



Photo by Jonathan Williams

PUSD HONOR CHOIR -- The Pomona Unified School District's 50-member "Honor Choir" stole the show at this month's Kindness Carnival in the Pomona Civic Center, performing songs about friendship and "each other." The group was directed by Ryan Robinson with Michael Smith on the keyboard. The choir, made up of students in grades six through eight, started as a summer choir camp offering but evolved into a performance ensemble focusing on community events.

Pomona Chamber of Commerce



La Nueva Voz



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Pomona folklorico dance group presents Broadway-style celebration of 25th anniversary

Folklorico no te Rajes Jalisco, a true grass roots community initiative bringing the festivals and traditions of Mexico to Pomona, celebrated its 25th anniversary last month with a professional performance in a crowded Pomona Folklorico... pg. 4



Folklorico no te Rajes Jalisco dancers performed at their 25th anniversary and came from all age groups and in all sizes -- but all very professional!

Third annual 'Kindness Carnival' is bigger, better and kinder than ever!

Billed by Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte as "another event that shows the strength of our city," the third annual Pomona Kindness Carnival – held this month in the Pomona Civic Center – attracted an estimated 1,000 people and more than 50 resource booths all focused on, in the words of Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, spreading and sharing kindness and compassion.

At opening ceremonies at the La Nueva Voz stage in front of the Civic Center fountain, Nolte

said Pomona has many non-profits and service organizations that are bringing services and kindness to the community.

"I'm so proud to be a member of a community that takes care of each other," Nolte said. "We realize that if we want Pomona to thrive into the future, we need to invest in our kids and our teens and young people and that's what we're doing."

"This is a beautiful afternoon in the City of Pomona," Sandoval said. "Today . . . it's really about

families and children."

He added that the event shows how the city believes in the value of preparing the future generation of leadership.

"This day is really about our young people," Sandoval said, but added that there were also "elders" present.

"You see people who have wisdom, who have life experience," he said. "It's so important in communities to be able to take that wisdom, that love, that compassion,

Carnival kinder than ever... pg. 9

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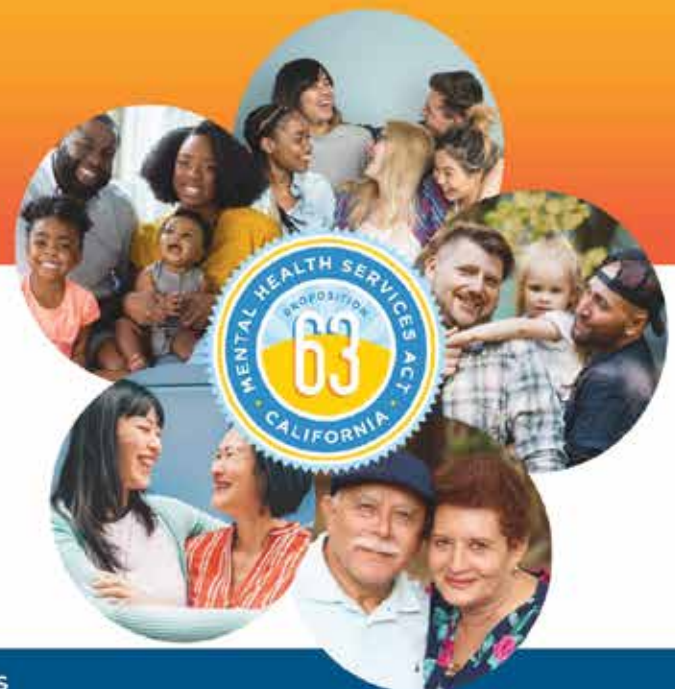
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NEW OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AT POMONA'S GOLDEN CORRAL -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and others helped the new management at Pomona's Golden Corral buffet and grill cut the ribbon and make it all official. The restaurant recently was purchased by Vasquez Hospitality in Prescott, Arizona, which "re-joined" the Pomona Chamber. The company is in the process of expanding and purchasing additional Golden Corral locations in California, according to company officials. Pictured, from left, are Mhel Mojica of The UPS Store (right down the street from the restaurant); Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval (at rear); Pomona Chamber Board members Jill Dolan of Mt. San Antonio College and Chamber Executive Board Vice Chair Josh Landis of Foothill Transit; Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles; Golden Corral General Manager Luis Moran; Golden Corral Area Manager Fredy Hernandez, based in Prescott; Pomona Chamber Board Chair Nef Cortez of Re/Max Galaxy in Diamond Bar; Eva Thiel Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang; Chamber Executive Board members Jeff Johannsen of Pomona Hope and Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; and Chamber Ambassador Joel Rosales of Modern Woodmen of America. Golden Corral opened its 11,000-square-foot restaurant at 2037 Rancho Valley Drive in Pomona in March 2017 (see April 2017 issue of La Nueva Voz, page 2, at <http://www.lanuevavoz.net>, click on "past issues").

City of Pomona announces Halloween events, holiday concert

Pomona city officials have announced schedules for its eighth annual haunted house at Palomares Park and the annual holiday concert by the Pomona Concert Band.



A free costume contest, haunted house and "trunk or treat" will be held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27 and 28, at Pomona's Palomares Park, 499 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona.

Categories for the costume contest are best costume (all ages), most original cos-

tume (13 and under), best superhero costume (13 and under), best look-alike costume (13 and under) and cutest costume (5 and under).



Doors open at 6:30 p.m. both days and the costume contest gets under way at 7 p.m. with prizes given to the winners.

And the Pomona Concert Band will present its free holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, also at the Palomares Park Community Center, this year on the theme "Sparkling Lights."

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Folklorico... from pg. 1

Unified School District auditorium.

And everything was included – from folklorico dancers to vocal soloists to an accordion player and even accompaniment by the Youth Orchestra of Pomona under the direction of Maestro Carlos Mares.

Selections ranged from the songs “Perfume de Gardenias” and “Veracruz” to “Pavido Navido” on the accordion.

Special appearances included Ballet Folklorico of Pomona’s Lincoln Elementary School, founded 20 years ago as an after-school program, folklorico dancers from the two-year-old program at Kingsley Elementary School, and members of the Pomona High Ballet Folklorico, an 11-year-old program with 14 dancers under the direction of Cesia Suchite.

Very simply, the performance thrilled the audience and parents armed with their cell phone cameras continued to line up to move in for that perfect close-up shot.

Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles told La Nueva Voz at the event that the school district is in the process of

formally adding the dance company’s offerings to the district’s after-school program in which classes will rotate around to all elementary schools in the district.

And former Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa, who attended the event, reached out to La Nueva Voz by e-mail the following Monday.

“I have known the family for many years and know how hard all of the members have been working all this time,” she said.

Singer Goretty Ornelas, in a telephone interview following the event, told La Nueva Voz that Folklorico no te Rajes Jalisco is part of Pomona’s Galan Cultural Center which was created two years ago under a foundation formed by the family members of Jose Luis Ornelas, their father, who died three years ago due to complications of COVID.

She added that long-time advocate of the arts Manuel Castillejos, who died in July at the age of 72, was their mentor in setting up the cultural center.

Castillejos, a professor at Mt.



Mario Tapia on the accordion was amazing at the 25th anniversary performance. His wife, Goretty Ornelas, also performed at the event.

San Antonio College and owner of the School of Fine Arts in Pomona, devoted his life to preserv-



Goretty Ornelas sang “Perfume de Gardenias” and other songs at the 25th anniversary event. Ornelas’ sister, Mayra Selene Sosa, is director and choreographer of Folklorico no te Rajes Jalisco.

ing and teaching Hispanic art, history, music and culture.

Ornelas told La Nueva Voz the

cultural center hopes to be able to bring folklorico dancing to all of the schools through the after-school program as early as next school year.

Currently, the Galan Cultural Center is offering folklorico dancing, hip hop, Latin rhythms and zumba in the center.

Dance classes are available there on a fee basis and the first class is always free, she said, so dance students of all ages can give it a try before they enroll.

Folklorico no te Rajes Jalisco director and choreographer is Mayra Selene Sosa, who was born and raised in Guadalajara and began dancing at the age of 5. She joined her first folklorico group at the age of 11 and moved to the United States when she was 16.

She attended Upland High School, where she taught folklorico dancing to her classmates through the school MECHA club (Mexican-American youth organization).

She also taught the children’s group at Castillejos’ school in Pomona.

Folklorico... pg. 8



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**Arturo Jimenez,
President**



HONORING THE CHILDREN -- Members of Pomona's Vietnamese community held their annual mid-autumn children's festival this month. The event is designed to help preserve the Vietnamese culture for the children 48 years after leaving Vietnam following the Fall of Saigon. Included was a "national costume" competition and interviews of children in front of the judges, along with music, food, and a traditional lion dance. The event was sponsored by the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley.

Community volunteer Bree Hsieh named president of Pomona Public Library Foundation

Library activist and community volunteer Bree Hsieh has taken over as the new president of the Pomona Public Library Foundation, according to an e-mail announcement last week.

"I've been a proud Pomona resident for the last 20-plus years and have enjoyed being a part of the Pomona community, leading in areas like Pomona Placemaking, the Pomona Hope Board, the Fairplex Millard Sheets Board, and of course the Pomona Public Library Foundation Board as well," she said.

"And I'm a huge library fan," she added. "Where else can the riches of so many of the world's key thinkers and creators be at the tip of one's fingertips, for free?"

She said Pomona has only one library for a large city.

"So, I feel it's our duty to help support and expand its capacity as much as possible," Hsieh said, adding that she encourages residents to reach out to her with their ideas.

"I've always felt the best way to really see our true goals in any area, and reach them, is together," she said.

