



# Happy Holidays! La Nueva Voz

Happy New Year



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Thursday, December 26, 2013 www.lanuevavoz.net

## Pomona Christmas Parade kicks off holiday season – in the rain!

It was beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Downtown Pomona this month as the Pomona Christmas Parade marched along its annual mile-long route down Second Street – just as the skies turned from light drizzle to rain.

It was the first time it rained on Pomona's parade since 2009, which



**GANESHA HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND** – Members of the Ganesha High School Marching Band make their way down Second Street in Downtown Pomona – in the rain – during this month's Pomona Christmas Parade. (See more photos in special Valley Vista Services parade "pull out" section beginning on page 9.)

entries (a few cancellations because of the rain and a couple who showed up at the last minute) and roughly 2,800 parade participants marching and riding down the street.

An estimated 2,000 spectators

lined the street, although organizers at the Downtown Pomona Owners Association said some left early because of the rain.

The theme of this year's parade was "125 years of Christmas in Pomona," commemorating the

125th anniversary of both the city and the Pomona Chamber of Commerce.

The annual "Holiday at the Plaza" in the Pomona Civic Center followed the parade – just as the rain started to give way to clear skies – where festivities continued with food, games and snow.

Grand Marshals of the parade were Pomona Police Officers Rolando Betancourt and Travis Johnson and Police Sgt. Christian Hsu. The three were recognized for rescuing an unconscious man from a burning vehicle last May in Pomona.

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was also the first time the parade returned to Downtown Pomona in more than 40 years.

But while the streets were wet, spirits were not dampened – either of parade participants or spectators lining the street along the route.

Final numbers were 105 parade

See the special Valley Vista Services parade 'pull-out' section beginning on page 9!

## New public officials recognized by civic leaders, Pomona Chamber

Three new public officials – a state senator, an assemblymember and a Pomona city councilmember – were recognized by civic leaders and the Pomona Chamber of Commerce last month at a reception honoring all three.

P o m o n a

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Frank Garcia told the group it was the first time Pomona has had two representatives in Sacramento.

The honorees, recognized at a reception at Pomona's Fairplex Conference Center, were State Sen. Norma Torres and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez. Inter Valley was one of the sponsors of the event.



**WELCOMING OFFICIALS TO THEIR NEW OFFICES** – Ron Bolding, President & CEO of Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan, welcomes three public officials to their new offices at last month's elected officials reception sponsored by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce. Bolding told the three that Inter Valley will assist in any way possible working with them in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Pictured, from left, are Bolding, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, City Councilmember Adriana Robledo and State Sen. Norma Torres. Inter Valley was one of the sponsors of the event.

## 'Tis the Season to light the holiday lights!



**POSING WITH THE LIGHTS FOR GRANDMA** – Three visitors pose for grandma's photo with the holiday lights which were turned on this month at the fourth annual lighting of the holiday lights program "Celebrate being a kid" at LeRoy Haynes Center, 233 W. Baseline Road in La Verne. Pictured, from left, are Justis Basallo, 11, Lilly Pendas, 9, and Jordan Anderson, 11, all of Covina.

**SANTA WARMS UP THE CROWD** – Santa takes the microphone this month at the 16th annual tree lighting ceremony at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. Hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum, at left, served as master of ceremonies and Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman, center, led participants in counting down to flip the switch for the lights on the 65-foot tree atop the hospital's six-floor tower.

**TREE LIGHTING AT POMONA CITY HALL** – The "Frosty Divas" dance team poses in front of Pomona's Christmas tree at the city's tree lighting ceremony this month. Pictured with the Divas are, from left, Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa, Mayor Elliott Rothman, Councilmember Adriana Robledo, Vice Mayor Ginna Escobar and Councilmember John Nolte.

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**'BREAKFAST WITH SANTA' AT ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL** – St. Joseph Elementary School at Pomona's St. Joseph Catholic Church held its first-ever "Breakfast with Santa" this month to open its doors "to show the community we're alive and we're here," said St. Joseph Principal Claudia Godlewski. More than 100 guests of all ages stopped by for breakfast and a chance to have a photo taken with Santa. Godlewski, in her first year as principal, served as a teacher at the school for the past seven years. Pictured, from left, are elves Jessica Gomez and Gabrielle Morales, both graduates of the school and now students at Diamond Bar High School; Santa; Matthew Crean, 3, and his mom, Bel Crean, of Chino (kneeling); Principal Godlewski (standing), and Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman.



**BREAKFAST FOR ALL** – Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman samples the breakfast of sausage, pancakes and scrambled eggs this month at the first annual "Breakfast with Santa" at St. Joseph Elementary School in Pomona.



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**STATE FARM PRESENTS CHECKS AT POMONA CHAMBER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON** – Members of the State Farm “delegation” in the Pomona Chamber of Commerce were on hand this month at the Chamber’s holiday luncheon to present a \$1,000 check to the Pomona Police Department and a \$3,500 check to The Learning Centers at Fairplex. The funding helped pay for the “Celebrate My Drive” campaign last October which encouraged young drivers to make positive choices as they start driving to enable them to “stay safe as they explore the road ahead,” said Claremont State Farm Agent Nona Tirre. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Police Chief Dave Keetle, Pomona Crime Prevention Sgt. Vince Terrell, Nona Tirre, Pomona State Farm Agents Jason Cortez and John Forbing, who doubled as Santa at the event, Margie Shamblin, Director of Education for the Career and Technical Education Center at Fairplex, and State Farm Public Affairs Specialist Eddie Martinez. Some 200 Chamber members and guests attended the annual luncheon at The Avalon at Fairplex. Vice Mayor Ginna Escobar served as Mistress of Ceremonies. The event was sponsored by Valley Vista Services, Cal Poly Foundation and Southern California Edison.



