

Some 3,000 attend funeral services for slain Pomona police officer

Greggory Casillas, Sr., father of slain Pomona Police Officer Greggory Casillas, eulogized his son last month after walking up the stairs of the pulpit using a cane saying he was "mad as hell" and that "it does hurt" but that his son was "twice the man that I was."

a standing room only sanctuary at Pomona's Purpose Church filled with uniformed officers and emergency responders from throughout California and even one officer from the New York Police Department.

Some 2,000 mourners filled the sanctuary on a rainy day in Pomona and another 1,000 watched



A FAMILY IN MOURNING -- Greggory Casillas, Sr., at left, father of slain Pomona Police Officer Greggory Casillas, comforts his son's widow, Claudia, at funeral services last month in Pomona.

Pool photo by Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times

on closed circuit television in overflow areas including auxiliary church buildings and even a tent erected in the parking lot for the service just outside the main church building, according to estimates by church officials.

Casillas, 30, was killed last month when he was shot through an apartment bedroom door while attempting to take a suspect into custody following a series of incidents that began with an officer responding to a report of erratic driving.

Pomona Police Officer Alex Nguyen, Casillas' field training

officer, also was shot in the face during the incident and was hospitalized for treatment but was released two days later.

Isaias De Jesus Valencia, 38, was arrested in the incident following an overnight standoff and will return to Pomona Superior Court on May 1 for arraignment, continued from his initial appearance on March 13, on numerous charges including murdering a police officer and attempting to kill other officers.

Casillas' father thanked the representatives of all police departments nationwide "for doing

what very few people know how to do" and for their "dedication to . . . your fellow man" and "for taking your time to bury one of your own."

He said his son became a police officer to help people in the community, adding that he heard his son "turned around" a couple of teenagers who were "going down the wrong path."

Casillas said he treated his sons "like they treated me in the Marine Corps."

"Greg was a person that had to read a book 10 times but when he got it he got it," he said.

Arturo Fematt, Jr., the slain officer's brother-in-law, said he saw Casillas change when he was going to "become a dad."

He said Casillas told him "all my dreams are coming true" – from having the girl of his dreams, two children and his job as a police officer.

"I am truly going to miss him," Fematt said.

And San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputy Christian Guevara, who met Casillas when they went through training academy together, said "he always treated

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His comments were heard by

Mike Olivieri sworn in as Pomona's new police chief

Pomona's Police Chief Mike Olivieri, officially sworn into office this month in a ceremony delayed because of last month's fatal shooting of Pomona Police Officer Greggory Casillas, acknowledged the loss of the young officer during his swearing in calling that tragedy "unreal" and a "horrible ordeal."



MAKING IT OFFICIAL -- Pinning on a chief's badge for new Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri at his swearing in ceremony this month are the chief's two oldest sons Dominic, at left, and Christian.

Olivieri, sworn in by Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, thanked his fellow chiefs

New police chief... pg. 2

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from surrounding cities – and members of his own police department – for their help over the past 30 days.

“I’m forever grateful and I will remember your kind gestures and support and advice and guidance,” Olivieri said.

He told a banquet room filled with several hundred police officers, other emergency responders and members of the community that his career choice since childhood was to become a police officer.

“But for me the only place that I really wanted to be a police officer and the only place I applied for when I was old enough was Pomona,” he said, adding that he was attracted to the city’s diversity, the fast pace and the professional and positive reputation that the police department had.

“What an honor it is for me to be entrusted to lead the Pomona Police Department,” he said. “It’s a police department that I love with all of my heart and soul.”

He said when he applied in Po-

mona, he was “well aware of the city’s challenges and struggles but also very aware that the city had heart.”

Olivieri said he has learned much and the community has made him a better person.

“I have been and will continue to be loyal and committed to Pomona as Pomona runs deep in my blood and my family has a long history here,” he said. “I’m passionate about our city, I’m protective of it and motivated to achieve great things for our community as the police chief.”

“Under my leadership you can expect that we will be tough and no-nonsense on crime, but we will carry ourselves in a manner that is compassionate, professional and accountable,” Olivieri said. “I’m a lucky person because the people in this great city already understand that public safety is not a spectator sport, that safe neighborhoods are a result of people and their police working together to create communities capable of sustaining peace and positive civic life.”



Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri, at left, takes the oath of office administered by Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval at this month’s swearing in ceremonies at Pomona’s Sheraton Fairplex Hotel.



Family members on hand to support new Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri at his swearing in ceremony this month at Pomona’s Sheraton Fairplex Hotel are, from left, his dad, Mike Olivieri, Sr., his wife, Faith Olivieri; and his mom, Bobbie Olivieri. Olivieri’s parents are residents of Alta Loma and formerly lived in Pomona. His mom said she was born in Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.

“We have a mutual obligation to do our respective parts and both our city and their police department will continue working together to do that,” he added.

Sandoval said Olivieri was the first police officer he met in Pomona through his work at the non-profit Bright Prospect, when the two discussed the advantages of a college education to individuals aspiring to become police officers.

“He’s been an incredible resource to this community and I know that for many, many years there were other cities that would have loved to have had him and yet he remains dedicated to the City of Pomona,” Sandoval said. “So, for 28 years he has rebuffed other offers because I know that his heart is here with the City of Pomona.”

The group empowers students to become admitted to and graduate from college.

Pomona Police Capt. Hector Rodriguez, in opening comments, said the event was a celebration of “how a 21-year-old Pomona police recruit Michael

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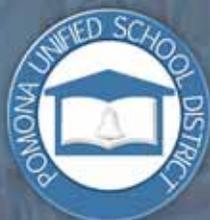
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Diamond Ranch	May 6th	6:30 PM	Spring Concert	Fox Theater, Pomona
Fremont Academy	May 16th	6:00 PM	Spring Concert	Gym
Ganesha	May 16th	7:00 PM	Spring Concert	Gym
Garey	May 26th	7:30 PM	Music Extravaganza	Fox Theater, Pomona
Pomona	May 11th	7:00 PM	Spring Concert	Gym
Village	May 18th	6:30 PM	Film Festival	Village
Middle Schools	Date	Time	Event	Location
Emerson	May 15th	6:30 PM	Choir	Gym
Emerson	May 9th	6:30 PM	Spring Concert	Gym
Lorbeer	May 16th	5:30 PM	Spring Concert	Gym
Marshall	May 24th	7:00 PM	Spring Concert	Gym
Simons	April 25th	6:00 PM	Spring Concert	Gym
Districtwide Secondary Events	Date	Time	Event	Location
Emerging Artist Exhibit	May 5th	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Opening Reception	dA Center for the Arts
Pomona City Watercolor Show	May 5th	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Award Ceremony	dA Center for the Arts



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Funeral services... from pg. 1

me like a brother.”

