

Pomona city councilmembers – including new faces – sworn in

The November election is over, the results have been certified, most of the political signs have been removed from fences and front yards, and most of the newly elected and returning officials have been sworn in – many of them taking the opportunity of a swearing in ceremony to promise once again that their election platforms will become their personal agenda during their term in office.



Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, at left, administers the oath of office to Pomona City Councilmember Lorraine Canales as Ruby Jung, at right, holds the Bible.



Retired Pomona Deputy Police Chief Hector Rodriguez, at left, administers the oath of office to Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin as PUSD Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, at right, holds the Bible.



Pomona City Clerk Rosalia Butler, at left, swears in Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole as Alice Gomez, at right, holds the Bible.



Pomona City Clerk Rosalia Butler, at right, swears in Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval as City Manager Anita Scott holds the Bible.

Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez sworn in, introduces first bill on first day

Pomona's new Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez, sworn into office in Sacramento on Dec. 2 to represent California's Assembly District 53, hit the ground running introducing her first bill on day one – Assembly Bill 63, a measure to help reduce human trafficking in her district and in California as a whole.



FIRST BILL ON FIRST DAY -- Pomona's new Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez, pictured at right on the floor of the Assembly in Sacramento, hands in her first bill on her first day in office this month to Assembly Assistant Chief Clerk Hugh R. Slayden. The measure, AB 63, would update existing law to help reduce human trafficking.

Rodriguez... pg. 2

And the Pomona City Council – where members were sworn in at their Dec. 9 meeting – is as good an example as anywhere, particularly because the make-up – and balance – of the council has changed more than it has in years.

Lorraine Canales, the new face on the council but long a familiar face in Pomona (as an educator, a service club leader and a community volunteer), has settled into her seat representing District 6 after defeating Miranda Sheffield 53.79 percent to 46.21 percent.

"I am deeply committed to helping District 6 and all of Pomona's residents achieve greater safety and improved access to

vital resources," Canales said in comments at the ceremony. "My goal is to create a meaningful impact on people's lives through collaboration. I am dedicated to fairness and doing what's best for the community."

She added that she has prioritized three core principles – communication, transparency and availability, and will address key issues including public safety, homelessness, community programs, prostitution prevention and housing stability.

And Debra Martin is back on the council (she served one term previously from 2012 to 2016) after defeating incumbent John Nolte in District 1 (58.54 percent to 41.46 percent).

Martin addressed her comments at the ceremony to "the voters of District 1."

"Thank you for believing in me," she said. "I have met so many wonderful residents of whom some are here this evening. Your stories will never be forgotten."

"You have made it clear that you want change and a strong voice for your concerns," Martin added. "I'm committed to make the quality of life better for everyone."

She also recognized outgoing Councilmember John Nolte.

"Your compassion and care for the underserved have left a legacy that we will always remember."
Councilmembers sworn in... pg. 2



Mental Health Services Act

COMMUNITY FORUM

Foro Comunitario | La Ley de Servicios de Salud Mental



Make your voice heard!

Help us improve the health and wellness of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne.

This is an opportunity for the community to get updates, share feedback, and ask questions about current programs funded by the MHSA at Tri-City Mental Health Authority. We will also provide an update on Proposition 1 and its potential impact, as we prepare for future changes.

¡Su opinión cuenta!

Ayúdenos a mejorar la salud y el bienestar de Pomona, Claremont y La Verne.

Esta es una oportunidad para que la comunidad obtenga información, exprese su opinión y haga preguntas sobre los programas financiados por la ley MHSA en la Autoridad de Salud Mental de Tri-City. También, compartiremos una actualización sobre la Proposición 1 y su posible impacto, mientras nos preparamos para los cambios futuros.



Join us in person or via Zoom | ¡Acompañenos en persona o por Zoom!

Alexander Hughes Community Center
1700 Danbury Rd. Claremont, CA 91711

January 29, 2025
29 de enero de 2024
5:30 PM-7 PM

- Dinner included!
- Transportation available upon request.

Get involved at | Participe en
tricitymhs.org/mhsa
tricitymhs.org | @tricitymhs



Councilmembers sworn in... from pg. 1

ber,” she said.

Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole held on to her seat in District 4 with 54.54 percent of the vote over challenger Guillermo Gonzalez, who had 45.46 percent.

Mayor Tim Sandoval, who was also sworn in for a third term, defeated his closest challenger then-Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez in the March primary election with 52.71 percent of the vote (with more than 50 percent of the vote, he was not required to run again in the runoff).

The brief Dec. 9 council meeting was held to allow councilmembers to approve a resolution to officially adopt the election results and to administer the oaths of office to newly elected officials.

And at Pomona Unified School District, Board President Arturo Jimenez came out on top with 72.54 percent of the vote, and political newcomer Tamara Gonzalez won with 60.38 percent of the vote in her run for the seat held for the past four years by Lorena Gonzalez (no relation) who did not seek reelection.



Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, at left (rear), swears in PUSD Board President Arturo Jimenez, at right, during the school board's Dec. 11 meeting. Jimenez was reelected to a second term in the Nov. 5 election. From left are his wife, Monica Medina-Jimenez (holding a Bible), Perlman, PUSD Supt. Darren Knowles (assisting) and Jimenez.



PUSD Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, at left, administers the oath of office to new Board member Tamara Gonzalez at the Dec. 11 board meeting. Pictured, from left, are Perlman, Gonzalez and, assisting, PUSD Supt. Darren Knowles.

Mt. SAC to launch bachelor's degree in 2025

Mt. San Antonio College is currently accepting applications for a new bachelor's degree in histotechnology in a program that is scheduled to begin in the fall.

The new offering enables Mt.

SAC to join 29 other California community colleges offering bachelor's degrees, something made possible by legislation passed in 2014 and 2021 as long as Cal State University or University of California campuses

do not offer the same degree.

Histotechnicians prepare thin sections of human, animal and plant tissue for microscopic examination. Mt. SAC has offered an Associate of Science degree in the field since 2001.

Rodriguez... from pg. 1

While existing state law prohibits false imprisonment and human trafficking with the intent to obtain forced labor or services with the intent to engage in extortion or specified sex offenses, AB 63 would make technical changes to those provisions, according to the legislative counsel's digest.



OATH OF OFFICE -- Newly elected Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez takes the oath of office on the floor of the California Assembly in Sacramento this month on her first day on the job.

AB 63 requires that persons found guilty of human trafficking “shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for (between 5 and 20) years and a fine of not more than \$500,000.”

Rodriguez said she introduced the bill to “increase public safety and protections in the community.”

“Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world where people profit from the control and exploitation of

others,” she said. “It involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to gain some type of labor or sexual acts from those being exploited.”

“Without protections and immediate action, we risk losing more innocent lives to the human trafficking industry that continues to profit off the lives of those affected,” Rodriguez added.

She said human trafficking affects millions of people worldwide each year.

A news release early this month announcing her swearing in said Rodriguez will prioritize improving air and water quality and expanding access to affordable healthcare. And she is dedicated to promoting economic growth, tackling homelessness with compassionate solutions, ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women, and strengthening schools and higher education to better prepare students for an evolving workforce.

“Together, we will work for affordable housing, good jobs, safer neighborhoods, strong schools, accessible healthcare and protecting our rights,” Rodriguez said. “I’m ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work.”

Final certified results of the Nov. 5 election showed Rodriguez defeated challenger Nick Wilson with 57.6 percent of the vote to Wilson’s 42.4 percent.

The 53rd Assembly District includes the cities of Pomona, Ontario, Chino, Montclair and Upland.

HELP WANTED

FOR IN-HOME FOSTER CARE

Help us help others!

Se habla Español

EVERYONE WELCOME



- REQUIREMENTS:**
- Must be 21 Years Old
 - Proof of Income
 - Own Transportation
 - Pass a Biometric Check
 - Space Available

- AGENCY PROVIDES:**
- Free Training
 - Tax Free Reimbursement
 - 24/7 Social Worker Support
 - Medical for Children
 - Activities For All Families



SMILES AND TEARS
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY

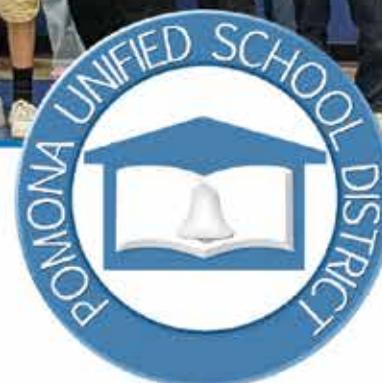
Call Now To Schedule a Free Orientation:
909-469-9580

925 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA 91767

e-mail: admin@smilesandtears.org • www.smilesandtears.org



CDSS License
#197806568



CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF OVER 443 RECLASSIFIED STUDENTS IN PUSD

This year, over 443 students—from Kindergarten to 12th grade, including 31 dually identified as English Learners and students with disabilities—have achieved English proficiency and been reclassified. Their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to excellence have been key to this monumental milestone in their educational journey.

Each of these students has faced challenges, overcome obstacles, and stayed dedicated to their goals. And today, we celebrate their success. Across all our Pomona Unified School District campuses, we honor the incredible progress they've made.

This achievement is not just a milestone for them—it's a reflection of the core values of our Master Plan for English Learners/Multilingual students. At Pomona Unified, we believe every student deserves the chance to succeed.

We ensure that all students, no matter their background, have equitable opportunities to reach their full potential and excel academically. To all of our students: you've shown the true meaning of dedication. Congratulations on your outstanding achievements!



Fairplex offers new year-round admission pass

Fairplex has launched a new year-round pass featuring admission to unlimited fun at selected popular Fairplex events including the Los Angeles County Fair.

A half a dozen Fairplex-produced events are included in the offer, along with "family friendly" events like Fall in the Farm, the RailGiants Historic Train Museum, and even food vouchers to use at events, perks at Sheraton Fairplex Hotel and more.

Included in addition to the Fair are KABOOM!, Oktoberfest, Lights Out! For Halloween, En Memoria Day of the Dead celebration, and the Imagination holiday light show.

The 2025 pass is available in three tiers from the Diamond Pass at \$699, a Platinum Pass for \$199 and a Gold Pass for \$89.

For more information or to buy a Fairplex Annual Pass, visit Fairplex.com.



