



La Nueva Voz

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Thursday, February 28, 2013 www.lanuevavoz.net



Wells Fargo officials in Pomona see economy making a turn based on volume of new activity

Officials at Pomona's Wells Fargo Bank branch, who likely can provide as good an indicator on a rebounding local economy as anyone, see the economy making a gradual but clear return in Pomona based on everything from new businesses to new or refinanced home mortgages.

They should know. After all, the company has been in business for more than 150 years. And Wells Fargo companywide continued last year to be "number one" in U.S. Small Business Administration lending with slightly more than \$2 million loaned to local businesses alone out of the Pomona branch.

In addition, branch manager Ricardo Rosales, who is mid-way through his second year with the



WELLS FARGO OFFICIALS OPTIMISTIC ON THE ECONOMY -- Officials at Wells Fargo Bank branch in Pomona told La Nueva Voz this month they are optimistic about the economy and can find solutions for their customers at any point in the recovery. Pictured in the bank lobby are, from left, Anne Moreno, assistant vice president of corporate communications; branch manager Ricardo Rosales; and Nicha Tabrizi, Wells Fargo district manager.

Cal Poly Pomona.

"It helps because they understand the community and so we are able to help people within our community," Rosales said.

Nicha Tabrizi, district manager for

Wells Fargo's area with branches from the City of Industry and West Covina to Pomona, said the mortgage business is taking off.

"Our mortgage business is the busiest that I've seen as a district

manager," she said, referring to the past four and a half years. "During a time where it can be tough in the economy and a lot of people are looking for ways to save more money and make more money, if we can save them money on their interest rates" the bank wants to let them know.

She added that Wells Fargo is actually "growing" its mortgage business and has increased the number of mortgage processors or mortgage officers -- in the 10 branches she oversees, the number has doubled from one to two in each branch.

Then on the whole is there light at the end of the tunnel when it comes to the economy?

"I would definitely like to think so," Tabrizi said. "One thing we do very well as a company is we try to find solutions for any need that's out there so whether the economy is

doing well or not, we find whatever tools we can give our customers to help them be the best they can be."

She explained this applies across the board -- to retirement, credit, and insurance.

"We're trying to find ways to save them money and also help teach them to save money," she added.

Rosales said he has learned a lot from the Pomona market which, he pointed out, has a high base of clientele of students and a high base of clientele of Hispanic.

"So we tailor to a lot of need by being very involved with the schools around us -- Western University, Cal Poly Pomona, Mt. SAC," he said, adding that the branch reaches out to the students to teach them about financial literacy.

The bank also is able to accept Mexican Matricula Consular ID
Economy making a turn... pg 12

**Please see related
story page 12.**

bank and nearly six years with the company, said that of the more than 30 employees at the branch, more than 80 percent live in or around Pomona. Rosales himself attended

Congresswoman McLeod gets 'settled' in D.C., tackles issues from gun control to immigration

Pomona's newly elected representative Congresswoman Gloria Negrete McLeod already has settled in and become familiar with the Washington scene -- enough to have a handle on key issues facing the nation ranging from gun control and the nation's debt level to immigration.

In an exclusive and wide-ranging interview with La Nueva Voz last month after only 28 days in office, McLeod said her new job is very different

McLeod... pg 6



**Congresswoman Gloria Negrete McLeod...
... on steps of Capitol in Washington, D.C.**



WINTERNAUTICALS KICK OFF NHRA 2013 RACING SEASON WHICH STARTS AND ENDS IN POMONA -- The 53rd annual 2013 NHRA Winter Nationals jump-started this year's racing season at the Auto Club Raceway at Pomona's Fairplex this month. La Nueva Voz captured the above shot as two top fuel dragsters opened it up for their run down the 1,000 foot track in Friday's qualifying round. Pictured, from left, are Leah Pruett of Dote Racing and Steve Torrence, driving the CAPCO Contractors, Inc., entry. Torrence clocked 3.815 seconds for 321.50 miles per hour, qualifying him in ninth place. Pruett made the run in 3.865 seconds at 291.38 miles per hour for 13th position. She did not qualify. Shawn Langdon (Al-Anabi Racing Dragster) won the top fuel category in Sunday's finals with a time of 3.721 at 322.27 mph over Tony Schumacher (U.S. Army Dragster) with 3.747 at 324.12 mph. The NHRA racing season will wrap up back in Pomona with the finals Nov. 7 - 10. (See related story page 5.)



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‘Project Sticker Shock’ launched to help curb sales of alcohol to minors

Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman and other members of “Partnership for a Positive Pomona” kicked off “Project Sticker Shock” last month as a public awareness campaign to remind adults it is against the law to sell or provide alcohol to minors.

Rothman, speaking at a sidewalk news conference outside a Pomona liquor store, called on the community to work together to curb underage drinking with Partnership for a Positive Pomona “taking the initiative by setting clear standards.”

Partnership coordinator Sara Cooley said that by working together, Pomona can help create a “safer community for our youth.” Pomona Police Capt. Michael Ellis said alcohol is the drug of choice for youth nationwide.

“This program will... put the issue foremost in the minds of businesses in Pomona,” he said, by reminding business “to take an active role.”