“We became friends through hard work and oftentimes through sarcasm,” Guevara said. “He helped me when I needed help. I know he’ll be with me when I’m on the street. He’ll forever be my brother.”

“Our hearts collectively ache from this tragic loss of Officer Greg Casillas,” said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, the first speaker at the service, adding that police officers every day “leave their family, their friends and loved ones and their own safety at the door . . . to make our community a better place.”

He said it is tragedies such as this that remind everyone of the “fragility of life of our police officers.”

“Officer Greg Casillas laid down his life to protect and serve our community,” Sandoval said. “His loss will forever be mourned.”

“To the Casillas family . . . I am so sorry,” said Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri. “I know there are no words that are capable of easing your pain.”

He called the series of events “a nightmare that none of us ever dreamed would happen.”

“May Greg’s legacy live on,” he added.

Olivieri, reading from a handwritten autobiography Casillas was required to write in 2016 when he applied for a position as a police officer, recounted how Casillas said he was born in Glendale and was the oldest of three

boys who grew up in Lincoln Heights until his family moved to Lincoln Heights when he was about 15.

He had been with his wife Claudia for six years in 2013 when they moved to San Dimas and decided to have a baby.

“The reason that attracted me to a career in law enforcement was wanting to make a difference,” Casillas said in the autobiography.

And he said he decided to apply for a position in Pomona because he felt he could relate to the community “since I grew up in a similar environment.”

Olivieri said Casillas added that he knew he could be an asset to the department.

“Officer Casillas, you certainly made a difference,” Olivieri said. “Today we say goodbye to Greg Casillas but it is certainly not the last day we will remember his sacrifice.”

Purpose Church Pastor Glenn Gunderson called Casillas a warrior, a protector, a peacemaker and a family man.

And Pomona Police Capt.

Hector Rodriguez expressed the police department’s thanks for the “tremendous outpouring of support” during an obviously difficult time.

The service included full military and police honors – from the flag-draped casket and a police honor guard escorting family members to their seats – to an honor guard to a bagpipe brigade to a pulpit lined with floral wreaths on easels and even a rotating ceremonial guard of two officers watching over the casket throughout the ceremony.

An honor court of Pomona Police officers lined the center aisle as pallbearers carried the casket to an awaiting hearse in front of the church for a solemn procession to a burial site at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Covina Hills.

Among those in attendance were retired Pomona Police Chiefs Dave Keetle and Paul Capraro, who administered Casillas’ oath of office as a new recruit in September 2017. Casillas was just about to complete his training at the time of the incident.

Also in attendance were Gov.



Pool photos by Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times
Pomona police officers carry the casket of Officer Gregory Casillas from the hearse into Pomona’s Purpose Church before funeral services.



Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri eulogizes Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas at funeral services last month. Pictured at left is a floral arrangement of a Pomona police uniform patch.

Jerry Brown, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and California Highway Patrol Commissioner Warren Stanley.

Several blocks of Garey Avenue outside of the church were

closed to traffic before and during the service as dozens of emergency vehicles – police, fire, ambulance and more – lined up three across in preparation for the procession to Forest Lawn.

Pictured in the front row at funeral services for Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas are, from left, California Gov. Jerry Brown, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and California Highway Patrol Commissioner Warren Stanley.



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L.A. Supervisor Hilda Solis calls ‘Dreamers’ the nation’s new civil rights movement

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, speaking last month at the Latino and Latina Roundtable’s 14th annual Cesar Chavez breakfast in Pomona, asked the “Dreamers” (recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA) in the audience to stand and called them “the new civil rights movement to the United States of America.”

“We have an awesome job ahead of us because every single day we’re under attack,” Solis said, referring to movements against “sanctuary city” status in Orange County, San Diego and other areas.

She called Cesar Chavez “our iconic hero” who “inspired all of us,” and cited Dolores Huerta, who co-founded the National Farmworkers Association with Cesar Chavez, as “an awesome and super hero.”

Solis, who served as Secretary of Labor in the Obama administration and was the first Latina to serve in the U.S. Cabinet, said it was Huerta, who she called a personal friend, who created the phrase “si se puede,” or “yes we can.”

And she said while she never met Cesar Chavez, she attended his funeral soon after she was elected to the California Assembly. She said she had the privilege of helping to carry his casket.

“I felt so overwhelmed because of the force of people, the spirits that were there,

people that had gathered from all over the country... many people from around the country... came around to pay tribute to a true hero,” Solis said, “and someone that reminds us even today how important it is to lift up those lives of people that often struggle in silence and often struggle behind the scenes.”

“We pay trib-

ute today to all of those workers, we pay tribute to the folks that are serving us (our meals) today,” she said.

Solis told a packed banquet room of more than 450 attendees at Pomona’s Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center that it has been a pleasure to represent her first supervisorial district where a majority of Latinos reside and where there are constant efforts to take away their representation.

“That would be a tremendous blow to the redistricting effort that we undertake in the next few years, so we have to fight back,” Solis said. “We have to fight for our immigrants, we have to fight for our parents, we have to fight for better education and better health care and make sure that we have a clean environment no mat-



HONORED BY LATINO AND LATINA ROUNDTABLE -- Luis Nolasco of the ACLU of Southern California, center, is honored at the annual San Gabriel and Pomona Valley Latino and Latina Roundtable Cesar Chavez Breakfast by Roundtable President Jose Calderon, at left, and Vice President Angela Sanbrano, at right.

ter where you live.”

“All of these things bring us together,” she said.

Roundtable President Jose Calderon told the audience his organization honored Solis before she went back to Washington to serve as Secretary of Labor.

“Hilda has always been there for us,” he said. “Hilda has never lost that grass roots character.”

Maura Ayala receives ‘community star award’

The group’s highest honor this year, the “community star award,” was presented to organizer and community volunteer Maura Ayala, a Roundtable member.

She was recognized last year at the Los Angeles County



Scholarship winners at this year’s annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast were recognized for their academic, community engagement and social justice achievements. Pictured, from left, are Brenda Gomez, a student at Pomona High School; Josue Garcia, a student at Pomona’s Garey High School; Ivan Hernandez, Pomona High School; and Melanie Andreo, a graduate of Garey High School and a student at Claremont’s Pitzer College.