POMONA ROTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH -- Members of Pomona Rotary honored their students of the month last month at the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley. Pictured, front row, from left, are student winners Dunya Hakkak, of Pomona's City of Knowledge School; Jessenia Moreira, of Pomona High School; Steven Gomez-Landaverde, of Ganesha High School; Naomi Villegas, of Garey High School; Gilbert Raygoza, of Park West High School; Kawi Silva, of Village Academy High School; Karol Ramirez-Gamboa, of the School of Extended Educational Options; and Aundrea Marquez, of Pomona Catholic School. Back row, from left, are Dr. Haleema Shaiky, principal at Pomona's City of Knowledge School; Rotary members Lorraine Canales, Curt Annett, Carol Wilt, Jill Dolan, Darren Knowles, Darren Krohn, Victor Caceres, John Forbing and Josh Landis. Not pictured are students Christopher Suryadi, of Diamond Ranch High School, and Adrian Arturo Diaz-Pancho, of Fremont Academy. The awards program recognizes students who have overcome various types of challenges but still remain committed to their academics.





GUTIERREZ LAW FIRM

- Civil Rights *Derechos Civiles*
- Worker's Compensation *Compensacion al Trabajador*
- Criminal Law *Casos Criminales*
- Family Law *Casos de Familia*
- Accidents *Accidentes*
- Bankruptcy *Bancarrota*
- Conservatorships *Tutela*



James (Jaime) Gutierrez, Esq.
Hablamos Español

301 W Mission Blvd. Suite 8
Pomona, CA 91766

Across from the Pomona Courthouse
M - F 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Email: jpsglaw@gmail.com
Website: gutierrezlaw.info

(909) 791-1313



Photos by Renee Barbee
COMMUNITY EVENT AT THE LASSIE HOUSE -- It was the seventh annual "Community Christmas Event" at Pomona's "Lassie House" this month as nearly 400 neighbors stopped by the home of Ray and Michelle Adamyk, who hosted everything from free hamburgers right off the In-N-Out truck to sheep, donkeys and even a camel in the front yard, and the Pomona High School cheerleaders. Pictured is Ray Adamyk personally handing a burger to one of his guests. Adamyk said it was their way of connecting with neighbors and getting the community in the Christmas spirit. He and his wife named their home the "Lassie House" because the house, built in 1897, was the boyhood home of Jon Provost, who played "Timmy" in the television series "Lassie."

Editor's Note: This page is the ninth in a series of a Phase Three statewide program with three focus areas -- "Anti-Hate," "Socioeconomic Justice and Equity" and "Health." The program is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs as part of the "Stop the Hate" program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to <https://www.cavshate.org/>.

Hate, Justice, Equity and Health – Phase Three of an on-going series as La Nueva Voz participates in a statewide program as newspapers attempt to help make a difference

Shootings down in Pomona, hate crimes highest ever in Los Angeles County

By Jeff Schenkel, Publisher

Last month in this space we mentioned that, after three years of writing these "socioeconomic justice and equity" stories, we have seen evidence of improvement in some of the benchmark "anti-hate" areas. Specifically, a recent "WalletHub" survey showed that California is ranked as the fifth best state in the country for civic racial equality.

The survey group explained that means a narrowing of the gap in areas like single-parent households, the volunteer rate and voter turnout. Apparently, promoting racial equality in civic engagement helps provide minorities with greater opportunities to hold influential positions and make society more equitable. Who knew, right?

Plus, Pomona was looking good here, as well. Pedro Payne of Pomona's Office of Violence Prevention just released figures showing in the year since his new office was created, general shootings in Pomona are down 22 percent over the previous year, and gun homicides have been cut in half.

His numbers were compiled in October (see story page 7).

Yes, there is a "but" coming.

This month, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations released its annual hate crimes report showing that, in Los Angeles County, a sharp increase in victimization across multiple groups resulted in the highest total of hate crimes ever reported.

So, this begs the question whether the numbers are up because more incidences of hate are occurring or, since all of these "stop the hate" stories in newspapers throughout California are getting word out about how to report, telephone numbers to call and e-mails to write, more people are reporting hate crimes.

Of course, we are splitting hairs here. It really is not important how or why the numbers went up. (Actually, it is for Pomona's Office of Violence Prevention and other groups like it – they need to know why so they can plan their strategy for years to come.) The fact of the matter is we all have a lot more work to do – the Pedro Paynes of the world, law enforcement, newspapers, radio and television, electronic media and more.

So how bad is it? First, consider this – the Commission on Human Relations has compiled and produced its annual report every year since 1980, incorporating data submitted by more than 100 law enforcement agencies, educational institutions and community-based organizations.

"Following three years of double-digit increases, reported hate crimes in Los Angeles County drastically increased 45 percent from 930 to 1,350, the largest number in the history of this report," according to the commission's news release.

Key findings in the report include data highlighting the disproportionate victimization of African Americans, high rates of violence against transgender individuals and Latino/as, the largest number of hate crimes targeting Asians, Jewish people, Latino/as, LGBT individuals, and transgender people.

Additionally, the report notes an increase in the use of anti-immigrant slurs, a surge in hate crimes related to Middle Eastern conflicts, and the highest number of hate crimes linked to White supremacist ideology.

Then, the news release pointed out, that as we suggested above, another important finding is that part of the growth in reported hate crimes is due to the increased use by hate crime victims of the reporting mechanism of LAvsHate.org and 211, which added more than 50 reported hate crimes to the total.

It was the third largest source of hate crime reports in 2023, exceeded only by the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

So perhaps there really is an upside to all of these ease in reporting opportunities.

"Although the numbers reported today are unprecedented for multiple communities throughout L.A. County, they signal that more people are coming forward to report hate crimes and are refusing to accept the normalization of hate," said Helen Chin, president of the Commission on Human Relations. "The anti-hate programs led by our commission provide L.A. County residents with a system where people can report hate and receive help."

"By standing together, we can extinguish hate and discrimination in every community and

reinforce that hate and discrimination have no place here," she added.

Robin Toma, the commission's executive director, said Los Angeles County is experiencing what the rest of the country is experiencing – a continuing increase in hate crimes – and is "ramping up our programs to meet the challenge."

But he agreed part of the increase is a direct result of the ease of reporting crimes and of receiving free services and support.

Even so, he said that by "analyzing the patterns and trends in hate crimes, we can better understand where our efforts need to be focused and how we can prevent such acts in the future."

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Pro Tem Hilda Solis said the rise in incidents across the county is "very troubling."

"Hate has no place in our society, and today we have an opportunity to combat hate and prejudice," Solis said. "I have long led efforts to address incidents of hate countywide, including initiating the launch of the LA vs Hate campaign and securing its funding back in 2018."

"Every resident in Los Angeles County deserves to feel safe and secure year-round," she said.

Findings in the report showed anti-transgender crimes represented a 125 percent increase, religious crimes spiked 90 percent, African Americans represented 49 percent of racial hate crime victims, and anti-LGBT crimes rose 48 percent.

Anti-Latino/a crimes rose 19 percent – from 121 to 144, the highest number ever recorded.

And anti-Asian crimes, after dipping the previous year, increased 31 percent.

There were 209 crimes with evidence of White supremacist ideology in 2023, the highest number ever recorded, comprising 15 percent of all reported hate crimes.

Hate crimes in which anti-immigrant slurs were used climbed 31 percent.

Crimes in which specific language regarding conflict in the Middle East was involved sharply increased from 2 to 64 and accounted for 5 percent of all hate crimes.

In the meantime, looking back a bit, La Nueva Voz received several news releases that, until now, were not published. For example, a group called the ACT Against Hate Alliance, a group of "heavy hitters" from law enforcement, formed in 2023 to discuss strategies for combatting the trend of victimizing Asian Americans.

Jim McDonnell, now Los Angeles Police Chief and a more than 30-year veteran of law enforcement, attributed some of the near-doubling of hate crime reports in the last decade to inflammatory leaders and unchecked social media that "encourages people who can hide in the dark" to anonymously spew hate encouraging and rewarding like-minded others for "something very hurtful to our community."

"We dedicate a ton of resources to hate crimes," said FBI Special Agent Brian Gilhooly, who oversees criminal investigations across seven Southern California counties dealing with gangs, narcotics, violent crime, hate crime, public corruption, crimes against children and fraud.

"If you tolerate it, you encourage it," said San Ramon Police Chief Denton Carlson, whose department in Northern California was able to rapidly respond and to defuse some incidents over the holidays two years ago. "If you don't take actions to stop it, it's just going to keep occurring and flourish."

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, the first person of Filipino descent and the second Asian American to hold the position, told members of California's Ethnic Media Services during a United Against Hate summit at Fresno City College, that an increasing number of hate crimes are being reported in California but convictions continue to remain low.

"They require a proof of intent," he explained. "By design, a hate crime must originate with the hate element, which is often difficult to establish."

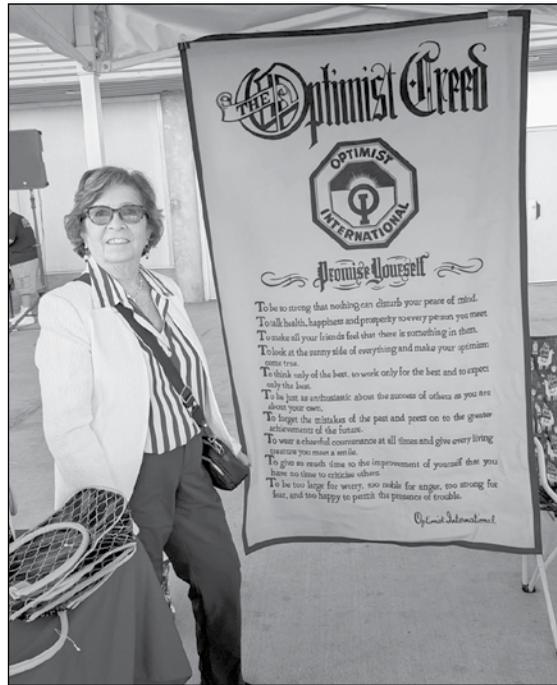
He urged victims of a hate crime to gather up as much evidence as possible and to get details.

"We have leaders who use the most toxic, xenophobic language," he added. "They give license to others."

The bottom line is that there is, in fact, much more that needs to be done. And the topic will continue to be a subject of reporting by news media outlets everywhere, including La Nueva Voz.



Pomona Optimist President Lorraine Canales poses for a holiday photo with Santa (John Forbing).



Ruby Jung was holding down the fort at the Optimists booth at the fundraiser.



Members of the Pomona Optimists held a huge fundraiser and car show at the Village at Indian Hill this month and Rudy Herrera was the cook. And he was doing a great job on the hot dogs!

City of Pomona, Athens announce first annual recycling award winners

Pomona city officials and representatives of Athens Services last week announced that Sheraton Fairplex won the “large business” award and ProlineMax won the “small business” award as 2024 recycling award winners.

Pomona City Manager Anita Scott presented the awards at the Sheraton Fairplex hotel in what is expected to become an annual recognition program.