Among other things, she said accomplishments of the foundation include acquiring a state grant allowing a remodel of the front entrance to the library.

In addition, she said the foundation for nearly a decade has supported the after-school home-

work club serving as many as 40 students each semester, and the summer cultural excursion program around the Greater Los Angeles area with about 100 kids and family members served each year with trips to the Hollywood Bowl, Crystal Cove Beach, local colleges and more.

"We've made teen center and computer center improvements and have provided funds for refurbishing the heavily used conference room," she said.

And the foundation is the key funder of the Pomona Poet Laureate program, she added.

"I'm looking forward to our upcoming gala in June of 2024," Hsieh said.

She took over the position of foundation board president from Duane Smith, who served for the past four years.

The Pomona Public Library Foundation is the fundraising support organization of the Pomona Public Library.

Working with the Board of Library Trustees, the Friends of the Pomona Public Library, Save/Support Our Pomona Public Library and the library staff, the foundation invests in programs, equipment and services that supplement the operations of the library.

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



Bree Hsieh



Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, a Pomona physician and President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley, at left, presents a certificate of appreciation to Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole during this month's annual mid-autumn children's festival in Pomona's Ho Binh Plaza.



Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, a Pomona physician and President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley, at left, presents a certificate of appreciation to Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole during this month's annual mid-autumn children's festival in Pomona's Ho Binh Plaza.

'Tackle Breast Cancer'

Free mammograms will be available at "Tackle Breast Cancer," a breast cancer awareness benefit and comedy gala featuring nine speakers telling their heartfelt stories of fighting breast cancer and advocating for additional research, scheduled for Oct. 29 in Rancho Cucamonga.

The third annual "Crème and White with a Splash of Pink" event will be held from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Epic Events Center, 12469 Foothill Blvd., Rancho Cucamonga. A balloon release is set for 5 p.m., dinner is at 5:30 and the program begins at 7 p.m.

Keynote speaker is Kentrelle Galyes and special guests include musicians, comedians and more.

And 20 percent of all ticket sales goes to The Queens with Dreams Foundation.

Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$50 at the door, and dinner and ticket is \$60.

For information, call Tony Green at (909) 401-9286.

Annual Christmas Marketplace to be held at Pilgrim Congregational Church

The annual Christmas Marketplace will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3, at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 600 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

Vendor tables are available at \$25 and \$10 for a second table. Set up will begin at 9 a.m. for

vendors including those already signed up for gift items, Christmas items, Tupperware, jewelry and more.

Lunch will be available for sale.

Contact Beth Brooks at (909) 229-5921 to reserve a spot.

A new La Nueva Voz publishes each month on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Pick up your free copy of La Nueva Voz at these locations and dozens more:

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- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Western University of Health Sciences Patient Care Center
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center maternity, lobby, outpatient services, emergency room
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphina Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaunderLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



Sen. Alex Padilla honors legacy of Sen. Dianne Feinstein

California's U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla released a statement last month honoring the legacy of the late Sen. Dianne Feinstein, calling her a "towering figure not just in modern California politics but in the history of our state and our nation."

"It is with profound sadness that I bid farewell to my dear friend, colleague, and champion for the State of California, Sen. Dianne Feinstein," he said in the statement.

"She broke barriers throughout her career," he added. "Her leadership as the City of San Francisco's first female mayor in the aftermath of the tragic assassination of May-

or George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk showcased her unique ability to lead with grace and strength in the face of adversity."

He added that following her election to the Senate over three decades ago, her commitment to bipartisan collaboration made her a deeply respected figure on both sides of the aisle.

"She understood the importance of working together to find common ground and get things done for California, for the country and for the American people," he said. "Her ability to bridge divides and find consensus, especially on the thorniest of issues, was a testament

to her dedication to the principles of democracy."

Padilla added that Feinstein gave him one of his first jobs in politics working in her Los Angeles office years ago at the start of his career.

He cited her contributions which ranged from gun safety and environmental conservation to national security and health care reform.

"May her legacy continue to inspire us all," he said.

Editor's Note: La Nueva Voz Publisher Jeff Schenkel worked with Feinstein only once – in the "green room" when she was keynote speaker at a water conference two decades ago at what was then

the Baldwin Park Hilton Hotel and Schenkel was a self-employed public relations consultant producing, among other things, special section advertorials for the Southern California Newspaper Group. Schenkel has worked with former Vice President Dan Quayle, cov-

ered U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra, former Governors Pat Brown and Jerry Brown, former U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr and photographed then-Gov. Ronald Reagan, but said Feinstein "was as professional as they come."

Sponsors needed for

Chamber's 'Holiday for Heroes'

The Pomona Chamber of Commerce is looking for sponsors for its annual "Holiday for Heroes" luncheon, scheduled this year for Dec. 7 at Fuego by Metro Event Center in Downtown Pomona.

The event, which replaced the Chamber's Christmas party nearly 10 years ago, each year recognizes outstanding Pomona police officers and firefighters.

"Heroes" sponsorships are \$2,000, "Patron" sponsorships are \$1,000 and "Supporting" sponsorships are \$500.

Quarter page ads in the event program are only \$100.

Tickets to the event are \$60 for members and \$80 for non-members.

For information, contact the chamber at info@pomonachamber.org or call (909) 622-1256.



RIBBON-CUTTING FOR 'NEW GENERATION' -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce members and city officials helped cut the ribbon Saturday at "Cannibis for a New Generation," one of Pomona's four retail cannabis dispensaries and the fourth to join the Pomona Chamber. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, Chamber Ambassador Marco Argote, Mark Ramos, President of United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) Local 1428, New Generation partners Jerry Tessier, Chang Weisberg, CEO Justin Shively and Randall Longwith (at rear), Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, and Pomona Chamber Ambassador Blanca Angel, an independent California notary public and life insurance agent. New Generation is located at 196 University Parkway, Pomona.

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Temporary link during construction:

<https://cdm17464.contentdm.oclc.org/>

and go to page 2 for La Nueva Voz.

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Editor's Note: This page is the fifth 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'

New survey shows Latinos see racism as a 'major problem' in U.S.

By Joshua Swodeck

According to a recent survey, Latinos firmly believe that racism and prejudice against Black, Latino and Asian groups are a major problem in the United States.

This was just a small observation stated during a recent presentation and panel I attended via Zoom, along with La Nueva Voz's staff, presented by the Latino Media Collaborative in Los Angeles.

The live and virtual event was the kick-off of "Phase 3" of the on-going "Stop-the-Hate" initiative coordinated by the Latino Media Collaborative (LMC), of which La Nueva Voz is a member, through grants funded by the California State Library.

Theme of the Phase 3 campaign is "Color y Raíces: Encara el Racismo" (Color & Roots: Face Race). It is expected to continue through the end of the year and, depending on findings and funding, into next year.

About 10 newspapers including La Nueva Voz are participating in the statewide program.

The kick-off event provided a significant amount of new data concerning the topic we have been addressing in our previous articles. The data was based on a survey taken by both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking participants identifying as Latino/a/x.

Data was presented by LMC President Arturo Carmona, Managing Director Esperanza Guevara, USC Annenberg doctoral candidate at Paulina Lanz, Leadership Savvy founder Julie Truong, president and co-founder of BSP Research and former Dean of the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs Gary Segura, President and CEO of the Community Development Technologies Center Benjamin Torres, and Center for Nonprofit Management President and CEO Efrain Escobedo. Efrain Escobedo, who was also a former Vice President of the California Community Foundation, was a huge supporter of Pomona's COVID Action Committee and helped raise funds for families during the pandemic here in Pomona.

Paulina Lanz shared with the group that the Spanish-speaking participants felt more comfortable discussing race with friends, family, and coworkers, whereas the English-speaking participants, although they were not opposed to it, showed they did not actively engage in conversation with family, friends, and coworkers about race.

Gary Segura shared key findings from the data, like Latinos express warm regard for Asian and Black groups; Latinos strongly believe racism and prejudice against Black, Latino, and Asian groups is a major problem in the U.S.; and a majority of Latinos have experienced discrimination and have witnessed unfair treatment of others.

In spite of their own experience of discrimination or unfair treatment, a majority of Latinos also remain optimistic about opportunities in the U.S. and believe that "everyone has an equal opportunity" for a good life in the U.S. And addressing bias, prejudice, and racism is high in priority for Latinos, and they view Black people as coalition partners, demonstrating clear agreement that both communities would advance more if there was more solidarity and partnership between communities.

Trusted messengers in the Latino community that could effectively speak about issues and education to reduce the amount of bias and distrust toward other groups include teachers, organization leaders, parent groups, and other leaders in the community.

Segura also shared that 27 percent of Latinos felt unfairly fired or denied a job or promotion. And 31 percent felt they were unfairly treated by the police, while 35 percent reported they were treated unfairly or badly at restaurants or stores. Almost half (45 percent) of the participants stated they knew of family or friends who had been discriminated against because of their race. One-third (33 percent) reported that there were racial tensions for a lot of people in their home country. However, 39 percent explained they felt that it was less than they see in the U.S. Over half (54 percent) of participants saw racism and prejudice as a major problem in the U.S. Surprisingly, while Latinos are aware of inequality and prejudice in the U.S., 64 percent maintain an optimistic view towards opportunities.

"We surveyed a total of 500 Latinos throughout California from June 21 through June 28 (2023)," Segura said. "The survey was conducted in Spanish and English." Polling took place through live telephone interviews and online self-completed polls, and about half of the partici-

pants resided in Los Angeles.