Fair as a “community hero.”

Ayala told the audience it was an honor to work with an organization that does so much with the little money it has for the com-

munity.

And she told the audience that without their support the Roundtable would not be able to do the **Dreamers... pg. 6**



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work it does.

“I receive this award for the people who are always working behind the scenes who aren’t always noticed, the people who work in hospitals and . . . places that we don’t really think about,” she said.

And she particularly acknowledged those with disabilities.

“Sometimes our society does not acknowledge them, accept them for having their disabilities, but they are part of our society,” she added. “In their honor I receive this award and the fight

goes on.”

Also honored at the breakfast were Maria Alonso, Luis Nolasco and the Pomona College dining hall workers.

Maria Alonso

Alonso, executive director and founder of Huerta del Valle Community Garden in Ontario, works to better the health and well being of members of the community, particularly low-income families.

She told the audience she started the garden because her youngest son, now 17, was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactiv-



Christian Torres, at the podium, and the Pomona College dining hall workers were honored at the Roundtable’s Cesar Chavez Breakfast for their three-year struggle to form a union.



‘Community Star Award’ winner Maura Ayala, at right, receives the prestigious honor from Latino and Latina Roundtable Vice President Angela Sanbrano at last month’s annual breakfast. Leaders at the annual event are honored for their demonstrated commitment to the service and values of Cesar Chavez.



Maria Alonso of the Huerta del Valle Community Garden in Ontario is honored by Latino and Latina Roundtable President Jose Calderon.

ity disorder and she needed low-cost organic fruit and vegetables as an alternative to medicine, which she has never used.

She learned about organic community gardens while teaching Spanish at Pitzer College in Claremont.

And today, she said, her son is joining the police academy to train to become a police officer.

Luis Nolasco

Nolasco, a community engage-

ment and policy advocate for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, spends much of his time working on matters stemming from the involvement of the criminal justice system with the immigration system.

Much of his expertise comes from his own experience being detained in an immigration prison in 2012 in Georgia.

He was a leading force in organizing the statewide campaign for

Senate Bill 54, the California Values Act, commonly referred to as the “sanctuary state” bill.

Nolasco told the audience that while he grew up in Rialto, he is undocumented.

He told the audience that DACA was not merely something President Obama gave them.

“That was a victory that we fought tooth and nail for,” he said.

“That was a victory by undocu-
Dreamers... pg. 7

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Dreamers... from pg. 6

mented youth for undocumented youth. That was our victory.”

Later that same year, he said, he willingly turned himself over to ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) in Atlanta to infiltrate immigration detention

closed.

“These are great examples of the power we have of community and as leaders,” he said. “We are the change, we can make this happen.”

Pomona College dining hall workers

The Pomona College dining hall workers started a three-year struggle to form a union in 2010, but their efforts suffered a blow when management, aware that it was illegal to use the issue of undocumented workers in the middle of a unionization attempt, checked papers of every employee of the college and came down to 17 in the dining hall who were fired, many of them there 20 and 30 years.

Once employees signed their first union contract, a clause in the agreement required the college to reinstate every employee as soon as they are ready.

Christian Torres, a former cook, told the audience that today the workers are on their second contract and, to date, two of those 17 who were fired have been given their old jobs back.



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis

centers “for the purpose of documenting cases, organizing from the inside out and liberate our people from immigration prison.”

And, while he ended up in deportation proceedings, only three years later that facility, the North Shore Detention Facility, was

IVHP EMPLOYEES VOLUNTEER AT THE OTHER IVHP -- Employee volunteers at Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan held their ninth annual “Helping Hands” program this month, this year selecting Pomona-based Inland Valley Hope Partners for their volunteer work. The non-profit's “Helping Hands” program was designed to give health plan employees a chance to volunteer and help build on the company's mission -- to bring health and vitality to the communities they serve. The volunteers helped out at Inland Valley Hope Partners' food pantry SOVA Program Center in Ontario to help pull food and fill bags for distribution to the thousands of low-income residents of Western San Bernardino County and Eastern Los Angeles County the organization assists. Pictured, from left, taking a break for the camera are Inter Valley Health Plan employees Emma Adarkwa and Elsa Dominguez, SOVA Program Center associate Michael Watson, and Inter Valley Health Plan employees Sandy Loya and Pauline Ku.



RAISING THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE FLAG IN POMONA -- For the first time after 53 years, a flag of the South Vietnam Republic was raised last month at Pomona's Veterans Park in ceremonies honoring U.S. veterans of the Vietnam War, surviving South Vietnamese veterans, and their surviving families. Pomona's Chief Tony Cerda and members of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel tribe provided spiritual healing at the event. Some 200 participants, many wearing military uniforms, included Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley President Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, Congresswoman Norma Torres, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, members of La Verne's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12034, and others. The coalition hopes to build a Vietnam Veterans monument at Veterans Park in the future. Sponsors of the event were Support Kids in Progress, Inc. (SKIP) and the City of Pomona. Pictured at the event, from left, are Bregunn and Trinity, known as the singing group Viosa, who performed at the event and sang the national anthem; SKIP Founder and President Alice Varela; and SKIP volunteers Yanice Hilario and Debra Watkins.



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Homeless, public safety, transportation and clean air among highlights at Pomona Chamber legislative luncheon

Congresswoman Norma Torres kicked off last month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce annual legislative luncheon calling the country "even more divided," adding that she believes "it is time for all of us to really find a common ground."

She said this would include areas ranging from the Affordable Care Act and homelessness to affordable housing and public safety, adding later in the forum that she has been focusing on Ontario International Airport and transportation along with human trafficking.

Also appearing at the event held at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Hotel was State Sen. Connie Leyva, who said that getting her bills signed into law by the governor is "wonderful" but "really coming back here and working with all of you is my passion."

She said that her work has included both transportation and clean energy.

"We are a transportation hub but we also want to have clean air," she said, adding that she has been working on getting additional funding for after school programs for kids.



POMONA CHAMBER PRESENTS ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON -- Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana, at left, moderating last month's annual Pomona Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, sets the stage as Congresswoman Norma Torres, at far right, comments on the opening question. Pictured, from left, are Santana, Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, State Sen. Connie Leyva, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and Torres.

Without it, she said, "they'll find something to do, it just won't be what we want them to do."

"If we do not have infrastructure and child care, moms can not go back to work," Leyva said. "And if moms can not go back to work, then we just complete that circle of poverty."