ProlineMax is a small business on line retailer in Pomona, and Sheraton Fairplex operates the hotel and conference center on the Pomona Fairplex campus.

Athens Services, Pomona’s trash disposal company for both commercial and residential customers, is responsible for implementing the city’s recycling program.

California is working on a “Zero Waste Plan,” due for publication in 2026, through policy and legislative changes to drive the state to “zero waste” by reducing, reusing, repairing and recycling resources.

Included are recycling programs already in place for bottles, cans, mattresses, used tires and more.



LIGHTING THE LIGHTS AT CITY HALL -- Pomona City Councilmembers assembled on the steps of City Hall as Mayor Tim Sandoval flipped the switch to light the holiday lights in the Pomona Civic Center. And Santa (John Schmidt) kept busy himself off to the side during the evening’s activities. From left posing for photos behind a huge light switch are Councilmembers Nora Garcia, Robert Torres, Sandoval, John Nolte and Victor Preciado.

Pomona’s Only Community Newspaper!

Advertising with us is easy!

www.lanuevavoz.net

La Nueva Voz

The Inland Empire’s Leading Bilingual Newspaper
A division of **South Coast Media Services**
Providing media relations services since 1983

(909) 629-2292 • www.lanuevavoz.net
P.O. Box 1117 • Pomona, CA 91769

Member:

California News Publishers Association

Member:

Latino Media Collaborative

Complete and searchable La Nueva Voz archives on Pomona Public Library web site.
<https://pomona.gov/ppl-digital-collections>
and go to page 2 for La Nueva Voz.

Publisher: Jeff Schenkel

Tel: (909) 224-0244 • jeffschenkel@verizon.net

V.P. of Marketing & Operations: Renee Barbee
Cell: (909) 762-1446 • reneebarbee7@gmail.com

Layout & Design: Dora Cruz
dcruz1549@gmail.com

Subscriptions by mail \$49 per year.
Call (909) 629-2292.

All major credit cards accepted!



Printed using soy-based inks.
Copyright © 2024 South Coast Media Services

All rights reserved.
Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

Year-old Pomona Office of Violence Prevention reports gun homicides cut in half

The City of Pomona's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), celebrating its first year of operation, had some impressive statistics to report – general shootings year-to-date are down 22 percent as compared to 2023, and gun homicides have decreased by 50 percent compared to this time last year.

Division Manager Pedro Payne, who created and is heading up the new office for the city which was established in October 2023, called the statistics “encouraging milestones . . . demonstrating (the office’s) dedication to reducing violence, supporting survivors, and building a safer community.”

“The OVP’s first year is a powerful testament to the leadership and vision of our city administration, as well as the strength of collaboration, innovative strategies, and community-centered action,” Payne said in his report. “Together, we are building a safer, more vibrant Pomona and laying the foundation for a brighter, more hopeful future.”

“We must sustain this vital effort – this is just the beginning,” he added. “There is still so much work to do.”

Payne reported the OVP has partnered with more than 12 new community-based organizations to “expand our collective reach and impact.”

The office hosted a “peace walk” with more than 180 participants in Downtown Pomona to honor survivors of violence, and participated in more than 24 community presentations. It also hosted more than 12 park “pop-up” events, connecting directly with residents to promote safety and resources.

In what was called a “Peace-

maker Fellowship Program,” OVP has recruited more than 40 individuals identified as being at high risk of becoming involved in gun violence, “empowering them to commit to promoting peace and reducing violence in their communities.”

The OVP, created a year ago under an initial \$5 million state grant to help end gun violence, also has secured another \$8 million state



Pedro Payne

grant to implement a new low-level crime diversion program in Pomona over the next four years.

And the year-old office – which is based in the office of the Pomona city manager – has received official recognition from Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis for its efforts in violence prevention.

Payne, who has accumulated more than two decades of experience in social justice working in both the public and private sectors, has focused throughout his career on a commitment to initiatives aimed at addressing community violence and social disparities.

For more information, visit the web site at www.pomonaca.gov/ovp or e-mail Payne at Pedro.Payne@pomonaca.gov.

Former ‘PEARLS’ scholarship winner working on mental health in Black community

Pomona-based PEARLS of Service “renewable scholarship” recipient Daysia (Kee) Sloan, addressing the annual PEARLS of Service scholarship mixer this month at Pomona’s DoubleTree Hotel, told guests she is building a new business “Divinely Healed” to help improve mental health in the Black community.

Sloan, of Riverside and currently a senior at Spelman College in Atlanta majoring in psychology, told the audience she hopes to become a marriage and family therapist.

From her beginnings as president of the Black Students Union and “cheer” captain in high school, she has gone on to become president of “Atlanta University Center Chill,” a mental health organization on campus.

She has also achieved Dovey Johnson Scholar status (the program recognizes well-qualified students and challenges them to explore their potential) and is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta.

Sloan, the second “renewable



Daysia Sloan

scholarship” at PEARLS, is attending Spelman on a “free ride” scholarship that includes tuition, fees, room and board for four years.

Her “renewable scholarship” awards her with \$1,000 a year for four years, as long as her college education continues without a gap. Recipients must maintain a full-time status and

a 3.0 grade point average.

Another PEARLS scholarship, the “perseverance renewable award,” also good for four years, requires maintaining a 2.5 GPA.

“Renewable scholarship” winners to date include Jada Hanson of Etiwanda High School, Sloan, who attended Elsinore High School in Lake Elsinore, Taelen Cobb of Pomona High School, Jaline Vencebi, of A.B. Miller High School in Fontana, and Ahjranayl Miles, also of A.B. Miller High School in Fontana.

Winners of the 2024-25 essay project are Christyna Armstrong Christian Lewis and Keyshawn Franklin of Claremont High, and Kikila Johnson and Patrick McKinnie of Pomona’s Fremont Academy. All were recipients of \$100 scholarships.

The second session essay contest begins in February. Interested students may e-mail [info.pearlsofservice@gmail.com](mailto:pearlsofservice@gmail.com).



Photos by Renee Barbee

Foundations of Change founder Lucy Ramos poses with some of the toys for the kids this month at Hamilton Park in Pomona. Ramos and her husband and co-founder Mike Ramos organized the group a year ago. It was the group’s first toy give-away.

COOKIES WITH SANTA IN THE PARK -- Members of the year-old non-profit Foundations of Change through Youth held a “Cookies with Santa” event this month at Hamilton Park that included, of course, the cookies and a toy give-away to kids in the neighborhood. Pictured is a happy customer enjoying a cookie while posing for a photo with Santa and mom. Foundations of Change provides street outreach mentoring, case management, “safe passages” and street mediation. For more information, reach out to them on Instagram, e-mail lramos@salvationofchange.org or call (626) 210-7828.

Interested in who has been arrested by Pomona Police in Pomona?

Please check our weekly listing at <http://www.lanuevavoz.net> and click on “Arrest Logs” on our home page.

La Nueva Voz Newspaper in Pomona, CA

The New Voice (La Nueva Voz), a Bilingual (English/Spanish) Publication.
Pomona’s Only Community Newspaper! Advertising with us is easy!

www.lanuevavoz.net



California Highway Patrol Officers Jovanniray Alvarez and Jeffrey Phillips were honored by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce this month at the annual "Holiday for Heroes" luncheon in Downtown Pomona. The two were credited with stopping a wrong-way driver on the San Bernardino Freeway by forcing a head-on collision with their patrol unit, preventing possible injury to others. Pictured, from left, are CHP Baldwin Park office Lt. Saul Gomez, Alvarez, Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, Phillips, Baldwin Park CHP office Capt. Vic Walton, and Pomona Chamber Board Chair Nef Cortez.



POMONA CHAMBER 'HOLIDAY FOR HEROES' -- Pomona Police Sgt. Ernie Rios was honored by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce this month at the group's annual "Holiday for Heroes" event at Fuego in Downtown Pomona, held each year to express gratitude to Pomona's courageous heroes. Rios, who joined the department in 2007, was selected because of his "extraordinary dedication" and his "working to ensure the safety and well-being of our community." From left are Lt. Alyssa Bostrom, Rios, Chamber Board Chair Nef Cortez, and Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles.



Los Angeles County Fire Capt. Jeremy Frye, a 16-year member of the fire department, was honored by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce this month for his continuous efforts to improve the department's training programs, including his work on a department-wide fire fighter survival training program. Pictured, from left, are Acting Assistant Fire Chief Dustin Robertson, Battalion Chief Jeremy Montgomery, Frye and, presenting a certificate from the City of Pomona, Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin.



Pomona Police Officer Kevin Guillen was honored at the Pomona Chamber of Commerce "Holiday for Heroes" luncheon this month for two recent life-saving efforts in the city. From left are Guillen, Chamber Board Chair Nef Cortez, and Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles.



U.S. Army veteran Rene Ellender, who served in Iraq in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, with missions including both combat and peacekeeping operations, was honored by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce this month during "Holiday for Heroes" ceremonies. Also honored as a U.S. Marine Corps veteran was Devonte Lee, who is not pictured. From left are Pomona Chamber Board Chair Nef Cortez, Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, and Ellender.

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

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

- Pomona City Hall lobby
- Pomona library
- Claremont library
- Claremont City Hall lobby
- La Verne City Hall lobby
- La Verne Senior Citizens Center
- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Pomona Post Office (rack on sidewalk)
- Walgreens, 495 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- CVS, 150 W. Willow St., Pomona
- CVS, 1485 S. Garey Ave., Pomona
- Western University of Health Sciences Patient Care Center
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaunderLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona

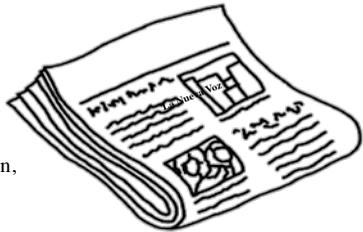


Photo by Renee Barbee

HONORING SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ROBERTA PERLMAN -- Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman was recognized this month by the Pomona Public Library Foundation for "pouring in more than a decade of her time volunteering and keeping the Homework Club up and running," according to foundation president Bree Devones Hsieh. The club at the Pomona Public Library provides students with after-school tutors to help with homework and provide support. Pictured at the Homework Club's holiday party are, from left, new Pomona City Councilmembers Lorraine Canales and Debra Martin, Perlman, new Pomona Unified School District Board member Tamara Gonzalez and PUSD Board member Patricia Tye.

Need to advertise in La Nueva Voz?