The program, a youth-led initiative to change adult attitudes about



PROJECT STICKER SHOCK NEWS CONFERENCE – Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman, at podium, speaks at a kick-off news conference outside Pomona Wine Cellar to launch a public awareness campaign to help curb sales of alcohol to minors. Participants at the news conference included, front row from left, Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Frank Garcia; Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin; Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz; Partnership for a Positive Pomona coordinator Sara Cooley; Rothman; and Pomona City Councilmember Freddie Rodriguez. Pictured, from left, back row behind the podium, are Pomona Police Crime Prevention Sgt. Vince Terrell; Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte; and Pomona Police Capt. Michael Ellis.



GETTING THE PROGRAM UNDER WAY – Omar Bermudez, a member of Pomona’s Police Explorer Post 160, places one of the first stickers on a refrigerator door in “Project Sticker Shock” inside Pomona Wine Cellar following a kick-off news conference last month.



‘STOP SIGN’ STICKERS ON REFRIGERATOR DOORS – “Stop sign” stickers, like this Spanish version, were placed on refrigerator doors in the “Project Sticker Shock” program kicked off last month by Partnership for a Positive Pomona.

selling and providing alcohol to minors, is focusing on 10 stores in Pomona to remind the general public of the consequences of underage drinking.

Volunteers from a variety of youth groups in Pomona placed posters at the entrance to the stores with red lettering stating “Warning – buying, selling or providing alcohol

to youth under age 21 is against the law, punishable by fines and/or jail.”

The same message is repeated in eight languages ranging from Armenian and Chinese to Spanish and Vietnamese.

Smaller red and white “stop sign” stickers were placed on glass refrigerator doors and decals were placed on multi-packs of alcohol.

“Adults need to set a better example for kids,” said Susan Lucas, a youth member of the Partnership.

“When adults supply alcohol to youth it sends us a very mixed message. Underage drinking is not a teen problem, but a community problem.” Adults, youth, law enforcement and retail stores all need to be part of the solution.”

The news conference was held outside the Pomona Wine Cellar at 468 E. Holt Avenue at Towne Avenue.

“A strong community message is sent when a business like Pomona Wine Cellar takes responsibility for speaking out against underage drinking,” Cooley said.



PLACING ‘WARNING’ SIGNS AT LIQUOR STORES – Sara Cooley, coordinator of Partnership for a Positive Pomona, displays one of the posters to be placed in the windows of 10 selected liquor stores in Pomona to help eliminate sales of alcohol to minors.

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Pomona adult school students gaining new skills to advance careers

Students at Pomona Unified School District's Adult & Career Education program are acquiring new job skills so they can get a better job or a promotion, and they are getting new skills so they can perform better in their new positions – and from the sound of it, their work is paying off.

In "Office Technology" courses, for example, Garry Thorne of Pomona was recently promoted to a position with more responsibility in a security office. He is studying Microsoft Excel so he can be more functional at work, he said.

He started in January and said it is "great – I'm using it already."

"Everything I learn here I can use at work," he added. "And the price is right."

Yolanda Leal, also of Pomona, agreed.

She said she was taking the class "to improve my computer skills."

"(It) helped me a lot on my new job (with the) City of Los Angeles," she said.

She is brushing up on Microsoft Word, but said Excel also helped her a lot in a new job as clerk/typist for the sanitation department.

Instructor Lupe Marin, who has worked at the adult school for the past 10 years, said students first choose a career path to determine the specific classes they will need to take to achieve their goals.

The office technology classes are offered in nine-week quarters. Students can work at their own pace and receive certificates when they complete the requirements. They can even carry their work over to the next quarter if they need the extra time.

She said many students need the certification to get a job or to qualify for a pay increase in their present job.

Two-hour classes are available from 8 to 10 a.m., from 10 a.m. to noon, from 4 to 6 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m., all Monday through Thursday.

Marin has taught for 24 years including her work at Diamond Ranch High School, and she worked at Cal State University Los Angeles as a

teaching credential analyst advising graduate students on program plans, helping them get the credits they needed to become teachers.

She oversees several classes in the same room at the same time, and is available to answer questions throughout the class – everything from Microsoft Access and PowerPoint to Quickbooks, Microsoft Word and others.

She said many students in the morning classes are looking for work, adding that some use financial aid to help pay for their training.

Marin said most students go away happy with their new skills even though they said they knew Word or Excel when they started the class.

"They say 'I thought I knew it,'" Marin said. "But once they have taken the class they realize they have picked up so much more than they thought they knew."

She said many go on to become secretaries, accounting clerks and receptionists. But she also had a student who worked as a mechanic who recognized that everything he was doing was tied to the computer.

"It's not just secretaries any more," she said.

Dr. Enrique Medina, Jr., Director of the adult school, said statistics on students getting jobs after their training are impressive.

"Many of our Career Technical Education students are certified in the computer program and/or career pathway which results in employment shortly after completion," Medina said. "Sometimes, students are being offered positions prior to taking their final examinations."

He said the short-term courses have been popular because once certified, the students are immediately eligible to work, and many start right away in temporary agencies.

"They are job ready in a short period of time," he said. "Others choose a career pathway which (may require) from 360 hours to 900 hours (one to two semesters)."

Positions in this category may include office clerk/reception, clerk typist/office assistant, word processor/typist, secretary/executive assis-

tant and accounting clerk.