Caló News, LMC's news outlet, pointed out that addressing prejudice and racism is a high priority for Latinos, and Latinos see African Americans as a coalition or partners. In fact, as mentioned, one of the highlights of the survey's findings states that "Latinos express warm regard for Asian and Black groups." However, according to the researchers, this demonstrates "clear agreement that both communities would advance further if there were more solidarity and partnership between communities." It is worth mentioning that according to the Latino Media Collaborative survey, the purpose of the survey was to be able to "determine the direct experience of Latinos with racial/ethnic prejudices and their attitudes and familiarity with racial hostility towards African Americans and Asian Americans."

During the panel portion of the presentation, Efrain Escobedo shared that as we reached the one-year anniversary of the infamous leaked tapes within the Los Angeles City Council, it drove many to ask, "What are we doing as a community (and) how are we part of a movement that really seeks to end racism?"

"Do we really understand how racism plays into the daily lives of Latinos?," he said, going on to explain that racism was not just part of Latino history within the U.S., but "had been woven into our origin story."

"I'm highly encouraged by the fact that the data demonstrated that Latinos understand racism, but (it also showed) that they participate in character perceptions of it," said Benjamin Torres. "People are interested, they may just not have the tools – but there's an interest." He went on to ask, "how do we create more capacity for people to have this type of dialogue?"

Arturo Carmona agreed.

"Hope will beat fear...hope will beat division," he said. "We need to come together to fight racism and division through hopeful dialogue and engagement."

As I sat listening to all this data and hearing from this panel of distinguished thought leaders, I remember a conversation I had with a friend during a book club meeting I participated in at Wish You Were Here (WYWH) Coffee earlier this month. He stated that he did not really experience racism as a child growing up in a Latino home in Orange County. After asking a few questions, I politely encouraged him to consider the idea that being labeled as Latino spoke to a history of oppression due to racism and colonialism. In other words, just because he did not recognize it did not mean it was not there.

It is interesting when these types of topics come up, because many times the forms of racism spoken about are only the blatantly obvious encounters. I am grateful for what the Latino Media Collaborative is doing with the Color y Raíces: Encara el Racismo campaign in asking these difficult questions and listening to the difficult answers.

As we continue this series, we will hopefully deal with a few important messages related to LMC's survey, such as racism as an experience that unites us, as well as the idea that racism unacknowledged is racism unaddressed and the overwhelming concept that racism undermines progress. The campaign clearly addresses that a future built on empathy, honesty, and unity is the only viable path to better outcomes for individuals, families and communities.

Editor's Note: Interested in contributing your thoughts through the on-going La Nueva Voz "Stop-the-Hate" survey? Just go to bit.ly/stopthetatepomona. And to see the results of the La Nueva Voz survey to date, visit www.lanuevavoz.net and click on "survey responses" on the home page.



Joshua Swodeck

Folklorico... from pg. 4

Sosa has performed on stages internationally and has taken her Pomona folklorico group to perform at the Disney Concert Hall, Disneyland, Hollywood Bowl, Nokia Theater and theaters and fairs in Mexico, Orange County and Los Angeles.

Pomona Unified's after-school program, called "The Learning Connection," is a free program for all students in transitional kindergarten through sixth grade during the academic year. It includes after-school care and expanded learning opportunities in chess, art, cooking, robotics, sports, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), theater and dance, although currently the only dance program is "Hip Hop Dance," offered by the Galan Cultural Center at 24 elementary schools at no charge on a six-week rotation.

The program runs from the end of the school day until 6 p.m. every regular school day and now includes "intersession" and summer, according to Alan Pantanini, "principal on assignment" who is coordinating the program.



Pantanini told La Nueva Voz the program currently serves roughly 3,000 students participating at 24 school sites throughout the district.

For information on the after-school program, contact Pomona Unified's Mendoza Center at (909) 397-4648 or The Learning Connection program directly at (909) 397-4800, ext. 28400.

And for more information on the Galan Cultural Center, visit the center at 2445 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, e-mail galanculturalcenter@gmail.com, or call (626) 483-0303 or (626) 222-2978.



It was really one impressive performance after another last month at the Folklorico no te Rajes Jalisco 25th anniversary event in the Pomona Unified School District auditorium.

Special events scheduled at Pomona Public Library

Upcoming events have been announced at the Pomona Public Library, beginning with a "Día de los Muertos" event scheduled for

Nov. 1

"Grinch" will appear at the library on Dec. 13, and Santa will greet the kids on Dec. 20.

And a special hot cocoa and paint event is set at the library on Jan. 17.

Program times will be announced later but should be available on the library's web site at www.pomonaca.gov. Or for more information, call (909) 620-2043.

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Carnival kinder than ever... from pg. 1

that kindness, and to spread it and to share it.”

Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles welcomed members of the community and the children to the event and encouraged everyone to get involved with both the school district and the city.

“It’s so important for us to give back and to be involved with our kids as they grow up,” he said.

And he also invited the kids to become involved with the district’s growing after school enrichment program which now includes everything from chess, cooking, math, art, trips out of Pomona to museums and more.

Renee Barbee, Vice President of Marketing and Operations for La Nueva Voz and a former event planner, a member of Compassionate Pomona, volunteered this year to take the lead and chair a committee of nearly a dozen community leaders and members “to make this year’s event even better than last year.”

She thanked the committee



Photo by Cathy Glidden
Organizer Andy Quinones kept moving throughout the entire Kindness Carnival.

members for their work, the many resource organizations for their participation, the entertainers for their performances, and her co-host Andy Quinones who spent the day acting as master of ceremonies as she, Quinones, Rev. Jan Chase and other committee members worked

Carnival kinder than ever... pg. 22



Authentic Aztec dancers from the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley performed at the event.



Don Martens, who is rapidly becoming Pomona’s favorite fiddle player, got the audience in the mood with some “down home” fiddle music, interspersed with his comments on the meaning and importance of kindness in the community.



Puppeteers from Character Champions entertained the audience at the Kindness Carnival, providing messages on subjects from kindness to compassion and respect.



A huge highlight of the musical performances at the Kindness Carnival was Cerdan A. Smith, a Hollywood celebrity media host, singer and dancer with a Hollywood-style wardrobe, who performed everything from Motown to Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett.



Photo by Jonathan Williams

In addition to acting as the volunteer “stage manager” setting up the “La Nueva Voz Stage” with different microphone and sound requirements for each of the nine acts in the three-hour program, La Nueva Voz Publisher Jeff Schenkel made time to perform several of his favorite classic country and classic rock tunes singing and accompanying himself on the guitar.



Representatives of Pomona’s Native American tribe Rumsen Am:a Tur:ataj Ohlone helped open this month’s Kindness Carnival in the Pomona Civic Center. Tribal Chair DeeDee Manzanares Ybarra provided a “land acknowledgement” to honor the Gabrieleño people, the first residents of Pomona, and called on everyone to respect the land and each other. And Tribal Secretary Donna Manzanares Otero offered a prayer in the Rumsen Ohlone language thanking the creator for the day. Pictured, from left, are DeeDee Manzanares Ybarra, her sister Donna Manzanares Otero, Stephanie DeVore, tribal vice chair, Hope Quiroga, tribal youth, and James Otero.



Pictured during opening comments, from left, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Rev. Jan Chase, Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles and Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte.



Lead organizer and committee chair Renee Barbee takes time out from running around to make sure everything was working just right to take a selfie with her friends. Pictured, from left, are volunteer Cathy Glidden, Barbee and Tracy Evanson-Norwood, founder and director of Healed Women Heal.

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RIBBON CUTTING AT GATEWAY -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce helped officials of developer Century Communities, one of the nation's top 10 homebuilders, officially cut the ribbon last month at their new 156-unit Gateway Homes project at 2106 Rio Grande, Pomona (Rio Rancho Road and Garey Avenue). The project includes two- and three-story floor plans with up to 2,034 square feet of living space and two-bay garages. Pricing for town homes begins in the mid-\$600,000 range and single-family homes start in the high-\$700,000 range. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber Board member Jill Dolan of Mt. San Antonio College, Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Century Vice President of Construction Mark Piercy (with the large scissors), Century Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Southern California Mike Ackley, Pomona Chamber Board Chair Nef Cortez (at rear), of Re/Max Galaxy in Diamond Bar, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, Pomona Chamber Ambassadors Joel Rosales of Modern Woodmen of America and Tracy Evanson-Norwood, founder and director of Healed Women Heal, and Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles.

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WEDDING DAY AT THE FOX -- It was wedding day at Pomona's historic Fox Theater Saturday as Rosie Rangel, one of Pomona City Hall's favorites, and Johnny Caldera, originally from Pomona and a Damien High School graduate, said "I do." Rosie's nephew Pastor Ray Hoyos of Victory Outreach Church in Henderson, Nevada, at left, officiated. The ceremony filled the lobby at the Fox and the reception that followed filled the inside of the theater.



Sometimes there's a photo of a 7-year-old flower girl at a wedding that's just begging to be taken and this was one of them -- Elle Hoyos, the bride's niece. La Nueva Voz Publisher Jeff Schenkel asked her before the wedding if she'd ever done this before and she said no, so he told her there's nothing to it -- just spread the flower petals around and smile. And she did a great job.

Pomona Host Lions set bingo for February

Pomona Host Lions will hold their second annual bingo fundraiser from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at Pomona's First Christian Church, 1751 N. Park Ave. WendyAnn Stuard is this year's Lions president. The Pomona club is part of Lions District 404, which includes 35 clubs in Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties.

La Nueva Voz...
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End in sight for completion of Pomona's old YMCA building restoration

A complete restoration of Pomona's historic YMCA building transitioning the facility to corporate offices and "spaces" for lease – that got under way six years ago – is nearing completion with construction costs turning out to be about \$10 million over original estimates.