(909) 629-2292 • www.lanuevavoz.net



Leading the Way in Patient Safety



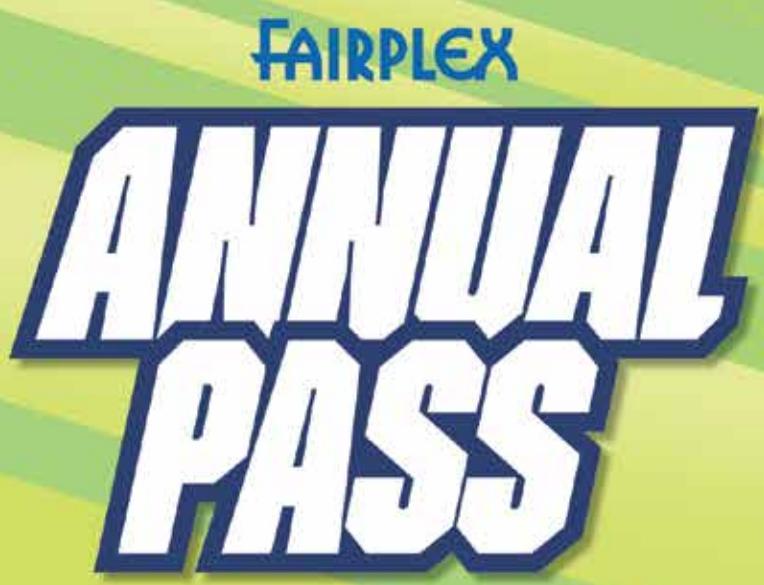
The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is an elite designation from The Leapfrog Group, a national, independent watchdog that sets the highest standards for patient safety in the United States.

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) has earned the nation's top distinction for patient safety with an "A" hospital safety grade from the Leapfrog Group for the third consecutive time. This grade recognizes our high standards in patient safety. This honor belongs to every one of our 4,000 Associates and 700 Physicians, who work every day to provide exceptional health care for our patients.



Expert care with a personal touch

1798 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA 91767 • 909.865.9500
www.pvhmc.org   



BECOME AN **ANNUAL PASS** HOLDER AND ENJOY ADMISSION TO EVENTS YEAR-ROUND.





BUY NOW!

DIAMOND, PLATINUM and GOLD passes* available.

Visit Fairplex.com/annualpass today and get access to Imaginarium free in 2024!

**restrictions apply to each pass, see website for details*

2024 **PROLOGUE** EX 2WD

\$189 + tax per month for 24 months

DOWN PAYMENT: \$1,500

[CHECK THE OFFER](#)

2024 **PROLOGUE**

\$6,000 Dealer Lease Bonus*
+ \$3,500 Lease Bonus*
+ \$7,500 U.S. EV Tax Credit*
+ \$1,000 Lease Loyalty / Conquest Bonus*

[CLAIM OFFER](#)

0% APR FOR UP TO 72 MONTHS

ON 2024 Prologue

[CHECK THE OFFER](#)

2024 **ZDX** A-SPEC RWD 1-SPD AT

LEASE SPECIAL

\$299 /mo. for 27 months + tax

\$4,999 due at signing

[CHECK THE OFFER](#)

ALL-ELECTRIC 2024 ZDX

\$7,500 Dealer Lease Launch Bonus*
+ \$4,000 Lease Loyalty/Conquest Bonus*
+ \$2,500 Dealer Savings Bonus*
+ \$1,650 Launch Lease Bonus*
+ \$7,500 U.S. EV Tax Credit*

[CLAIM OFFER](#)

0% APR for up to 72 months

On New 2024 ZDX

9399 Autoplex Drive, Montclair, CA 91763 • (909) 625-5000

metrohonda.com

GetCareNow!

Reserve your ER arrival time for non-life threatening emergencies.



Faster treatment so they'll get back to being rock stars!

With **GetCareNow**, you have the power to schedule your arrival time, minimizing wait times and ensuring prompt attention from our dedicated medical team. Scan the QR code to reserve your ER arrival time.

CHINO:
cvmc.com/getcarenow



Chino Valley Medical Center
Emergency Room
5451 Walnut Avenue
909-464-8600

MONTCLAIR:
montclair-hospital.org/getcarenow



Montclair Hospital Medical Center
Emergency Room
5000 San Bernardino Street
909-625-5411

SAN DIMAS:
sandimashospital.com/getcarenow



San Dimas Community Hospital
Emergency Room
1350 Covina Boulevard
909-599-6811



Chino Valley Medical Center
Montclair Hospital Medical Center
San Dimas Community Hospital

Members of Prime Healthcare | Inland Empire Region

TRUVEN HEALTH ANALYTICS

15 TOP
HEALTH SYSTEMS

Terms available on approved credit. Expires 1/2/25.
See Metro Honda for Complete Details. Subject to vehicle availability.
Los términos de acuerdo a crédito aprobado. Efectivo hasta 1/2/25.
Visite Metro Honda para detalles completos. Sujeto a disponibilidad de vehículos.



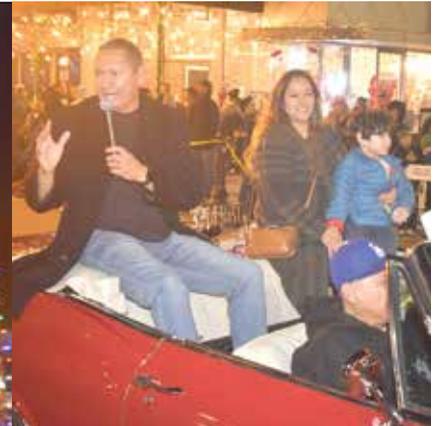
A La Nueva Voz special “pull out” section:
The 2024 Pomona Christmas Parade
 Brought to you by Athens Services
 Your local family-owned and operated trash and recycling company



Grand Marshal Catherine Tessier -- with her grandchildren -- smiles for the La Nueva Voz camera in the Pomona Christmas Parade, this year on the theme “Vintage Holiday.” Tessier, a renowned community leader and philanthropist, alongside her late husband, Victor, has played a transformative role in revitalizing Downtown Pomona through property investments and civic contributions. Her legacy includes support for nonprofits, the arts, and education.



Athens Services was well represented in the Pomona Christmas Parade this year with lights on the truck and employees and special guests riding right up front. The local family-owned waste collection and recycling company now serving all of Pomona provides services to more than 250,000 customers in more than 50 communities. Thanks, Athens, for once again sponsoring this annual La Nueva Voz pull-out special section on the parade. More than 3,000 spectators lined the streets of Downtown Pomona for the event that featured more than 100 entries, all on the theme “Vintage Holiday,” presented by the Downtown Pomona Owners Association under the leadership of Heidi Ortega and their hard-working year-round parade committee members. Miss the parade? You can still go back and see it just as it was live-streamed on Renee Barbee’s La Nueva Voz Facebook page (scroll down to the video from Dec. 14).



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval greets the crowd in the parade riding with his wife, Crissy, and their son, Roy.



Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin



Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole



Pomona’s own Stage Global, as always, was looking good showing off their circus skills.



The Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley both walked and rode in the parade.



Kim Johnson of Pomona’s Christmas on Columbia greets the crowd at the reviewing stand.



Pomona City Councilmember Lorraine Canales



Three Valleys Municipal Water District Director Carlos Goytia



The Fairplex float was creative as always and had a reminder that -- even though it was a little on the chilly side for the parade -- the Los Angeles County Fair will be right around the corner in May, this year on the theme “Art Unleashed.”

Advertise in La Nueva Voz.
 (909) 629-2292



Special Athens Services “pull out” section -- The 2024 Pomona Christmas Parade



The Credit Union of Southern California grabbed the attention of the crowd with their float as Business Development Manager Joe Perez, center, waved to friends.



The Diamond Ranch High School marching band looked -- and sounded -- good as always.



Eva Thiel-Maiz representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis rode in the parade and had a special holiday greeting for the crowd.



Traditional drummers were part of the parade entry this year for Pomona's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.



Members of the amazing Pomona Unified School District All District Choir marched in the parade.

At left, State Sen. Susan Rubio sizes up what we'll call a stilt lady with hula hoops who was entertaining folks along the parade route before the parade got under way. The stilt lady, a fire juggler and others (plus performers doing acrobatics on their actual float in the parade) all were from Pomona's Stage Global where they teach pole and aerial techniques for either performing or fitness.



Members of Grupo Folklorico "No Te Rajes Jalisco," part of the Galan Cultural Center, wave from their float in the parade.



Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce rode in the parade with Board member Daniela Franco, an owner of Fuego Metro Event Center in Downtown Pomona, riding "shotgun" in the front seat and Chamber "Ambassador of the Year" Joel Rosales of Modern Woodmen of America Financial posing for cameras at far right.



Members of the Ganesha High School marching band were in good form as always.



Pomona's American Legion Post 30 led the parade with Post 30 Adjutant and Finance Officer Mitchell Quintero carrying the colors and Bob Radcliff (in foreground), President and Director of the Legion Riders Chapter 30 (and Captain of American legion Post 30 and District 18 Honor Guard and Color Guard), leading the motorcycles.



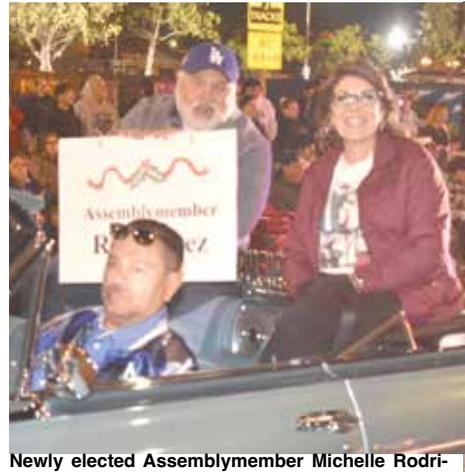
Members of Pomona Valley Pride, working to sustain the well-being of the LGBTQIA+ and allied communities, were dressed to impress as always on their float in the parade.



La Nueva Voz counted at least seven car club entries in this year's parade. Most of them drove down the parade route on all four tires but this one needed only three!



The amazing Garey High School marching band -- only one day after their annual Christmas concert in the high school gym -- had every note in place and the tempo right on the mark as always.



Newly elected Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez smiles for the La Nueva Voz camera in the parade as her husband, now former Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, holds the sign. Wait, that sign says "Assemblymember Rodriguez" -- we're wondering if the parade organizers used a recycled sign from last year, right?