"The greater percentage of students will be seeking employment as soon as they meet all requirements of their chosen career pathway," Medina added. "Others are improving their skills for their current job. Either way, the skills that are needed for employment in the 21st century are emphasized and our students will be able to meet the unmet employment demands of a career that is highly demanded in one of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields."

Marin said sometimes it is difficult for students who have been out of school for some time to get back into the routine of classes and studying.

"But after a while they do very well," she said.



POMONA ADULT SCHOOL OFFICE TECHNOLOGY CLASSES - Pomona Adult School Instructor Lupe Marin answers a question student Garry Thorne has on a Microsoft Excel project while Yolanda Leal, rear at left, works on Microsoft Word.



YOUR PATH TO A BETTER FUTURE! -- Pomona Adult School Instructor Lupe Marin shows how easy it is for students to select their office technology career "pathway" so they will know exactly what classes they will need to take to accomplish their goals.

as \$90 to \$100 with cash payment. Credit card payments or non-resident fees are slightly higher.

Classes Required textbooks are extra but for Pomona an Excel text, as an example, can be Unified purchased on line for a variety of School District prices, many in the \$40 to \$50 range residents can new or less than \$15 used.

For more information, contact the adult school at 1515 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona, by calling (909) 469-2333 or visit the web site at www.pusd.org/ace.

AUTORIDAD DE VIVIENDAS CIUDAD DE POMONA

NOTIFICACIÓN DE DISPONIBILIDAD PARA REVISIÓN DEL PLAN ANUAL PARA LOS AÑOS FISCAL 2013-2014

El Plan Anual de la Agencia de Vivienda Pública (Public Housing Agency): el cual cada agencia pública revisa y actualiza es desarrollado anualmente. El plan es requerido por el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD) [24 CFR Parte 903] de todas las ciudades y Agencias de Viviendas (Housing Agency) que reciben dinero Federal para administrar programas de subsidio de rentas tales como el "Housing Choice Voucher", Mod-Rehab, y Proyectos de Vivienda Pública.

PERIODO DE REVISIÓN PÚBLICA

El Plan Anual de la Agencia de Vivienda Pública estará disponible para revisión y comentarios del público del 11 de febrero del 2013 al 1 de abril del 2013. Comentarios podrán ser dados a conocer en la vista pública o ser sometidos por escrito a la Autoridad de Viviendas de la Ciudad de Pomona, P. O. Box 660, Pomona, CA 91769 al más tardar las 5:00 p.m. del día 1 de abril del 2013.

RESUMEN DE LOS REQUISITOS DEL PLAN

El Plan Anual provee detalles acerca de las operaciones inmediatas del la Agencia de Vivienda Pública, servicios proveídos a los participantes, las estrategias en cuanto a los asuntos de operación del programa, las consternaciones y necesidades del los participantes, y servicios que se llevarán a cabo en el próximo año fiscal.

VISTA PÚBLICA

Residentes y organizaciones interesados están invitados a asistir la vista pública el lunes 1 de abril del 2013 en la Cámara de los Miembros del Concilio (City Council Chambers) a las 7:00 p.m. para dar a conocer sus comentarios sobre el Programa de "Housing Choice Voucher" para el año Fiscal 2013-2014.

Copias preliminares del Plan pueden ser revisadas en la:

1. Biblioteca de la Ciudad de Pomona –625 South Garey Avenue
2. Ciudad de Pomona –505 South Garey Avenue –en el Departamento de Viviendas-Primer piso

Preguntas sobre esta notificación pueden ser dirigidas al Departamento de Viviendas de la Ciudad de Pomona al teléfono (909)620-2368.

Pam Perkins, CMC Acting City Clerk

'Justice Not Jails' talk set for Pomona Sunday

Rev. Romal Tune, a senior consultant to the interfaith "Justice Not Jails" and founder and executive director of the advocacy group Faith for Change, will speak on the topic of mass incarceration in Pomona this Sunday.

Tune's topic will be "Mass Incarceration and the Legacy of Jim Crow: The Urgent Need for a Faith Community Response" at 7 p.m. March 3 at Trinity United Methodist

Church, 676 N. Gibbs St., Pomona.

He will address the issue as an "existential crisis for communities of color" and will probe the roots of the crisis in harsh sentencing laws, discriminatory enforcement of drug laws, the "school to prison" pipeline and barriers to re-entry facing ex-offenders.

For more information or for tickets, visit the web site at www.agendaforapropheticfaith.com.

Bright Prospect, with 91 percent of its Pomona students graduating from college, to showcase more success stories at 10th anniversary luncheon next week

Representatives of Pomona's Bright Prospect, a college access and success program working with more than 1,500 area students, appeared at this month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce networking luncheon to boast that 91 percent of the group's students from Pomona graduate from college within six years after completing high school.

Overall, some 95 percent of Bright Prospect students go on to complete college.

Stephanie Campbell, executive director of Bright Prospect, spoke to Pomona Chamber members to promote the group's 10th anniversary luncheon to be held at noon Thursday, March 7, at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center.

Local leaders and community

partners are expected to gather to help celebrate the students who have gone on to college.

Campbell said a total of 1,540 students currently are enrolled in the program from the group's seven participating schools – Ganesha, Garey, Pomona, Montclair and Ontario High Schools and Palomares and Fremont Academies in Pomona.