The building, located at 350 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, was purchased in 2017 for \$2.65 million by Ray Adamyk, founder and CEO of Spectra Company, a restoration and preservation firm based in Pomona since 2000.

The original construction estimate for the restoration was \$7.5 million, as reported in La Nueva Voz' August 2017 issue. However, Adamyk told Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz in an interview at the YMCA building this month that he ended up putting an additional \$10 million into the project, bringing total construction costs to \$17.5 million.

Adamyk attributed the added cost to inflation between 2017 and 2023, and the fact that the project took longer than expected.

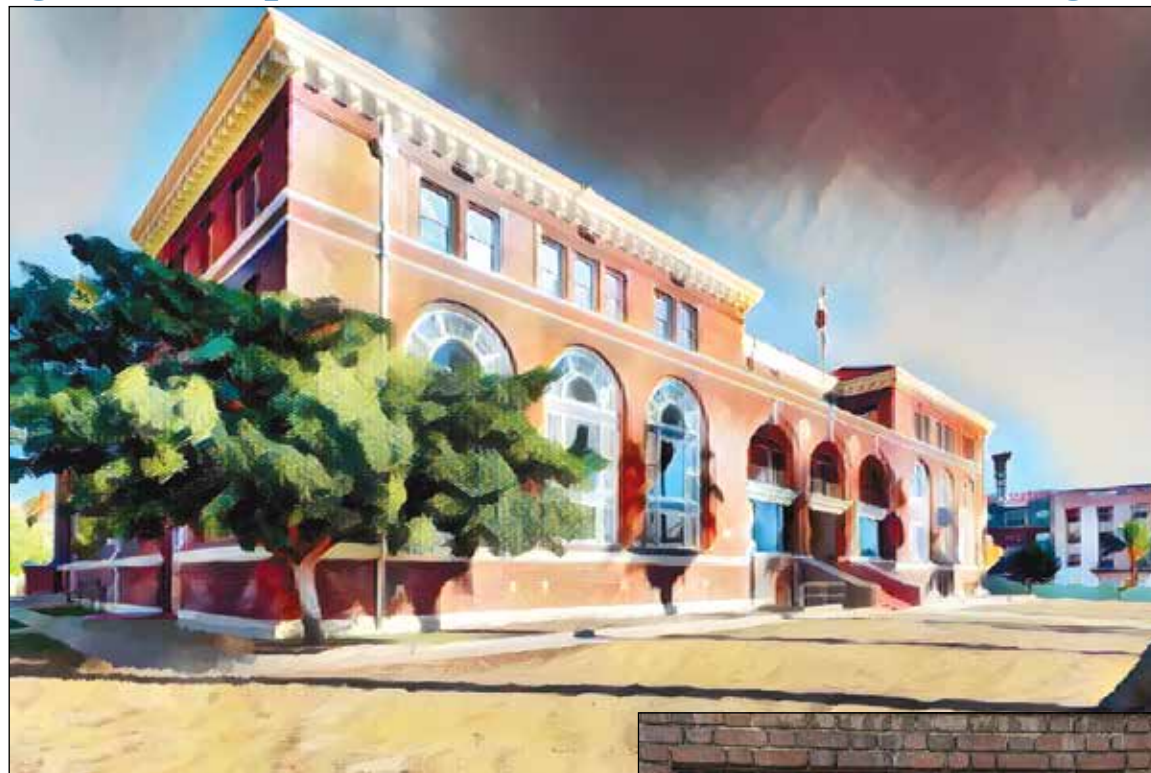
"We hoped to finish it earlier a couple of years back but then the pandemic hit, and we had to start back up," Adamyk said.

Then exactly what will be available inside the newly repurposed YMCA building?

Adamyk said three event venues will be included, along with a café coffee shop, artists' spaces, spaces for non-profits, entrepreneurs and more.

He said that has been his plan all along – to create a lot of spaces for the community, "like a non-profit hub, that's kind of what we're envisioning."

Adamyk said he is hoping for a "soft opening" at the end of the year and a grand opening next spring or early summer, "and our certificate of occupancy (from



A \$17.5 million restoration construction project is nearing completion at Pomona's historic YMCA building with a grand opening scheduled for next spring or early summer.

the city) around that same time of the grand opening."

"We just opened up leasing recently, so we've got a lot of good spots that are available," Adamyk said. "My company, Spectra Company, is taking the entire ground floor, the basement area, so that's probably about 25 percent of the building (that) is already leased."

"And there's about 60,000 square feet (in the building) so there's plenty of office space, there's some retail, boutique retail, and other spots as well," he added.

While he said the YMCA building is not the largest project his company has taken on, he said it is their first private development project "that we're going to own and actually be here so, in that sense, it is the largest and it is the first, but we've done other buildings which are close to a million square feet."

Adamyk was asked if there are

any restrictions on who can lease space in the building.

"It's open to anyone right now, we want it to be a community hub . . . and just bring the community together," he said.

"It's all new, brand new, there was never an elevator in this building, there's a brand new elevator going in," Adamyk added. "We have brand new mechanical, electrical and plumbing, it's all state-of-the-art, new, so air conditioning, new plumbing, new electrical throughout the whole building."

"We have a kitchenette on one of the floors which is available, it's an amenity that we can use," he said. "We're going to have



Photo by Renee Barbee

A new mural on the north side of the historic YMCA building depicts all things Pomona and all things about the YMCA building, past and future. Artist Natalia Engdahl, daughter of Derek Engdahl, former chair of Pomona's Charter Review Commission, and his wife Lisa Adamovich Engdahl, created the artwork.

also a catering kitchen for the entire building, so that will be available."

"Then, you've got the multi-purpose room and the two event venues which will be amenities that each person can use in the building," Adamyk said. "Each floor on the second floor and the top floor, there will be an outdoor balcony space which will be an amenity for individuals to use on each floor as well."

And the building will offer a much larger entry lobby than before when it was "cut up with offices . . . it's going to be nice."

And what about that classic YMCA running track and the two basketball courts?

Adamyk said it will all be avail-

able for use, but the track will not be used as an actual running track but instead will be a mezzanine and seating for the event area. Even so, he said, they may be able to "roll in" basketball nets if needed, although it won't be set up specifically as a sports venue.

Remember that swimming pool in the basement? Adamyk has been saying all along that he plans to cover the deck on top with glass so visitors will be able to see the pool tile below. And he still hopes to be able to use that area as a conference room, although that final decision has not been made.

Adamyk was asked how things went working with the City of Pomona on permits and inspections.

"Well, it's been a challenge, but we're working our way through it," he said.

What message does he have for Pomona as he gets ready to open the doors?

"Come join us and bring together the community and let's rebuild and renovate this beacon together," Adamyk said.

The three-story building on a two-acre site, built in 1922, has been vacant since the YMCA moved out in June 2012 after determining costs of performing necessary upgrades and bringing the building into compliance with federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements were prohibitive.

It first was purchased by Sheng Ma, of the East-West Culture & Arts Foundation, in 2013 with plans to transform it into an art university at a cost of \$4 to \$5 million over a two-year period. Instead, the building was eventually offered to Adamyk.

Financing for the purchase of the building was provided by Bank of the West.

Construction financing partners were New Markets Community Capital, LLC, a TELACU Company; Self-Help Federal Credit Union; U.S. Bank; and Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust.

Spectra Company, a company with more than 150 employees, has preserved historic buildings including the Hearst Castle in San Simeon, the Biltmore Hotel and the Bradbury Building in Los Angeles, and the Catalina Casino in Avalon, among others.

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REV. JAN CHASE HONORED IN POMONA -- Rev. Jan Chase of Pomona's Unity Church received an "Ambassador Nathaniel and Elizabeth Davis Legacy Award 2023" Friday night at an annual awards dinner of the Pomona Valley Democratic Club at Pomona Ebell Museum of History. Chase has worked since 2015 as "convener" of Compassionate Pomona, a coalition of leaders within Pomona. From left are Pomona Valley Democratic Club President Glenda Barillas, Democratic Club Treasurer Don Martens, who introduced the award, and Chase.



CHAIR OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY HONORED -- Mark Gonzalez, chair of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, received an "Ambassador Nathaniel and Elizabeth Davis Legacy Award 2023" award Friday from the Pomona Valley Democratic Club. Gonzalez, the first-ever Latino chair of the County Democratic Party, has served over 3.1 million registered Democrats in Los Angeles County, the largest local Democratic party in the country, since 2017. He was introduced by Ronald Gonzales-Lawrence, past president of the Pomona Valley Democratic Club. Pictured are Pomona Valley Democratic Club President Glenda Barillas and Gonzalez.



UFCW LOCAL 1428, PRESIDENT RECEIVES AWARD -- Mark Ramos, president of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) Local 1428, and Local 1428 itself received an "Ambassador Nathaniel and Elizabeth Davis Legacy Award 2023" Friday from the Pomona Valley Democratic Club. Ramos has dedicated himself to building better communities, making possible the union local's participation in Pomona Valley and beyond. Pictured, from left, are Andres Molina, executive director of the Los Angeles Democratic Party, who introduced Ramos; Ramos; and Pomona Valley Democratic Club President Glenda Barillas.