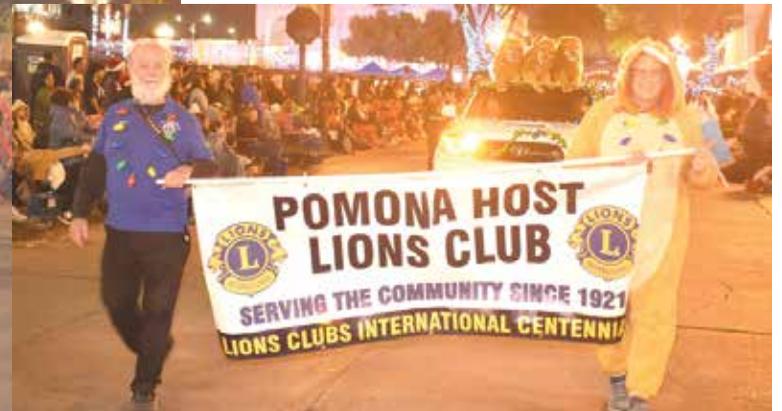
Leo Arredondo, CEO of "Uppercuts 909" barber shop at 681 E. Foothill Blvd., Pomona, walks down Second Street in the parade alongside his Cadillac Escalade, complete with Christmas lights and his official "barber shop" flag mounted on the back.



Members of the Monark band, a country band based in Redlands, was back in Pomona to entertain spectators before the parade with Christmas music (they've played in Shaun Diamond Plaza before). Need a band? Reach out to them on Instagram under their user name @monark.the.band and tell them La Nueva Voz sent you.



Now this Minerva's Flower and Craft entry (Minerva Hernandez' flower shop is in Downtown Pomona on Third Street) might take a moment to figure out in the "how did they do that?" category. We know somebody is inside those balloon outfits, but exactly how did they get in there, how to they move around and, well, how do they get out? Regardless, they were beautiful and, we'll admit, interesting Christmas balloon decor.



Pomona Lions Duane Smith, at left, and Don Martens (in the lion suit) carry the banner for their service club in the parade. They also have three huge lions on top of the car behind them looking over their shoulder.



At left, members of the Police Oversight Commission ride in the parade with Chair Eunice Russell waving, at right, from the back seat.



Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia



Grand Marshal Catherine Tessier was honored in ceremonies before the parade in front of the reviewing stand. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, parade host Monique Robles, President and CEO of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, Tessier, parade co-host Marco Argote, of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, and State Sen. Susan Rubio.

2024 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

TUES	24	WED	25	THURS	26	FRI	27	SAT	28
Normal Trash Pickup		Christmas (no collection)		Collection if regular trash day is WEDNESDAY		Collection if regular trash day is THURSDAY		Collection if regular trash day is FRIDAY	

This schedule applies to Athens Services' customers. Regular trash pick-up will resume the following week.

(888) 336-6100 AthensServices.com



Mt. San Antonio College Board members Peter Hidalgo, at left, representing Pomona, San Dimas, La Verne and South Glendora and Dr. Manuel Baca, representing Pomona and North Diamond Bar, take a moment to greet the crowd in the parade.



Members of the Pomona Valley Section of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), under the direction of President Jamie Lindsay, ride in the parade.



Bringing up the rear of the parade are Santa and Mrs. Claus -- as is the tradition in Pomona -- high atop a Los Angeles County Fire Department fire engine and waving to the crowd. (Santa himself was on the other side of the truck at the time of this photo -- you can just see his jolly red suit behind Mrs. Claus.) But wait, Mrs. Claus looks familiar -- yes, we're sure of it -- that's really Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez and Freddie, taking their second ride down the parade route (they were in a convertible earlier) and once again volunteering for Santa and Mrs. Claus duty this year. Merry Christmas, Freddie and Michelle, and congratulations on the way the election turned out!



Members of the Pomona High School Band just look good and sound even better as they march down Second Street in the parade.



Now here's a group that's becoming more popular and more famous every year -- and that's because they do such a good job! Here's a tip of the La Nueva Voz hat for the Pomona High School folklorico dancers.



Here are members of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe of Native Americans carrying their banner reminding parade-goers to come to the annual Ohlone "Big Time" Gathering and Pow Wow the last weekend in April -- Friday through Sunday -- in Pomona's Tony Cerda Park. And there will be plenty to see -- dancing, drums and more -- lots to eat and handmade items to buy, so come on down!



Well, here's an interesting float -- a combination of Pomona Unified School District and the Pomona Optimists (who do so much for Pomona students, including "students of the month" awards and more). And that's a couple of Optimists on top right up there -- and both long time hard-working Optimist leaders -- M. Joyce Bakersmith and Assistant Supt. Fernando Meza.



Wait, we know these people! Why, that's the Pomona Unified School District gang. From left are Mary Kate Francesco, of Pomona Unified School District's Pantera Elementary School in Diamond Bar, Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, Supt. Darren Knowles, his dog Kona, Angie Castro, of the Gloria Molina Grand Park Foundation in Downtown Los Angeles, and Castro's granddaughter, Oakley Castro. Francesco, Perlman and Castro all are members of the Pomona Public Library Foundation board.



Congressmember Norma Torres



The always popular Victory Outreach church in Pomona -- which was destroyed by a fire a year ago in December just hours before a Christmas toy give-away -- literally rose from the ashes, almost immediately resumed services now being held in the Purpose Church event center in Pomona, and even marched and rode in this year's Pomona Christmas Parade. Good job to everyone involved!

Pomona police following leads in search for shooter in death of Pomona's Greg Estel

Memorial services were held last Friday at Pomona's St. Madeleine's Catholic Church for long time owner of Greg's Refrigeration, Pomona resident and community activist Gregory B. Estel, who was shot and killed this month by an unknown assailant near his home, according to Pomona police officials.

No motive for the incident has been determined and a homicide investigation

was continuing as police detectives reviewed numerous leads.

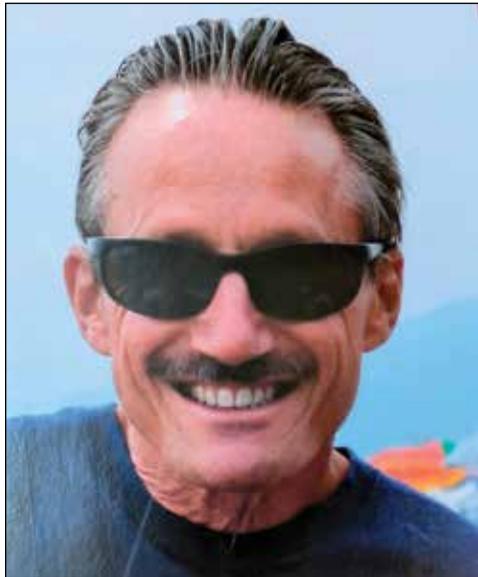
Estel, who was 65, was killed Sunday, Dec. 15, and was discovered in his vehicle.

Pomona police officers responded at about 7:08 p.m. to the 600 block of East Lincoln Avenue to a report of a victim of an assault with a deadly weapon, according to police officials.

Officers located Estel in the vehicle suffering from gunshot wounds. Los Angeles County fire personnel responded to the scene and pronounced him deceased.

Homicide investigators from the Pomona Police Department's Major Crimes Unit responded and began an extensive investigation.

Well respected in Pomona and surrounding communities for both his ethics and his ability as an HVAC contractor for both



Greg Estel

residential and commercial customers, Estel in recent years became known as a political activist, speaking often during the public comment period at meetings of the Pomona City Council.

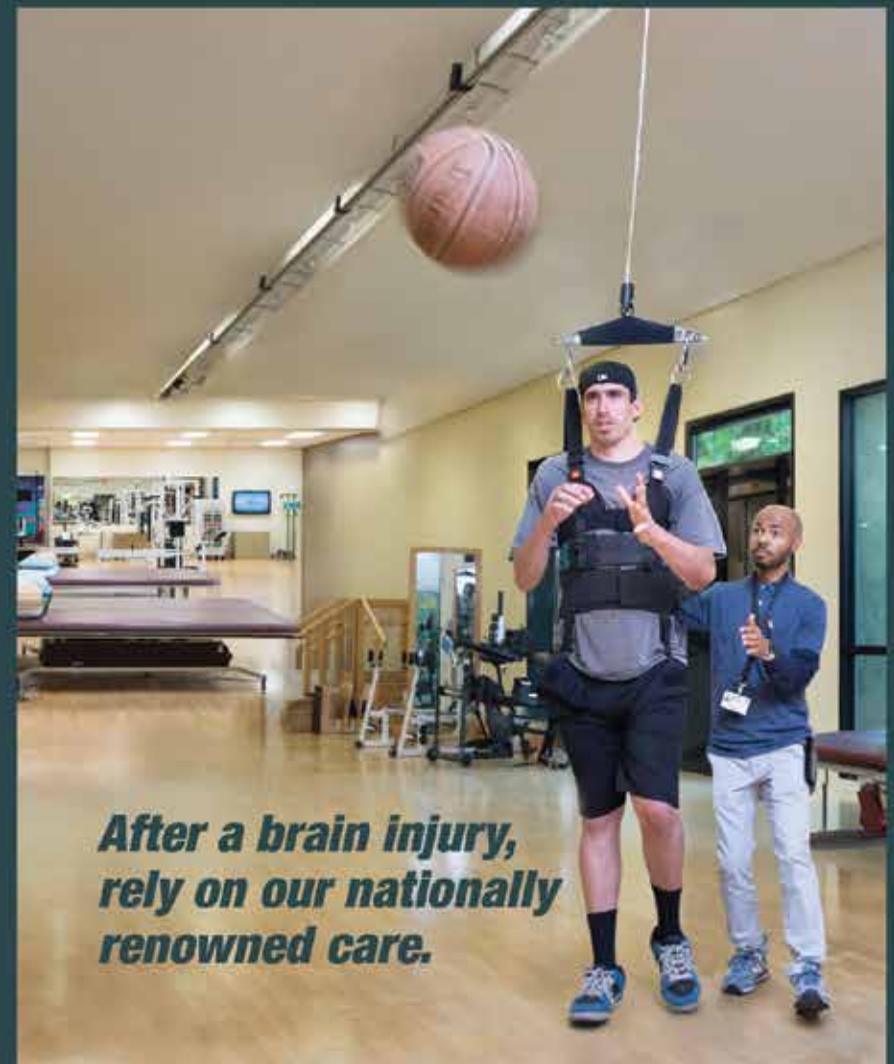
He took his activism to the next level during this year's election cycle, advocating for causes ranging from combating homelessness, drug abuse and

traffic violations to opposing rent control because of its impact on his business interests as a Pomona landlord. He even publicly endorsed several candidates in the recent city council election.

Estel is survived by his wife, Laura Speidel Estel, their son, Gregory, Jr., his mother, Joyce Burke Estel, brothers Marty and Matthew Estel, and sisters Meredith McDowell and Monica Barton.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the Pomona Police Department at (909) 620-2085 or, to provide information anonymously, contact "Crime Stoppers" at (800) 222-TIPS (8477).

Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz has organized a GoFundMe fundraising account to help Estel and Greg, Jr. with expenses (search for Greg Estel).



After a brain injury, rely on our nationally renowned care.

Nearly a century of rehabilitation experience, innovative research, and personalized treatment plans.

You've just had a stroke, spinal cord injury, or traumatic brain injury. What happens next is critical to your recovery. Finding the best choice for rehabilitation—where specialized, multidisciplinary experts guide your care with state-of-the-art techniques, innovative research, and advanced technology—will make all the difference in your tomorrows.

At Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, we have been providing a comprehensive continuum of rehabilitative care for nearly a century. We use proven pathways and the latest evidence-based science to help you reach your goals, from beginning to end.

To learn more, call 909/596-7733, ext. 3900 or visit casacolina.org.



255 East Bonita Avenue
Pomona, California







Nef Cortez
Broker Associate
DRE# 00560181

1411 S Diamond Bar Blvd
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Office: (909) 610-6303
Cell: (909) 762-8135
Fax: (909) 752-3163
NefCortez@gmail.com
www.nefcortez.com







Each office independently owned and operated.

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



Members of the Inland Valley Repertory Theatre Carolers performed at this year's 26th annual tree lighting ceremonies at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.



Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center associate Brenda Clark poses with Santa and her family at picture-taking time at the hospital's annual tree lighting ceremonies this month. The popular annual event which is open to the community featured free photos with Santa, hot cocoa, cider, cookies, candy canes and holiday shopping.



Volunteers from the gift shop at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center were in charge of offering holiday gifts and trinkets for sale at the tree lighting event. Proceeds went to the hospital's "Sick Baby and Hospital Assistance Fund."

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



NEW COMPUTER LAB AT YWCA -- Officials at the YWCA of San Gabriel Valley held a ribbon cutting at their Covina "Wellness, Equity and Empowerment Center" last month to open a new \$35,000 after-school "Advantage Technology Lab." Funded by International Game Technology (IGT), the lab offers young people ages 13 to 18 and community members daily access to tools and technology that will prepare them for a successful future. Pictured cutting the ribbon, from left, are Violence Prevention Specialist David Piller, Chief Program Officer Ana Interiano, Board President Jeanette Flores, YWCA CEO Debra Ward, IGT Senior Director of Account Development Management Shannon Streumph, Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, State Sen. Susan Rubio, Charter Oak High School student Kaitlyn McGuire and YWCA Board President-elect Kristin McGuire.



TRYING OUT THE NEW COMPUTERS -- Checking out the computers in a new technology lab at the YWCA of San Gabriel Valley are, from left, Kaitlyn McGuire, 17, of Charter Oak High School, and Alexis DePrima, 17, of Rosemead High School.



FARMERS MARKET AT MT. SAC EST 2005

LOCALLY FARMED FOODS
FRESH SEAFOOD
ASIAN PRODUCE
VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES
LOCALLY MADE GOODS

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS MARKET!
EVERY SATURDAY 8AM - 1PM

MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE
1100 N GRAND AVE, LOT B
WALNUT, CA 91789



WWW.REGIONALCHAMBERSGV.COM



Do you have a news story? We want to hear from you or your organization.

Send your news tips to: reneebarbee7@gmail.com

Pomona is a community defined by people who care

By Andrew “Andy Q” Quiñones
Member, Compassionate Pomona

As the year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the many reasons I am grateful to be part of this incredible city. Pomona is a community defined by its people – people who care, people who give, and people who choose to be of service.

As the executive director of a nonprofit based in Pomona, I am privileged to witness firsthand the dedication and compassion of those who work tirelessly to make our community better. Service is a cornerstone of Pomona, and I see it reflected everywhere – from the countless hours logged by volunteers to the deep commitment of community leaders.

Our service clubs, such as the Optimists, Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis and other clubs, are pillars of our community. Through their efforts, they support causes that uplift and empower Pomona. I am also inspired by the work of the Pomona Promise leadership team and network members, all of whom address critical needs and build stronger connections across our city.

I think about the amazing events I’ve attended this year – cultural celebrations like Día de Muertos hosted by the Latino and Latina Roundtable, youth and family programs organized by Pomona Unified School District, and community-wide initiatives like the 5K &

10K Run championed by our city council members and others. These events remind us of the beauty and strength of our shared experiences.

I am especially grateful for the organizations working to address violence prevention and community safety, such as the Office of Violence Prevention, Pomona Community Action for Peace (CAP), and Pomona’s HEART Team and others. These groups are tackling some of our most challenging issues with compassion and determination.

We are also fortunate to have city staff who dedicate their time and energy to creating memorable events for our families, often at the expense of their own weekends. Our volunteer commissioners and city staff, such as those on the Cultural Arts Commission, work diligently to make Pomona more vibrant through initiatives like Art in Public Places installations that beautify our streets and parks.

As part of Compassionate Pomona, I’m proud to contribute to events like the annual Kindness Carnival, which unites our community in positivity, resource sharing, and the message of compassion.

And of course, we must recognize the efforts of countless

churches, faith-based organizations, and other groups that work quietly but powerfully to address a variety of community needs.

I am certain there are many more organizations and individuals whose work I may not have mentioned but whose contributions are no less vital. Together, they embody the spirit of Pomona

– a spirit of unity, service, and compassion.

As someone who administers volunteers, I see the power of service firsthand. Through my own organization, thousands of hours of volunteer time are logged each year, and the impact of that work is immeasurable. Multiply that by all the service happening across

Pomona, and it’s clear that we are part of something extraordinary.

In conclusion, I am proud to call Pomona my home. I am grateful to be of service and deeply appreciate all those in our community who share this same commitment. Together, we are creating a brighter, stronger, and

People who care... pg. 19



Members of Pomona Unified School District's "All District" Choir performed their winter holiday music showcase in the school district auditorium and did an amazing job as always!



Members of Prince of Peace Church youth group made their monthly visit to the residents of Pomona Vista Care Center. On this occasion at the nursing home, they performed holiday songs and shared the message of the true meaning of Christmas. “Sharing a moment of our time with the elderly also gives us an appreciation of the lifetime experiences they impart to us,” said Rebecca Arreguin, youth group president. Prince of Peace Church is located at 895 E. 7th St., Pomona. For information, call (909) 750-0331.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

POMONA'S PROMISE
PODCAST

JOIN US
MONTHLY
AS WE SHARE
GOOD NEWS &
GOOD STORIES

LISTEN NOW

SCAN ME

PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM

OPINION

Pomona organizations work to establish sanctuary against deportations

By Angela Sanbrano, J.D.

Vice Chair, Latino-Latina Roundtable

President-elect Donald Trump has promised mass deportations. In a recent interview with CNN he stated that he will target people with criminal histories, but it could go beyond criminals, and indicated that the only way "... you don't break up the family is if you keep them together, and you have to send them all back..." He also doubled down on his campaign promise to end birthright citizenship, which is protected by the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Trump has declared that he would invoke the Alien Enemies Act which was passed in the year 1798 to be used in wartime only. It was last used for the Japanese Internment in the United States during World War II. It allows for the detention of anyone suspected of aiding the enemy without the Fourth Amendment, due process of law requirement of having to show proof of probable cause evi-

dence that a person actually was aiding or assisting an enemy. In other words, Trump is declaring that undocumented immigrants and people that are assisting them are enemies. This is an extreme and dangerous interpretation and application of the law which threatens the civil rights and liberties of all Americans.

Massive deportations will have a devastating impact in the social and economic wellbeing of immigrant families, the community, the City of Pomona and the State of California. According to the California Budget and Policy Center over half of all California workers are immigrants or children of immigrants. According to the U.S. Census 32.7 percent of the population of Pomona are foreign born.

In preparation, several organizations that work with immigrant families and youth are developing plans to resist and defend immigrant families from deportation,

fear and intimidation. The ICE Out of Pomona Coalition plans to educate the immigrant community in Pomona about their rights and what to do in the eventuality that they are stopped or detained by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer (ICE). Immigrants are protected by the Constitution under the First Amendment (right to advocate for change); the Fourth Amendment (right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures); and the Fifth Amendment (right to remain silent).

The ICE Out of Pomona Coalition includes, among others, Gente Organizada, Pomona Economic Opportunity Center

(PEOC), Latino-Latina Roundtable of the Pomona and San Gabriel Valley (LRT) and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

ICE Out of Pomona calls on the leadership of the city and state governments and schools to protect immigrant children and families. Children and families have the right to go to school, practice their faith, receive healthcare and go to work without the fear of their families being torn apart. Local and state governments and schools must take action to protect families now.

The wellbeing of the immigrant community affects the entire population of the City of Pomona. The Coalition is preparing a

"Know Your Rights" and "Family Preparedness Plan" to support the immigrant in the Pomona area.

The Coalition will petition the Pomona City Council to re-enact and strengthen the resolution of the City Council adopted in 2016 protecting the rights of immigrants, people of color, Muslims, LGBTQ people, and diversity and to safeguard the civil rights safety and dignity of all Pomona residents.

Your ad here!
(909)
629-2292



Photo by Renee Barbee

ROTARY TOY GIVE-AWAY AT CASA COLINA -- Members of Pomona Rotary borrowed a room at Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare last week for their annual toy give-away for Pomona kids. Pictured are three of the kids having a look at their many choices.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Switch and Save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information call 1-844-908-0605

AUTOS WANTED

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the **SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP.** 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 1-877-434-6852.

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO **PATRIOTIC HEARTS.** Fast free pick up. All 50 States. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-855-408-6546.

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-491-2884 today!

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Struggling with debt? If you have over \$10,000 in debt we help you be debt free in as little as 24-48 months. Pay nothing to enroll. Call Now: 1-877-435-4860.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as **ONE DAY!** Affordable prices - No payments for 18 mos. Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military discount. 1-877-252-9868

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a **FREE** LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving **ALL** installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 8/25/24.) Call 1-855-419-8241

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Now featuring our **FREE** shower package and

\$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-888-989-5749

Don't pay for covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL Major Systems and Appliances. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call 1-855-411-1731

HEALTH/MEDICAL

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your **FREE** Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-203-2677 www.dental50plus.com/calnews #6258

LOANS

RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$ for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073.