**END OF AN ERA** – The old Mission Family Restaurant – long a Pomona landmark and regular meeting place – closed its doors for good on Dec. 1. Current owner Victor Picazo placed a hand-written sign on the door thanking customers for 30 years of support (although the main portion of the restaurant itself has been there since 1957). Picazo has moved to Roady’s Restaurant, at 160 W. Bonita Ave., San Dimas. The 7,200 square foot building on a 1.44 acre lot at 800 W. Mission Blvd. (at White Avenue) apparently is on the market with an asking price of \$1,475,000, according to on-line real estate web sites. And, while there is talk about tearing down the building and replacing it with a fast food restaurant, officials in Pomona City Hall were unable to point to any specific permit applications for demolition or construction. Even so, Mark Lazzaretto, the city’s community development director, said the city has received numerous inquiries regarding projects ranging from residential to fast food and office space. He said the city’s current updating of the general plan could result in more flexible zoning for the site and even more of a “fast track” approach to its development. Historic preservationists asked the city in October to designate the property a historic landmark but the property owner objected and the City Council was unable to reach the required five of seven votes needed to override that objection.

## Bank of America Foundation gives \$175,000 to 20 Inland Empire nonprofits addressing critical needs

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation has announced \$175,000 in grants to 20 nonprofits in the Inland Empire – including several serving the Pomona area – addressing critical needs such as hunger and shelter and longer-term solutions that promote financial wellness through access to benefits and resources.

“We’re working to meet the day-

to-day needs of those who live and work in our community,” said Al Arguello, Market President at Bank of America. “These grants will help nonprofits continue to address our community’s most pressing needs while helping individuals become more financially stable in the long term.”

Organizations serving Pomona and surrounding areas that were included on the list were AIDS Assistance Program, Children’s Fund Incorporated, Family Service Association, Foothill Family Shelter, Inc.,

Inland Empire United Way, Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, Time for Change Foundation and the Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital Foundation.

The funding is part of the company’s intensified philanthropic focus on three core issues vital to the economic health of communities – housing, jobs and hunger – and represents an important component of Bank of America’s lending, investing and giving activities to help advance local economies.

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**HARK! POMONA'S REPERTORY OPERA COMPANY SINGS** – Members of Pomona's own Repertory Opera Company provided a professional background of classic Christmas carols outside of Pomona City Hall this month at the city's annual tree lighting ceremony.



**DANCING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON** – Members of the "Frosty Divas," of Ginna Escobar's G-Diva Productions, LLC, of Pomona, perform a tap dance routine on the steps of City Hall during this month's city tree lighting ceremony. All of the girls are between the ages of 2 and 7 and all are residents of Pomona.



**OPTIMISTS ANNOUNCE STUDENTS OF THE MONTH** – Members of the Pomona Breakfast Optimist Club recognized two students from Pomona's San Antonio Elementary School this month as their "students of the month," representing achievement in academics and attendance without problems with tardiness or behavior referrals. Pictured, from left, are San Antonio Principal Selene Amancio, students of the month Claudia Rubio and Monserrat Munoz, and Pomona Breakfast Optimist President M. Joyce Bakersmith.



**ALL THE FIXINGS FOR TURKEY DINNER** – Members of the "PC – Pacers Care" service club at Pomona Catholic teamed up with the Pomona Police Officers Association last month to distribute free turkeys, canned goods and boxed goods for Thanksgiving dinner to more than 100 families living near the school. Participants in the program got the word out by going door to door and contacting groups in the area and the two dozen members of Pacers, all in grades six through eight, went to work collecting food donations, according to Sister Feliz Gil-Jimenez, middle school director at Pomona Catholic. Members of the Pomona Police Officers Association bought the 12-pound turkeys to go along with canned corn, chicken noodle soup, tortillas, stuffing, instant potatoes and more. Pictured getting ready to "deliver" supplies out to the car are guests Isaac Nieves, his mom, Ana Mendoza and Mavrick Perez, age 2-1/2, along with Pacers members Brandan Heaviside, 11, a sixth grader, of Ontario, and Manny Martinez, 12, a seventh grader, of Chino. "Helping other people makes me feel good that other people can have a great Thanksgiving," said Martinez. "It's giving food to people that need it," said Heaviside. "At the end of the day I feel really great and confident."

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**Congresswoman Negrete McLeod supports measure to help homeless veterans**

Congresswoman Gloria Negrete McLeod, voting this month in support of a measure reauthorizing housing programs for homeless veterans, called homeless among veterans a "serious problem in the Inland Empire."

She voted to support HR 1402, which reauthorized funding for the Veterans Administration housing programs for homeless veterans.

"The district I represent is home to over 20,000 veterans," McLeod said. "It will take a continued coordination between the VA and local organizations to ensure that veterans are able to take advantage of housing assistance programs in and around the area."

Last August, McLeod hosted a field hearing in Fontana on veterans' issues, where homelessness was one of the top concerns. More than 200 veterans attended the hearing.

"This . . . vote on this important legislation is a step in the right direction, but more work remains to be accomplished," McLeod said.

The measure passed the House and was sent on to the Senate for consideration.

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# Hope & Hurdles

By Evy Schuman



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** "Hope & Hurdles," an on-going feature appearing in La Nueva Voz, was created by artist Evy Schuman as an attempt to "poke fun" at the little things that trouble us all from time to time. Evy, who is also a published writer on the subject, created the cartoon series to show her work at a creative writing class she co-facilitates at Pomona's Tri-City Wellness Center.



**FATAL TRAFFIC ACCIDENT PROMPTS CALLS FOR ADDED SPEED MEASURES IN FRONT OF SCHOOL** – Parents and friends of a 54-year-old Pomona resident who was killed by a speeding car after walking her nieces to school are seeking additional traffic control measures along San Antonio Avenue in front of Barfield Elementary School, at 2181 N. San Antonio Ave. in Pomona. Lilia Rodriguez, who lived only blocks away from the school, was struck by a car and killed at San Antonio and Vassar Street just steps away from her home after walking her nephew Joe Castro's daughters Jacqueline, 6, and Angeline, 8, to school this month. No arrests have been made and the investigation into the accident is continuing, according to Pomona Police Sgt. Christian Hsu. Sok Hour, the City of Pomona crossing guard in front of the school for the past nine years, just received a new \$400 crosswalk sign – the first to be distributed to schools as part of a pilot program. But residents are looking for more – speed bumps, blinking lights, and additional signs – to help slow traffic in the area where children and adults are crossing the street. Crossing guard Hour said traffic in front of the school is "very fast every day," especially in the afternoon. School Principal Rosario Ambriz said she has seen several smaller traffic accidents in the area. She said flashing lights would be "ideal." "Pomona Unified School District's number one priority is the safety of our students," said Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman. "We're working with the city to collaborate and find a solution." And Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin said "the solution for Barfield is having stop signs to slow down the cars plus speed bumps and crosswalk signs." Residents have begun circulating petitions to ask the city's Department of Public Works to install the speed bumps in front of the school just north of La Verne Avenue. If city staff recommends against the speed bumps, the matter could go to the City Council. Speed limit on the street is 35 miles per hour or 25 mph when children are present. Pictured, from left, are crossing guard Hour, Martin, parent Joe Castro, Perlman, and Principal Ambriz.