Of those students, about 1,000 are in high school and another 540 are Bright Prospect students who have gone on to college.

According to Campbell, the program helps students develop "life" skills and helps them learn how to access resources, often by working in small groups or "crews" which become a built-in support network – all the way up to the point students



BRIGHT PROSPECT TELLS POMONA CHAMBER MEMBERS OF SUCCESS STORIES – Bright Prospect representatives appeared at this month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce networking luncheon to share student success stories. Pictured, from left, are Valerie Lord, Bright Prospect's Director of Communications and Development; Executive Director Stephanie Campbell; and Adriana Briones, a Ganesha High School graduate who graduated from Yale after completing the Bright Prospect program.

finalize their applications for college.

Campbell introduced Bright Prospect alumnus Adriana Briones, a 2007 Ganesha High School graduate and now a program coordinator for Bright Prospect, who told Chamber members Bright Prospect

"changed my life."

The oldest of three children, Adriana explained how her parents were landscapers who came to California from Mexico. Because they had completed only the fifth grade in Mexico, they were unable to help with her homework.

Pomona 'Citizen's Police Academy' taking applications for eight-week program

Applications are being accepted for the 2013 Citizen's Police Academy, an eight-week program that gives citizens an opportunity to learn about the inner workings of the Pomona Police Department.

Topics will include patrol operations, criminal investigations, forensics, canine operations, SWAT, narcotics and traffic.

Members of the department's command staff, investigators and patrol officers will be on hand to cover related topics throughout the course which will include both a classroom setting and "hands on" scenarios which will give attendees a better idea of what police officers face on a daily basis.

All sessions will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays beginning on April 10 at the Garfield Community Center, 563 N. Mountain View Ave., Pomona.

So Adriana decided to become an example for her siblings.

She studied hard, became involved with Bright Prospect, applied to 17 universities and, with the help of Bright Prospect, visited several including her first choice, Yale University, where she graduated in 2011 with a degree in biology. Today she is considering going on to medical school.

"It was all possible through Bright Prospect," she said, adding that her parents initially did not understand why she could not attend school locally "where I could come home for lunch."

When she visited Yale and bought Yale hats for her parents, they began proudly wearing them at work. But only when their clients asked why they were wearing the hats – and were somewhat surprised that their gardeners had a child going to Yale – did they truly begin to understand.

The Bright Prospect program is open to any student at the participating schools.

For tickets to the luncheon, contact Bright Prospect at (909) 623-9007 or by e-mailing Valerie@brightprospect.org.

Space is limited to the first 40 approved applicants. Minimum age for the program is 18. Applicants must be residents of Pomona, attend school or work in Pomona to participate. Deadline for applications is March 15.

Applications are available at the front desk of the Pomona Police Department, 490 W. Mission Blvd., or in the Crime Prevention Office at Pomona City Hall.

For more information, contact crime prevention at (909) 620-2318.

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Funny car defending champion Cruz Pedregon urges local residents to come out to races and even bring their resumes

Local racing legend Cruz Pedregon of Torrance (who reminded La Nueva Voz in an interview that he used to live in Chino) had to be a little disappointed at the 2013 Winter Nationals at Pomona Fairplex this month – he ended up in sixth place on points after ending the season in the finals in first place for funny car competition last November, also in Pomona.

In an exclusive interview with La Nueva Voz before the race, Pedregon said he and his team had worked hard and were coming back as defending champions.

But both Pedregon and his brother, Tony Pedregon, are two-time funny car champions and their father, known as “Flaming” Frank Pedregon, who died in 1981 in an airplane accident at the age of 41, also raced in the 1960s, so the two are familiar with how the

family business works.

Cruz Pedregon actually started out as a hired driver for two team owners and became an owner himself in 2000 in what he called the middle of his career.

Going into his twenty-first year in nitro funny car, he has already won more than 35 NHRA events.

He realized when he launched his own team 13 years ago things would be different.

“If I’m going to do this I’m going to have to figure out how to be an owner and go out and chase sponsors myself,” he said, adding that he has been fortunate but he’s put in his time.

“It’s not just about driving a car any more – you have to be multifaceted in business, you have to know how to promote yourself, you have to be able to work with people,” he said.

Both Pedregon brothers are advo-



WINNERS CIRCLE 2012 -- Cruz Pedregon, his racing team and his Toyota Camry enjoy the moment in the winner's circle after his season-ending funny car win at the Pomona raceway last November. He made the run down the 1,000 foot track in 4.035 seconds and clocked 306.12 mph, defeating Courtney Force who ended up winning the category in this year's season opener this month.

cates of getting more Hispanics in racing.

“I always look at it this way – peo-

ple of all backgrounds or races should look at other opportunities,” Pedregon said. “Racing doesn’t have a lot of Hispanic champions and my brother Tony and I have been privileged.”

He added that their dad always told them to “follow your dreams.”

“Auto racing nowadays is providing a great living – not just the driving part – public relations, the mechanical side of it – some of these guys make a lot of good money being on the road,” he said, adding that the downside is they’ll be away from their family. “There’s room for every-

body here in auto racing, that’s for sure.”

Pedregon also urged local residents to come out and just watch the races, especially “if you’ve never been to see a car go 400 in three seconds.”

Plus, he said drag racing offers a pit pass – “you can go into the pit and meet your favorite drivers so it’s unique,” adding that visitors can see the cars being worked on.