PETS

When veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, Ask for **HAPPY**

JACK Flea/Tick, Mane Dandruff, and Allergy control. **AT TRACTOR SUPPLY** (www.happyjackinc.com)

SERVICES

GoGo. Live and age your way. Get help with rides, groceries, meals, and more. Memberships start as low as \$1 per day. Available 24/7 nationwide. BBB Rated A+ Business. Call GoGo to get started. 1-855-476-0033

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your home's value. Call 24/7 1-888-248-0815

MISCELLANEOUS

DID YOU KNOW Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For **MORE INFORMATION** call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com

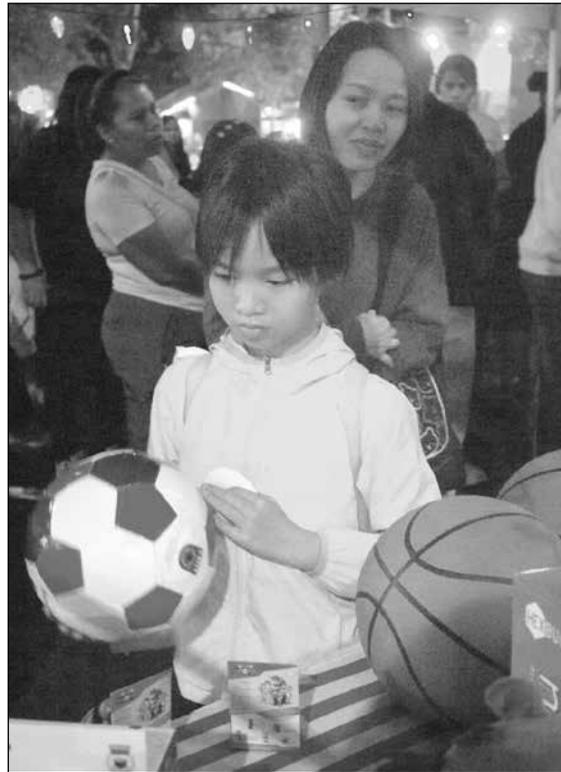
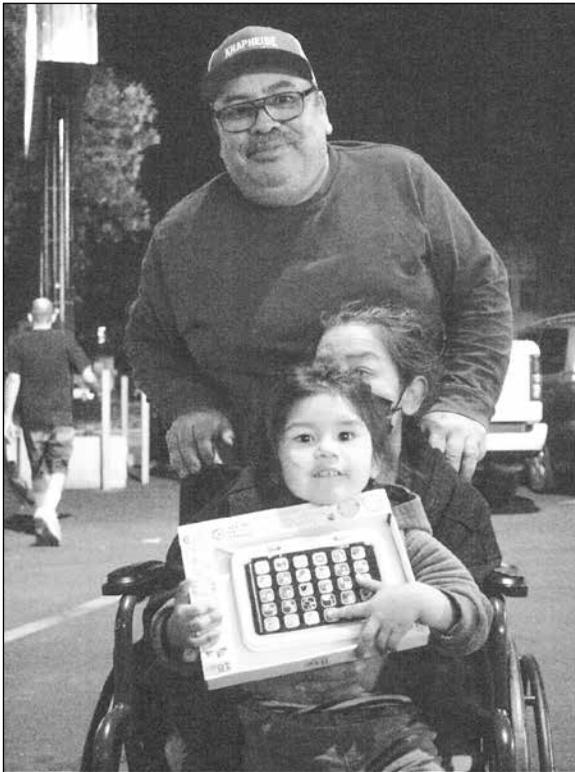
People who care... from pg. 17

more compassionate future for our city.

To hear more about the incredible work being done by community members and to see highlights

from past community events, follow us on social media. You can find our podcast, videos, and more on YouTube, under Andy Q@PositivePomona and at SoCalServiceCorps.org. Stay connected and inspired.

Editor's Note: Andy Quiñones is executive director of Southern California Service Corps.



Photos by Diana Archundia

Kids seemed like they had no trouble figuring out how the toy give-away worked this month at "A Fatherless Field -- Miracle on Holt Community Candle Lighting" in the Advance Auto Parts / Pep Boys parking lot. Everything was included -- from coffee, cocoa and cookies to a petting zoo, "glow" cotton candy, Santa and more.



SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS TRADITION AT RALPH WELCH PARK --

It wouldn't be Christmas without Los Angeles County Firefighters driving Santa and Mrs. Claus to Pomona's Ralph Welch Park with presents for the neighborhood kids. And the tradition continued last week with several of the happy recipients posing for a photo. The annual toy give-away, organized by Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez and her husband, former Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, is something the two of them have done since Freddie was a member of the Pomona City Council.



Photo by Renee Barbee

BLANKETS FOR VETERANS -- Volunteers -- including both Pomona Rotary and Optimist Club members -- gathered at the Eagles in Pomona this month to make 30 blankets to distribute to homeless veterans and veterans organizations during the winter. Pictured is Lorraine Canales, at left, a member of both clubs, and Sonia Molina, a member of the Optimist Club. The non-profit "Thundar, Lightning and Peace" has a goal of completing 500 blankets by the end of the year. For more information, visit the web site at www.thundarlp.org.



Corporal Jeff Hayward of the Pomona Police Department's Community Services Unit poses for a photo before tossing a toy donation from Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz into the SWAT vehicle at the police department's annual "Stuff-a-Cruiser" toy drive in Pomona's Target shopping center. The toys collected were for the police department's annual "Operation Santa Cop" toy give-away held each year in Pomona City Hall.



Photos by Renee Barbee

Some folks donated one or two items for the Pomona Police Department "Stuff-a-Cruiser" toy drive this month. This family filled the back of their pickup truck with toys and had to wheel them in a wagon-load at a time. Good job, gang!

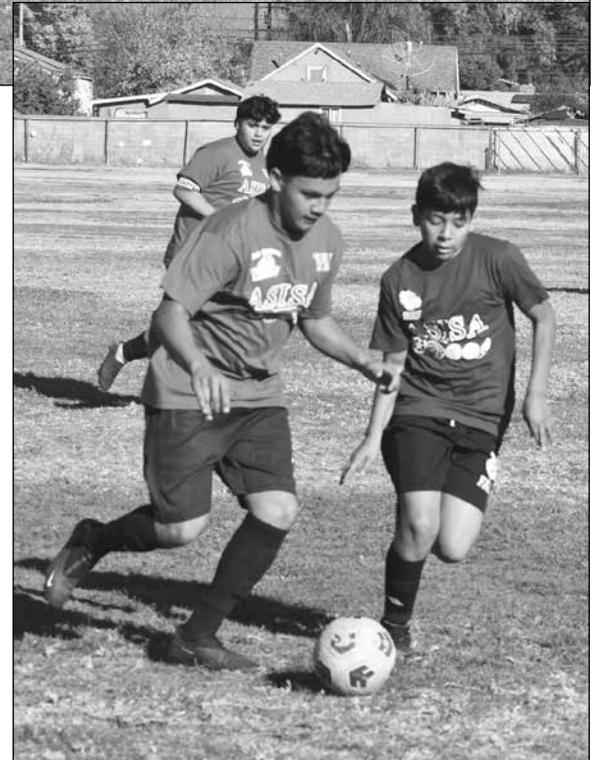
Your ad here!
(909) 629-2292



The Way World Outreach served a hot meal on the corner of Garey and Holt Avenue on Friday night. Members didn't mind the cold weather as they assisted anyone who showed up to eat. They offered free clothes, a blanket, some personal hygiene items and served tamales, pozole, and dessert. Members prayed for those who needed some extra spiritual healing and told them they could find a place where they could be loved. The Way is located at 398 W. 3rd St., in Pomona or visit thewayworldoutreach.org/pomona or call (909) 677-6785.



GOAL! -- It was soccer tournament time at Pomona's Fremont Academy this month with a total of five teams competing. Pictured scoring a goal second from right is one of the two Park West High School teams in a match against Fremont at far right in both photos. Park West won 4 to 2. Principal Roger



Fasting was on hand to help out and even tried hawking hot dogs and peanuts to help make money for the kids. The event was produced by ASISA (After School Interscholastic Sports Academy) which was formed to provide an athletic program for schools without CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) teams. The program started with flag football and will continue year round with basketball and volleyball, according to Darien Baldriche, CEO of the program.

Head Injuries: When to Seek Help and How to Recover

By Neha Dhadwal, DO

Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

"I fell and hit my head."
"I was rear ended and still feel dazed."

"Since I took that hit during the game a few days ago, I don't feel quite like myself."

Does any of this sound familiar?

The Centers for Disease Control and prevention report that nearly 600 traumatic brain injuries (TBI) or concussion related hospitalizations are reported daily, but this number is likely much higher because the diagnosis is often missed on an initial evaluation or because people may not seek care.

TBI or concussions are common injuries that often go untreated and can result in a variety of symptoms that can have a profound impact on a person's life including:

- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Memory issues
- Concentration issues
- Fatigue

Behavioral changes including depression, anxiety, or difficulty controlling anger

This can adversely affect day-to-day living, including a person's performance at school, work, or sports.

Recovering from brain injury or concussion involves working with healthcare professionals to take



Neha Dhadwal, DO

care of your whole self. Here are three components to achieve optimum recovery:

Step 1: Targeted therapies

- Physical therapy: Rebuilding strength and coordination
- Vestibular therapy: Addressing dizziness and balance problems
- Vision therapy: Improving vision changes after TBI or concussion

Speech / cognitive therapy: Helping with memory, concentration, and communication

Step 2: Healthy lifestyle

- Exercise: Regular physical activity
- Nutrition: Eating a healthy diet
- Sleep hygiene: Getting enough quality sleep

- Psychological support: Talk therapy and mindfulness to manage stress and emotional well-being

Step 3: Medicine and supplements

- Help with specific symptoms and support for brain health and recovery

Prompt treatment is crucial for recovering from TBI or concussion. Studies show that delays in seeking care reduce the likelihood of a full recovery and increase the risk of long-term complications that may significantly affect quality of

life. If you or someone you know experiences a head injury and has any of the symptoms noted in this article, please seek medical attention immediately.

Editor's Note: The author is a board-certified physical medicine and rehabilitation physician specializing in brain injury medicine. Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare's physician specialty clinics offer coordinated outpatient medical care across a wide range of medical specialties all located next to Casa Colina's Outpatient Rehabilitation Center in Pomona. Physician specialists provide diagnosis, treatment, and care management for a variety of medical conditions including brain injury and concussion. For more information, call (909)596-7733, ext. 3800.

New Pomona Valley Hospital program offers free gun locks to public 24/7

An increase in accidental shootings caused by children due to improperly stored guns has prompted Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center – in conjunction with the Pomona Police Department – to launch a program of distributing free gun locks, no questions asked, on a 24/7 basis, according to a news release.

The free locks – provided by the Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention – will be available to the public at a distribution box inside the hospital's emergency room.

Pomona Valley Hospital kicked off the new program last week with Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis demonstrating how to use the locks and the hospital's Medical Director of Trauma Services Michael Jimenez, M.D., demonstrating "Stop the Bleed" tech-

niques that stop major hemorrhaging with tourniquets and pressure.