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez said he has been working on "how we can make things better," adding that part of that has been building stron-

ger relationships.

"More than ever we need to be working together," he said, so the constituents will have the leverage to get things done.

He added that when he was a youth in Pomona, gang violence was very high.

"But things have changed, it's not like that any more," he said. "It's coming together as a community - we're all in this togeth-

er. We need to promote what we have" in Pomona.

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang told a sold-out banquet room with about 250 in attendance that he oversees 1,500 employees who are responsible for assessing 2.5 million parcels of property a year.

He told members of the audience that assessed valuation of Pomona has improved and is at

\$11 billion in assessed valuation, so actual value is higher - a figure that grew at a very "brisk" 4.7 percent last year.

He said that this half billion dollar increase translates to "a couple million tax dollars" to the schools, city and special districts.

Putting it in perspective, he said growth countywide was 6

Legislative luncheon... pg. 16

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DEMONSTRATING THE DANGERS OF DRINKING AND DRIVING -- A student "victim" thrown from a vehicle in this simulation of an accident scene (and yes, that's the "Grim Reaper" on the other side of the SUV) demonstrates the dangers of drinking and driving as the "Every 15 Minutes" program was presented at Pomona's Village Academy High School this month. The realistic drama, presented to high school juniors and seniors, is designed to get the students' attention since, as the national organization promoting the program states, someone in the U.S. dies from an alcohol related traffic collision every 15 minutes (and the program has been expanded to include texting while driving). The program at Village Academy was presented in conjunction with the Pomona Police Department and the California Highway Patrol. The mock traffic accident was staged in the school parking lot. The following day, students participated in a special assembly to view a video and hear guest speakers.

Repertory Opera offers music at noon

Pomona's Repertory Opera Company is offering "Music at Noon," featuring 40 minutes of musical beauty and serenity with Brian Farrell at the piano, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Pomona.

The program is free but donations are accepted. Trinity United is located at 676 N. Gibbs St., Pomona. For more information, call (909) 230-4949.

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La Nueva Voz produces 'musical extravaganza' fundraiser to send Garey High School 'InvenTeam' back to M.I.T.

Photos courtesy of Lifetime Memories Photography by Eric Jung



Members of the Garey High School Viking Troopers Choir pose for a photo after their performance at the Ebell Museum.



Members of Garey High School's InvenTeam, one of only 15 teams in the country to win a grant for their invention, pose for a photo this month at the Pomona Ebell Museum of History with their teachers Antonio Gamboa, left rear, and Alex Ruper, at right. The grant covered everything but travel back to Cambridge in June to showcase their invention and La Nueva Voz produced a musical fundraiser to help with expenses. Unofficial numbers show nearly \$3,000 was raised at the event. Sponsors for the event included La Nueva Voz, The Historical Society of Pomona Valley, the Garey High School music department, Cardenas Markets, Fairplex, Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, State Sen. Connie Leyva, Pomona Unified Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman, Pomona Chamber of Commerce, Frank and Vita Gonzales of U.S.A. Fit Force Taekwondo, Manuel Castillejos, Carrie Baker and major donor Forney Charities, Inc.



Lily's Tacos provided dinner for the InvenTeam fundraiser.

La Nueva Voz Vice President of Advertising Sales and Operations Renee Barbee, at left, reads one of the certificates to members of the InvenTeam. Certificates honoring the students were provided by Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and State Sen. Connie Leyva. Certificates from Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and members of the City Council were presented to the students at a recent City Council meeting.

Fundraiser... pg. 12



Garey High School history teacher Ion Puschila, behind the bar, volunteered to serve as bartender for the evening. And according to reports based on a tip jar filled to the brim with proceeds going to the kids, he did an excellent job. Pictured from left are professional keyboard player Charles Dollison, Puschila, singer Reggie Akins and drummer and Garey music teacher Jorge Zuniga.

Million Mothers March set for May

Vendor opportunities are available for the 12th annual Million Mothers March, sponsored by Pomona's Kennedy Austin Foundation to help the healing process of mothers and families who have lost children.

Registration for the event will be held at 8 a.m. at Pomona's Ganesha Park, and the walk gets

under way at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 19.

Ethel Gardner, executive director of the foundation, founded the non-profit in 1993 following the tragic death of her only son.

For more information, contact (909) 480-3357 or visit the web site at www.kennedyaustinfoundation.org.



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Fundraiser... from pg. 11



Singer Reggie Akins belted out two tunes -- one by the Beatles and the other by the Temptations.



Members of the Garey High School Jazz Orchestra, led by band director Anthony Bonner, second from left, sounded great at the InvenTeam fundraiser.



Band members knew they 'struck a nerve' when the kids -- and a few adults -- poured onto the dance floor for Jerry Lee Lewis' "39 and holding," so they followed it up with Honky Tonk Women by the Rolling Stones. And yes, that's Pomona Unified School District Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman (back to the camera, third from left), former Planning Commission Chairman Denny Mosier and his wife Helen, a former library commissioner (back to the camera), at center, and Garey InvenTeam teacher Antonio Gamboa, at far right. Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Pomona Unified Board Vice President Frank Guzman and Garey Principal Dr. Marco Sanchez also attended the event.



Jeff Schenkel on the guitar, Charles Dollison on the keyboard and Jorge Zuniga on drums performed a 45-minute set of old country and old rock and roll songs at the InvenTeam fundraiser. Want to see the show? Send Renee Barbee, master of ceremonies at the event, a "friend" request on Facebook and scroll down a ways to view her Facebook live video.

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CONSERVATION CORPS HOSTS CONSTRUCTION TRAINING 'FINALS' -- Danny Oaxaca, Founder and Director of the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, at center, pitches in with an electric sander as students from Youth Build Charter School of California participate in "finals" for their career apprenticeship certification at the Conservation Corps campus in Pomona. Ben Garcia, Regional Coordinator for Youth Build, at left, told La Nueva Voz the students will graduate in June and immediately start looking for work in the building trades here in Southern California. The week-long collaborative event involving both organizations last month was held at Conservation Corps facilities in both Pomona and El Monte. Garcia said Youth Build, a national organization with some 300 programs, has about 500 graduates locally working toward different career and college pathways. Last month's "finals" were the culmination of three months of training or about 120 hours of work -- both in the classroom and hands-on. Typical students are between the ages of 16 and 24 and most have dropped out of high school and are looking to re-engage and get their diploma, get some job training skills and better their lives, Garcia said. For more information, visit the web site at www.youthbuildcharter.org. And those completed storage units are available to businesses and non-profits while supplies last for donations.