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A SUKKAH MOBILE -- WHO KNEW? -- Former Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman stopped by La Nueva Voz this month to show us something, well, we can honestly say we've never seen before in Pomona or, for that matter, anywhere -- a "Sukkah Mobile." Now a Sukkah generally is a loosely constructed structure, generally erected outdoors, perhaps in a backyard, where observant Jews during the holiday of Succos typically enjoy both a meal and prayer during the week-long observance as a place where, as Rabbi Sholom Harlig said, God will protect them as He did during their exodus from Egypt in biblical times. And the Sukkah, considered a "nomadic structure," reminds the Jews of their 40 years in the desert. But this Sukkah ("Huts" in English) is mounted in the back of a rented pickup truck. Rabbi Harlig said today many Jews who live in retirement homes or for various other reasons are unable to attend religious services or build their own Sukkah "so we bring it to them," an annual tradition he provides the community at no cost. Harlig has led the Jewish congregation Chabbad of the Inland Empire in Rancho Cucamonga since 1989. Chabbad worldwide has 5,000 branches, he said. Pictured in front of the "Sukkah Mobile" during the actual week-long holiday are, from left, Rabbi Harlig, Rothman, and Harlig's son, Levi Harlig, also an ordained rabbi. Harlig said the congregation does not charge for membership or personal visits but accepts donations. For more information, for a visit or to donate, contact Harlig at (909) 949-4553 or e-mail info@chabadinlandempire.com.



TRI CITY MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY FORUM -- Sara Rodriguez, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Projects Manager for Tri City Mental Health, kicks off an MHSA Community Forum -- the first in a series -- last week at the La Verne Community Center in an effort to learn from the public how MHSA programs have made a difference and what mental health services are needed in the community as part of an on-going planning process. MHSA programs in California were created by voter approval in 2004 of Proposition 63 and are funded through the "millionaire's tax" in California's historic effort to transform the mental health system. Tri City, the local public mental health authority for families and individuals of all ages, provides mental health services in La Verne, Claremont and Pomona. For more information or to provide input, contact Rodriguez at srodriguez@tricitymhs.org or call (909) 623-6131. (See additional information page one.)



STOP GUN VIOLENCE -- Marchers organized by Pomona's House of Ruth get their signs ready for a walk last month from Pomona City Hall to the House of Ruth Outreach Center in Pomona, all in an effort to "Break the silence" and "Stop gun violence." Pictured in front of Pomona City Hall, front and center, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, his son, Roy, and House of Ruth Executive Director Pat Bell. House of Ruth is dedicated to preventing domestic violence and ensuring the safety and well-being of those impacted by it.

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AND THEY'RE OFF! -- The first of 700 runners leave the start/finish line Saturday as Pomona's seventh annual 5k and 10k run get under way. The 5k run was two laps through Downtown Pomona, while the 10k run continued on for a total of four laps. Winners of the 5k, all of Pomona, were Jeovannie Perez, with a time of 18 minutes, Carlos Valtierra with a time of 18 minutes and 10 seconds, and Daniel Chavez-Rodriguez, with a time of 18 minutes and 56 seconds. Winners of the 10k were Marco Gonzalez, of Los Angeles, 38 minutes 11 seconds; Mauro Chavez, Jr., of Rialto, 39 minutes and 47 seconds; and Johnnie Sanders, of Pittsburg, California, 40 minutes and 23 seconds.



POMONA'S SUGAR SHANE MOSLEY -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval presented Pomona legend Sugar Shane Mosley with a certificate of recognition before the start of Saturday's seventh annual Pomona 5k and 10k run. Mosley, a special guest at this year's run, is a former three-weight-class world boxing champion and an International Boxing Hall of Fame inductee. From left are run organizer Chara Swodeck, Mosley, Sandoval, and run organizer Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado.

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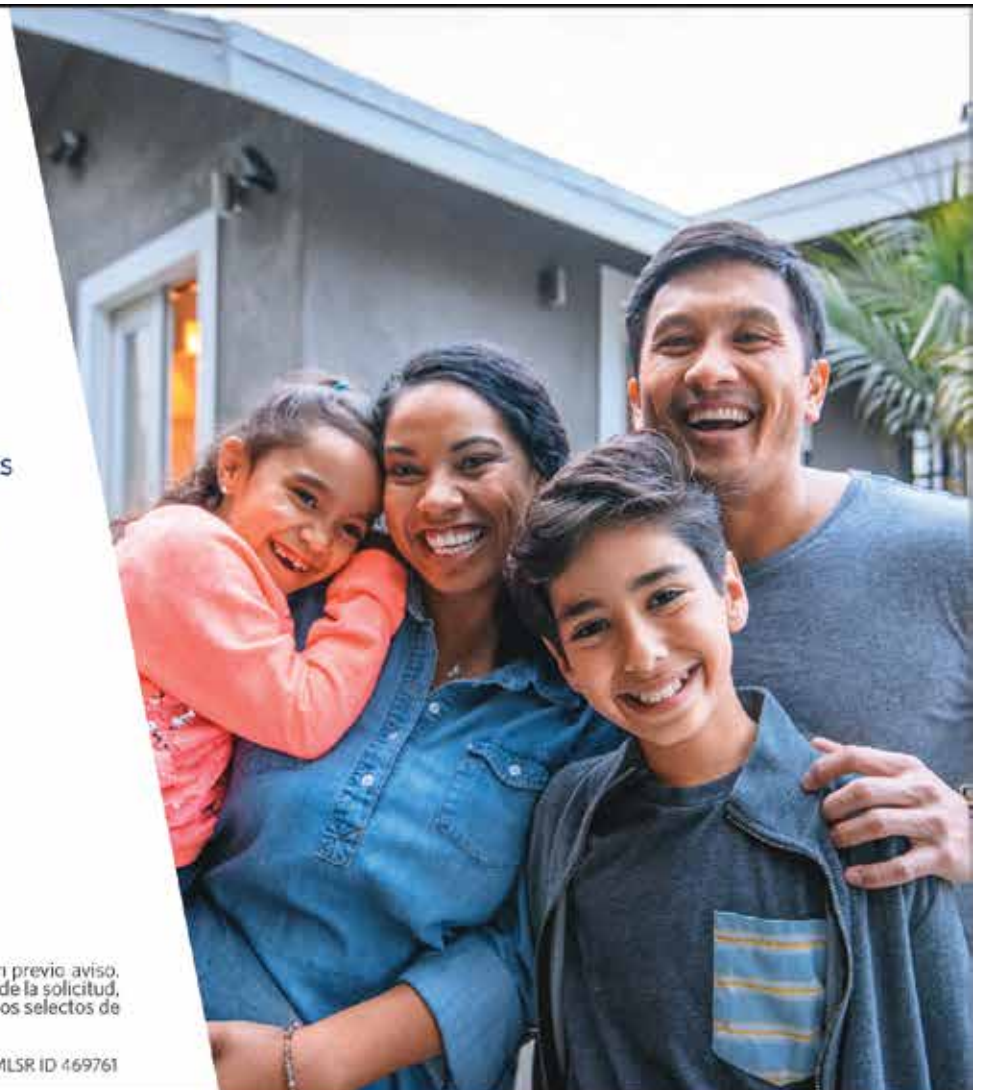
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San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps seeks sponsors for first annual ‘virtual golf tournament’

The San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, which is committed to helping disadvantaged but “at-risk” youth in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, is accepting sponsorships for its first annual “virtual golf tournament” fundraiser, scheduled for Nov. 9 at Glen Oaks Golf Course in Glendora.

“Host” sponsorships for the event are \$5,000, “Gold” sponsorships are \$2,500, “Silver” sponsorships are \$1,750 and “Bay” sponsorships are \$200.

Registration for golfers is \$150 for a single player or \$600 for a foursome.

To register, go to <https://form.jotform.com/232688315026154>.

Proceeds will go to benefit economic mobility for young adults, with a portion of the proceeds going to veteran programs.

For information, contact roberto@mballiance.org or (909) 525-5261 or contact Executive Director Norma Quinones at (626) 655-0015.

Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival announces 41st annual event in May

The Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival will hold its 41st anniversary celebration with its annual three-day event scheduled next year from May 17 to May 19.

Featured will be breathtaking hot air balloon rides – including a sunrise balloon flight over Lake Skinner – offering panoramic views of the picturesque Temecula Valley wine countryside.

Visitors will be able to camp under the stars with family or

just stay for the day – all in an adventure filled with delectable festival cuisine, a bustling commercial court with more than 100 vendors, and the opportunity to sample premium beer and wine from wineries and breweries across Temecula Valley and Southern California.

The festival, held at Lake Skinner Regional Park in Winchester, attracts more than 38,000 local residents, music

enthusiasts and visitors from around the world, according to a news release.

“Exclusive Festival Experience (EFE)” tickets are on sale and are the highest level “VIP” and camping package available. General camping tickets also are on sale. The festival lineup will be unveiled at the end of November.

To sign up for on-line updates, visit the web site at tvbw.com.

Metrolink launches free pass for students program

Metrolink, Southern California’s regional passenger rail provider, has launched its “Student Adventure Pass” program, a pilot program that allows any student with valid school identification to obtain a pass at no charge and ride anywhere on the Metrolink system for free.

The program was made possible through grant funding from the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

The program is expected to increase the number of people who can use train service, according to a news release.

“Currently, students only account for 17 percent of Metrolink’s ridership, but we want to see that number grow,” said Metrolink Board Chair Larry

McCallon, adding that the program will introduce a new generation of potential riders to public transit.

Students can download the Metrolink mobile app, register using their school e-mail address, and verify their account to automatically receive the pass in their mobile ticket wallet. They can also obtain a pass at any Metrolink ticket machine.

The program is currently slated to run for six months or until grant funding is exhausted.

Students can expect to save an average of \$5.60 per trip through the pass program, a spokesperson told La Nueva Voz in an e-mail.

For more information, visit metrolinktrains.com/students.