And, for those looking for a job, he said “come out and network – get your resumes out – and you can follow in our footsteps maybe someday.”

Free marriage class offered at Calvary Chapel Mountainside Pomona

A free 12-week marriage class focusing on the six most important principles will be offered at Calvary Chapel Mountainside in Pomona beginning Sunday, March 10.

The class features six weeks of discussion of the six principles with review sessions in alternating

weeks. New students can join the class on any “principles” day.

Topic for the first week’s session will be “Power of words: fighting fair and conflict resolution.”

Classes begin at 9 a.m. on Sundays an hour before church services. Classes will be held at Harrison Elementary School, 425

E. Harrison Ave., Pomona, where the church meets.

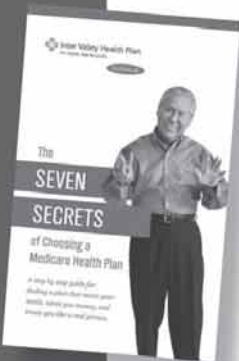
The church also offers men’s and women’s bible study, as well as a “kids” ministry.

For more information, contact the church at (909) 999 PRAY (7729) or visit the web site at www.ccmpomona.com.

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HOPE & HURDLES

By Evy Schuman



EDITOR'S NOTE: "Hope & Hurdles," a new 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.

Free health fair, free eyeglasses set for April

A free health fair will be held in April at Pomona's Marshall Middle School, sponsored by the Western University Lions Club, Friends in Sight and the Pomona Host Lions Club.

The health fair will be held from 8

a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at the school, located at 1921 Arroyo Ave., Pomona, and will include vision screenings with free eyeglasses, dental screenings, blood pressure checks and more.

from Sacramento, where she most recently served as State Senator since December 2006. She served in the California Assembly from 2000 to 2006.

"(Congress is) not in session on a weekly basis like they were in Sacramento," she said, adding that she has been staying in Washington for two weeks and then spending a week in California. "That gives me a little more district time which is good."

On gun control, McLeod pointed out she was appointed to the Congressional Gun Violence Prevention Task Force by Chairman Mike Thompson, who represents California's fifth district.

McLeod said she's still "listening to what's going on," adding that "my husband and I have guns in our house and we respect the right of the second amendment for law abiding citizens."

She added, however, that she "pretty much" agrees with the President on reinstating a federal ban on assault weapons.

"I think I'm in accord with him," she said, adding that gun owners don't need an assault rifle for hunting. "I fully support the president on the background checks (for gun sales)."

McLeod... from pg. 1

McLeod said she also supports increasing access to mental health services but that, in the area of improvements to school safety in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in Connecticut, said "that almost has to be done at the local level."

"I'm not sure everybody is physically and mentally equipped to carry guns and... in the schools... (it) has to be somebody that is really trained."

Focusing on the need to increase the nation's debt limit, she said "we have to ensure that the federal government keeps moving along because so many people and states rely on this money."

She also touched on immigration, where the President has called for an immigration law that would "deal firmly but compassionately with millions of undocumented residents."

"Immigration is something that everybody has been talking about... a comprehensive plan... but nobody has come down with a comprehensive plan yet," she said, adding that one seems to be in the formative stages with a bipartisan group.

McLeod said she believes that children who were brought here by their parents know no other country

and have gone through the school system.

"They don't have the ability to work," she said. "Allowing them to work, to put back into the pot that gave to them I think is just a wonderful idea."

The Congresswoman also has been appointed to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs where she will address the needs of servicemen and women.

She served on a similar committee in Sacramento.

McLeod said she's renting a home in Washington, something she said "is very expensive – much more expensive than Sacramento."

But to her constituents at home, she said she will continue to be available to everyone.

"I will be here as I have in my previous legislation career – to service the community," McLeod said, adding that her district staff – working in the same Montclair office she used as a State Senator – has been handling questions and problems involving constituents since "day one."

Her district office is located at 4959 Palo Verde Street, Suite 110B, and only the telephone number has changed. The new number is (909) 626-2054.