**HOLIDAY MUSIC AT ANNUAL POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER TREE LIGHTING** – Members of Pomona's Garey High School String Ensemble, under the direction of Stefan Lawe, music director at Garey, provided the musical entertainment this month for the 16th annual tree lighting ceremony at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.



**SANTA ARRIVES IN HOSPITAL COURTESY SHUTTLE** – Santa (hospital volunteer Keith Dobbins of Chino Hills) arrives in a courtesy shuttle this month for the 16th annual tree lighting ceremony at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. The event included music, photos with Santa and everything from candy canes and cookies to hot coffee and cocoa.

## Western University professor studying effects of air pollution on the brain

A professor at Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences was recently awarded grant funding from the South Coast Air Quality Management District to study the adverse effects on the brain of particulate matter present in ambient air pollution.

College of Pharmacy Associate Professor Arezoo Campbell, PhD,

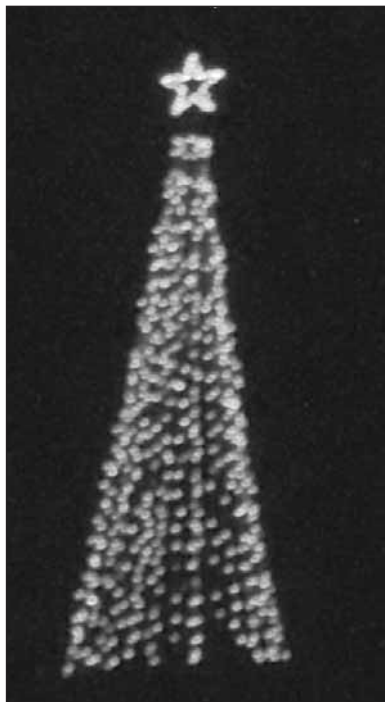
was awarded the grant based on a proposal titled "Evaluation of Ambient Particulate Matter Neurotoxicity Using Primary Human Brain Cells."

The \$577,590 grant was approved by the air quality district's Public Benefits Program Oversight Committee.

Campbell's lab at Western University is investigating the potential of particulate matter in the air to trigger an inflammatory response in the

central nervous system. She will evaluate biological responses after human brain cells are exposed to ambient particulate matter collected from a site in Los Angeles.

"If we understand what components of air pollution are really causing adverse health consequences, then we can try to find ways to minimize not only the production of these factors, but also exposure to such factors," Campbell said.



**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS UP ATOP HOSPITAL** – The lights came on as Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman threw the switch at the annual tree lighting ceremony at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.

### La Nueva Voz

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## National Census Bureau figures show economy improving but no real reduction in high poverty rates from previous year

National poverty figures for 2012, released last month, showed that a slowly strengthening economy and slowly falling unemployment still are showing no measureable effect in reducing historically high U.S. poverty rates from the previous year's levels, according to researchers at the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) at Columbia University in New York.

The NCCP said in a news release that one bright spot is the percentage of the population without health insurance continues to fall, due entirely to expansion of coverage under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Another encouraging statistic is that median household income in 2012 was not statistically different from 2011, following two consecu-

tive years of declines. But income still is 8.3 percent lower than it was in 2007.

According to the NCCP, 15 percent of America's families – or some 46.5 million people – are living in poverty and, for children under 18, the poverty rate is 21.8 percent, or 16.1 million people.

The nation's child poverty rate was 18 percent in 2007, 19 percent in 2008, 20.7 percent in 2009, 22 percent in 2010 and 21.9 percent in 2011.

The figures were based on the U.S. Census Bureau's annual report of data on poverty, income and health insurance.

For a family of four with two children, the current federal poverty income threshold is \$23,283.

"Low income" is defined as having family income below 200 percent of the poverty threshold, or \$46,566 for a family of four with two children.

The NCCP is the nation's leading public policy center dedicated to promoting the economic security, health and well-being of America's low-income families and children.

**SCE REPRESENTATIVE DONNA LEE RETIRES** – Donna Lee, a "region manager" for Southern California Edison who retired last month after 31 years, served as the company's liaison to Pomona and other cities for the past five years after working her way up through the law department, coordinating legislative reviews, and handling compliance and permitting. An estimated 50 people gathered at a reception last month to honor her at the SCE offices in Cal Poly Pomona's Innovation Village. Lee, who told La Nueva Voz she'll still be involved in Pomona on the Board of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, said she "loved working with the Pomona community" which she termed a "very vibrant community, especially the downtown area." She said people in Pomona have always been "interesting, enthusiastic and involved." "There's a lot going on," she said. "We are going to miss you," said Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin. Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman recognized her retirement with a proclamation from "the largest city in her region." DPOA President Carolyn Hemming said "Donna is indispensable to us but she is also our friend." Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez thanked her for her work with the kids. "She has been there for our side," he said. Pictured, from left, are Mayor Elliott Rothman, Donna Lee, Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin, and master of ceremonies Ron Garcia, also a region manager with SCE who called Lee a "tireless worker." No replacement for Lee has been named.



**POMONA DEMOCRATS HONOR TWO MEMBERS AT HOLIDAY RECEPTION** – Members of the Pomona Valley Democratic Club honored two members with certificates of recognition at a holiday reception this month at Sakura Ichi Japanese Restaurant in Downtown Pomona. Robert Torres and Helen Mosier were honored for their "selfless devotion to better the lives of Pomona's residents" through their role as community organizers and advocates. Club President Arturo Jimenez presented the certificates. Pictured, from left, are Mark Ramos, the club's labor chairman; Manuel Saucedo, membership chairman; Robert Torres, of Assemblyman Freddie Rodriguez' office; Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin; club President Arturo Jimenez; his wife, Monica Jimenez; club secretary Vanessa Wiarco; Helen Mosier, club treasurer; and club Vice President Luis Juarez, a member of the Pomona Planning Commission. Not pictured is Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez who joined members at the reception.