NEW RESCUE AND REHABILITATION CENTER -- Sisters of Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries, based in Covina, visit with guests at their grand opening this month for a new rescue and rehabilitation center. The opening of what was their first home in the U.S. followed three years of fundraising. Mary Queen of Heaven’s mission is to aid young victims of human trafficking and the new home “will enable us to offer a refuge for those who seek to heal and begin a new life with a bright future,” according to a news release. The group also has been working with officials and organizations in Pomona and Claremont on finding solutions to human trafficking. For more information, contact Sister Isabel at (818) 261-6212 or srisabel@mqhm.org or visit the web site at mqhm.org.

Cal Poly student wins ‘CSU Trustee’ award, scholarship

Philip Nicoll, a second year student in applied mathematics at Cal Poly University Pomona, has been awarded a 2023 California State University Trustees’ Scholar Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Nicoll will receive a \$7,000 scholarship as the Edison International Scholar, according to a news release.

The awards are presented annually to one student from each California State University campus based on academic achievements, financial need, excellence in community service and personal hardship.

A resident of La Crescenta, Nicoll credits Crescenta Valley High School math teacher Arin Gregorian and economics and

social studies teacher Samuel Levering for “investing their personal time to teach above and beyond the standard curriculum.”

At Cal Poly, he is a member of the Student Innovation Idea Labs and the Rose Float team, as well as the Bronco space club.

He is also a member of the Bronco “ember team,” developing a CubeSat wildfire detection system in which he will work on an artificial intelligence model to extract infrared information from high altitude imagery to help differentiate between what may be a forest fire, a small campfire or sun glare.

The CSU Trustees’ Awards, announced last month, are the highest student distinction within the CSU system.

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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 tercer 'Carnaval de la bondad' anual es más grande, mejor y más amable que nunca!

Considerado por el concejal de la ciudad de Pomona, John Nolte, como "otro evento que muestra la fortaleza de nuestra ciudad", el tercer Carnaval anual de bondad de Pomona, celebrado este mes en el Centro Cívico de Pomona, atrajo a unas 1,000 personas y más de 50 puestos de recursos, todos enfocados en , en palabras del alcalde de Pomona, Tim Sandoval, difundiendo y compartiendo bondad y compasión.

En las ceremonias de apertura en el escenario de La Nueva Voz frente a la fuente del Centro Cívico, Nolte dijo que Pomona tiene muchas organizaciones sin fines de lucro y de servicios que brindan servicios y bondad a la comunidad.

"Estoy muy orgulloso de ser miembro de una comunidad que se cuida unos a otros", dijo Nolte. "Nos damos cuenta de que si

queremos que Pomona prospere en el futuro, debemos invertir en nuestros niños, adolescentes y jóvenes, y eso es lo que estamos haciendo".

"Esta es una hermosa tarde en la ciudad de Pomona", dijo Sandoval. "Hoy . . . realmente se trata de familias y niños".

Agregó que el evento muestra cómo la ciudad cree en el valor de preparar a la futura generación de liderazgo.

"Este día realmente se trata de nuestros jóvenes", dijo Sandoval, pero agregó que también había "mayores" presentes.

"Se ve gente que tiene sabiduría, que tiene experiencia de vida", dijo. "Es muy importante en las comunidades poder tomar esa sabiduría, ese amor, esa compasión, esa bondad, y difundirla y compartirla".

Superintendente del Distrito Es-

colar Unificado de Pomona. Darren Knowles dio la bienvenida al evento a los miembros de la comunidad y a los niños y animó a todos a involucrarse tanto con el distrito escolar como con la ciudad.

"Es muy importante para nosotros retribuir y participar con nuestros hijos a medida que crecen", dijo.

Y también invitó a los niños a participar en el creciente programa de enriquecimiento extracurricular del distrito, que ahora incluye de todo, desde ajedrez, cocina, matemáticas, arte, viajes desde Pomona a museos y más.

Renee Barbee, vicepresidenta de marketing y operaciones de La Nueva Voz y ex planificadora de eventos, miembro de Compassionate Pomona, se ofreció este año como voluntaria para tomar la iniciativa y presidir un comité de casi una docena de líderes y miem-

bros comunitarios "para hacer que el evento de este año Incluso mejor que el año pasado".

Agradeció a los miembros del comité por su trabajo, a las numerosas organizaciones de recursos por su participación, a los animadores por sus actuaciones y a su coanfitrión Andy Quiñones, quien pasó el día actuando como maestro de ceremonias junto con ella, Quiñones, el reverendo Jan Chase y otros. Los miembros del comité trabajaron para garantizar que todo estuviera donde debía estar en el momento necesario: desde bolsas de papas fritas y botellas de agua hasta boletos para la rifa y soportes para micrófonos.

"También me gustaría agradecer a la cabo Ángela Torres del Departamento de Policía de Pomona, quien pudo traer al K-9 Tuckerman para que los niños lo disfrutaran junto con sus padres", agregó Barbee. "Fue un evento muy exitoso".

Compassionate Pomona produce cada año el Kindness Carnival, un evento gratuito para familias y que admite mascotas, para unir a la comunidad y promover la bondad y la compasión en toda la ciudad.

El evento de este año, con el tema "Unidad en la comunidad", también incluyó un tema de Halloween con muchos niños e incluso adultos vestidos con disfraces elaborados para ser juzgados en un concurso de disfraces.

El programa de tres horas incluyó música en vivo continua, bailarines aztecas y una actuación del Coro de Honores del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pomona, compuesto por 50 miembros, con canciones sobre el tema de la amistad y de los demás.

El Coro de Honores, que comenzó como un campamento coral de verano para estudiantes de sexto a octavo grado, ha evolucionado hasta convertirse en un conjunto de actuación centrado en eventos comunitarios. Está dirigida por Ryan Robinson con Michael Smith al teclado. El evento también incluyó juegos, rifas y más.

Otros actos musicales incluyeron al editor de La Nueva Voz, Jeff

Schenkel y su guitarra, Don Martens al violín, el famoso presentador de medios y cantante de Hollywood Cerdan A. Smith y otros.

Dee Dee Manzanares Ybarra, de la tribu Rumsen Am:ataj Ohlone, brindó un reconocimiento de tierra inaugural en honor al pueblo Gabrieleno, los primeros residentes de Pomona, y Donna Otero ofreció una oración nativa americana en el idioma Rumsen Ohlone agradeciendo al creador por la día y pidiendo a la gente que cuide la tierra.

Y Angelia Carillo cantó una entusiasta versión de "America the Beautiful".

También se ofrecieron lecturas, charlas y poesía durante la tarde dentro de la Biblioteca Pública de Pomona.

"También me gustaría agradecer a nuestros numerosos patrocinadores, más este año que el anterior, incluida la ciudad de Pomona, el alcalde Sandoval y los miembros del Concejo Municipal, junto con Foothill Gold Line, Atenas Services y muchos otros", dijo Barbee.

Además de proporcionar el escenario y el equipo de sonido para el evento, La Nueva Voz también fue patrocinador, donando para los premios de la rifa un televisor de pantalla plana, una bicicleta y refrigerios empaquetados para los niños.

El primer Carnaval de la Bondad se llevó a cabo hace dos años en el estacionamiento de la Iglesia Unity de Pomona, cuyo pastor Jan Chase se desempeña como "coordinador" de Compassionate Pomona y miembro senior del comité del Carnaval de la Bondad. El año pasado creció hasta convertirse en un evento en Second Street en el centro de Pomona antes de mudarse al Centro Cívico de Pomona este año.

Compassionate Pomona es una colaboración de organizaciones sin fines de lucro e individuos que trabajan para centrarse en el corazón y cómo las decisiones locales impactan las vidas de los residentes.

Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web compassatepomona.org.

Grupo de danza folclórica Pomona presenta celebración al estilo Broadway del 25 aniversario

Folklórico no te Rajes Jalisco, una verdadera iniciativa comunitaria de base que trae los festivales y tradiciones de México a Pomona, celebró su 25 aniversario el mes pasado con una actuación profesional en un auditorio lleno de gente del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pomona.

Y todo estaba incluido, desde bailarines folclóricos hasta solistas vocales, un acordeonista e incluso el acompañamiento de la Orquesta Juvenil de Pomona bajo la dirección del Maestro Carlos Mares.

Las selecciones abarcaron desde las canciones "Perfume de Gardenias" y "Veracruz" hasta "Pavido Navido" en el acordeón.

Las apariciones especiales incluyeron el Ballet Folklórico de la Escuela Primaria Lincoln de Pomona, fundada hace 20 años como un programa extraescolar, bailarines folclóricos del programa de dos años de la Escuela Primaria Kingsley, y miembros del Ballet Folklórico de Pomona High, un grupo de 11 años. -Antiguo programa con 14 bailarines bajo la dirección de Cesia Suchite.

Muy simple, la actuación emocionó a la audiencia y los padres armados con las cámaras de sus teléfonos celulares continuaron haciendo fila para acercarse y tomar ese primer plano perfecto.

Superintendente del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pomona. Darren Knowles dijo a La Nueva Voz en el evento que el distrito escolar está en el proceso de agregar formalmente las ofertas de la compañía de danza al programa extracurricular del distrito en el que las clases rotarán entre todas las escuelas primarias del distrito.

Y la ex concejal de la ciudad de Pomona, Cristina Carrizosa, que asistió al evento, se comunicó con La Nueva Voz por correo electrónico el lunes siguiente.

"Conozco a la familia desde hace muchos años y sé lo duro que han trabajado todos los miembros durante todo este tiempo", dijo.