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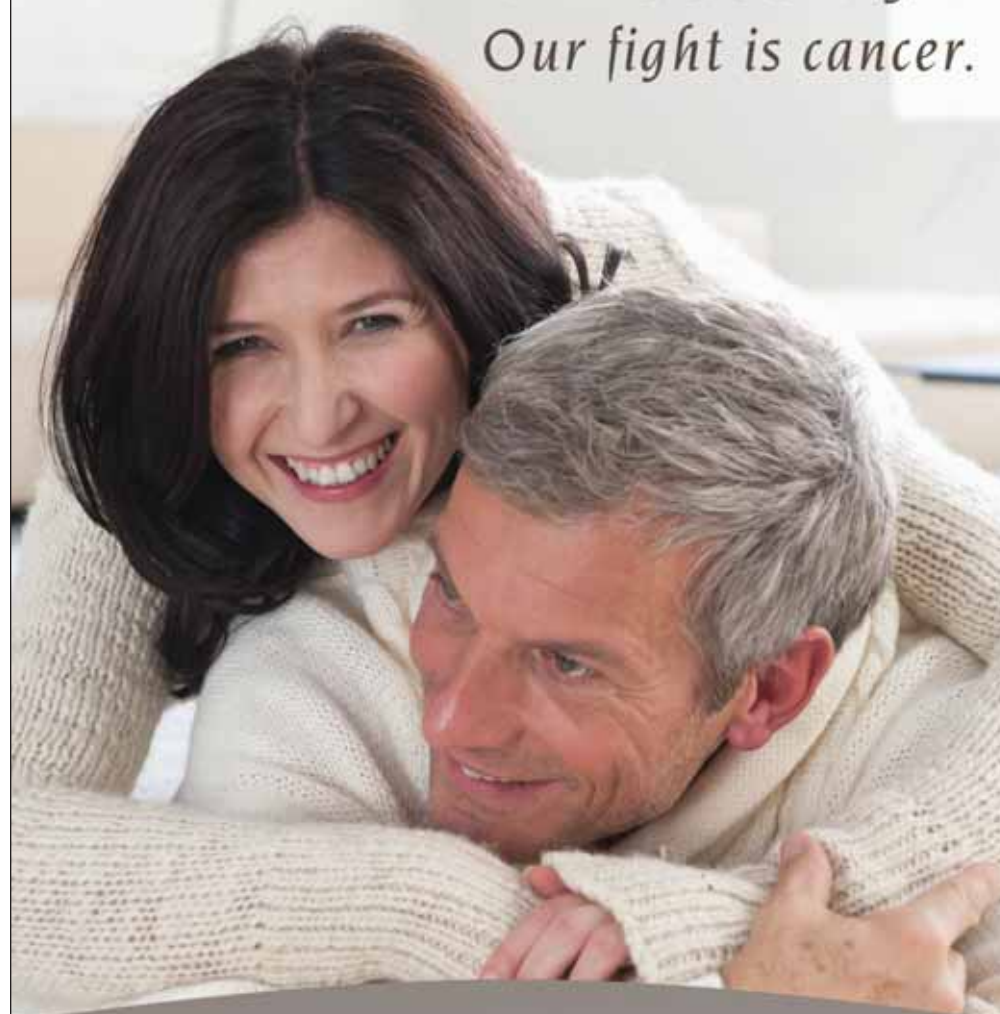
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MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE --

Members of the local Sigma Rho chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. -- consisting of students from Cal Poly University Pomona, the University of La Verne and Cal State University Fullerton -- served breakfast sponsored by Webb Family Enterprises - McDonald's to 95 "less privileged" men and women on Martin Luther King Day last month as an "MLK Day of Service" at the Pomona Christian Center. Pictured, from left, are Carlese Waddy of Pomona, advisor to Sigma Rho chapter; Tracy Cheatham, a volunteer from Pomona; Elizabeth Archer, President of Sigma Rho chapter and a student at Cal State University Fullerton; and Ty'kea Talbert, a student at Cal Poly University Pomona.



Rev. Romal Tune

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Lecture

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For more background information on the series of which this lecture is a part, visit:
www.agendaforapropheticfaith.com



POMONA CHAMBER HONORS ELECTED OFFICIALS -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce honored Pomona's elected officials in a special reception at Pomona's Fairplex Conference Center last month recognizing those who were elected or re-elected in November. "I truly believe that small business is the engine that keeps us going," said newly elected Congresswoman Gloria Negrete McLeod. She thanked Pomona "for their belief in me." Pictured, from left, are newly elected Pomona City Councilmembers John Nolte and Debra Martin; Congresswoman Gloria Negrete McLeod; Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa; Pomona Unified School District Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman; Erica Ambriz, representing Assemblymember Norma Torres, who was in Sacramento at the time; Pomona City Councilmembers Freddie Rodriguez and Paula Lantz; and Fred Lantz, who represents North Pomona on the Board of Three Valleys Municipal Water District. Pictured, at the podium, is Frank Garcia, executive director of the Pomona Chamber.



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Photo by Sally Egan

NEW TROLLEY FOR DOWNTOWN POMONA -- Final details are being worked out for a new trolley purchased by the Downtown Pomona Owners Association to bring shoppers to and from -- and to move them around -- Pomona's downtown area. A final route for the free local bus service has not been determined.

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VOLUNTEER VISION SCREENING DAY AT ST. JOSEPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL -- Students from Western University of Health Sciences volunteering for the day this month to conduct vision screenings for students at St. Joseph, all first year optometry students, are, back row, from left, Peggy Zhu, Vi Nguyen, Michelle Tran, Rheeza Oriol, Lidia Tekie, Edward Hsieh, Leslie Pham, Amy Nguyen, and Loi Mai. Representing All Eyes Optometry are, seated, from left, Miriam Ramos; Dr. Michele Atiz; Jose Ramos; and Danielle Garcia, outgoing Miss Pomona and an All Eyes Optometry patient. Pham, who selected All Eyes Optometry for her "clerkship," or extended study program, said she really likes "the culture in the office." She said screenings are important because parents often do not consider eye health as important as primary health and it helps them become aware of "what is going on with their kids."