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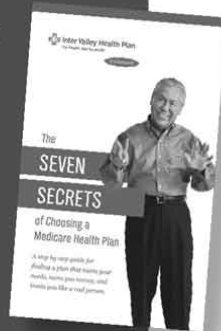
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# A La Nueva Voz special "pull out" section: The 2013 Pomona Christmas Parade Brought to you by Valley Vista Services Providing quality waste and recycling service for over 50 years!

**The Pomona Christmas Parade...  
... kicking off the holiday season in Pomona!**



The Farm Store at Cal Poly Pomona



Parade "Gold Sponsor" Valley Vista Services gave members of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley a ride in their sleigh down the parade route.



'Best Equestrian' unit Rancho Arroyo of San Bernardino has appeared three times in the Rose Parade in Pasadena. Some of the riders of the unit's 14 horses are residents of Pomona.



Santa, once again portrayed by Jeff Keating of Western University of Health Sciences, brings up the rear of the parade from high atop a hook and ladder provided courtesy of Pomona's Engine Company 181 of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.



Pomona Chamber of Commerce President Jill Reiff and driver David Perez, both of Valley Vista Services.



Parade Grand Marshals, from left, Pomona Police Officer Travis Johnson, Police Sgt. Christian Hsu and Police Officer Rolando Betancourt.



The David Armstrong family was one of the four "Community Heroes" in this year's parade.



**PARADE JUDGES AT WORK** – This year's parade judges viewed the entries before the parade got under way. Pictured, from left, are Downtown Pomona Owners Association President Carolyn Hemming, DPOA Executive Director Larry Egan, head judge Stephanie Benjamin, of PVW, and judges Jeff Schenkel (publisher of La Nueva Voz) and David Allen (newspaper columnist).



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ARMANDO MONTEJANO  
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Pomona's State Farm Agent John Forbing, as Santa, joined Pomona State Farm Agent Jason Cortez, Claremont State Farm Agent Nona Tirre and others atop a fire engine to wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday.



Members of the John Speidel family were recognized as one of the parade's four "Community Heroes."



Members of the Victor Tessier family were recognized as one of the parade's four "Community Heroes."

**Something to say? Send us your comments, questions or story ideas from our web site at [www.lanuevavoz.net](http://www.lanuevavoz.net).**



# Special Valley Vista Services "pull out" section -- The 2013 Pomona Christmas Parade



Pomona Unified School District Preschool



Tri-City Wellness Center



Pomona's "Relay for Life" is already getting ready for next year's cancer fundraiser walk and celebration in June at Pomona's Fairplex.



Pomona City Councilmember  
Adriana Robledo



Pomona City Councilmember  
Debra Martin



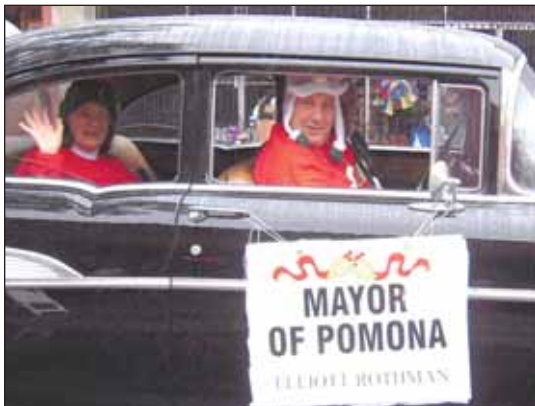
Pomona City Councilmember  
Ginna Escobar



Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa



Members of the Phil Pumerantz family were recognized as one of the parade's four "Community Heroes."



Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman



Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte caught a ride in the Downtown Pomona Trolley.



Pomona Unified School District Board Member  
Frank Guzman



Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman was the only elected official to walk the entire parade route – about a two hour walk in the rain. "I decided to walk when I saw our school children walking in the rain," she said.



Pomona Planning Commission Chairman  
Denny Mosier



Members of the Pomona City Hall "drill team" very professionally performed their own version of "What does the fox say," a song and dance "hit" on YouTube that has been viewed more than 221 million times. And, just in case you didn't hear the entire performance in the parade, the fox says "Pomona!"



Folklorico dance students from the Cultural Cabanas Dance Studio in Pomona make their way down Second Street.



Pomona Planning Commissioner  
Kenny Coble



Members of the Miss Pomona Court Chantal Santoyo and Jessica Schaller



Jeanette Royston, center, marches in the parade with members of Pomona's newly re-forming NAACP chapter. The group needs 100 paid members to reactivate its charter in Pomona for the first time in nearly 25 years.



Diamond Ranch High School Marching Band



Pomona's Hip Hop School of Arts



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez



The Garey High School Marching Band



Pomona's YMCA gets into the act marching down Pomona's Second Street in the rain.



State Senator Norma Torres



The Pomona High School Red Devils Marching Band



A member of Pomona's Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe – wearing her traditional Native American regalia – marches down Second Street with other tribe members – in the rain – during Pomona's Christmas Parade.



Members of Pomona's Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe – with "Headman" Tony Cerda, second from left – march down Second Street in the parade announcing their annual "Big Time" Gathering & Pow Wow the last weekend in April in Pomona's Tony Cerda Park.



Angie Castro, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina



Carlos Goytia, representing South Pomona on the Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board.



Foothill Transit rolls down Second Street.



Members of La Verne's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12034



Pomona Police Chief Dave Keetle steps down from a SWAT vehicle to "work the crowd" handing out police badge stickers to the kids.



Historical Society of Pomona Valley



Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Frank Garcia and his wife Kathy Garcia.



Pomona First Baptist Church



Partnership for a Positive Pomona (P3), a drug free communities coalition



Ethel Gardner, at far left, and members of the Kennedy Austin Wellness Foundation.