UNVEILING HER PORTRAIT IN WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, former U.S. Secretary of Labor under President Obama, unveiled her official portrait at the Department of Labor in Washington last week, surrounded by family, friends, elected officials and former staff. "The guiding force for my life in public service has been working towards social justice, combating discrimination and racism, and standing up and fighting for the underdog," Solis said. "I am proud to say that workers had an ally in the Department of Labor during my four years as labor secretary." She thanked President Obama for "placing his trust in me." Pictured helping in the unveiling are, from left, sister Anna Maria Solis, Supervisor Solis, her husband, Sam Sayyad, and sisters Leticia Solis and Irma Rincon. The portrait was created by Angel Villanueva, an internationally renowned artist who was born in California to Mexican immigrants. "Hilda Solis is a trailblazer, a committed fighter for families and my cherished former colleague and friend," said Democratic Leader Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (San Francisco), who spoke at the unveiling. Others in attendance included Congressmembers Judy Chu and Norma Torres, along with Los Angeles County Supervisors Kathryn Barger, Sheila Kuehl and Janice Hahn. Solis, the first Latina to serve in the Presidential Cabinet, was Secretary of Labor from 2009 until 2013.

Inter Valley Health Plan to host sixth annual 'Women's Changing, Aging Roles' event

Inter Valley Health Plan's sixth annual "Women's Changing, Aging Roles" event, an interactive conference on the theme "Generations and Traditions," will be held for adults 55 and older Saturday at Hillcrest Retirement Community in La Verne.

Local speakers will focus on the importance of traditions which, researchers say, are part of healthy families and support healthy relationships between the generations.

Admission is free but reservations are re-

quired by calling (800) 886-4471.

Speakers will include Rev. Elizabeth Bingham of Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church, Pat Chavarria, President of the Glendora Genealogical Group, and Maura Graber of Graber Olive House in Ontario.

The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 28 (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.) at Hillcrest in The Meeting House, 2705 Mountain View Drive, La Verne.

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The times they are a-changing!

For those of you who haven't been on a college campus lately, it's different today.

A half-page opinion piece in the March 27 "Poly Post," the student newspaper at Cal Poly University Pomona, had the headline "Birth control should be free on campus."

Not just available, mind you, but free.

As staff writer Christina Manuel pointed out, "working part-time jobs, paying for classes and having little money to spare for food and gas, female students don't have extra money lying around to pay for birth control pills every month."

We can understand that, even though she goes on to say that the Cal Poly health center prices the birth control pill at around \$9 every month for the "cheapest type of hormonal birth control the health center has to offer."

She cited statistics that about half of the female students at the health center reported taking birth control in 2016. And about a third said they use some type of contraceptives during sex, with condoms

out in front at about 60 percent.

And she makes a pretty good argument that condoms are handed out for free but not the birth control pill.

She suggests an option of including the price of the pills in student tuition under the mandatory health services fee already charged to students.

And she says with everything else students have to worry about, trying to find different ways to come up with extra cash for birth control pills shouldn't be one more thing.

After all, we don't think students should have to spend their time needlessly taking them away from that total college experience that we all remember so well.

Some of us at La Nueva Voz remember college in the '60s when the topic didn't even come up in official on-campus conversations and female students resorted to seeking out those one or two docs just off campus (that everybody seemed to know about) who would

Times... pg. 16

In an unprecedented move, editorial page editors of daily newspapers serving this region – and others elsewhere in California and even in Denver at the flagship paper in the chain the Denver Post and beyond – editorialized against their own owners over recent massive cuts of staff making it more difficult to cover the local news and continue to provide good journalism.

Apparently, it all happened on the same day, in the Sunday paper earlier this month, where locally, the San Gabriel Valley Tribune and the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin devoted their entire "Perspectives" section to airing their frustrations in public – and, when you are a newspaper, that's about as public as you can get.

Generally, the message was pretty basic – the layoffs (or terminations – we couldn't get a clear answer) were fostering a decline in newspapering as we know it today.

How massive were the cuts? We don't know for sure – the local publisher did not respond to our e-mail asking for some of the specifics.

However, according to a Los An-

Daily newspapers in trouble – again!

geles television station report out of Denver, the cuts there were roughly half of the newsroom.

And locally, La Nueva Voz has heard from staff members and freelancers who reported, unofficially, that some 17 reporters lost their jobs only a few weeks after about as many photographers lost theirs (we heard only one photographer was left at the Long Beach Press-Telegram – and by comparison, there were four at the San Gabriel Valley Tribune in the early 1970s).

At La Nueva Voz, we remember newspapering as far back as 1970 in this market and, over the past nearly 50 years, cutting staff has pretty much been a way of life – whether at the suburban dailies or even downtown at the Los Angeles Times.

(After all, there was once a paper here called the Los Angeles Herald Examiner, for those who remember that far back – it closed shop in 1989.)

The Sunday paper locally pulled out all the stops this month – the front page of the opinion section ran the headline "A free press in peril," and inside columns included "In new media world, opinion more relevant than ever," "News is more than the delivery platform," and "A free press is taking a back seat to on-line ease."

The lead editorial headline read "Stand with us by backing real newspapering," and it said, "American newspapers are under fire on any number of fronts, as never before in the history of our republic."

One recent on-line commentary (sorry, even though we believe in print media for news, we read the internet from time to time) claimed that it is not the internet that is killing newspapers, it is hedge funds.

Apparently, that is the case here with the local suburban dailies, a chain including papers from the Los Angeles Daily News and the Long Beach Press-Telegram to the Orange County Register, the Riverside Press-Enterprise and the San Bernardino Sun.

All are owned by Digital First Media, based in Denver and owners of some 97 papers.

But Digital First Media is controlled by Alden Global Capital, a New York-based hedge fund specializing, according to financial web sites, in distressed properties (you

know, like Richard Gere in "Pretty Woman," cutting up failing businesses in to pieces and selling them for scrap).

The company is said to manage \$2.12 billion in assets.

At the Denver Post, in the words of the New York Times, the lead editorial "pulled no punches," describing executives at Alden Global Capital as "vulture capitalists."

The editorial went on to say "Denver deserves a newspaper owner who supports its newsroom. If Alden isn't willing to do good journalism here, it should sell The Post to owners who will."

We haven't heard how many of those 97 editorial page editors are still employed.

