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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. 169

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Mayor, Police Chief announce Pomona is cracking down on crime – compassionately!

Announcing a major crackdown expected to benefit the business community and the entire city, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis tag-teamed the Pomona Chamber of Commerce this month to report that the city is both doubling down on homeless encampments and preparing to kick off a pilot program of police cameras along the Holt Avenue corridor to keep an eye on prostitution and anything else happening out that way.

And, Sandoval reported, that female suspect who had her 15 minutes of fame on Los Angeles

television news allegedly caught on camera and who allegedly had a habit of repeatedly throwing rocks through restaurant and store-front windows was arrested by Pomona police the day before the chamber's monthly luncheon meeting at Fuego Cocina and Cantina in Downtown Pomona.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval



Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis

"All of us are painfully aware that our business community is faced with some very real challenges, particularly as it relates to crime," Sandoval said in a room filled with more than 80 chamber members and guests. "There are a lot of businesses that are being broken into,

we have a challenge with our un-housed population – I want you to know that we've seen what is going on, and these problems are not always easy to solve."

"We're not going to develop the city economically if we don't have a safe city, if we don't have a clean city," he added. "It's critical that we address these issues."

Police Chief Ellis said more than 50 percent of the calls for service that police respond to are related to homeless issues.

City expanding HEART team

Focusing on the homeless issue, Sandoval said the city's HEART team (Homeless Encampment Action Response Team) started out as one team including police officers,

public works employees and a social worker mental health specialist.

"We expanded it to two, basically a full-time team that goes overtime, which is what it is now," Sandoval said. "I've asked that we expand that team to three teams altogether so that they could virtually be going out 24/7."

The team can regularly be seen around the city cleaning up illegal homeless encampments and other reoccurring homeless issues.

"We want to approach it with compassion, but I've got to tell you particularly after this most recent incident that happened over at Cachanilla (Chinese restaurant) where it was on the news, people were angry," Sandoval said.

And on the arrest of the suspect, "I'm glad she's caught but I know at the end of the day there's going to be some revelation that she probably is not mentally well, and that's the reality."

"And that's a deeper problem, not just for Pomona, but all over this country, and that if we don't wrap ourselves around these types of real serious mental health issues, we are going to continue to see the type of challenges that you see in our community," he added.

"I think people get frustrated

Compassionately... pg. 8

Hundreds attend Pomona's National Night Out to help build partnerships between police and the community

Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis, speaking to hundreds of residents at this month's National Night Out in the Pomona Civic Center, said one of the main focuses of the police department is to improve transparency, outreach and partnerships with the continuous goal of building trust.

"National Night Out is one of the biggest programs to help us to accomplish these goals and it's a night where we can gather as police and neighbors to spend time to-



Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis welcomes Pomona to National Night Out in the Pomona Civic Center.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval takes the microphone at National Night Out this month as organizer Corporal Angela Torres looks on.

National Night Out... pg. 4

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En Memoria
Nov. 4






Photo by Renee Barbee

READY FOR GRAND OPENING -- Only the finishing touches remain at Pomona's newly renovated Hamilton Park before next week's grand opening activities at 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31. The complete make-over includes two playgrounds, one for 2 to 5 year olds and one for 5 to 12 year olds, restrooms for the first time, renovated pathways, a gazebo, a renovated basketball court, new horseshoe pits and more. The park is located at 825 W. Monterey Ave.

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Parents Anonymous to host 'Fun in the Sun' community wellness event

Parents Anonymous, a California-based nonprofit, will host a free family event "Fun in the Sun" community wellness event Saturday in Pomona's Ganesha Park.

Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin, the group's chief executive officer, is scheduled to attend the event, scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the park, located at 1575 N. White Ave., Pomona.

Included will be free food and activities ranging from a live DJ, a bounce house, water activities (dress to get wet!), raffles, community resources, games and more.

To make sure there is enough food, free advance registration is at "Fun in the Sun Wellness Event" on Eventbrite.

Parents Anonymous, founded in 1969, is dedicated to supporting the empowerment journey of diverse parents, children and youth by offering free mental health services, job training and placement support, and offering a parent and youth "helpline."

Its goals include improving par-
Fun in the Sun... pg. 9

gether under positive circumstances," Ellis said.

"I encourage you to find an officer or an employee of the police department, spend time with them, ask questions," he said, adding that there were a lot of resources there to explore. "Your time here will be better spent for it."

The national event, this year observing its 40th anniversary, was believed to attract the largest crowd in Pomona since pre-COVID.

In addition, there appeared to be more vendor and resource booths than ever before on sidewalks and on the grass, in places as many as three booths deep.

Corporal Angela Torres, now leading the police department's crime prevention unit in Pomona City Hall, headed up planning for this year's event for the first time.

The annual celebration, observed for the first time in 1984 as a day to cultivate a better relationship between residents and law enforcement, originally included 400 communities across the country.

Today, nearly 20,000 communi-
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National Night Out... from pg. 1



Pomona volunteer Lorraine Canales and one of her volunteers from Village Academy High School were part of the face painting team at this year's National Night Out.



Former Pomona City Manager Linda Lowry was at the Kiwanis booth at National Night Out and was in charge of, well, pretty much everything, right?



Congresswoman Norma Torres



Gino and Dianne Elias were on hand at the Kiwanis grill again this year, keeping everybody happy and well fed.

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NAACP to celebrate 10th anniversary

The Pomona Valley Branch of the NAACP will hold its 10th anniversary celebration next month in Pomona.

The event is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, at the Solidarity Center, 1460 E. Holt Ave., Entrance 2, Room 6, Pomona.

For more information, call (909) 620-0433.

Cal Poly Pumpkin Fest set for Sept. 29 to Oct. 30

Cal Poly University Pomona's 30th annual "Pumpkin Fest" is scheduled for Sept. 29 to Oct. 30 at the AGRIsapes Center on the Cal Poly Campus, featuring 35,000 university-grown pumpkins, live entertainment, vendors and other activities.

Included will be the traditional huge pumpkin patch along with hay rides, corn mazes, the petting farm, the "Moo Moo Cow" train pulled by an antique tractor, a children's garden, sunflower patch and a colorful new "PumpkinLand."

Pumpkin prices range from \$5 to \$8 in the patch which is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday through

Pumpkin fest... pg. 22

Children's author from Pomona publishes second book

Just in time for Halloween! Ann Marie Perales Thompson, who grew up in Pomona and graduated from Park West High School in 1988, has just released her second published children's book – "Halloween Pumpkins in Spring."

The book, intended for children ages 4 to 12, focuses on embracing who you are and tells the story through the eyes of a girl who loves Halloween and lives it all year around.

Ann Marie, who now lives in Seattle, said she has been inspired in her work by her son, Jonathan Velasquez, her daughter, Alysa Perales Clancy, and her husband, Andy Thompson. She both wrote and illustrated the book.

She has been a published writer since winning an honor-

able mention from Mt. SAC's writer's contest at the age of nine. And she's already working on her third book, which will be based on her experiences as a child in elementary school.

"I have always had a passion for drawing and painting and writing," she told La Nueva Voz. "I have written several children's stories in my youth, but never pursued it seriously until recently."

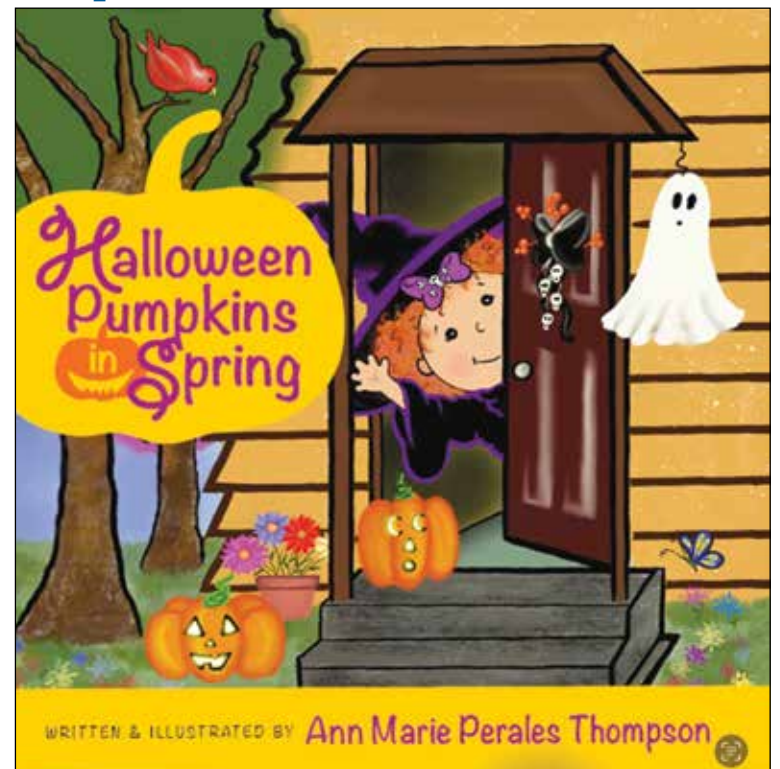
"But with the support and encouragement from my family, I finally have achieved my dreams," she added.

Her parents, Susie and Angel Perales, live in the Westmont area of Pomona.

The book is available in paperback for \$13.99 on Amazon.com and on BarnesAndNoble.com.



Author Ann Marie Perales Thompson



'Halloween Pumpkins in Spring,' author Ann Marie Perales Thompson's second children's book, has been released and is available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

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La Nueva Voz completes Pomona Post Office distribution ‘workaround’

A new La Nueva Voz “free” distribution box opened for business this month on the sidewalk outside the Pomona Post Office to once again provide copies of the newspaper to readers after new Pomona Postmaster Sonia Telles-Simpson notified Publisher Jeff Schenkel the papers could no longer be placed on Post Office lobby tables.

The notice came last April when Telles-Simpson, on the job for less than a year at the time, decided to bring a halt to the lobby distribution practice which had continued for the past 14 years.

She cited issues with homeless individuals littering the facility with the papers and said postal regulations prohibit the practice. (See original story on page 6 of La Nueva Voz’ May 25, 2023, issue at www.lanuevavoz.net – just click on “Past Issues.”)

