, we found that there were about 500 new cases right here in the City of Pomona,” Solis said. “What that tells me is that perhaps we’re not reaching people in the manner or way that they feel comfortable, but let’s try to make that



Supervisor Hilda Solis poses for the official Los Angeles County photographer as she hands out complimentary face masks and hand cleaner to a local resident driving through last month's food give-away at Charisma Life Church in Pomona. Solis also loaded a couple of boxes of fruits and vegetables into cars, as well.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval helps open a food give-away last month at Pomona's Charisma Life Church.



This lucky Pomona family received free tickets to Six Flags Magic Mountain at last month's food give-away in Pomona – all because the big brother had a birthday – he was just turning 12 and was able to receive his first COVID vaccination at the event. Pictured, from left, are Josefa Bermudez, her sons Derek Bermudez, a student at Simons Middle School, and Alejandro Rizo, 3, and Supervisor Hilda Solis. Not pictured was Monica Bermudez, the big sister, a student at Pomona's Garey High School. Mom, Monica and Derek all got their shots at the event. They also received one of the \$50 gift certificates to Stater Bros. provided through the Pomona Compassion Fund to the first 150 residents receiving vaccines during the food give-away.



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis kicks off a food give-away, resource fair and vaccination clinic last month at Pomona's Charisma Life Church presented by the church, Los Angeles County, the City of Pomona and others. Samples of the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank boxes are pictured at right.

message clear to them.”

She urged those who have been vaccinated to “tell them what the experience was and think about what you can do to prevent our hospitals from being run over as they were almost eight months ago.”

“How do we prevent that? Get vaccinated,” she said. “There’s really no excuse for people to say no.”

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval told the group that it has been a challenging 18 months.

“For government, I don’t know

of any other period in recent history where we’ve had to face this type of challenge,” he said. “And while it has not been easy, I’ve been so impressed by how people have stepped up. And I can tell you Pomona has stepped up.”

“I’m incredibly proud of this city, I’m proud of the work of the supervisor, because I know it’s been

a total team effort,” Sandoval said.

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