Fortunately, here in Pomona, La Nueva Voz is completely independent and not directly impacted by any of this.

But we recognize that the daily papers will not possibly be able to provide the same level of coverage to all of their communities as they have in the past, with reporters now forced to double up on the number of cities they are required to cover for their papers.

And, frankly, compared to the way things were 50, 40, and even 30 years ago, the local news "hole" (that portion of the paper between the ads available for local news stories and photos) has been dramatically diminishing for a long time, making it more difficult than ever before for public relations folks and publicity chairpersons from community

groups to get their message in the paper. That's one of the reasons La Nueva Voz is here in Pomona – to get those local stories into print so all of this good work in the community won't go unnoticed.

Obviously, the editorials were right on the money. And "it's a sad day in Mudville" (quoting the poem "Casey at the Bat," for those not familiar – Google it) – for the newspapers, for the readers, for all of the professionals who lost their jobs in the middle of all of this, and for journalism in general.

All we can say is, at least in the minds of hedge fund operators, local news doesn't seem to matter that much after all. And frankly, we see that as something that can only hurt the community – and our great nation – in the long run.



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New police chief... from pg. 2

Olivieri rose through the ranks to now hold the City of Pomona's top cop honor, Chief of the Pomona Police Department."

He said Olivieri began his career in law enforcement in Pomona in 1990, after serving as an explorer cadet in the City of Chino in 1984 and a police dispatcher in Ontario in 1986.

He is graduate of the Rio Hondo Reserve Officer Academy, the Rio Hondo Police Academy, has an associate degree in administration of justice from Rio Hondo College, and a bachelor's degree

in criminal justice management from Union Institute and University based in Cincinnati.

More recently, he became a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, where he worked closely for several months with then-FBI Director James Comey.

Rodriguez said Olivieri has served on patrol, on the major crimes task force, as a SWAT officer and a traffic officer, and has held ranks of corporal, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, deputy chief and now chief.



ANNUAL CESAR CHAVEZ PILGRIMAGE MARCH -- Jose Calderon, President of the Latino and Latina Roundtable, addresses participants in the 16th annual Cesar Chavez Pilgrimage March and Celebration in front of Pomona's Garey High School this month. Marchers walked from a rally in front of the Pomona Unified School District administration building to Garey for a tree ceremony, scholarship presentations, music, dancers, food and speakers. The event is coordinated by a coalition of local leaders, parents, students, teachers and community groups under the theme "Community, Solidarity and Compassion." It focuses on quality of life issues in Pomona's diverse communities, and honors a legacy of advancing human rights, immigrant and refugee rights, peace and social justice in the region. Pictured with Calderon are paper mache likenesses of National Farmworkers Association co-founders Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez.



FUNDRAISER FOR A GOOD CAUSE -- Pomona's American Legion Post 30 -- including all of the departments from the Auxiliary and the Legionnaires to the employees and the boosters -- hosted a fundraiser for the family of slain Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas last month and members pulled out all the stops to fill the pickle jar with donations. The event included everything from a pot luck buffet, karaoke, face painting and even a visiting K-9 police dog from the Pomona Police Department. Organizers said the event was "in appreciation to our police officers to give gratitude for what they do for us every day . . . as our soldiers do." Pictured, from left, are Post Commander Richard Haro, Juan Rodriguez, Joe Paczkowski, Wlt Kuland, Post Finance Officer Alex Escobedo, Post 30 Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff, Cheryl Scholl and organizers Gill and Jenn (Gill Kelly is an American Legion booster and Jenn Watson, a Navy veteran, served on an aircraft carrier).

House of Ruth Executive Director Sue Aebischer honored with prestigious non-profit award

Pomona's House of Ruth Executive Director Sue Aebischer was recognized this month as "Executive Director of the Year" by the Academy for Grassroots Organizations during their 2018 Inland Empire Academy Awards for Nonprofit Excellence.

Aebischer received the organization's highest award this month in ceremonies at the Spring Valley Lake Country Club in the Victorville area.

Aebischer, who has dedicated her life to serving as an advocate for victims of domestic violence, has helped thousands of men, women and children increase their safety, self-sufficiency and hope.

Established in 1977, House of Ruth has grown into one of Southern California's most respected social service agencies providing support and safety for battered women and their children.

Created by community volunteers, the agency's early years focused on maintaining a telephone "hotline" for victims of domestic violence and providing referrals

to shelters and other services, a hotline that still operates today at (877) 988-5559.

In 1981, after providing shelter for women in private homes, House of Ruth received a grant to lease an abandoned fraternity house in Pomona that became its first shelter.

Today, the organization includes a shelter with a residential capacity of 55, on-site counseling and educational services, and comprehensive outreach activities that reach more than 10,000 residents each year throughout the region.

The 18-year-old Academy for Grassroots Organizations was cre-



HOUSE OF RUTH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECEIVES HONOR -- Sue Aebischer, Executive Director of Pomona's House of Ruth, receives the 'Executive Director of the Year' award from the Academy for Grassroots Organizations. Pictured, from left, are the Academy's past Board Chair Christopher Lindsay, Aebischer, and Academy Board Chair Matthew Coughlin.

ated to meet the needs of a growing San Bernardino County by coalescing and strengthening its non-profit sector. Today, it provides a variety of resources and non-profit learning opportunities throughout the region and serves a network of more than 1,000 non-profit professionals and volunteers.

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The day the Chicano movement was born My Reflections on the East Los Angeles High School Walkouts

By Susie Perales

March 5, 1968, is a day that is still fresh in my memory. It was the day high school students in East Los Angeles decided that enough was enough. They wanted more than the mediocre education they were being offered on a tarnished platter filled with inadequate and racist teachers. Students felt their future looked dim and they intended to do something about it.

My uncle, Moctesuma Esparza, was a part of the 22,000 students that started 'la revolución' that demanded they be treated fairly in these academic institutions that were not meeting their needs.

The schools were falling apart, and students were going without the proper educational tools to help them continue on to college. They were dismissed as the students who were not deemed to be desirable college material.

I was elated to watch this historic event on television. I could hardly wait to break the news to my parents. I was proud of my uncle for his courage and commitment to make things better for the Chicano community.

I recall when this event occurred and many events after it. We were inspired to march in many protests after the Great Walkouts!

My uncle, Moctesuma, was the one person who inspired me

Times... from pg. 14

write prescriptions for birth control pills without parental consent.