The Post Office, of course, had always been one of the newspaper’s most popular distribution points so La Nueva Voz immediately went to work looking for an alternative.

And it was the first option that worked out, converting a long-unused box on the sidewalk right outside the Post Office that was owned by Los Angeles-based La Opinion, the nation’s leading Spanish language newspaper.

La Nueva Voz made arrangements with La Opinion to take over ownership of the box and then went to work obtaining a permit from Pomona City Hall, purchasing and installing new “window” panels from La Opinion’s box service



New La Nueva Voz box at Pomona Post Office

provider and tiding the box up a bit.

The box now opens without having to insert quarters, so readers simply have to lift up the front cover and grab a copy of the paper – just like the old days!

So, thanks to La Opinion – and to City Hall – for helping make this work.

La Nueva Voz distributes papers to more than 140 locations each month (a combination of outdoor and indoor



New La Nueva Voz rack in Pomona City Hall

wire racks and other indoor locations), but several readers already have indicated they were pleased to see copies back at the Post Office.

And, as the stack of papers in the rack has continued to gradually disappear, it looks like the idea is already catching on.

Can’t make it down to the Post Office? La Nueva Voz also offers paid subscriptions for only \$39 a year, delivered by our good friends at the U.S. Post Office. Just give us a call at (909) 629-2922 to subscribe or ask us for the location of another free distribution point near you.

New distribution location in Pomona City Hall

In yet another distribution update, La Nueva Voz has

placed a new newspaper distribution rack in the lobby of Pomona City Hall where readers can pick up copies each month.

A large circular table in the lobby of City Hall – which had been there for years and was used to distribute newspapers (including La Nueva Voz), flyers and other materials – has been removed and replaced with a seating area where City Hall “customers” can fill out forms and applications.

The new La Nueva Voz rack is on the left as you walk out of the main lobby.

Thanks to city staff for working with La Nueva Voz to make this possible.

And, as always, please contact La Nueva Voz at any time with your comments and concerns.

La Nueva Voz

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Editor's Note: This page is the third in a series of six in a second phase of our "Stop-the-Hate" series. The "phase two" series, like the original series, is made possible by a second La Nueva Voz grant awarded by the Latino Media Collaborative (www.latinomedia.org), a non-profit news media organization that creates and fosters transformative media as well as everyday news for the Latino community. The grant is funded by the California State Library. The "Stop-the-Hate" program itself is administered by the California Department of Social Services as a statewide effort to increase public consciousness about hate incidents and hate crimes, their harmful impacts on individuals and communities, their prevention, and support and resources available for healing. In both phase one and phase two, La Nueva Voz was one of only about 10 publications selected in California to receive the grants.

'Stop-the-Hate' Phase two – A follow-up La Nueva Voz feature series 'Taking a closer look'

It all comes down to trust and understanding

By Joshua Swodeck

This month, I joined State Sen. Susan Rubio, Pomona Police Chief Michael Ellis, Chara Swodeck, Andy Quinones, Angel Arellano, Renee Barbee, and Jeff Schenkel for a podcast interview at the Positive Pomona Production Studio in Downtown Pomona. The podcast, titled "Pomona Promise Network Podcast," was focused on the last two articles I've written in La Nueva Voz and the survey data for the "Stop-the-Hate" campaign.

We began by asking Sen. Rubio to share a little about herself. She was born in Juarez, Mexico, and raised in Texas. Early in life, she realized a desire to help people like herself and her family who didn't have resources and support and experienced a lot of discrimination.



Chara Swodeck

Chief Ellis shared a little about himself as well. He started working for the Pomona Police Department in 1998 and became chief in 2020 during the pandemic. He shared a bit of his story, being born in the San Fernando Valley and moving around Southern California due to his father's work in aerospace.

After taking time to get acquainted with each other, I shared a few things in my

heart. I shared how I have been struggling with the idea of creating policy and mandating stopping the hate from a municipal or legislative perspective. We discussed the idea that love combats hate. However, when dealing with policy, it can tend to feel less like love and more like mandating tolerance. I discussed how as individuals, we can choose to live in such a way that builds community in a loving and compassionate way. However, as a city organization, we seem to be limited to just creating boundaries on what humanity should or could look like.

Sen. Rubio shared, "Policy cannot solve our problems but, in many ways, I think it's not the policy but the policymakers." She said that as a teacher, "we always teach our kids respect, that words matter."

"(We) want to make sure that our community understands that we care about them, we understand what they are feeling, there's a lot of people hurting," she said, adding that it is important to "help them and give them comfort and let them know that we're here to help."

"We have not done a good job of bringing down a little bit of the rhetoric that shows our community that we're going to start with ourselves and then ask them to be kind and compassionate," Sen. Rubio said. "I think it starts with us and so again, I think policy will not help unless we work on ourselves."

She said it is important to clearly com-



State Sen. Susan Rubio

municate to all residents that "we care about people, we care about humanity, we care about you and we're going to be here to help you." When it comes to modeling compassion, she said, it is important that "people really monitor their words, monitor their behavior, so that we can teach our children what it looks like."

Chief Ellis added in regard to policy, "I feel the police department's role is very specific because we do have to have good policy."

And on hate crimes, he said, "we have policies in place that identify these crimes and we do have a 10-page policy, it's available on our web site."

"Our policy is there, I think it is a good policy, we have a checklist for the officers, but in seeing some of the responses to this analysis (the survey), I see a lot of people that think it's under reported, I see a lot of people that are expressing that they don't want to talk to the police, even if they are a victim," he said.

A survey question asking if a stigma exists for reporting hate crimes showed about 30 percent answered neutral. But another 30 percent answered in agreement, and 10 percent said strongly agree.

"I think it's our job to make sure that we're doing the outreach, and I do know that we have ways to report crimes online," he said. "We can send an officer out. We can take reports over the phone if we have to. There are ways to report it, it is just getting people more comfortable and aware of the resources we have with regards to hate crimes."

Chief Ellis referred to police statistics he had compiled for the podcast covering hate crime reporting over the past two years.

"In the last 12 months, we've documented three hate crimes and in the 12 months prior to that, three," he said. "In the last 24 months it's been six hate crimes in the City of Pomona."

"That is a low number, no matter what type of crime you're talking about, so it seems to me that under-reporting, as described in the survey, is probably here," he added.

Chief Ellis explained the department has a coordinator and does a lot of outreach in the community through its area command-



Podcast moderator Andy Quinones, at right, refers to last month's "Stop-the-Hate" article in La Nueva Voz as Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis looks on.



Joshua Swodeck

Compassionately... from pg. 1

when they see people drinking on the streets, shooting up on the streets, defecating, these are the things that it's hard to attract, it's hard to sustain businesses, but it's hard to attract businesses, particularly good paying jobs, to a community if people don't feel safe," he said.

"I want you to know that we want to work together because we as a city cannot solve this problem alone," Sandoval said. "We're going to need your support."

Rolling out police 'search' cameras

Police Chief Ellis told the group the police department has been working over the last year on developing a "real time" crime center with crime analysts staffing it 24 hours a day maintaining direct communication with officers in the field and "search" cameras going up on Holt and Garey Avenues next month for initial testing.

"We're not going to be looking into residences or even businesses unless there's a crime that's reported," Ellis said. "But these cameras will allow us to see what's going on and will also be a visible deterrent with a sign that 'this is a police camera'" and that the area is under surveillance.

"Our plan is to start with the Holt Avenue corridor, Indian Hill" to "change the system there," he added. "I think that's going to have a significant impact" through enforcement, outreach and changing the system, he added.

Sandoval added that the city is collaborating with the neighbor-

ing City of Claremont which also has seen a rise in sex trafficking along Indian Hill. He said Claremont Mayor Pro Tem Sal Medina, whose district represents the area, is interested in the issue and understands it impacts both cities.

And Ellis reported that Pomona police have recovered 80 young women who were being trafficked on Pomona streets.

He also told chamber members that if they are a business owner, and have cameras, that within the next year, they will be able to connect their system with the Pomona Police Department and dispatchers will be able to monitor video feeds while officers are responding.

Covid assistance funds still available

In another area, Sandoval told the group that some \$750,000 in federal funds for small businesses impacted by COVID are still available for individual grants of up to \$5,000.

The money is available through the Small Business Rental Assistance Program for businesses that had difficulty keeping up with rent payments during the pandemic and employ fewer than 25 employees.

Information and an online application are available on the city's web site.

He added that if the city does not allocate those funds, they will be reallocated to something else to benefit small businesses such as employee training or marketing activities.

"I can assure you that \$750,000 will go directly to small businesses

in your city," Sandoval said.

And another \$600,000 has been authorized by councilmembers to fund improvements at the Downtown Pomona Foothill Transit center.

He said the city already is working with Foothill Transit staff and pointed out that "unhealthy behavior" there can impact students at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise walking through the area from one campus to another.

Sandoval said the city is hiring a marketing agency to communicate the many positive things the city is doing, but in the area of economic and business development, he said businesses look at what is happening on the sidewalks, at the condition of the streets, the physical environment and the social environment.

"If we're going to attract new business, those are the kinds of things that we long term have to work on," he said.

One of those areas will be the upcoming renewal project to upgrade the southern end of Garey Avenue with a median and improvements similar to what was done on the northern end.

"The idea is to create a more walkable, rideable Garey that goes into the downtown," he said, calling it a completely repaved street that goes by some of "the most iconic buildings in the city."

And he called Downtown Pomona one of the key economic engines of the city.

"We need to see more development in the downtown," he said,

adding that plans are under way for 800-plus units of residential development at Second and Main Streets – the first development downtown since Mission Promenade.

Sandoval said there is new housing development under way throughout the city.

"There's no other period since Phillips Ranch and Mountain Meadows that we've seen this much housing development," he said.

He added that the city has received a state grant to perform rehabilitation work along East Holt and is working with the chamber to create a business improvement district in that area, similar to the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, to handle marketing, security, upkeep and other tasks, since the area of San Antonio and Holt is "ground central of the challenges that the city faces, and it can't continue."