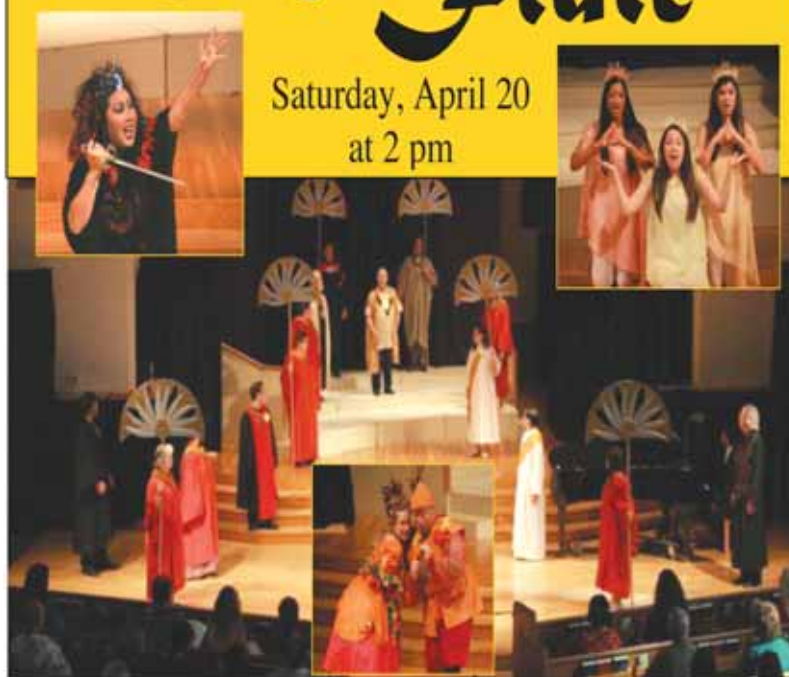
ALL EYES OPTOMETRY, WESTERN UNIVERSITY VISION SCREENING -- Pomona's All Eyes Optometry teamed up with optometry students from Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences to conduct a six-hour vision screening of some 160 kindergarten through eighth grade students at St. Joseph Elementary School in Pomona. "It is important because they might not know that they have a vision problem," said Dr. Michele Atiz, of All Eyes Optometry. She added that if they find something, they recommend the student visit an optometrist for a comprehensive eye exam, especially since some vision problems can result in trouble in school or poor grades. In addition, some vision problems may not be correctable if they are not caught early. Pictured, from left, are Western University student Vi Nguyen; Dr. Atiz; and second grader Stephen Martinez, 7. All Eyes Optometry is located at 1035 S. Garey Ave., Pomona. For more information, call (909) 623-6766.



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Lecture
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'Stand and Deliver' set for next month at Pomona College

"Stand and Deliver," a play based on the screenplay by Ramon Menendez and Tom Musca, will be presented by the Pomona College Department of Theatre and Dance next month.

The play, directed by Assistant Professor of Theatre Alma Martinez, tells the true story of a dedicated East Los Angeles teacher who surmounts overwhelming odds in his quest to turn inner-city students into "whiz kids."

Math teacher Jaime Escalante challenges the low expectations of



Alma Martinez
Director

inner-city education by teaching advanced placement calculus at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles, a school plagued by gang violence and high drop-out rates.

And his unorthodox teaching methods and belief in the potential of his students pays off.

The play will perform at the Pomona College Seaver Theatre March 7 through 10, with shows at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

For tickets or additional information, contact (909) 607-4375.



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Inland Valley Hope Partners to host annual golf classic

Inland Valley Hope Partners will host its 17th annual golf classic on Thursday, May 9, at Sierra Lakes Golf Course in Fontana.

Auction items will include Disneyland passes, gift cards and award winning wines.

Proceeds will help feed children and families in need in the local community.

For more information, contact Fran Robertson at (909) 622-3806, ext. 231, or by e-mail at franr@inlandvalley-hopepartners.org.

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Pomona residents providing input on how to spend nearly \$3 million in federal funds

Members of Pomona's Willie White Park Focus Group and Neighborhood Watch were told last month that last year's top three citizen priorities for the allocation of federal funds in Pomona were community facilities, infrastructure and "special needs" services.

Federal entitlement program funds included in the program are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnership Act funds and Emergency Solutions Grant funds.

Cecilia Munoz, a 15-year employee in Pomona's community development planning department, explained to focus group members that the federal money comes to Pomona based on demographics and population – the city does not have to compete for the funds.

She added that in 2008 and 2009, as examples, the city received \$1 million annually in HOME funds, although that figure today has been cut in half. CDBG funds in 2008-09 totaled \$2.8 million, while in 2012-13 they were reduced to about \$2 million. ESG funding has actually increased from \$125,386 in 2008-09 to \$220,994 in 2012-13.

For 2013-14, the city expects to receive \$2 million in CDBG funds, \$521,000 in HOME funds and

\$221,000 in ESG funds.

The city is currently working on a five-year plan for allocating funds and recently mailed 145,000 surveys to residents. About 1,200 have been returned, although Munoz is continuing to receive input "one on one" through neighborhood meetings.

Included is funding for everything from community centers and park equipment to street lighting, she said.

"Filling out the survey is part of the city's consolidated plan and it is part of your right as a citizen here of Pomona to participate in influencing the city in where your federal entitlement dollars need to go," Munoz said. "This is your taxpaying dollars that the city receives and what we are required to do and this is a federal mandate. We are required to get your input on how you would like to see this money spent."

The city also consults with major stakeholders in Pomona, including community agencies, Western Uni-

versity of Health Sciences, Youth and Family Master Plan, the Pomona police department, code enforcement officials, youth groups and more.