Pomona Unified School District Adult and Career Education



Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise



Pomona's Fist of Gold youth boxing

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Pomona's American Legion Post 30 Color Guard



Girl Scouts of Pomona Valley



Bright Prospect, a college "access and success" program.



Ballet Folklorico at Pomona's Lincoln Elementary School

More parade photos...



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Pomona High School Army Junior ROTC

Former Pomona Police Jailer Walt Barkley and his wife Sylvia Barkley drive Pomona's old police car down Second Street in the parade.

Southland Young Marines

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**Open House**

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**La Nueva Voz reaches 50% more readers in Pomona each month than the local suburban daily newspaper.**

## New public officials... from pg. 1

Torres, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and newly appointed Pomona City Councilmember Adriana Robledo.

Pomona Unified School District Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman, who was reelected to the Board last month (along with incumbents Adrienne Konigar Macklin and Andrew S. Wong), also was honored.

The shuffle of positions began when former State Sen. Gloria Negrete-McLeod was elected to Congress, opening the door for Torres to move from the Assembly to the State Senate, and then allowing Rodriguez to move up to Assembly from the Pomona City Council.

Robledo was appointed to fill the vacancy on the council created by Rodriguez' election.

Ceremonies at the reception got under way with Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman presenting Rodriguez with a miniature statue of the Goddess of Pomona.

Rodriguez, who was born and raised in Pomona, thanked his colleagues but said he will still be available to all of the people in the district from his office in Chino.

Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez thanked the chamber and Fairplex, which hosted the event, for recognizing the leadership of the city, state and school district.

"We are really proud of their work and what they've done in the past and what they are going to do in the future," he said, adding that his board has rallied together during difficult fiscal times – "the ugliest fiscal times that we've seen since the Great Depression."

He said despite fiscal troubles, the school board has continued to focus on the kids.

"I'm very proud of Dr. Perlman for the great work, her great leadership as president this year, and the great example that she's given not only to our children, not only to the adults, but to me as the superintendent," Martinez said.

"I don't think that there is another community that rallies around their young people the way that the City of Pomona and Diamond Bar did," Perlman said. "We can't do it without all of you."

Ron Bolding, President & CEO of Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan, an event sponsor, pointed out that his company has worked in the community for 34 years and throughout that time has worked closely with elected officials.

"It is particularly important this year because of efforts to implement the Affordable Care Act, it's something that needs to occur quickly and strongly in order to cover all of California and all Californians," Bolding said, adding that his company has a desire to assist in any way possible.

Fairplex President & CEO Jim Henwood expressed his appreciation for Torres and Rodriguez who, he said, are two people he has had a long standing relationship with.

"It's indeed an honor to see Freddie and Norma move into the kind of positions that can make a difference for our community," Henwood said.

Dr. Mike Ortiz, President of Cal Poly Pomona and Vice Chair of the Board of the Los Angeles County Fair Association, echoed Henwood's comments.

"We think that the Fairplex and the community is really a partnership that benefits us all," Ortiz said.

Jill Reiff, of Valley Vista Services, another sponsor of the event, welcomed the new public officials.

"We are very happy to support our local legislators . . . and we thank them for everything they do for our community," she said.

Carolyn Hemming, President of the Downtown Pomona Owners As-

sociation, also a sponsor, said "downtown welcomes the new elected officials."

And DPOA Executive Director Larry Egan said the word "accessible" applies to all of them.

Robledo, a life-long resident of Pomona and a product of the Pomona Unified School District (Garey High School and Cal State University Fullerton graduate), quoted President John F. Kennedy who once said "one person can make a difference and everyone should try."

"The city faces some tough decisions and challenges," Robledo said. "It is the goal of the City Council to ensure Pomona's economic resurgence and viability. We're fortunate enough to have elected officials who represent us at the state level who are first-hand aware of the challenges that our city faces."

Torres said Pomona needs jobs, "the types of jobs that can really get this community working again, and to be able to sustain their family and build a life around our city."

"You have done a great deal of work as community leaders," she added.

She cited computer software giant Microsoft as an example of a company that creates 140,000 jobs a year.

"We only graduate about 20 to 30 people that can work doing those jobs," she said, adding that the colleges are here. "We need technology engineers – we need to be able to attract those businesses to Pomona."

"There is a lot of talent here that we are not harvesting," Torres said.

She also urged the city to help expedite the planning and permit process to encourage new business to come.



**WELCOMING POMONA'S ELECTED OFFICIALS** – Dr. Mike Ortiz, President of Cal Poly University Pomona and Vice Chair of the Board of the Los Angeles County Fair Association, welcomes new elected officials to Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce President Jill Reiff; Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman; Fairplex President & CEO Jim Henwood; Ortiz; Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; and Pomona City Councilmember Adriana Robledo.

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**APPEARING LIVE IN POMONA** – La Nueva Voz publisher Jeff Schenkel and his "Sunnyside Up Band" will appear live the third Saturday of each month beginning in January at O'Donovan's Restaurant and Pub in Pomona. The group plays a mix of folk, country and classic rock including songs from the '60s, '70s and even a few from the '50s. Opening night is 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18. O'Donovan's is located at 101 E. Third St., Pomona, in the old Mayfair Hotel building. The restaurant offers a full bar and full menu, and there is no cover charge. Pictured above is the band on stage before an audience of 400 at Pomona's "Relay for Life" cancer fundraiser last June at Fairplex. The band has also appeared at Pomona's American Legion Post 30, Cask 'N Cleaver Restaurant in San Dimas and other venues. For more information, contact booking agent Renee Barbee at (909) 762-1446.

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## O'Donovan's Restaurant and Pub off and running offering a new great spot in Downtown Pomona!

Want to set a new record in the fine eating department? Head down to O'Donovan's Restaurant and Pub in Downtown Pomona and order a Guinness float and a "pub" burger and a slice of molten chocolate cake for dessert.

First a disclaimer: La Nueva Voz is not recommending this combination for the faint of heart. This combination would be for serious eaters. And La Nueva Voz has not tried the float, although the pub burger, best compared to a fine country club hamburger, is amazing, as are several other items on the restaurant's menu. (And that dark chocolate cake is moist and filled with chocolate and is sure to be a hit with the chocolate lovers out there.)