"We are your police department, you can always call 911 and an officer will show up," Ellis said. "But just I think like any business,

Property assessment roll shows growth in Pomona

By Jeff Prang

Los Angeles County Assessor

It's that time of year again when my office undertakes its most important function of the fiscal year that lays the groundwork for the very property taxes that pay for our vital public services: the "Assessment Roll." In fact, it's a constitutional mandate.

The roll for 2023 has been closed as of June 30 and it reflects growth for Pomona as well as the rest of the county.

First off, let me say this comprehensive tally values more than 2.5 million real estate parcels in Los Angeles County and results in the very tax dollars that go to pay for vital public services, such as health care, police, fire, schools, and even librarians, to name just a few. As I mentioned, I am constitutionally mandated to close the roll by the end of the fiscal year on June 30. As a point of reference, my fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

I am pleased to announce that the 2023 Assessment Roll has a

total net value of \$1.997 trillion, indicating the 13th year of consecutive growth. The 2023 roll also grew by \$111 billion (or 5.91 percent) over 2022. That value places nearly \$20 billion to be used for those public services I just mentioned.

Locally, Pomona for 2023 came in at \$15.48 billion for taxable values, which is a 4.1 percent increase over last year's numbers. That includes 27,283 single-family homes, 2,262 apartment complexes, and 3,630 commercial-industrial parcels for a grand total of 33,175 taxable properties. Yes, it's a solid growth at \$15.48 billion.

Some basics: The roll, as it is known, contains the assessed value of all real estate and business personal property in the county's 88 cities along with the unincorporated areas. It also breaks down the number of single-family residential homes, apartments and commercial-industrial parcels.

This year's roll comprises

the most effective tool is relationships."

He also said the best way to call for the HEART team is by e-mailing information and photographs to qualitylife@pomona.gov or calling (909) 620-2328.

If there is a crime in progress, however, he said dial 911.

"The best advice I can give you is upkeep" and modern lighting, fencing maintained, and graffiti cleaned up as soon as possible.

Responding to a question on vandalism and trespassing, Ellis said just this year police have responded to 160 trespassing calls that resulted in arrests.

And on the issue of prostitution on Holt, he said a special undercover team is at work seven days a week. But because of changes in laws where it "really has been decriminalized," police now are focused on the men that are out there "trying to purchase what's going on out there."

"The women that are out there as sex workers, they are treated as victims first," he said.

Growth in Pomona... pg. 26



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Photos courtesy of Pomona Unified School District

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL -- It was the first day of school in Pomona Unified School District last week. Pictured at the welcoming sign are, from left, Dr. Rosario Ambriz, director of curriculum and instruction for pre-kindergarten and elementary; Kingsley Elementary School Principal Jose Balvanera; and Pomona Unified School Board Vice President Arturo Jimenez.



CAN'T WAIT TO GET BACK TO SCHOOL! -- Students at Pomona's Village Academy High School can't wait to get back to class on the first day of school in Pomona last week.



LORBEER WELCOMES A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL -- Everybody -- school board members, teachers, principals and the students -- was enjoying the first day of school in Pomona last week. Pictured, from left, are Diamond Bar's Lorbeer Middle School Assistant Principal Marlo Aubert, Principal Carlos Aguirre, Jr., and Pomona Unified School Board member Patty Tye.

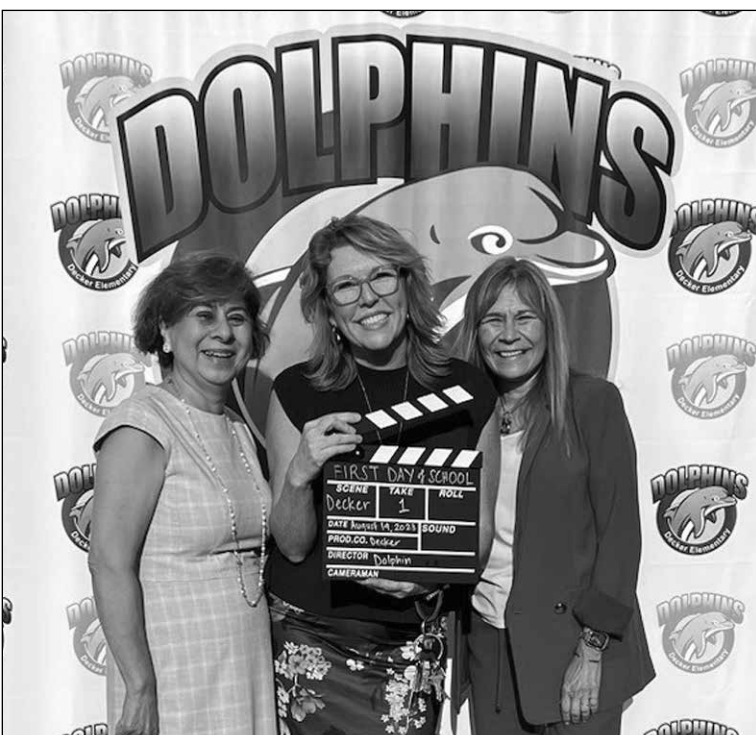


WELCOMING BANNER AT BARFIELD -- Pomona's Barfield Elementary School used a banner to welcome students back to school. Pictured, left to right, are Principal Sarah Vasquez and Director of Special Education Claudia Ruiz.

**Fun in the Sun...
from pg. 4**

enting, enhancing mental health and reducing substance abuse while ensuring child safety.

The group's helpline, launched in 1969 with the help of Congress, was the first nationwide emotional support system for parents, caregivers, children and youth.



BACK TO SCHOOL FOR THE DECKER DOLPHINS -- Lights, camera, action! And we're rolling as school starts last week at Pomona's Decker Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are Deputy Supt. for Educational Services Lilia Fuentes, Decker Principal Rebecca Norwood and Pomona Unified School Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman.



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New Mt. SAC President Martha Garcia begins tenure

Ushering in an exciting new period at Mt. San Antonio College, Dr. Martha Garcia began her position as the college's new president on July 1.

"It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. Garcia to Mt. SAC as its 10th president, its first female president in 50 years, and its first president of color," stated Gary Chow, Mt. SAC Board of Trustees president. "Dr. Garcia has demonstrated she is committed to the transformative power of higher education, and the Board is confident she will provide excellent, inclusive, and student-focused leadership at Mt. SAC."

As president, Dr. Garcia will serve as the chief executive officer for the largest single-district college in the state.



"I am ecstatic at the opportunity to lead Mt. SAC and I am grateful the Board has entrusted me to serve as the next president," Dr. Garcia said. "I am looking forward to working with the college's teams and especially to serving students. That's why I do what I do."

An experienced leader in higher education, this will be the third community college she will helm. Dr. Garcia previously served as president/superintendent of College of the Desert, a post she held beginning August 2021. Prior to joining College of the Desert, she served as superintendent/president of Imperial Valley College. In her 21 years at Imperial Valley College, Dr. Garcia also served as Vice President of Student Services, Acting Vice President of Academic Services, and Special Projects Coordinator overseeing career education programs.

Dr. Garcia's academic credentials include a doctorate in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University, a master's degree in Educational Counseling from National University, a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from San Diego State University, and an associate degree from Imperial Valley College.

Dr. Garcia currently serves, or has served, on several boards and task forces of numerous organizations, including the California Association of Latino Community College Trustees and Administrators, Community College League of California Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce, and the California Community Colleges Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Implementation Workgroup.

Dr. Garcia's selection follows input and feedback from Mt. SAC students, faculty, staff and the community. She replaced Dr. Bill Scrogins, who retired in June after leading Mt. SAC for 12 years.



**HONORS AND CELEBRATES
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**



Introducing
Dr. Martha Garcia
Mt. SAC President/CEO

“Legacies of independence: Bastions of multi-racial unity and social justice”

By Jose Zapata Calderon

Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Chicano/a and Latino/a Studies
President, Latino and Latina Roundtable

It is important for us to know that, on Sept. 15 and 16, we celebrate a number of Independence Days in Latin American countries that developed multi-racial coalitions to overcome colonial oppression and to advance struggles for land, equality, and democratic rights. A hidden part of this history is the development of multi-racial coalitions to advance the seeds of equitable independence.

On Sept. 15, the peoples of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua celebrated their independence. On Sept. 16, Mexico celebrates its independence. And now, these celebrations also include the independence of Chile on Sept. 18, and Día de la Raza (Columbus Day) on Oct. 12.

The independence movement in these colonies of Spain came to include people of color, slaves, Mestizos, Native Americans, and Spanish-origin criollos. Independence was supported in relation to the economic and racial interests of these diverse groups. The Mestizos, Native Americans, and African slaves wanted more inclusion in a society that excluded them.

The independence movement in Mexico was sparked by a priest, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, on Sept. 16, 1810, who brought a diverse coalition of oppressed peoples (mestizos, indios, mulattoes, former Black slaves, and alienated criollos) together to challenge the power of a much more militarily equipped force that eventually led to the creation of an independent nation (the nation of Mexico) from Spain.

By the middle of the 1820s, almost all the Latin American colonies had achieved independence. The new nations, with a combined population of about 16 million, and Brazil grew out of movements also that brought together Native Americans, mestizos, people of color, and many women in fighting for their freedom. They also fought to abolish Black slavery.

However, it is important to point out that this independence did not mean an end to inequality, poverty, and social injustice. The structural components of capital and top-down authoritarian rule continued.

The meaning of these independence days has taken on a special significance today in this context. They are promoted in some of our institutions as part of appreciating our historical pluralism in this country. But there is no

getting around the reality that U.S. pluralism had its origins in laws and ideologies which were used to justify the stratification of different groups through conquest, slavery, and exploitation.

All too often, some individuals and groups in our own communities fail to see what is consistent in these legacies and instead judge the other through the lens of their own historical experience. On the one hand, there are those who propose that Latinos have benefited from the legacy of nondiscrimination laws created through the civil rights movement and blame Latino immigrants for the loss of jobs. In general, they don't understand colonialism and the role that it has played historically in disrupting overseas economies and in stimulating migration. At the same time, there are those who defend Latino immigrants as hard workers who contribute immensely to the society and take the jobs that no one else wants.