The hospital news release cited new statistics from California Attorney General Rob Bonta who said just this month there have been three incidents statewide that involve minors discharging guns.

Officials also cited a report from Los Angeles County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer who said a child is injured or killed from gun violence every 30 hours in Los Angeles County, and that in 2022 more than 500 people died after being shot with a gun.

La Nueva Voz...

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Linked In, Bluesky and Yelp!



Photos by Renee Barbee
OPTIMIST SHOPPING SPREE AT WALMART – Members of the Pomona Optimist Club conducted their annual Christmas Shopping Spree for the kids at the Pomona Walmart this month. Pictured, from left, with Santa are Optimist members Hugo and Sonia Molina, M. Joyce Bakersmith, Renee Barbee (in front), President Lorraine Canales, Ruby Jung, Steve Lustro, Paulette Young, Ramona Valenuaza and, representing Walmart, digital coach Gil Salavar. Mayra Cacho, the store's loss prevention manager, also helped with the event.

Members of the Pomona Police Department Explorers were on hand in force this month to help kids at the Optimists Christmas Shopping Spree at Walmart find just the right thing to wear for the holidays.



Photos by Renee Barbee
POMONA POLICE OPERATION SANTA COP -- Remember that "Stuff a Cruiser" toy drive event Pomona police hold each year? Well, it was time to pass those Christmas presents out in Pomona City Hall last week. On hand were dozens of kids from throughout Pomona, plenty of volunteers from the Pomona Police Department and, of course, Santa having his picture taken with everybody. Pictured handing out gifts to three very special kids is Pomona Police Officer Cynthia Jimenez.

Benefits available for veterans

Military veterans can obtain benefits they have already earned with the help of the Discoveries of Hope Foundation, a group that helps veterans receive ratings, compensation and benefits they are entitled to.

Veterans can receive support whether they are seeking an increase in their rating, filing for benefits for the first time, or need assistance appealing a denied condition.

For information, contact Chief Advocate Officer Herman Regusters, Jr. at (213) 261-5450, e-mail hreguster@discoveriesof-hope.org or visit the web site at discoveriesofhope.org.

La Nueva Voz
 delivered to your mailbox each month!

Only \$49 for 12 issues!

Call (909) 629-2292

Always a call or click away

Call me for a quote today

Llameme para un presupuesto ahora



John Forbing
 Agent

154 West SAN JOSE AVE
 CLAREMONT, CA 91711

Bus: 909-623-8571
 Fax: 909-620-5869
www.johnforbing.com
 Insurance License #0502558



State Farm
 Bloomington, IL

RETIRED COUPLE
 HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE*

V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY
 Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING

Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker

WWW.VIPLoan.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217
 Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

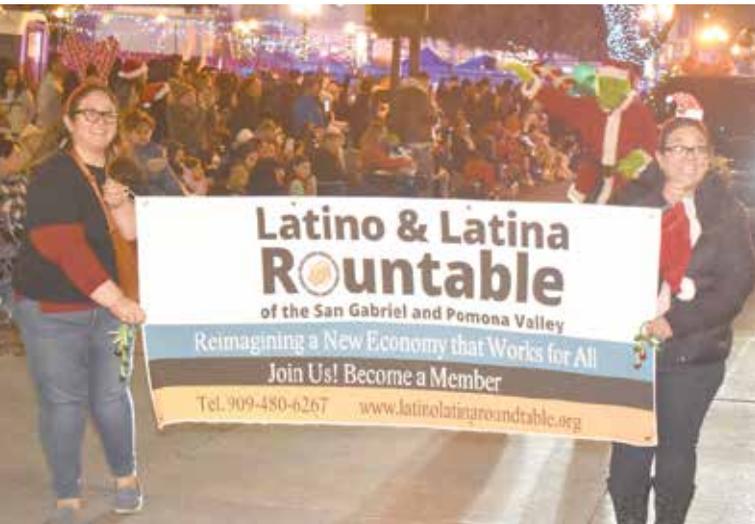


Photo by Renee Barbee

COFFEE AND MORE NOW AT THE UNION! -- City officials and the Pomona Chamber of Commerce last month helped open Gud2Go, a new coffee shop featuring breakfast and lunch with an Asian twist, at The Union, formerly Pomona's YMCA building. The shop, part of the TakeUrSeat cafes now open in Chino Hills, Ontario and West Covina, offers ube waffles, longanisa sausage (Filipino sweet breakfast sausage), roasted pork belly, specialty lattes and more. From left are owners Herry and Deborah Tarigan, Mira and Michael Obadja, and Sandy and Andreas Adidjaja, Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval (at rear), and Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado. The Union is located at 350 N. Garey Ave., Unit 201, in Pomona. For more information, call (909) 766-8066.

Pomona Christmas Parade . . . from pg. 14

Ray and Michelle Adamyk rode in the parade in their new Tesla Cybertruck. Adamyk's Spectra Company recently completed transforming Pomona's old YMCA into what is now known as The Union, a venue for nonprofits, artist spaces, and even a coffee shop and a barber shop.



Latino and Latina Roundtable marched in the parade with Board member and Pomona resident Lidia Manzanares, at left, and Executive Director Lina Mira carrying the banner.



Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise had marchers, dancers and more in the parade as always.



LA GRAN POSADA AT THE FOX -- "La Gran Posada," a free community event this month celebrating the vibrant traditions of Mexico, included everything from folklorico and mariachi performances and a huge piñata to the story of Christmas and more. The annual event was produced by the Fox Community Culture Fund in partnership with Tradicion Dance Company of Pomona. "Presenting sponsor" for the event was Athens Services.



Need to advertise in La Nueva Voz?

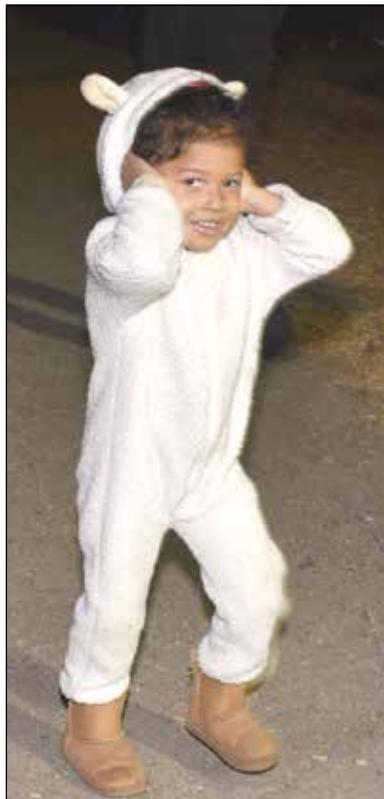
Call Renee Barbee, V.P. of Marketing and Operations

(909) 629-2292

www.lanuevavoz.net

Board Member, Pomona Chamber of Commerce

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



COMMUNITY POSADA AT LOPEZ URBAN FARM -- There was so much to do at the "Community Posada" at Pomona's Lopez Urban Farm this month, presented by the Latino and Latina Roundtable -- Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado wearing a halo (OK, they asked him to wear the costume), holiday music, food, toys for the kids, City Councilmember Lorraine Canales and her face painting, "make your own" Christmas tree ornaments provided by the non-profit Foundations of Change through Youth, professional portraits by Pomona's On Time Photo Booth Rentals and more.



Student honorees announced for next month's MLK Project celebration

Officials with the annual Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr., Project celebration have announced winners of next month's "Youth Social Justice Awards" to be recognized at the 43rd Annual MLK Celebration at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational

Church.

The honorees are Naomi Ahuchogu, of Chaffey High School; Harvey Swodeck, of Citrus College; Nathan Gonzalez, of Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise; Skyla Ho, Jason Troung and Guillermo Meza-Silva, all of

Pomona's Garey High School; and Tiffany He and Daniela Rodriguez, both of Pomona High School.

Dr. Joy DeGruy, researcher, educator and author, will be the keynote speaker at the event on this year's theme "What is your life's blueprint?"

The event is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19.

To make a donation, become a sponsor or sign up as a vendor, visit the web site at pivmlkproject.org.

Proceeds go to funding awards for area students.

**Your
ad
here!**

**(909)
629-2292**



MAYOR WELCOMES COMMUNITY TO 'CHRISTMAS ON COLUMBIA' -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at right, welcomes the community to the ninth annual "Christmas on Columbia" opening day celebration as then-City Councilmember John Nolte and Iso Nakasato of Athens Services, at far left, and founder Kim Johnson (second from right) and members of her committee look on. The entire block shuts down for opening ceremonies each year. Athens Services was the major sponsor of this year's event that included Ganesha High School cheerleaders, dancers -- some as young as 2 years old -- from the Galan Cultural Center, some amazing lighted yard displays and much more. The event is Pomona's largest neighborhood holiday lighting display each year and has grown beyond Columbia Avenue (at White Avenue) to include several surrounding blocks. Want to stop by? Lights will be up throughout the holidays.

On That Moonlit Summer Night

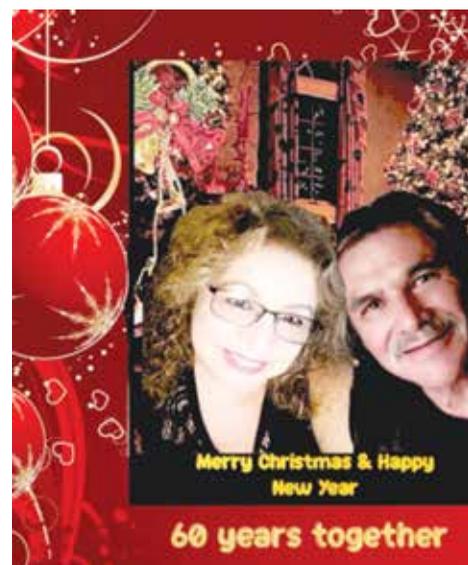
The rain was drizzling softly, as I dreamt of warmer days, warmer days of you and me and our very special bond. I dreamt of the love we shared as we drifted like two swans on a moonlit, quiet pond...

A cool breeze gently blew us both away like two feathers on a wing, we flew away – on white wings that wrapped us in the fullness of our love. We were flying on a cloud that was floating round and round. We were intertwined in each other's arms like two shimmering, crystal snowflakes. We drifted slowly to the ground just in time to kiss each other. We vowed to love each other until the end of our journey together on this earth...

I dreamt of warmer days, warmer days of you and me. I was dreaming of the velvet of your touch and your warm and tender love. I was dizzy from the sweetness of the love that made you mine on that moonlit summer night...

Happy 60th anniversary a mi amorcito corazón, Angel Perales. God is good.

Susie Perales



Please visit our website at

www.lanuevavoz.net

to see the latest issue of La Nueva Voz, past issues and more!