But editorials? Probably not. I mean, we were busy talking about the Vietnam War, having student representation in the selection of a new chancellor and, for that matter, looking at the calendar, the first Earth Day.

We don't disagree with the writer of the opinion piece, and we probably think it is a good idea that students today are considering these issues.

But even more to the point, the editorial position jumped out at us – it really is different today.

Yes, it's all right ma, as poet and songwriter Bob Dylan said (he was one of ours, you know, from the '60s), the times they are a-changing.

to step out and try to make sure that the Latino students in the school system were treated fairly. I wanted to make a difference in these young students' lives. I worked for the school district in our community for 29 years and spent 10 of those years helping students learn to read, write and speak English. It was my passion.

When I worked there in the 1970s it was still a battle to be a Mexican in a public school. I got blacklisted as a trouble maker. I was a M.E.Ch.A. advisor and some of the faculty members didn't like the events we put on for the Hispanic students. A teacher initiated a ban on our traditional Cinco de Mayo festivities. There was no longer a princess and her court. We were no longer allowed to celebrate it as it might offend the other students. It brought back sad memories of my youth in elementary and high school.

I became one of the many high school dropouts of the '60s. I was a student at Roosevelt High School. However, my uncle, Moctesuma, and a few of the teachers I worked with instilled in me the importance of getting a good education. I went back to high school and earned my G.E.D. and continued on to college. The walkout event also

was the seed that sparked my eagerness to continue my education.

I remember my dad was very angry with my uncle when he found out he was arrested during the walkouts. He said, "pues que te parece tu tío, esta en la carcel y es un pachuco-comunista!" I told my dad I agreed with the cause my uncle was fighting for. I made it clear to him that my tío was not a pachuco nor a comunista. My dad wasn't too happy with my response. He was furious when I went to Lincoln Park in East L.A. to watch Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta speak. If my dad knew today how far my uncle has come he'd be rolling in his sarape in his beloved Villa Hidalgo. May he RIP.

My uncle was one of the founders of the Brown Berets. I recall how much he cared about our Raza and education. He was always focused on making sure he and his children had the best education possible. He made it his mission in life to lift up our people and provide them with opportunities they normally wouldn't have. He's opened doors for many Latinos in education and in the entertainment world. Moctesuma, mi tío, made major inroads to dispel the myths

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Legislative luncheon... from pg. 9

percent so, while Pomona was just behind that, he called Pomona's growth still "respectable."

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval listed some of the "most incredible institutions in the City of Pomona" including Fairplex, Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Western University of Health Sciences, and Cal Poly University Pomona.

"And we are honored to have these institutions in Pomona," he said. "We (all) want a clean city, we want a safe city, and we want good schools, and I have to say that our schools in Pomona are excellent schools."

He added that residents of Pomona need to take "ownership" of their neighborhoods.

"We are working together to solve the very real issues that we collectively face," he said. "It's going to happen because we're willing to collaborate and have the hard conversations about how to move the city forward."

He pointed to a recent joint bid by the city, Fairplex and Cal Poly to attract a new Amazon secondary headquarters that would bring 50,000 jobs to the

region, adding that the proposal shows Pomona has the people, the universities and the infrastructure.

"We are at the nexus of tremendous possibility but it would not have happened without collaboration," he said.

On the subject of guns, Leyva said she is "proud to have an 'f' rating with the NRA (National Rifle Association)."

"That doesn't mean I don't support the second amendment," she added.

And Rodriguez said California has one of the toughest laws on purchasing a gun and that mental health is a big part of it.

However, he said he learned that not many school districts in California have an active shooter drill to protect both staff and students.

He said he introduced a bill (Assembly Bill 1747) that would require all school districts to develop an active shooter drill so they will be prepared to respond.

Sandoval called on businesses and organizations to "adopt" sectors of Pomona, and added that in the coming year he will be working on a safety and park rangers program for clean and safe parks.

Hope & Hurdles

By Evy Schuman



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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.

Stephanie Campbell honored by Bright Prospect at retirement gala

Stephanie Campbell, honored last week at a gala at Padua Hills Theatre in Claremont as retiring founding executive director of Pomona's Bright Prospect, told a room filled with 250 guests that "everything that Bright Prospect has accomplished is a team effort."

She and her late husband Trevor bought their house in Pomona in 1989.



Eric Garen, at left, and Stephanie Campbell

her background as a high school teacher who "was a perfect person to lead an organization like this."

"She is the reason 1,200 Bright Prospect students from this community are at this minute attending college and working toward their degrees," he said.

An anonymous donor at the event agreed to match dollar for dollar all contributions received at the event.

Also recognized at the event were Bright Prospect alumni who are working in the Inland Empire.



Elizabeth Zamora . . . Incoming Executive Director

She said in 2000, her cousin Eric Garen, president and founder of Bright Prospect, told her about a similar program in South Central Los Angeles that guided outstanding high school students to and through college.

She said Bright Prospect was born in 2002.

"Of all low-income students who start college as the first generation in their families to do so, only 11 percent graduate within six years," Campbell said. "For Bright Prospect, that statistic is 85 percent."

Instead of what would have been 65 students reaching their goal, some 435 young people in the community have earned a bachelor's degree.

Garen, who introduced Campbell, said it was Campbell and



ANNUAL OPTIMIST ORATORICAL CONTEST -- Members of the Pomona Breakfast Optimist Club held their annual oratorical contest this month at the Village at Indian Hill, this year on the topic "Where are my roots of optimism?" Students were required to make a four to five minute presentation. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Unified School District Assistant Superintendent Fernando Meza, an Optimist member, and Ruth Alvarez, Optimist Vice President, both judges for the event; winners Melissa Molina-Portillo, first place, Aaliyah Johnson, second place, Alexxus Zavala, third place, Blair McClain, fourth place, and Angelica Lejia-Lomeli, fifth place; Optimist President Lorraine Canales, a counselor at Pomona's Village Academy High School; M. Joyce Bakersmith, Optimist secretary; and Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, who also served as a judge at the competition. All of the students were from Village Academy High School.

Pomona students to participate in Conga Room dance competition in Los Angeles

Students from three Pomona elementary schools will participate next month in the Conga Kids Dance Championship held at the Conga Room, Los Angeles' renowned music and dance venue.

In all, nearly 3,500 fifth grade students from 35 schools throughout Los Angeles County will vie for the title of Conga Kids Spring Dance Champion from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23, in Microsoft Square at the Conga Room at L.A. Live, 800 W. Olympic Blvd., Los An-

geles, next to the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Students at Kingsley, Lexington and San Jose Elementary Schools will participate in the event.