In recent decades, thousands of Latino immigrants from the global south have crossed into the U.S. for economic survival and as part of a legacy of a cold war strategy that engaged in proxy wars throughout Latin America. Changes in immigration laws and regional economic restructuring are also credited for this migration and the ultimate stratifying of Latin Americans in the low-wage and low-skill service sector.

In this context, to develop multi-racial unity between our communities, it is important to understand that immigrants from the global south are coming here because of historical colonization and policies that have historically separated immigrants into political and economic refugees based on the relationship between the U.S. and whether it supports the government and policies of their country of origin.

In large part, U.S. policies, with international support, have continued the dominance of global corporations in the global south. The new globalization operates via trade agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Act, and decision-making bodies such as the World Trade Organization. The “free trade agreement,” as it is called, has removed existing trade barriers, eliminated tariffs left on American imports, allowed U.S. corporations full ownership of companies in the global south, and granted U.S. financial services

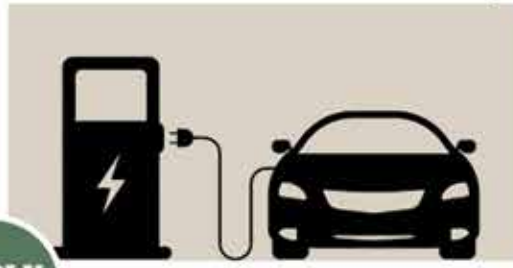
greater access to these markets. The system of high subsidies paid to U.S. farmers by the government has allowed for the exporting of poultry, beans, and corn which serve to undercut the small farmers and farm workers. Forced to move to the cities and finding no employment there, these sojourners travel to the U.S.-Mexico border where they either find employment in the maquiladora industry (factories in Mexico that make products for export), are forced to remain stuck at the southern border because of unjust asylum bans, or risk their lives to cross and join the thousands of undocumented immigrants who join the low-wage economy in the U.S. Any talk of benefits to the Mexican people becomes questionable when one looks at the dismal results of the “maquiladora” industry all along the Mexican side of the border. These corporations, which have run away from the U.S. in search of cheap labor and less regulation, have not been able to hide the costs of their social and environmental destruction. Not only have they been caught polluting the air and water, but they have also had a profound effect on the cohesion of the Mexican family. It is commonplace for these plants to primarily hire women and children. No compensation is made for the hidden costs of profit: familial disintegration and inadequate housing, health, and childcare.

It is in understanding the historical foundations of these “independence days,” and the issues that have the capacity to unite us and divide us, where we can perhaps find a common ground on the meaning of Hispanic Heritage Month and work to build the types of multi-racial coalitions that many of the colonized fought for – an effort to turn around the systemic policies that are fueling militarization, sanctions, encirclement, scapegoating and corporate profits at the expense of working people; a movement that organizes our communities against immigration and refugee policies that only focus on enforcement; a movement that fights for policies that will lead to permanent residency and citizenship for our immigrant and refugee families; and a movement that steps-up citizenship drives and voter turnout efforts to expand the number of representatives who can advance systemic changes for our quality of life and for global pro-immigrant and non-exploitative development policies.



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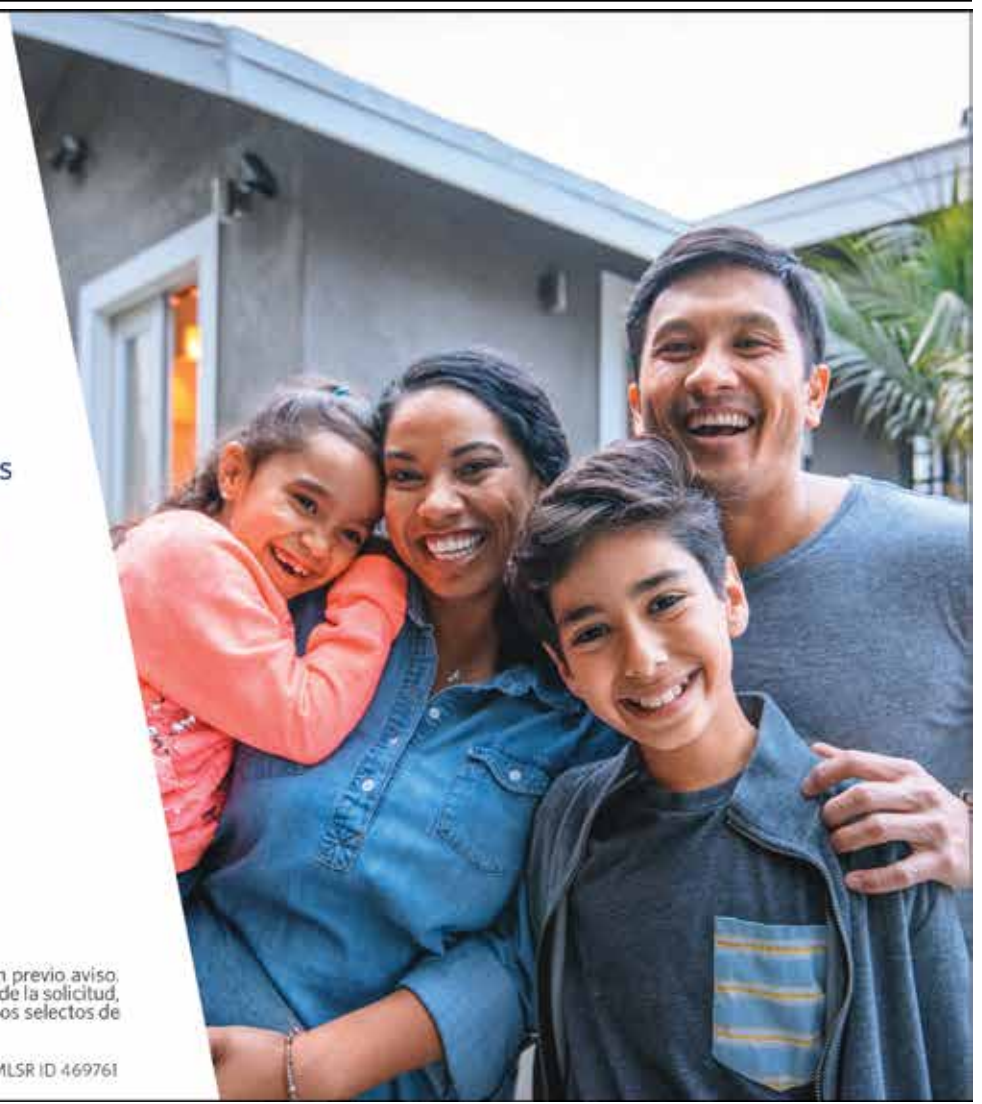
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Solamente una página

Nota del editor: La Nueva Voz está agregando esta página con contenido en Español a petición e interés de los lectores. Un lector frecuente del Centro Comunitario del Parque Washington preguntó si este periódico pudiese incluir al menos “solamente una página” en Español. Entonces, buen amigo, aquí lo tienes. Esperamos que nuestros lectores nos den a saber lo que piensan.

El alcalde y el jefe de policía anuncian que Pomona está tomando medidas enérgicas contra el crimen, ¡con compasión!

Al anunciar una gran represión que se espera beneficie a la comunidad empresarial y a toda la ciudad, el alcalde de Pomona, Tim Sandoval, y el jefe de policía de Pomona, Mike Ellis, se unieron a la Cámara de Comercio de Pomona este mes para informar que la ciudad está duplicando los campamentos para personas sin hogar y preparándose para poner en marcha un programa piloto de cámaras policiales a lo largo del corredor de Holt Avenue para vigilar la prostitución y cualquier otra cosa que suceda por ese camino.

Y, informó Sandoval, la policía de Pomona arrestó a la sospechosa que tuvo sus 15 minutos de fama en las noticias de televisión de Los Ángeles supuestamente captada por la cámara y que supuestamente tenía la costumbre de arrojar piedras repetidamente a través de los escaparates de los restaurantes y las tiendas el día antes del incidente. almuerzo de trabajo mensual de la cámara en Fuego Cocina y Cantina en el centro de Pomona.

“Todos somos dolorosamente conscientes de que nuestra comunidad empresarial enfrenta algunos desafíos muy reales, particularmente en lo que se refiere al crimen”, dijo Sandoval en una sala llena con más de 80 miembros de la cámara e invitados.

“Hay muchos negocios que están siendo asaltados, tenemos un desafío con nuestra población sin hogar. Quiero que sepan que hemos

Cientos asisten a la Noche Nacional de Salida de Pomona para ayudar a construir alianzas entre la policía y la comunidad

El jefe de policía de Pomona, Mike Ellis, hablando con cientos de residentes en la Noche Nacional de Salida de este mes en el Centro Cívico de Pomona, dijo que uno de los principales enfoques del departamento de policía es mejorar la transparencia, el alcance y las asociaciones con el objetivo continuo de generar confianza.

“National Night Out es uno de los programas más grandes para ayudarnos a lograr estos objetivos y es una noche en la que podemos reunirnos como policías y vecinos para pasar tiempo juntos en circunstancias positivas”, dijo Ellis.

“Los animo a encontrar un ofi-

visto lo que está sucediendo y que estos problemas no siempre son fáciles de resolver”.

“No vamos a desarrollar económicamente la ciudad si no tenemos una ciudad segura, si no tenemos una ciudad limpia”, agregó. “Es fundamental que abordemos estos problemas”.

El jefe de policía Ellis dijo que más del 50 por ciento de las llamadas de servicio a las que responde la policía están relacionadas con problemas de personas sin hogar.

Ciudad expandiendo el equipo HEART

Centrándose en el problema de las personas sin hogar, dijo que el equipo HEART de la ciudad (Equipo de respuesta de acción de campaña para personas sin hogar) comenzó como un equipo que incluía a oficiales de policía, empleados de obras públicas y un trabajador social especialista en salud mental.

“Lo ampliamos a dos, básicamente un equipo de tiempo completo que hace tiempo extra, que es lo que es ahora”, dijo Sandoval. “He pedido que amplie ese equipo a tres equipos en total para que prácticamente puedan salir las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana”.

El equipo se puede ver regularmente en la ciudad limpiando campamentos ilegales para personas sin hogar y otros problemas recurrentes de personas sin hogar.