But this should not come as a surprise – O'Donovan's was created by Mark Drury, who owns the place and opened its doors on Sept. 9.

Drury comes well recommended and with solid credentials – he managed McKinley's Grille at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel for two years before heading out on his own. And before that, he worked for the Chili's restaurant chain for 14 years – everything from food server to manager to the general manager level, where he served for eight years.

Today, he owns one of the three best restaurants in Pomona.

Asked in a recent interview with La Nueva Voz how things are going, he said he's "doing good – we're build-

ing."

Drury said he sees his market as really two distinctive styles. First, he has the college crowd coming in from Cal Poly Pomona and Western University of Health Sciences, even the Claremont Colleges and the University of La Verne.

The lunch crowd includes the students, some from the Pomona business community and some from the Los Angeles Superior Courthouse in Pomona.

"But I really want to build that reaching up into the Ganesha Hills area and just the outlying area," he said.

The menu is what he described as an Irish-American combination.

"I would call it kind of 'gastropub' style (a bar and restaurant that serves high-end beer and food), but we do have that American and Irish flare with corned beef and we've combined the two with corned beef tacos and things of that nature," Drury said.

Is the menu working? He said it seems to be.

"I think that we're making changes as we go along," he added. "For example, we brought in soup and now we're doing soup and a half sandwich, things of that nature."

"I'm going to try to do some dinner specials and lunch specials looking at that crowd that needs to get in and out very quickly," he said. "So I don't think our menu will ever be stagnant. It will always be changing."

"And we'll keep our normal corned

beef sandwich, those type of things that are typical to an Irish pub, but some of the things will be changing, also," he said.

His dessert menu includes everything from ice cream and chocolate chip bread pudding to berry cobbler and, of course, the Guinness float (or root beer float) and that molten chocolate cake.

But he's already looking ahead there, too, to a "green river float."

"It'll be a lime sherbert with Sprite in it so it's green in color," he explained.

When Drury spoke at his Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting when the pub opened, he said the family concept was going to be an important part of the restaurant philosophy.

"That is our basic philosophy that when you walk in our doors we want you to feel like family, we want to know your name, not just to talk to you just about food and that but to actually treat you like family, have conversations that are like that, and we also treat our employees exactly the same way,"

he said.

"We want to create an atmosphere where they feel comfortable, where they can get great food and they can have a great experience and just enjoy themselves," Drury said. "There's so much stress in the day, you know, why not get rid of it, come here, have a meal, have a drink and relax."

"And if you're looking for that business luncheon or something of that nature, we want to make sure that we're taking care of those people, also," he said. And he can handle the big groups

– he recently did a group of 70 that nearly took over the entire restaurant.

O'Donovan's also does catering, take out and "call ahead" so if customers need it quickly just call ahead and orders will be ready in 15 to 20 minutes.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 or 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Saturday and Sunday, the restaurant opens at 10 for breakfast with a breakfast/lunch menu, and at 3 p.m. it switches over to the regular menu until

closing time at 9 or 10.

The bar is open from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily.

And food is served in the bar up until about 10 p.m. every day.

Entertainment also is included in the package – karaoke is offered beginning at 9 p.m. Wednesdays, and Drury is organizing a schedule for a couple of bands that will play country music and classic rock from the 1950s on up.

Interested? Stop by O'Donovan's at 101 E. Third Street, Pomona. Or give them a call at (909) 397-4384.



**READY FOR WHATEVER'S ON TAP** – Jasmine Alcalá, at left, bartender at O'Donovan's Restaurant and Pub in Downtown Pomona, is ready for whatever is on tap as she poses for La Nueva Voz behind the full bar in the pub downstairs from the restaurant. Pictured with Alcalá is restaurant owner Mark Drury.

### STOPPING BY 'SANTA COP' TO PICK OUT PRESENTS

A group of Pomona kids and their parents check in at the front door to see Santa and pick out a Christmas present courtesy of the Pomona Police Department and a long list of volunteers and donors. And there was no shortage of stuffed animals, toys and games. Pictured, from left, are Clara Piedra, a Pomona Police Department records supervisor; Sonia Carrigan of the police department's crime prevention office; her son, Jan Carrigan, 17, of Chino Hills, a volunteer; and Sgt. Vince Terrell of crime prevention.



### PICKING OUT JUST THE RIGHT PRESENT

When you are two, the hardest part can be picking out just the right Christmas present. But Jonathan Vargas of Pomona managed to do just that with the help of his older brother, Michael Vargas, and police mascot Officer McGruff in the age 0 to 4 "Rudolph's" room at this month's Pomona Police Department 2013 Santa Cop toy distribution program in Downtown Pomona.



Five rooms in a downtown Pomona office building were filled with gifts – arranged by age – donated by businesses and police officers so the kids could pick out just the right one. Families were selected by each of 27 schools in the Pomona Unified School District. Nearly 500 kids were expected to pick out a present. Santa was on hand and kids also had a chance to spin the wheel and win a prize.

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## Rodriguez appointed to key committees

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez has been appointed to several influential legislative committees including two involving emergency management, according to a news release.

Rodriguez worked for more than 29 years as an emergency medical technician before he was elected to the Assembly in September.

Rodriguez was appointed by Speaker of the Assembly John Perez to serve as Chair of the Select Committee on Local Emer-

gency Preparedness and as Vice Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management.

He will also serve on Committees on Banking and Finance, Budget Subcommittee #5 on Public Safety, Elections and Redistricting and Water, Parks and Wildlife.

Rodriguez represents the 52nd Assembly District which includes Pomona, Chino, Montclair, Ontario and portions of unincorporated Fontana.



**ROTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH** – Last month’s “students of the month” were honored by Pomona Rotary during a meeting at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel. Pictured, from left, are Rotary President Daniel Thomas; Litianna Jimenez, of Ganesha High School; Daniel Contrerds, of Village Academy High School; Brianna Calvillo, of Park West High School; Reina Gomez, of Pomona Catholic; Jasmine Gonzales, of Palomares Academy; Veronica Velasquez, of Garey High School; and Rotarian Thomas Hsieh.