El cantante Goretty Ornelas, en entrevista telefónica posterior al evento, dijo a La Nueva Voz que Folklórico no te Rajes Jalisco es parte del Centro Cultural Galán de Pomona, el cual fue creado hace dos años bajo una fundación for-

mada por los familiares de José Luis Ornelas, su padre. , quien falleció hace tres años por complicaciones del COVID.

Agregó que Manuel Castillejos, defensor de las artes desde hace mucho tiempo, quien murió en julio a la edad de 72 años, fue su mentor en la creación del centro cultural.

Castillejos, profesor del Mt. San Antonio College y propietario de la Escuela de Bellas Artes de Pomona, dedicó su vida a preservar y enseñar el arte, la historia, la música y la cultura hispanas.

Ornelas dijo a La Nueva Voz que el centro cultural espera poder llevar bailes folclóricos a todas las escuelas a través del programa extraescolar a partir del próximo año escolar.

Actualmente, el Centro Cultural Galán ofrece bailes folclóricos, hip hop, ritmos latinos y zumba en el centro.

Allí se ofrecen clases de baile mediante pago y la primera clase siempre es gratuita, dijo, por lo que los estudiantes de baile de todas las edades pueden probarla

Grupo de danza... pág. 20

Should I worry about venous leg ulcers?

By Martin Johnson, MD, MPH

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

You may have heard of the term “venous leg ulcer,” but what is it exactly, and who should worry about getting them?

Venous leg ulcers are a fairly common type of chronic wound that affects around 1 to 2 percent of the population. These ulcers typically occur in the lower leg and are caused by “venous insufficiency,” a condition in which the veins in the legs are unable to properly return blood to the heart. As a result, blood pools in the lower leg, leading to inflammation, swelling, and the eventual development of open sores.

Venous leg ulcers can be painful and debilitating. Symptoms of venous leg ulcers include pain, swelling, redness, and a foul-

smelling discharge from the affected area. The ulcers themselves are typically shallow, with a red or pink base and uneven edges. They may also be covered in a yellowish or greenish crust or scab.

Risk factors for venous leg ulcers include age, obesity, history of deep vein thrombosis (DVT), and a family history of venous insufficiency. Other factors that may increase the risk of developing these ulcers include prolonged sitting or standing, a sedentary lifestyle, and smoking.

Treatment for venous leg ulcers typically involves addressing the underlying cause of the condition, such as wearing compression



Dr. Martin Johnson

stockings to improve blood flow in the legs. Other treatments may include cleaning and dressing of

the wound, removing any dead tissue, and taking antibiotics to prevent infection.

In some cases, surgery may be necessary to repair or remove damaged veins in the legs. This may involve closing the affected veins by laser, foam, or a sealing solution.

Prevention of venous leg ulcers involves taking steps to improve blood flow in the legs, such as exercising regularly, avoiding prolonged sitting or standing, and elevating the legs whenever possible. Maintaining a healthy weight, quitting smoking, minimizing salt intake, and wearing compression socks can also prevent the development of these ulcers.

While there is no cure for venous leg ulcers, prompt and appropriate treatment can help alleviate symptoms and prevent complications. If you are experiencing symptoms of venous leg ulcers, it is important to seek medical attention as soon as possible to prevent further damage to the affected area.

Editor's Note: The Casa Colina Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Center offers comprehensive care designed to prevent and treat open wounds, with the overarching goal of expediting healing, minimizing complications, and averting catastrophic outcomes such as amputation. For more information, call 909/596-7733, ext. 3611 or visit casacolina.org/WoundCare.

O Lord My God Do Comfort Me

By Susie Perales

Lord, remove this cloak it is poisoning me. I feel so strange. What is this feeling of uneasiness, of sadness and restless stirring in my soul? I do not know...

What is this evil destructive seed that wakes the spark of fear and doom and deep despair? It is lurking there, but no one is looking – no time to spare.

We keep on spinning this maddening way pulled by the gravity of bitter hate. O Lord, my God, do comfort me, for I am undone by what I see...

There must be peace still left to share. Remove this cloak, it is poisoning me. Can we not see it is slowly draining our gift of life? Our world is dying, and still, we hide. The rich, the poor, none will survive.

O Lord, my God, do comfort me, for I am undone by what I see...

Lord, take this cloak from every end and cast it into the pit of endless death and bathe our souls with pure, living breath. The way You meant for it to be. Then we will be forever free!

O Lord, my God, do comfort me, for I am undone by what I see...

Editor's Note: The above poem / prayer was submitted by the author to La Nueva Voz in reaction to current developments in world affairs.

Be Kind

By Ann Houston-Sago
Member, Compassionate Pomona

Be kind to me

I've had a rough day
I'm a five-year-old kid
Who just wanted to play
The other kids laughed at me and said I talk funny
Said I looked like a frog and had teeth like a bunny
I went back inside and looked out the window instead
Can't wait to get home and go back to bed
Be kind to me
I've had a rough day
I'm just a five-year-old kid
Who wanted to play

Be kind to me

You don't know what I've seen
To protect and to serve was always my dream
To keep our streets safe and our neighborhoods safer
From this daunting task, I never waiver
My job's not always easy you see
People notice my uniform before they see me
Sometimes I think you don't understand
On the other side of this shield is just a man
Someone who has a family and dreams like you do
Someone who's always seeking the truth
Who started the mess? Who is to blame?
Do you have a description, do you have a name?
With little to go on but what I observe
Seems like the ball was pitched straight then took a curve
Nobody saw nuthin' and no one's saying a thing
Guess we'll wait on a caged bird to sing
Be kind to me
You don't know what I've seen
To protect and to serve was always my dream

Be kind to me

My job is to teach
To help form young minds as they sit in their seats
With all the distractions they have in their lives
Like Facebook and TikTok and Sister Wives
It's hard to imagine I can even compete
With fewer books to read to help make them complete
Empowered and well-rounded is who I'm tasked to create

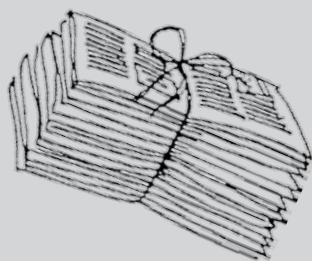
To show them all they've got what it takes
They are our future, and we know from the past
If we train them up now, the teaching will last
Untie my hands and give me the tools
To fill in the blanks often left by the fools
Who think they can legislate the history we share
Our kids need the truth, so let it lie bare
I'm doing my best to ensure they'll all grow
Into those we'll respect at the end of the road

Be kind to me

Don't view me with pity
I've set up my tent in this part of the city
Houseless I am, but homeless I'm not
Within this community, I've found a spot
Some of the greatest minds you'll ever meet
Are sleeping in tents next to mine on the street
Everyone here has a story to tell
Of their former lives just this side of hell
Bills and rent and car payments too
Paying for taxes that always come due
Paychecks too short and work weeks too long
Not enough freedom to work on my song
It's all in my head or maybe it isn't
I just know now I enjoy living
Of course,
A warm bath would be nice and a clean change of clothes
And maybe a heater when the nights get so cold
Or even a smile as you quickly walk by
Trying ever so hard not to catch my eye
Be kind to me
Don't view me with pity
I've set up my tent in this part of the city

So, if you see a sad child at end of the day
Or a teacher who has run out of words to say
If you see a peace officer who has lost their peace
Or a homeless person who lost their lease
Don't judge them by what you can see
Remember they're people just like you and me
And if it should happen to cross your mind
BE KIND

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Grupo de danza... de la pág. 18

antes de inscribirse.

La directora y coreógrafa de Folklorico no te Rajes Jalisco es Mayra Selene Sosa, quien nació y creció en Guadalajara y comenzó a bailar a los 5 años. Se unió a su primer grupo folclórico a los 11 años y se mudó a los Estados Unidos cuando tenía 16. .

Asistió a Upland High School, donde enseñó bailes folclóricos a sus compañeros a través del club MECHA (organización juvenil mexicano-americana) de la escuela.

También enseñó en el grupo de niños de la escuela Castillejos en Pomona.

Sosa se ha presentado en escenarios a nivel internacional y ha llevado a su grupo folklórico Pomona a presentarse en el Disney Concert Hall, Disneyland, Hollywood Bowl, Nokia Theatre y teatros y ferias en México, el Condado de Orange y Los Ángeles.

El programa extracurricular del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pomona, llamado "The Learning Connection", es un programa gratuito para todos los estudiantes desde jardín de infantes de transición hasta sexto grado durante el año académico. Incluye atención extraescolar y mayores oportunidades de aprendizaje en ajedrez, arte, cocina, robótica, deportes, STEM (ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas), teatro y danza, aunque actualmente el único programa de danza que se ofrece es "Hip Hop Dance". por el Centro Cultural Galán en 24 escuelas primarias sin costo alguno en una rotación de seis semanas.

El programa se extiende desde el final del día escolar hasta las 6 p.m. todos los días escolares regulares y ahora incluye "entre sesiones" y verano, según Alan Pantanini, "director asignado" que coordina el programa.

Pantanini dijo a La Nueva Voz que el programa actualmente atiende a aproximadamente 3,000 estudiantes que participan en 24 escuelas en todo el distrito.

Para obtener información sobre el programa extracurricular, comuníquese con el Centro Mendoza del Unificado de Pomona al (909) 397-4648 o con el programa The Learning Connection directamente al (909) 397-4800, ext. 28400.

Y para obtener más información sobre el Centro Cultural Galán, visite el centro en 2445 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, envíe un correo electrónico a galanculturalcenter@gmail.com o llame al (626) 483-0303 o (626) 222-2978.

La Nueva Voz...

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PEARLS of Service presents fifth annual scholarships, essay winners

PEARLS of Service, Inc., a Pomona non-profit established in 2018, announced two recipients of this year's "Renewable Scholarships" with a \$4,000 value each and another 12 \$100 "On the Spot" essay awards.