“Queremos abordarlo con compasión, pero tengo que decirles

cial o un empleado del departamento de policía, pasar tiempo con ellos, hacer preguntas”, dijo, y agregó que había muchos recursos para explorar. “Tu tiempo aquí será mejor empleado por eso”.

Se creía que el evento nacional, que este año celebraba su 40 aniversario, atraería a la mayor multitud en Pomona desde antes de COVID.

Además, parecía haber más puestos de vendedores y recursos que nunca antes en las aceras y en el césped, en lugares de hasta tres puestos de profundidad.

El cabo Angela Torres, que ahora dirige la unidad de prevención del

particularmente después de este incidente más reciente que ocurrió en Cachanilla (restaurante chino) donde salió en las noticias, la gente estaba enojada”, dijo Sandoval.

Y sobre el arresto del sospechoso, “Me alegro de que la hayan atrapado, pero sé que al final del día habrá alguna revelación de que probablemente no esté mentalmente bien, y esa es la realidad”.

“Y ese es un problema más profundo, no solo para Pomona, sino en todo este país, y si no nos involucramos en este tipo de problemas de salud mental realmente serios, continuaremos viendo el tipo de desafíos que usted ve en nuestra comunidad”, agregó.

“Creo que la gente se frustra cuando ve gente bebiendo en las calles, inyectándose en las calles, defecando, estas son las cosas que es difícil de atraer, es difícil mantener negocios, pero es difícil atraer negocios, particularmente empleos bien remunerados. , a una comunidad si la gente no se siente segura”, dijo.

“Quiero que sepan que queremos trabajar juntos porque nosotros como ciudad no podemos resolver este problema solos”, dijo Sandoval. “Vamos a necesitar su apoyo”.

Despliegue de cámaras de ‘búsqueda’ de la policía

El jefe de policía Ellis le dijo al grupo que el departamento de policía ha estado trabajando durante el último año en el desarrollo de un

delito del departamento de policía en el Ayuntamiento de Pomona, dirigió la planificación del evento de este año por primera vez.

La celebración anual, observada por primera vez en 1984 como un día para cultivar una mejor relación entre los residentes y las fuerzas del orden, originalmente incluía a 400 comunidades en todo el país.

Hoy, participan cerca de 20,000 comunidades en los 50 estados.

Y en Pomona, todo estaba allí, desde drones de la policía y equipo de investigación de la escena del crimen hasta equipos SWAT y su equipo, motocicletas de la policía y más.

centro delictivo “en tiempo real” con analistas delictivos a cargo las 24 horas del día manteniendo una comunicación directa con los oficiales en el campo y cámaras de “búsqueda” en marcha. Holt y Garey Avenues el próximo mes para las pruebas iniciales.

“No vamos a investigar residencias o incluso negocios a menos que se denuncie un delito”, dijo Ellis. “Pero estas cámaras nos permitirán ver lo que está pasando y también serán un elemento disuasorio visible con un letrero que diga ‘esta es una cámara de la policía’” y que el área está bajo vigilancia.

“Nuestro plan es comenzar con el corredor de Holt Avenue, Indian Hill” para “cambiar el sistema allí”, agregó. “Creo que eso tendrá un impacto significativo” a través de la aplicación, la divulgación y el cambio del sistema, agregó.

Sandoval agregó que la ciudad está colaborando con la ciudad vecina de Claremont, que también ha visto un aumento en el tráfico sexual a lo largo de Indian Hill. Dijo que el alcalde interino de Claremont, Sal Medina, cuyo distrito representa el área, está interesado en el problema y entiende que afecta a ambas ciudades.

Y Ellis informó que la policía de Pomona recuperó a 80 mujeres jóvenes que estaban siendo traficadas en las calles de Pomona.

También les dijo a los miembros de la cámara que si son dueños de un negocio y tienen cámaras, dentro del próximo año podrán conectar su sistema con el Departamento de Policía de Pomona y los despachadores podrán monitorear las transmisiones de video mientras los oficiales están respondiendo.

Los fondos de asistencia de Covid aún están disponibles

En otra área, Sandoval le dijo al grupo que unos \$750,000 en fondos federales para pequeñas empresas afectadas por COVID todavía están disponibles para subvenciones individuales de hasta \$5,000.

El dinero está disponible a través del Programa de asistencia de alquiler para pequeñas empresas para empresas que tuvieron dificultades para mantenerse al día con los pagos de alquiler durante la pandemia y em-

plean a menos de 25 empleados.

La información y una solicitud en línea están disponibles en el sitio web de la ciudad. Agregó que si la ciudad no asigna esos fondos, se reasignarán a otra cosa para beneficiar a las pequeñas empresas, como la capacitación de los empleados o las actividades de mercadeo.

“Les puedo asegurar que \$750,000 irán directamente a las pequeñas empresas de su ciudad”, dijo Sandoval.

Y los concejales han autorizado otros \$600,000 para financiar mejoras en el centro de tránsito del centro de Pomona Foothill.

Dijo que la ciudad ya está trabajando con el personal de Foothill Transit y señaló que el “comportamiento poco saludable” allí puede afectar a los estudiantes de la Escuela de Artes y Empresas de Pomona que caminan por el área de un campus a otro.

Sandoval dijo que la ciudad está contratando una agencia de mercadeo para comunicar las muchas cosas positivas que la ciudad está haciendo, pero en el área de desarrollo económico y empresarial, dijo que las empresas miran lo que está pasando en las aceras, en la condición de las calles, el medio físico y el medio social.

“Si vamos a atraer nuevos negocios, ese es el tipo de cosas en las que tenemos que trabajar a largo plazo”, dijo.

Una de esas áreas será el próximo proyecto de renovación para mejorar el extremo sur de Garey Avenue con una mediana y mejoras similares a las que se hicieron en el extremo norte.

“La idea es crear un Garey más transitable a pie y en bicicleta que llegue al centro de la ciudad”, dijo, llamándolo una calle completamente repavimentada que pasa por algunos de “los edificios más emblemáticos de la ciudad”.

Y llamó al centro de Pomona uno de los motores económicos clave de la ciudad. “Necesitamos ver más desarrollo en el centro”, dijo, y agregó que hay planes en marcha para más de 800 unidades de desarrollo residencial en las calles Second y Main, el primer desarrollo en el centro desde Mission Promenade.

Medidas con compasión... pág. 27

Trust and understanding... from pg. 7

ers and other staff members. He said they are all trying to make victims of a crime more comfortable with reporting to the police.

“I think that our role is to improve in that area, especially after seeing what came from the survey,” he said.

Chara Swodeck, who has been actively involved in community leadership for almost 20 years, said, “each time you’ve spoken, I keep thinking of the word trust.” She said during her administration of the survey, “when it came to being able to trust a policy maker,” many people felt “over and over again, if you report something one time, and nothing happens . . . there’s no justice or there’s no show up . . . trust is such a huge part of it.”

“How do we get past that, because ‘tolerate’ is not where we need to be – there needs to be an acceptance, an understanding, a celebration of a culture, understanding a story and where you come from, and then that’s where the compassion comes from,” she said. “I think that it all comes back down to trust. We have to be able to trust each other and trust the leaders that we put into office, trust the people that are wearing the uniform.”

Sen. Rubio agreed.

“In many ways, that trust factor is important, but I hope it is a two-way street, not just one way,” she said. “Everyone has

Pomona Valley Hospital named among ‘best hospitals’ by U.S. News & World Report

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center has once again earned top marks as a “Best Regional Hospital” by U.S. News & World Report, placing the facility in the top 12 percent of hospitals in the nation achieving the honors.

The annual rankings and ratings list is designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to receive quality care for challenging health conditions or elective procedures.

“These ratings are a direct reflection of our associates’

Best hospitals... pg. 22

to be on the same page, so that we can live in harmony and work well together with our public safety officers to make sure that our communities are safe.”

We will dive more into the interview in next month’s edition of La Nueva Voz.

Editor’s Note: Preliminary results of the survey – based on the first 100 responses – are available on the La Nueva Voz web site at www.lanuevavoz.net (scroll down on the home page to “Survey Responses.” And to view the entire podcast, go to youtube.com and search for “Visiting with Senator Rubio and Chief Michael Ellis.”



Photo by Renee Barbee

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES -- Members of the “All the Vibes Band” crank it up last month in the Pomona Civic Center as they belted out English and Latin “cover” songs including “Black Magic Woman” by Santana, “Superstition” by Stevie Wonder, “Come Together” by The Beatles, and “The way you make me feel” by Michael Jackson and others.

Lymphedema: What is it, and what can be done for it?

By Martin Johnson, MD, MPH

Limb Preservation Program, Hyperbaric Medicine and Wound Care Center
Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare



Dr. Martin Johnson

You may have heard the term. You may even know someone who has it. But most people have little knowledge about the condition known as “lymphedema.” This chronic medical condition occurs when there is a blockage or damage to the lymphatic system, leading to a buildup of lymph fluid in the tissues. This in turn can result in swelling, typically in the arms or legs, but it can also affect other parts of the body.

There are two types of lymphedema: primary and secondary. Primary lymphedema is a genetic condition that is caused by an abnormal development of the lymphatic system, while secondary lymphedema is caused by damage to the lymphatic system due to surgery, radiation therapy, infection, injury, or other medical conditions.

Lymphedema is a progressive condition, which means that it can worsen over time if left untreated. Some common symptoms of lymphedema include swelling of the affected limb, a feeling of heaviness or tightness in the affected area, decreased flexibility and range of motion, and recurrent infections.

There are several treatment options for lymphedema, including compression therapy, manual lymphatic drainage, exercise, and medication. Compression therapy involves using compression garments, such as sleeves or stockings, to help reduce swelling and

improve lymphatic drainage. Manual lymphatic drainage is a type of massage therapy that can help stimulate the lymphatic system and reduce swelling. Exercise can also be beneficial for lymphedema, as it helps promote lymphatic flow and improves muscle strength and flexibility. In some cases, medication may be prescribed to help reduce swelling and inflammation.

It is important to seek medical attention if you experience any symptoms of

lymphedema, as early diagnosis and treatment can help prevent the condition from worsening. In addition to medical treatment, there are several lifestyle changes that can help manage lymphedema, such as maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding tight clothing or jewelry, and practicing good skin care to prevent infection.