**‘THE CRUSADERS’ SALVATION ARMY BAND** – Members of “The Crusaders,” the youth and adult brass band of the Pomona Salvation Army, played the background music for last month’s Thanksgiving dinner. Selections included everything from “Jingle Bells” to “Deck the Halls” to “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.”



**A LITTLE MAGIC, ANYONE?** – “Dave, the Giant Elf,” performs magic tricks for the crowd at last month’s Thanksgiving dinner at Pomona’s Salvation Army. The event included everything from raffle prizes to pumpkin pie for dessert.



**POMONA’S SALVATION ARMY FEEDS HUNDREDS** – Members of Pomona’s Salvation Army – and volunteers from throughout the region – provided Thanksgiving dinner for some 500 people the night before Thanksgiving last month in an event that was open to anyone in the service area of the church. Lt. Javier Castro, pastor, said the congregation has been doing this for at least the past seven years. “We’re just here to meet the need,” he said. “I like the community Thanksgiving dinner because it’s for everyone – low income families struggling to have a decent meal.” Castro said he overheard one lady say she felt like she was in a restaurant – which was exactly the feeling he said they were going for. Pictured welcoming their guests are, from left, members Claudia and Carrie Sparrow and Castro.



**VOLUNTEERS LINING UP FOR A TURN TO SERVE** – Ayden Gutierrez, 9, of Rancho Cucamonga, takes his turn to serve a dinner plate to a guest at the Salvation Army Thanksgiving dinner in Pomona last month as Suzette Clark, of Diamond Bar, gets him started. Gutierrez is a member of Boy Scout Troop 655. His troop and their affiliated Cub Scout troop, based at St. Paul Catholic Church in Rancho Cucamonga, volunteered for the evening. Clark, who said it was her first year as a volunteer, plans to make it a tradition in the future.

## ART'S

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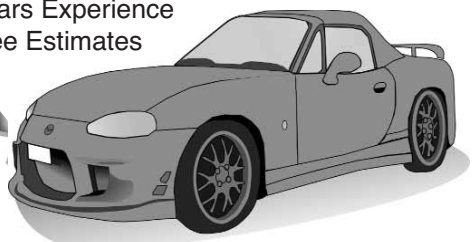
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### A new La Nueva Voz publishes each month on the fourth Thursday of the month.

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
- La Verne library
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce, 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St. Pomona
- Pomona Unified School District administration building lobby
- Western University of Health Sciences Administration Building and Patient Care Center
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley, 1420 S. Garey Ave. Pomona
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center main lobby, maternity lobby
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- Jicamex Tacos Y Carniceria, 604 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Central Market, Towne Avenue and Phillips Boulevard, Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 954 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



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[www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org](http://www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org)

### Pomona Public Library Hours Effective Sept. 3:

Mon., Tues., Wed. Thurs.:  
1 to 7 p.m.  
Sat.:  
Noon to 5 p.m.  
Fri., Sun.:  
Closed





**MULTICULTURAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AT DAVID & MARGARET** – Deena Robertson, a program manager at David & Margaret Youth and Family Services in La Verne, welcomes guests to a multicultural holiday celebration at David & Margaret this month. The event included everything from food, fun, music and dancing to children's activities, raffle drawings and training.



**ENJOYING THE FESTIVITIES** – Members of the Basey family from Hacienda Heights enjoy the festivities at this month's multicultural holiday celebration at David & Margaret Youth and Family Services in La Verne.

**DAVID & MARGARET SHOWS OFF COTTAGES DURING ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE** – David & Margaret Youth and Family Services in La Verne held its annual Holiday Open House this month featuring cottage tours and treats prepared by the residents. The "Gillette" cottage decorated in the theme "It's a Small World" with "under the sea" decorations that included seahorses, turtles and more. Pictured with the house mermaid are cottage staff members Denisse Torres, of La Puente, at left, and Celeste Escobedo, an Inland Empire resident, at right.



**HOLIDAY MUSIC BY 'MICHAEL BEATTY AND TRACY G'** – Michael Beatty and Tracy G play their own brand of holiday music for the guests at this month's annual Holiday Open House at David & Margaret Youth and Family Services in La Verne. For more information, visit the web site at [www.davidandmargaret.org](http://www.davidandmargaret.org).

## Pomona Host Lions launch annual 'Sight for Success' campaign to fund eyeglasses for Pomona students

Members of the Pomona Host Lions Club have launched their fifth annual "Sight for Success" campaign to provide funds to pay for eyeglasses for Pomona students who otherwise would be unable to obtain them.

Supporters can purchase one of two types of certificates for \$50 to pay for glasses for two students – a straight donation in return for a certificate of appreciation or a donation in someone's name as a gift.

Optometrists at the College of Optometry at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona provide the eye exams and the glasses are provided by the Eye Clinic. There are no ad-

ministrative costs involved, allowing the full amount of the donation to go toward eyeglasses for needy students.

Donations may be sent to Pomona Host Lions, P.O. Box 3085, Pomona, CA 91769. Checks should be made payable to Pomona Host Lions Charities. Please include your name, address and phone number.

For more information, e-mail Lions President Richard Sugerman at [rsugerman@westernu.edu](mailto:rsugerman@westernu.edu) or Sight for Success Chairman David Larson at [david.larson@pusd.org](mailto:david.larson@pusd.org).

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**FATBURGER RETURNS TO POMONA!** – Fatburger returned to Pomona with an official Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting this month. The burger restaurant actually re-opened in Pomona under new ownership in August as the second location operated by Xinghai Enterprises of Rancho Cucamonga. The company operates another store in Victorville. The Pomona store, located at 3109 N. Garey Ave., employs 14 people, most of them Pomona residents, according to General Manager Mica White. The menu includes everything from buffalo wings to real ice cream shakes and hamburgers and turkey burgers. Everything is fresh except the fries, which have been frozen, White said. She added that the restaurant offers a 10 percent discount to local businesses for lunch, and offers deliveries to businesses as well as catering. The Fatburger chain was established in 1952 and has become an international corporation. Pictured, from left, are Shante Flournoy, representing Diamonds Love Foundation; Robert Torres, representing Assemblyman Freddie Rodriguez; Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin; owner Shirley Sun, of Xinghai Enterprises; Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman; Rufino Bautista, representing Congresswoman Gloria Negrete McLeod; Frank Garcia, Executive Director of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce; Frank Garcia, Jr., of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center; Pomona Chamber of Commerce President Jill Reiff; Pomona Chamber Membership Vice President Stephanie Benjamin; Pomona Chamber President-Elect Jill Dolan; and Ken Chan representing Pomona's DeVry University.