The "Renewable Scholarships," awarded last May, went to Ahjranayl Miles and Jaline Vencebi, both graduates from A. B. Miller High School in Fontana. The way it works, the first \$1,000 will be issued after proof of enrollment in college is submitted.

For four consecutive years, the recipients must take a full-time course load, show proof of enrollment and maintain an acceptable grade point average.

PEARLS of Service's first recipient, Jada Hanson, is a senior at the University of Riverside majoring in neuroscience. This month, she will receive her fourth and last scholarship.

Granting renewable scholarships is an ongoing challenge for the non-profit, according to a news release, because, according to research, Black students face obstacles in college including cost, a lack of extracurricular support, and "implicit and overt forms of racial discrimination."

The organization's signature project, the "On the Spot" essay awards, resulted in 12 winners this year – all



Jaline Vencebi, at left, and Ahjranayl Miles

high school seniors – who were announced last month.

The recipients were Ruby Parker and Isis Johnson, students at Pomona's Fremont Academy; Micah Espana, a student at Diamond Ranch High School; Damya Madge, of Pomona High; and Sarai Addai, Samira Kennebrew, Nigel Kabiro, Selah Lewis, Samiya McClain, Noel Youngblood, Cameron Champion, and Camille Winfrey, all students at Claremont High School.

The criteria included writing 250-500 word essays with content including career goal, volunteering experience, and thoughts on justice (what justice means to you).

For donations or information, email info.pearlsofservice@gmail.com or write to P.O. Box 1917, Pomona, CA 91769.



Sarai Addai
Claremont

Ruby Parker
Fremont Academy High

Samira Kennebrew
Claremont

Nigel Kabiro
Claremont



Micah Espana
Diamond Ranch

Selah Lewis
Claremont

Damya Madge
Pomona High

Samiya McClain
Claremont



Noel Youngblood
Claremont

Cameron Champion
Claremont

Camille Winfrey
Claremont

Isis Johnson
Fremont Academy High



GETTING READY TO TRY A LITTLE MENUDO -- Jerry Toledo of Chino, at right, is all set to taste a bowl of menuado in the 14th annual Chili and Menudo cook off this month at the Pomona Eagles as menuado chef Paul Antonio Verdugo looks on. Verdugo told La Nueva Voz it was his first crack at menuado, although he won the chili cook off in 2013 and placed third in 2016. And you know what's funny is Paul's also a comedian (but his chili is no joke!) -- he performs at the Comedy Store and the Hollywood Improv and does shows all over Southern California. Need a comedian for an event? Track down the Pomona native at @thepaulantonio.



Pomona Eagles Auxiliary member Lynn Talig Ferro handled the raffle prizes and tickets at this month's Chili and Menudo cook off. Stefanie Boatman's mom Patricia Marquez won first place in menudo and Boatman won third place in the chili competition.

Setting up for lunch at the Eagles Chili and Menudo cook off are Pomona's Lorraine Canales, at right, and Taylor Dang, a junior at Pomona's Village Academy High School and a volunteer at the event. Dang is president of a new city club that provides volunteers for community service that was an outgrowth of Canales' work with students before her recent retirement as a counselor at Village Academy.



Carnival kinder than ever... from pg. 9

to ensure everything was where it needed to be at the time it was needed – from bags of potato chips and water bottles to raffle tickets to microphone stands.

“I would also like to thank Corporal Angela Torres from the Pomona Police Department who was able to bring K-9 Tuckerman out for the kids to enjoy along with their parents,” Barbee added. “It was a very successful event.”

The Kindness Carnival, a free family and pet-friendly event, is produced each year by Compassionate Pomona to bring the community together and promote kindness and compassion throughout the city.

This year’s event, on the theme “Unity in the Community,” also included a Halloween theme with many children and even adults dressed in elaborate costumes to be judged in a costume contest.

The three-hour program included continuous live music, Aztec dancers, and a performance by the 50-member Pomona Unified

School District Honors Choir with songs on the theme of friendship and each other. The Honors Choir, which started as a summer choir camp for students in grades six through eight, has evolved into a performance ensemble focusing on community events. It is directed by Ryan Robinson with Michael Smith on the keyboard.

The event also included games, raffle prizes and more.

Other musical acts included La Nueva Voz publisher Jeff Schenkel and his guitar, Don Martens on the violin, Hollywood celebrity media host and singer Cerdan A. Smith and others.

An opening land acknowledgment honoring the Gabrieleno people, Pomona’s first residents, was provided by Dee Dee Manzanara Ybarra of the Rumsen Am:ataj Ohlone tribe, and Donna Otero offered a Native American prayer in the Rumsen Ohlone language thanking the creator for the day and asking people to care for the land.



Photos by Cathy Glidden

It was a Halloween theme event complete with costume contest this year and there was no shortage of participants – large and small -- who dressed up for the occasion.

And Angelia Carillo sang an enthusiastic version of “America the Beautiful.”

Readings, talks and poetry also were offered throughout the afternoon inside the Pomona Public Library.

“I would also like to thank our many sponsors – more this year than last including the City of Pomona, Mayor Sandoval and City Council members, along with Foothill Gold Line, Athens Servic-

es, and many others,” Barbee said.

In addition to providing the stage and sound equipment for the event, La Nueva Voz was also a sponsor, donating for raffle prizes a flat screen television and a bicycle and pre-packed snacks for the kids.

The first Kindness Carnival was held two years ago in the parking lot of Pomona’s Unity Church, whose Pastor Jan Chase serves as “convenor” of Compassionate Pomona and a senior Kindness Car-

nival committee member. It grew last year into an event on Second Street in Downtown Pomona before moving to the Pomona Civic Center this year.

Compassionate Pomona is a collaborative of non-profits and individuals working to focus on the heart and how local decisions impact the lives of residents.

For more information, visit the web site at compassionatepomona.org.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

Pomona is blessed to have our own newspaper that covers the good news in our city, thus not only spreading the news of the blessings that happen here every day, but also inspiring our community to get involved.

I was blessed to receive a Legacy Award from the Pomona Valley Democratic Club Friday night, Oct. 20. In my very abbreviated list of people, I mentioned Compassionate Pomona (but) I failed to mention Renee Barbee and La Nueva Voz. Not only does Renee attend almost every meeting held twice each month, but she also chaired our recent and very successful Kindness Carnival.

Since our mission is to spread compassion throughout our city, we are delighted that Pomona’s newspaper is willing to publish articles each month written by some of our many partners about compassion – thus, helping raise the consciousness of this amazing city into even greater compassion and connection.

Thank you, Renee and Jeff, for your outstanding work.

Rev. Jan Chase

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Photo by Cathy Glidden



Photos by Renee Barbee



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY IN POMONA -- Drummers and dancers were setting the mood for the day in Pomona's Ganesha Park for the annual Indigenous People's Day in Pomona. For the fifth year in a row, the State of California proclaimed the day to recognize "the integral role of indigenous peoples in the origins, evolution and future of the state." "Home to the largest and most diverse population of indigenous peoples prior to European contact, California inherits a rich, indigenous cultural legacy while bearing the responsibility of its historical role in the near-destruction of California Native peoples through their violent dislocation. Now, as we continue our journey toward atonement for those actions, we must learn from our mistakes by fostering a California that is safe, sustainable and embraces all," the proclamation continued. It was signed by Gov. Newsom.



Photo by Renee Barbee

Organizers of Pomona's Indigenous People's Day are, from left, Professor Sandy Dixon, chair of the Department of Ethnic and Women's Studies at Cal Poly University Pomona, DeeDee Manzanares Ybarra, tribal chair of Rumsen Am:a Tur:ataj Ohlone, and David Ybarra.



Photo Cathy Glidden

ASSEMBLYMEMBER RODRIGUEZ HONORS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY IN POMONA -- Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and his wife Michelle stopped by Pomona's Indigenous People's Day observance in Ganesha Park this month to present a certificate of recognition to its organizers. Pictured, from left, are Jess and Alice Gomez, Rodriguez, DeeDee Manzanares Ybarra, tribal chair of Rumsen Am:a Tur:ataj Ohlone, Michelle Rodriguez, and Donna Manzanares Otero, tribal secretary.



Photo by Renee Barbee

ELDERS PRESENT AT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY IN POMONA -- Pomona's Gustavo Ramirez, at right, poses for the La Nueva Voz camera at this month's Indigenous People's Day with his father, Ed Ramirez, 95. Ramirez is holding a copy of his "The Stars Above Pomona" poem which he wrote as a member of the organization Compassionate Pomona. The poem appeared in last month's issue of La Nueva Voz.



HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED -- Pictured is a memorial that was on display at this month's Indigenous People's Day honoring those who passed away during the past year. It reads "Remembering our friends and family as they journey to the spirit world."



Need some authentic regalia for the event or during the year? They had it at Pomona's Indigenous People's Day observance in Ganesha, along with booths with everything from jewelry, drums, authentic foods and more.

Pumpkin festival time winding down at Cal Poly Pomona!



There's only one more weekend left to visit the Cal Poly Pomona Pumpkin Fest month-long event next to the Farm Store at Cal Poly. There are plenty of pumpkins left but the hill above the Farm Store started with some 35,000 university-grown pumpkins, live entertainment, vendors and more. The university celebrated its 30th anniversary of the pumpkin festival this year, now produced by the university's College of Agriculture. For tickets and more information, visit pumpkinfestival.cpp.edu.

Please visit our web site at www.lanuevavoz.net to see the latest issue of La Nueva Voz, past issues and more!