Overall, lymphedema is a chronic medical condition that can have a significant impact on a person’s quality of life. However, with proper treatment and management,

many people with lymphedema are able to lead full and active lives.

Editor’s Note: If you or a loved one is struggling with lymphedema, Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare offers a comprehensive Lymphedema Management Program to help individuals with lymphedema control their symptoms over the long term, allowing them to regain limb control and resume everyday activities. All treatment is provided by certified lymphedema therapists. For more information, call 909/596-7733, ext. 3500 or visit casacolina.org/lymphedema.

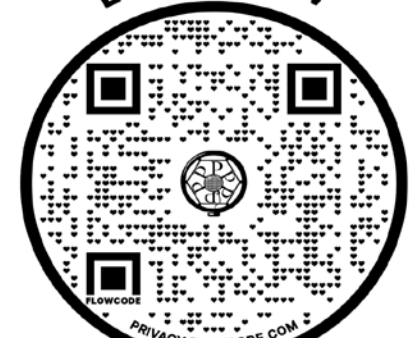
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SCAN ME

STIIZY donates \$293,539 to improve Pomona parks and schools

California cannabis retailer and brand STIIZY presented Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval with a check for \$293,539 last month at Pomona's John F. Kennedy Park to help improve parks and schools in the city.

STIIZY, which opened its Pomona location in November 2020 at 1605 W. Holt Ave., presented the city with its first check a year ago. This year's donation was \$86,157 more than last year, according to a news release.

"It's a tremendous honor and privilege to come back to Pomona one year later and demonstrate the positive power of cannabis by directing even more resources to impacted communities that will help them heal from the devastation done by the 'War on Drugs,'" said DeRon Waller, STIIZY's director of social impact.

"The operating license agreement we made in cooperation with the City of Pomona sets aside a certain percentage of our sales that specifically goes toward improving schools and parks within a half-mile radius of our STIIZY Pomona location," Waller added. "It's so gratifying to be able to offer our



STIIZY PRESENTS CHECK TO POMONA -- Pomona's cannabis retailer STIIZY presents its second annual check to Pomona last month, this time for \$293,539 to help improve the city. From left are Sonny Soon, of IndigeKnowledge; Pomona Parks Commissioner Julian Angel Ibanez Mandujano; Mark Ramos of UFCW Local 1428; Pomona volunteer Chara Swodeck; Jمانة Redway, STIIZY's social equity community ambassador; Stephanie Uy, STIIZY's vice president of expansion and public affairs; Pomona activist Joshua Swodeck; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia; Matthew Nathaniel, STIIZY's director of retail license expansion; DeRon Waller, STIIZY director of social impact; Daisy Garcia, STIIZY social impact and equity specialist; Steven Chow, STIIZY government affairs manager; and Vanessa Yanez and Courtney Thompson, STIIZY Pomona assistant manager and general manager.

customers the satisfaction of knowing that some of the money they spend with us goes toward improving their own backyard."

Participating in the check presentation ceremony were representatives of community organizations STIIZY has worked with on projects ranging from neighborhood clean-ups to resource and food distribution.

Those groups included SoCal Services Corps, Project Hope, Lopez Urban Farm, Pomona

Connect and others.

Also on hand were representatives of the United Food and

Commercial Workers Union Local 1428 which represents STIIZY's retail workers.

Best hospitals... from pg. 21

unwavering commitment to providing outstanding health care to our patients every day," said hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum. "With a focus on quality, safety and access to the latest technologies and treatments available, it's clear that our community can count on the expert team at PVHMC to offer the best possible outcomes for their health."

The hospital also earned "High Performing" ratings for excellence in heart attack, heart bypass surgery, heart failure, diabetes, kidney failure, stroke, hip fracture and pneumonia, according to a news release.

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Pumpkin fest... from pg. 5

Sunday.

"Pumpkin Fest is a fun, family event, and we can't wait to welcome everybody back to the farm," said festival director Craig Walters. "We also hope that you'll learn something new about farming, which continues to be a major California industry that offers science and technology-related careers for our students."

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Recordando a Manuel Castillejos

Por Cristina N. Carrizosa

Nota del editor: Manuel Castillejos murió el mes pasado en el Centro Médico Cedars-Sinai en Los Ángeles con su hija sosteniendo su mano. Tenía 72 años.

Pomona ha perdido a un gran hombre, el profesor Manuel Castillejos, un héroe anónimo que pasó años de su vida, talento y experiencia preservando, enseñando y ampliando el conocimiento de la historia, el arte, la música y la cultura de un gran segmento de la población de Pomona. Sin su esfuerzo y participación, gran parte de nuestra música y tradiciones folklóricas lamentablemente habrían sido olvidadas en detrimento de las generaciones futuras.

Pomona es rica en historia, cultura y arte, y como tal, su reputación como Ciudad de las Artes sigue creciendo gracias a los esfuerzos de los residentes interesados que reconocen el talento de Pomona. Sin embargo, muchos aspectos culturales de las minorías no siempre se aceptaron, no se consideraron la corriente principal. Manuel Castillejos fue una de las pocas personas que hizo grandes esfuerzos para llevar adelante actividades artísticas que contribuyeron a nutrir y aumentar el respeto y el orgullo por nosotros, miembros de la comunidad latina. Conocí al Sr. Castillejos a finales de los años 70 cuando los educadores y la comunidad abogaban por la educación bilingüe y el personal bilingüe en las escuelas de Pomona. A través de los años trabajamos juntos en varios proyectos en beneficio de las familias del suroeste de Pomona. Sus servicios a Pomona en general son demasiados para enumerarlos aquí. Por lo tanto, enumeraré algunos que he presenciado personalmente.

Durante los años 90 ayudó en la formación de un mariachi comunitario para niños y enseñó a muchos niños a tocar la guitarra. Durante varios veranos coordinó conciertos comunitarios multiculturales semanales en los parques de Washington y Filadelfia. A través de sus conexiones personales, pudo traer a la comunidad artistas de alta calidad de forma gratuita o por tarifas modestas, brindando así a las familias de bajos ingresos el disfrute de tardes tranquilas y divertidas. El trío de fama internacional Los Dandys, tocó en Philadelphia Park. Lalo Guerrero, compositor de numerosas canciones populares, estaba una tarde en Washington Park.

A través de sus enseñanzas y actividades escénicas, el Sr. Castillejos contribuyó a preservar aspectos importantes de la historia y cultura latinoamericana. Un ejemplo son las tradicionales “posadas y pastorelas” en las que los niños y los padres representan una obra de teatro que ha existido y representado en muchos países de América Latina desde el siglo XVIII.

Como propietario de la Escuela de Bellas Artes de Pomona, abrió su escuela (trabajando con su hija, Nicole, quien eventualmente manejó el negocio que comenzó en el garaje) para niños de familias de bajos recursos, donde aprendieron a cantar, bailar y cómo para tocar instrumentos musicales. Esas experiencias les brindaron la oportunidad de actuar en universidades, festividades comunitarias y la Feria del Condado de Los Ángeles. Su escuela también proporcionó una plataforma para que innumerables artistas aficionados de Pomona demostraran sus talentos artísticos al público.

Como profesor en Mt. San Antonio College, el Sr. Castillejos involucró a sus estudiantes (muchos de los cuales son y han sido residentes de Pomona) en actividades que mejoraron su educación mientras enriquecían la vida comunitaria de Pomona. La Escuela de Bellas Artes se convirtió en el hogar de los estudiantes donde podían estudiar y celebrar sus logros. Como miembros de la comunidad, teníamos un lugar para reunirnos y discutir problemas locales que afectaban a todos.

Residente responsable y comprometido de Pomona, el Sr. Castillejos sirvió a nuestra ciudad durante muchos años como miembro de la Comisión de Artes Culturales y la Comisión Histórica, así como de otras organizaciones como la Cámara de Comercio Latina y comités ad hoc. Compartió su hermosa voz para cantar y su talento para tocar la guitarra con los residentes de Pomona en eventos comunitarios, ceremonias y servicios religiosos. Se ofreció como asistente voluntario del director de la Orquesta Juvenil de Pomona desde sus inicios hace 15 años, donde también fue tutor de jóvenes músicos, además de cantar con el coro. Participó en todos los conciertos y actuaciones de la orquesta, pero lamentablemente estaba demasiado enfermo para asistir al concierto de junio. Por su trabajo comunitario, recibió el Premio César Chávez y fue nombrado Héroe de la Comunidad de Pomona por la Feria del Condado de Los Ángeles. Estos son solo algunos ejemplos de las contribuciones del Sr. Castillejos a Pomona y la región.

Le sobreviven su hija, Nicole Castillejos-Macias, yerno Pedro Macias, Sr., nietos Pedro Macias y Sabrina Macias, todos de Fontana, sobrino Antonio Sanchez y sobrinas Norma Keller, Aida Fitton y Maritza Corona, todos de Chula Vista, y sobrina Aida Sarah y cuñada Stella Castillejos, ambas de Fullerton.

Murió antes que Lee Castillejos, su esposa durante 32 años, quien murió en 2020.

Descanse en Paz el amigo de todos.



Manuel Castillejos

Remembering Manuel Castillejos

By Cristina N. Carrizosa

Editor's note: Manuel Castillejos died last month at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles with his daughter holding his hand. He was 72.

Pomona has lost a great man, Professor Manuel Castillejos, an unsung hero who spent years of his life, talent and expertise preserving, teaching and expanding the knowledge of history, art, music and culture of a large segment of Pomona's population. Without his efforts and participation, much of our folk music and traditions would have sadly been forgotten to the detriment of future generations.

Pomona is rich in history, culture and the arts, and as such, its reputation as a City of the Arts continues to grow due to the efforts of interested residents who recognize Pomona's talent. Yet, many cultural aspects of minorities were not always embraced, they were not considered mainstream. Manuel Castillejos was one of the few individuals who made strong efforts to bring forward artistic activities that contributed to nurture and enhance respect and pride for us, members of the Latino community.

I met Mr. Castillejos in the late '70s when educators and community advocated for bilingual education and bilingual personnel in Pomona schools. Through the years we worked together on several projects for the benefit of families from

southwest Pomona. His services to Pomona in general are too many to enumerate here. Therefore, I will list some I have personally witnessed.