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### County Fire Department urges caution with lights during holiday season

Electrical failures, holiday lights and candles can become a serious fire hazard during the holidays, according to officials at the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

"Always maintain your holiday lights," said Assistant Fire Chief Dave Stone. "Each year before hanging them, check to see if the

strands have any frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation or broken or cracked sockets."

Also, make sure not to link more than three light strands unless directions state it is safe to do so.

More than 240 house fires and more than one dozen fatalities are caused each year in the U.S. by the family Christmas tree.

### Metrolink offers special holiday service for Rose Parade, Rose Bowl Game

Metrolink will operate a modified schedule on the San Bernardino and Antelope Valley lines on New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1, to allow people to attend the 2014 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena.

The 125th Rose Parade, on the theme "Dreams Come True," will feature floral floats, equestrian units and marching bands.

To serve the Rose Parade on New

Year's Day, the first train on Metrolink's San Bernardino Line will operate a "modified Sunday schedule" departing Riverside-Downtown at 5:30 a.m. and San Bernardino at 6:05 a.m., making all station stops.

Train 349 will arrive at Los Angeles Union Station at 7:35 a.m. On the Antelope Valley Line, the first train will depart Lancaster 45 min-

utes earlier, at 5:40 a.m., arriving at Los Angeles Union Station at 7:40 a.m.

From Union Station, passengers can transfer without additional charge to the Metro Gold Line and get off at the Del Mar, Memorial Park, Lake or Allen stations. The parade route is just a short walk from the stations.

Metrolink passengers going to the 100th Rose Bowl Game between Michigan State and Stanford can take the Gold Line from Los Angeles Union Station, stopping at the Memorial Park Station in Pasadena. Free shuttles to the stadium will be available.

For additional details, visit the web site at [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).

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## ANTIQUEROW

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FROM 8AM - 3PM

The Antique Row regularly plays host to the Collector's Street Faire. Treasure hunters from near and far pack the streets to explore three blocks of antique vendors. Part flea market, part festival. The largest array of antique dealers west of the Mississippi. This is a fun and FREE event. Located on E. 2nd St. in Downtown Pomona. For more information you can visit our website at [downtownpomona.org](http://downtownpomona.org) or call the Street Collector's Faire at 909-620-7430.

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### 'Sowing Seeds' collecting food for those in need

Sowing Seeds for Life, an organization that delivers food each month to more than 6,000 people, is conducting an on-going food drive with "pantry days" the first and third Wednesday of each month at the

group's headquarters in La Verne.

Donations can be dropped off at 1350 Arrow Highway, La Verne. For more information, visit the web site at [www.sowingseedsforlife.org](http://www.sowingseedsforlife.org) or call (909) 392-5777.



**PITZER COLLEGE STUDENTS PAINT MURAL TO ENCOURAGE HEALTHY EATING** – Seven students in a mural painting art class at Claremont's Pitzer College spent about six days last month painting a mural on the side of a Pronto Market store in Ontario to encourage local residents to eat more fruits and vegetables that are grown locally as part of an effort to improve nutrition. The students designed several prospective murals and presented them to the City of Ontario to obtain permission for the project which involved a lifting of a moratorium on murals. The city selected the "Welcome to Ontario" theme. The project was funded through a \$5,000 "Arts and Environment" Grant from Pitzer. A stucco base primer with acrylic building paint was used in the mural project which was part of a "market makeover project" to bring fresh produce into the markets. The market recently started carrying fresh, locally grown organic produce. Maggie Shafran, whose design was selected for the project, said she was excited because it was her first mural. "We're hoping (the mural) will help communities know there are more healthy options and support locally grown fruits," said Instructor Jessica McCoy. Pictured, from left, are McCoy, Maggie Shafran, a senior, and Emily Schenkel, a junior. The 60 by 10 foot mural is located on the rear of the market at 731 S. Euclid Ave., Ontario.

### New novel by local author 'officially' published

A time travel western adventure novel written by a local author is now "officially published" and has been receiving stellar reviews, according to a spokesperson.

"Eve's Amulet – Book 1," by Carole Avila, originally of Walnut, has been released by Black Opal Books and, while targeting female audiences, has become of interest to men as well.



**Carole Avila**  
Local author

Avila's short story "Christmas After All" was published in the Christmas anthology, "A Touch of Winter."

Both books are available at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and through BlackOpalBooks.com

She also has two new books under contract – a young adult novel, "Death House," also with Black Opal Books, which should be available in the fall, and a non-fiction work, "The Long Term Effects of Sexual Abuse," which will be published by Spout Hill Press.

For more information, visit the web site at [www.caroleavila.com](http://www.caroleavila.com).

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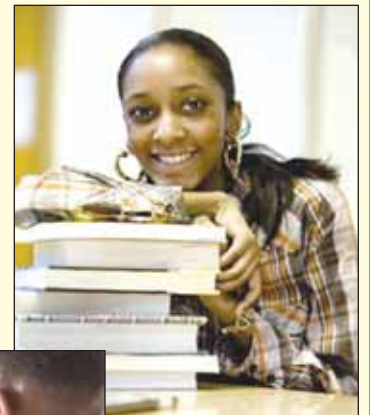
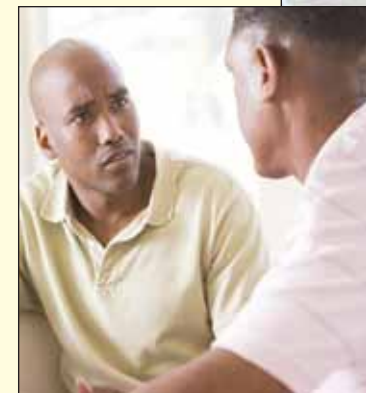
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