Conga Kids is a non-profit arm of the Conga Room.

The dance curriculum helps develop students' creative potential and sets a foundation of respect, teamwork, confidence and

leadership, according to a news release.

Dance styles will include Salsa, Tango, Fox Trot and others. Participating students will come from Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Lynwood, El Monte and Pomona.

The competition is open to the public.

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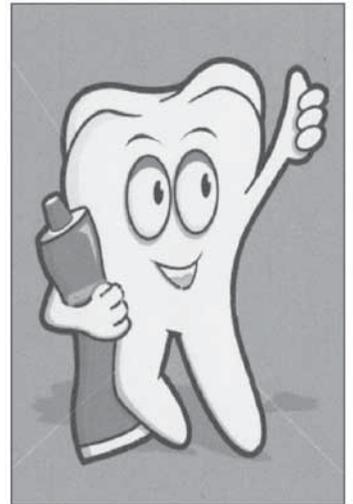
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NOW THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, IT'S HIGH UP AND SHINY! -- A visitor to this month's Farm at Fairplex takes the wheel of a modern farm tractor, one of many tractors -- both old and new -- on display at the event.

Chicano... from pg. 16

that our young Latino children had no motivation to become great by creating positive projects that would promote the many talents and skills that our young people have to offer this great country.

He is my personal hero. He has always encouraged me to take risks whenever I doubted myself. He was the reason, along with my compadre, Raymond Sosa, also a former Brown Beret, that I became a participant in Cesar Chavez's cause for the farm workers.

Those were exciting and fearful days. I didn't realize back then how much of an impact the actions of these brave Chicanos would have for many of us today.

Today that young man who walked out with his fellow students to fight for his civil rights is the CEO of Maya Cinemas. He is an award-winning movie producer. He is the producer of such movies as Selena, Walkout, God's and Generals, and the founder of Maya Pictures.

Editor's note: Talks are continuing between Maya Cinemas and the City of Pomona on a proposal to build a 12-to 14-plex theater in Downtown Pomona. Susie Perales is a resident of the Westmont area of Pomona.



Kids at Spring in the Farm at Fairplex had an opportunity to try their hand at operating an old-fashioned manual water pump. Cal Poly University Pomona's AGRIsapes Center participated in this year's event with Fairplex, providing everything from exhibits and workshops to the hayride around the event.

Ben Clymer's 'The Body Shop' looking for residents in need of a free car

Pomona's Ben Clymer's The Body Shop is looking for deserving applicants from the community in need of a free car as part of an annual free car give-away program.

The program is sponsored by Wawanesa Insurance and the City of Pomona.

This year's special car presentation is scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, at Ben Clymer's, 2607 N. Towne Ave., Pomona.

To submit a name of a deserving resident, call Michael Martinez, at (951) 543-7609, e-mail him at michael@benclymers.com, or download a Benevolence Car Donation application at www.benclymers.com.



THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY -- Representatives of the Kimberland Traveling Forge, whose motto is "Hand crafting our future by celebrating the past," was on hand this month at Spring in the Farm at Pomona's Fairplex to show how horseshoes are made the old-fashioned way. The annual event features activities and workshops in rope making, hay baling, corn grinding and more, all to show the community how nearly everything we eat, wear and use comes from American agriculture. The five-acre Farm at Fairplex is an innovative, model agricultural business and educational resource that builds awareness of health food possibilities, educates in areas of farm-related culinary and agriculture disciplines, and provides business incubator programs for the agriculture and food service industries.

Girls to Pearls

Girls to Pearls social club will host its 19th annual Spring Tea and scholarship brunch next month in Rialto.

Optional attire for young women attending the bonding event is hat and gloves, and a red carpet "best hat" contest is

planned.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, at the Bob Murphy County Community Day School, 149 N. Arrowhead Ave., Rialto.

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

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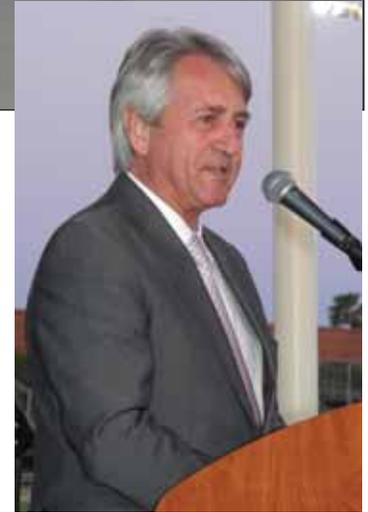
Fairplex Chairman of the Board Cid Pinedo welcomes athletes to Fairplex for the five-day Modern Pentathlon. He told them Fairplex has a 96-year history in the City of Pomona and the region "and you all are a part of that now."



Athletes cross the finish line for their run in front of the Fairplex grandstand before heading over to the laser gun portion of the event.



OLYMPICS PARADE OF NATIONS – Olympics competitors from some 30 countries all over the world line up near the grandstand for the traditional Parade of Nations at opening ceremonies of the 2018 Modern Pentathlon, at Pomona's Fairplex last month for a five-day run. Events included swimming, fencing, horseback riding and a "laser" run. It was the Pentathlon's second year at Fairplex. The Modern Pentathlon was introduced to the world in the 5th Olympiad in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1912. While the original pentathlon events were modeled after skills needed by Greek soldiers at the time, the modern events are modeled after skills needed by a more modern day cavalry behind enemy lines.



Dr. Klaus Schormann, president of the International Union of Modern Pentathlon, officially opened the five day run at Fairplex after two days of qualifications as he ordered the Pentathlon's flag raised.



Members of the Garey High School marching band provided musical accompaniment for opening ceremonies at the Pentathlon again this year.



An athlete takes a shot with his laser gun after completing his run in the laser run competition at Fairplex.

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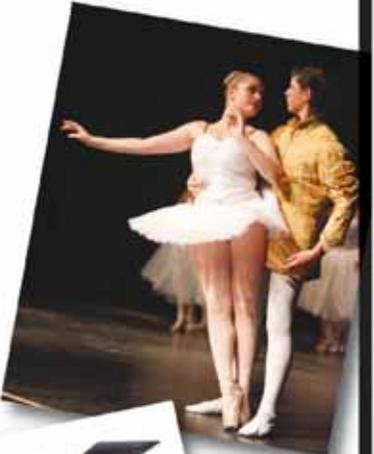
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