During the '90s he assisted in the formation of a community children's mariachi and taught many children how to play the guitar. During several summers he coordinated weekly multi-cultural community concerts at Washington and Philadelphia Parks. Through his personal connections he was able to bring to the community high quality performers for free or for modest fees, thus giving low-income families the enjoyment of peaceful, fun afternoons. The internationally famous trio Los Dandys, played at Philadelphia Park. Lalo Guerrero, a composer of numerous popular songs, was at Washington Park one afternoon.

Through his teachings and performing arts activities, Mr. Castillejos contributed to preserve important aspects of the Latin American history and culture. One example is the traditional “posadas and pastorelas” in which children and parents perform a play that has been in existence and performed in many Latin-American countries since the 1700s.

As owner of the School of Fine Arts in Pomona, he opened his school (working with his daughter, Nicole, who eventually ran the business that started in the garage) to children of low-income families, where they learned singing, dancing and how to play musical instruments. Those experiences afforded them the opportunity to perform at colleges, community festivities and the Los Angeles County Fair. His school also provided a platform for countless Pomona amateur performers to demonstrate their artistic talents to the public.

As a professor at Mt. San Antonio College, Mr. Castillejos involved his students (many who are and who have been Pomona residents) in activities that furthered their education while enriching Pomona's community life. The School of Fine Arts became the home of students where they could study and celebrate their achievements. As community members, we had a place to meet and discuss local issues that affected all.

A responsible and committed Pomona resident, Mr. Castillejos served our city for many years as member of the Cultural Arts Commission and the Historical Commission, as well as other organizations such as the Latino Chamber of Commerce and ad hoc committees. He shared his beautiful singing voice and guitar playing talent with Pomona residents at community events, ceremonies, and religious services. He volunteered as assistant to the director of the Pomona Youth Orchestra since its inception 15 years ago, where he also tutored young musicians, in addition to singing with the choir. He participated in all of the orchestra concerts and performances, but sadly he was too sick to attend the June concert. For his community work, he received the Cesar Chavez Award and was named Pomona Community Hero by the Los Angeles County Fair. These are only a few examples of Mr. Castillejos' contributions to Pomona and the region.

He is survived by his daughter, Nicole Castillejos-Macias, son-in-law Pedro Macias, Sr., grandchildren Pedro Macias and Sabrina Macias, all of Fontana, nephew Antonio Sanchez and nieces Norma Keller, Aida Fitton and Maritza Corona, all of Chula Vista, and niece Aida Sarah and sister-in-law Stella Castillejos, both of Fullerton.

He was pre-deceased by Lee Castillejos, his wife of 32 years, who died in 2020.

Descanse en Paz el amigo de todos.

Catalyst presents \$71,638 check to The Friends of the SAE

Catalyst Cannabis Company – Pomona presented a check for \$71,638 this month to The Friends of the SAE to support educational programs at Pomona’s School of Arts and Enterprise.

The donation, technically from Catalyst Cares, a policy and philanthropic arm of Catalyst, was made during a luncheon meeting at Nuno’s Bistro and Bar in Upland in conjunction with the company’s agreement to make periodic “public benefit” contributions in Pomona.

“Catalyst Cares’ donation to The Friends of The SAE supports the nationally award winning arts education all SAE students are offered, free from entrance auditions or tuition fees,” said Phil Miller, artistic director at The SAE and vice president of The Friends of The SAE, a sup-

port organization of the school. “Through the arts, young creatives are offered the opportunity to explore their creativity, expand their passions and dream bigger.”

“We’re just really proud to be part of the Pomona community and actually give back and make real positive change in this community,” said Damian A. Martin, co-founder and attorney at Catalyst Cannabis Company.

“We’re happy to be able to partner up with The SAE and Downtown Pomona,” said Doug Alvey, an owner of Catalyst Pomona. “We love what they’re bringing to Pomona and for the kids and love having them being here in Pomona and being able to contribute to all the good that they’re doing down there.”

The company opened its Pomona location in December 2021.



CATALYST CARES CHECK PRESENTATION TO THE SAE -- “Catalyst Cares” presented a check for \$71,638 to Pomona’s School of Arts and Enterprise this month as a “public benefit” contribution. Pictured, from left, are Phil Miller, artistic director at The SAE; Amber Tovar, director of culture, outreach and campaigns at Catalyst; Doug Alvey and Sharon Alvey, owners of Catalyst Pomona; Damian A. Martin, co-founder of Catalyst Cannabis Co.; Jon Gundry, chief executive officer of The SAE; Violeta Aguilar-Wyrick, an owner of Catalyst Cannabis and owner and community relations liaison for Catalyst Fontana; Cathy Tessier, treasurer of The Friends of The SAE; Alexandra Oliva, senior director of The SAE; and Joe Fraga, SAE parent.

National Night Out... from pg. 4

ties in all 50 states participate.

And in Pomona, everything was there from police drones and

crime scene investigation gear to SWAT teams and their equipment, police motorcycles and more.



Pomona Police SWAT team members and their gear were on hand at National Night Out. From left are Corporal Blair Hornby, Sgt. Dan Gomez, and Corporal Max Moya.



The Pomona Police Department crime scene investigation unit had all sorts of things on display including this plaster cast of a footprint in the mud. (Hey, we think we know that guy!)



Paulette Young demonstrates the “compression only” technique at Pomona’s National Night Out in collaboration with the Pomona Optimist Club. She told La Nueva Voz less than 10 percent of heart attack victims survive because few people know how to perform CPR. “If we can get the whole public to know how, then we’ll raise that number of survival rate,” she said. Interested in reasonable group pricing for lessons for non-profits, corporate, athletic coaches, daycare or even without leaving your house? Call Health Care Consultants at (909) 670-6999.



Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, at right, hangs out with her friend, Julie Marie McDonough, a Pomona realtor. The two have been friends since their kids were going through the school district. McDonough is known as “the credit lady” and is author of “How to make your credit score soar.”



Ismael “Ish” Arias was holding down one of his favorite jobs working the grill for the Kiwanis booth at National Night Out.



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presented an official California Assembly certificate in honor of National Night Out. From left are Lt. Iain Miller, Rodriguez and Corporal Angela Torres.



The Pomona Police Department drones (at left), otherwise known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), were on display at National Night Out.

National Night Out... from pg. 24



World class barber Leo Arredondo, owner of Pomona's Uppercuts Barbershop (Foothill and Towne), brought a barber's chair to National Night Out to give out free haircuts. One satisfied customer who said his name was "Joe" didn't mind having his picture taken. Give Leo a call for an appointment at (909) 802-5122.



One of the most popular performances at National Night Out was the Aztec dancers, kids from the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley, demonstrating traditional dance moves to the beat of a drum. And this was only part of the group. Aztec dancing is offered as a class at the club that continues year-round with sign-ups year-round. Program Director Ray Ramirez is the teacher.

Visit our website at www.lanuevavoz.net



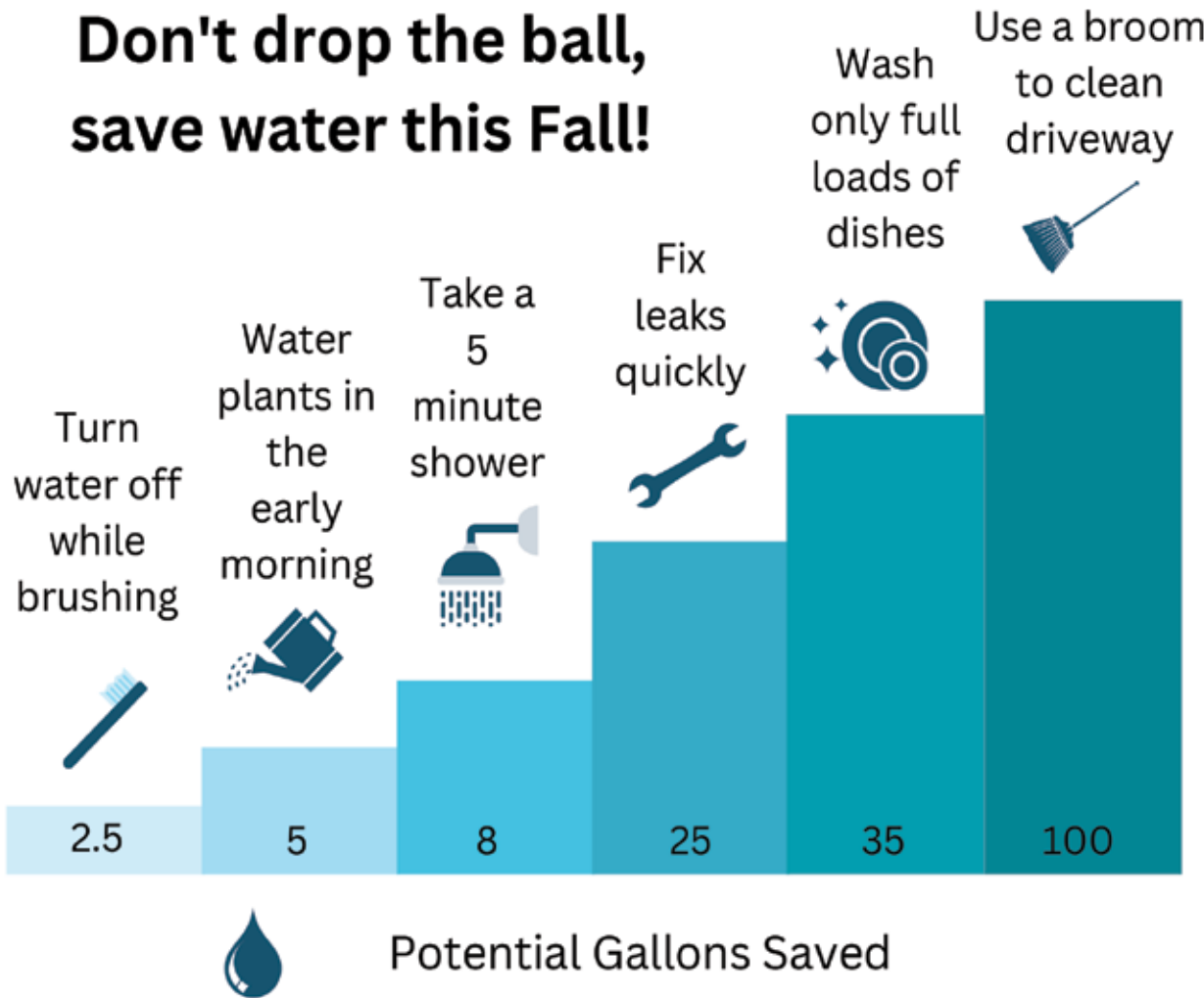
La Nueva Voz grabbed a photo of three of Pomona's finest at National Night Out. From left are Deputy Chief Christian Hsu, Corporal Zane Holmes and Officer Austin Chavez.



"The Impulse Band," a regular at National Night Out for the last several years, was back again this year performing all the popular songs. Looking for a great band for that upcoming important event? Call Ray Rivera for more information at (323) 422-7776 or e-mail him at rivera3223@yahoo.com. And visit the web site at theimpulseband.webs.com.

The police department's crime scene investigation exhibit included information to look for when trying to match fingerprints (at left).

Don't drop the ball, save water this Fall!



Three Valleys reminds you to use water wisely this Fall.

To use the water calculator tool and for available rebate information please visit www.bewaterwise.com





Photo courtesy of House of Ruth

HOUSE OF RUTH OFFERING DRIVE-THROUGH SERVICE? -- A motorist allegedly driving under the influence last month took a wrong turn off the street, over the curb, down the front walkway and another left turn through a wall and into a conference room area and out the other side at Pomona's House of Ruth outreach center. The incident occurred at 2:30 a.m. and the room was empty at the time. The driver and passengers in the car survived the crash. The City of Pomona has "red-tagged" the damaged area, and some services are now being provided in temporary locations elsewhere in the building. Executive Director and CEO Pat Bell said much of the cost to rebuild will be covered by insurance, but additional expenses already are being incurred. Pictured is what some of the damage looked like before the plywood went up. The facility has been the entry point and safe haven for domestic violence survivors and their families for the past 25 years. To schedule a donation drop off, call (909) 623-4364 or mail financial contributions to House of Ruth, P.O. Box 459, Claremont 91711. A "Go Fund Me" site has been set up at <https://lnkd.in/gGwqbXME>.



Photos by Renee Barbee

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY AT PALOMARES -- Representatives of Vans "Off the Wall" Skateboarding hand out free backpacks this month at Pomona's Palomares Park.

FOR A COUPLE OF DOZEN LUCKY WINNERS

-- A limited number of DGK (Dirty Ghetto Kids -- we looked it up) skateboards were given away to lucky raffle winners at the Palomares Park backpack giveaway and skate event this month. Pictured showing off their boards are Sophie Romero, 9, at left, and her sister, Chloe Romero, 8, both of Pomona. At rear are, from left, Nate Alton, skateboard program facilitator for the City of Pomona (did you know there's a skate park at Palomares?) and Don Cooley, event coordinator for DGK and "Saved by Skateboarding," an initiative in which the company gives back to the community.



Kids had a chance to spin the wheel (on a laptop) and take their pick of some cool stuff to go in their backpacks, like this girl with a new box of crayon pencils.



AIR! -- OK, we looked that one up, too. But that's what it's called when you get your board up there and spin it around. Organizers were giving skateboarding lessons and encouraging exhibitions at this month's backpack giveaway at Palomares Park. We're not sure which this was but this guy's good! The city offers after school skateboarding programs at JFK, Westmont and Palomares Parks that also include homework assistance, presentations and more. Contact (909) 802-7730 for more information.

Growth in Pomona... from pg. 8

2.58 million real estate parcels as well as business assessments countywide. That includes 1,892,564 single-family homes, 250,511 apartment complexes, 248,123 commercial and industrial properties and more than 200,000 business property assessments.

Since the roll is the inventory for all taxable property in the county, it can provide some insight into the health of the real estate market. The roll is also driven in large measure by real property sales, which added \$67.4 billion to the roll as compared with 2022; the Consumer Price Index adjustment mandated by Proposition 13 added another \$36.7 billion; and new construction added \$5.6 billion.

Finally, to say this has been a challenging couple of years is an understatement and the fact that property values continue to grow is certainly good news and testament to the viability of the region.

Casa Colina receives five-star overall rating from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare in Pomona has received a five-star rating in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services "Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings for 2023," according to a news release.

Casa Colina is among 12 percent of hospitals surveyed nationwide and one of just 12 hospitals in Los Angeles County to receive five stars, the highest possible score.

The survey included more than 3,200 Medicare-certified acute care hospitals nationwide.

Ratings are based on a single score for mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience and timely and effective care.

"Casa Colina strives to provide high-quality care that puts the patient and their recovery first, and we're proud to be recognized by CMS for Overall Hospital Quality," said Casa Colina President and CEO Kelly Linden. "This recognition is a testament to the talent and dedication of all of our employees and physicians."

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Medidas con compasión... de la pág. 20

Sandoval dijo que hay un nuevo desarrollo de viviendas en marcha en toda la ciudad.

“No hay otro período desde Phillips Ranch y Mountain Meadows en el que hayamos visto tanto desarrollo de viviendas”, dijo.

Agregó que la ciudad recibió una subvención estatal para realizar trabajos de rehabilitación a lo largo de East Holt y está trabajando con la cámara para crear un distrito de mejora comercial en esa área, similar a la Asociación de Propietarios del Centro de Pomona, para manejar el marketing, la seguridad, el mantenimiento y otros. tareas, ya que el área de San Antonio y Holt es “terreno central de los desafíos que enfrenta la ciudad, y no puede continuar”.

“Somos su departamento de policía, siempre puede llamar al 911 y aparecerá un oficial”, dijo Ellis. “Pero creo que, como cualquier negocio, la herramienta más efectiva son las relaciones”.

También dijo que la mejor manera de llamar al equipo HEART es enviar información

y fotografías por correo electrónico a quality-life@pomonaca.gov o llamar al (909) 620-2328.

Sin embargo, si hay un delito en curso, dijo que marque el 911.

“El mejor consejo que puedo darle es el mantenimiento” y la iluminación moderna, el mantenimiento de las cercas y la limpieza de los grafitis lo antes posible.

Respondiendo a una pregunta sobre vandalismo y allanamiento, Ellis dijo que solo este año la policía respondió a 160 llamadas de allanamiento que resultaron en arrestos.

Y sobre el tema de la prostitución en Holt, dijo que un equipo encubierto especial está trabajando los siete días de la semana. Pero debido a los cambios en las leyes donde “realmente se ha despenalizado”, la policía ahora se enfoca en los hombres que están “tratando de comprar lo que está pasando”.

“Las mujeres que están ahí fuera como trabajadoras sexuales, primero son tratadas como víctimas”, dijo.



'I'M SO HAPPY THAT YOU'RE HERE!' -- And the message was clear on the first day of school at Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School. Pictured welcoming her class on the first day of school is 11th grade teacher Kelly Esparza.

'PHOTO OP' ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL -- A student and her mom pose for the camera behind a photo frame on the first day of school at Pomona's Kingsley Elementary School.

Your ad here!

(909) 629-2292

Free Community Seminars

Bone Health & Exercise for Seniors

Thursday, September 7 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.



PRESENTED BY

Jesse Fajardo, MD
Board-certified Orthopedic Surgeon, Gary Orthopedic Medical Group

Topics of discussion include:

- The complex balance of bone health and bone metabolism
- Osteoporosis and the importance of maintaining healthy bones
- How to improve your bone health with diet
- Ways to improve your bone health with exercise
- Question and answer session

Navigating the Risk for Injury and Burnout in the Single-sport Athlete: Is it Worth the Scholarship?

Wednesday, September 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.



PRESENTED BY

Steven Bast, MD
Board-certified Orthopedic Surgeon, Gary Orthopedic Medical Group
Medical Director of The Coliseum Sports Medicine and Orthopedics at Casa Colina

Topics of discussion include:

- Risks associated with playing a single sport year-round
- Risks associated with high-intensity training
- The importance of time off for the young athlete
- Navigating the college recruitment of young athletes
- The Coliseum Sports Medicine and Orthopedics at Casa Colina program
- Question and answer session



Non-Surgical Options for Treating Arthritis: From Supplements to Stem Cell Therapy

Tuesday, September 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.



PRESENTED BY

Luis A. Corrales, MD
Board-certified Orthopedic Surgeon, Gary Orthopedic Medical Group
Medical Director of the Revive Joint Replacement Program

Topics of discussion include:

- How health, stress, and diet affect joints and arthritis
- Vitamins and supplements that are helpful for arthritis
- Different types of injections for arthritis
- Regenerative options for arthritis such as PRP therapy, stem cell therapy, and amniotic therapy
- Question and answer session

Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, Loverso Education Center, Building 1E • 255 East Bonita Avenue Pomona, CA 91767

Refreshments will be served. Seating is limited – please call to reserve your space.

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the school of arts + enterprise
is proud to announce **TWO** National Awards
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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

The SAE x AMOCA was awarded the **Community Partnership Award** which is intended to recognize arts schools and/or businesses that implement unique artistic and/or educational partnerships, this award is presented to a school or business that embraces the community by utilizing the arts and education as a vehicle for fostering artistic and educational understanding and community enhancement. The SAE's AMOCA Ceramic Arts Dual Major, Student + Family Accessibility Program and Mud Mobile continue to be key elements of **The SAE x AMOCA** along with staff Professional Development, Internships and Gallery Curation Consultation.



OUTSTANDING ARTS SCHOOL ALUMNI AWARD

Keyla Monterrosa Mejia has been honored with the **Arts Schools Network Outstanding Arts School Alumni Award**. Created for the purpose of fostering artistic and academic achievement in talented young people, this honor is bestowed annually upon one former student whose commitment to excellence is demonstrated through outstanding accomplishment in the areas of citizenship, arts, and academics. Keyla has a successful acting career having appeared on *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Abbott Elementary* & Star of Netflix's *Freeridge*.



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