Tabulations from last year's survey responses showed 57 percent favored more youth centers, 50 percent more health care facilities and 45 percent more libraries under the community facilities category.



Cecilia Munoz

Under infrastructure, she said 54 percent favored more street lighting, 53 percent more street and alley improvement, and 44 percent more sidewalk improvement.

"Special needs" services showed 48 percent favored more homeless shelter services and 44 percent favored more substance abuse services.

Other categories addressed in the survey included housing (such as affordable rental housing), community services (such as anti-crime programs), neighborhood services (like graffiti removal), business and jobs

(such as employment training), and access to services (in the neighborhood, through the internet, etc.).

Once the city's plan is approved by the city council, Munoz said, it is sent to Washington for approval.

She explained that the plan itself does not automatically mean programs will be instituted.

"You can have your facilities and then maybe due to lack of funding you might not have the right level of programming for the community and again there is just not enough money," Munoz said. "But what's important is

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to know what the community wants. So it's kind of like your wish list."

To obtain a copy of the survey or for more information, contact Isabel Abundis, (909) 620-3772, or by e-mail at Isabel_Abundis@ci.pomona.ca.us.

The survey also is available on the city's web site at www.ci.pomona.ca.us.

Deadline for completing the survey is March 7, although additional "community consultation" meetings are scheduled for 6 p.m. tonight or Tuesday, March 12, both in the city council chambers at City Hall.

deben obtener el nombre del que llama, su departamento y su número de teléfono. Si la persona se niega a dar esta información, termine la llamada y reporte el incidente al departamento de policía local o llame a SCE al (800) 655-4555.

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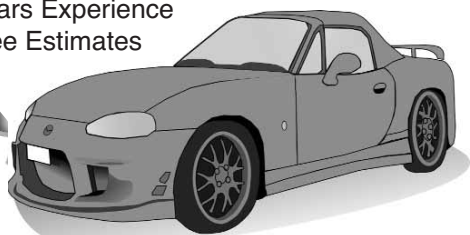
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Economy making a turn.... from pg. 1

cards (issued to Mexican foreign nationals in the U.S.).

“It allows us to really explore all of the Pomona market,” Rosales said. “And having programs such as being able to send money outside their country to up to 16 countries allows us to really . . . service what’s important to them.”

He said in his time with the bank he has instituted homeowner seminars on refinancing and has helped save a lot of homes, enabling residents to explore the many options they have.

“As far as small business, this branch alone has been able to lend about a couple of million dollars in small business lending and Wells Fargo itself continues to be America’s number one small business lender,” he said.

Rosales has worked to tailor the branch to the needs of small businesses in the area – not just lending but credit needs, account needs and savings needs – “really helping them, really expand on their business.”

He pointed out that the bank has business bankers assigned to the business customers to help address their needs and even has special business teller windows for business ac-

count holders.

The branch works closely with the Pomona Chamber of Commerce to watch for new businesses opening in the area, making it possible to reach out to them and make certain the new companies create the right banking relationship for lending opportunities.

“That’s what we’re trying to accomplish, create that relation the moment they get started,” he said.

Tabrizi said in general, her district is seeing a “huge increase” in the number of credit applications and a variety of products – from student loans to credit cards to auto loans, personal loans, equity.

“So we have absolutely seen an increase in credit applications,” she said.

And the great news that goes along with that, she added, is Wells Fargo is seeing an increase in approvals as well.

“So that could be some indicator of more of the people in our community having a stable income flow,” she said.

Where is the bank heading in 2013?

“I would say continue to be the bank that people bank at, to continue

to volunteer our people in nonprofit events, continue to market ourselves in financial literacy for students, continue to host homeowners seminars to help people save some money on their homes, build on small business lending,” Rosales said. “But our ultimate goal . . . is really just whatever we can do to help our customers succeed financially.”

Anne Moreno, assistant vice president of corporate communications for San Gabriel and Eastern Gateway

Wells Fargo / Gallup survey shows small business confidence improving

The Wells Fargo / Gallup “Small Business Index” – a quarterly snapshot that assesses levels of business optimism among small business owners – appears to be on its way back up with numbers back on the positive side at the start of the new year.

According to a Wells Fargo news release, the index had dropped to negative 11 (-11) last November, its most pessimistic level in two years, but was an impressive 20 points up from that level last month with a positive 9 (+9) in January.

The turnaround as 2013 begins – which could be related to the November elections – appeared to be based primarily on business owner optimism about revenues, capital spending and jobs over the past 12 months and more optimism about overall financial situations, revenues, cash flow and jobs over the next 12 months.

A year ago, in January 2012, the index was at positive 15 (+15).

While optimism improved from the fourth quarter, the survey painted a mixed picture with respect to jobs and hiring. More business owners (71 percent) expect the number of jobs at their companies to stay the same over the next 12 months, and business owners

Region, added that the Wells Fargo “ExpressSend” program which, as Rosales pointed out, is used to send money home to 16 countries, is “among the most reasonable in rates” of all the services out there.

And, she added, with California’s Latino population expected to equal the Caucasian population in the next six months, “that’s going to be a big help, a big service for us.”

She also pointed out that Wells Fargo’s “Sharing Advantage” pro-

gram makes it possible for bank customers closing a purchase or refinancing a loan with the bank to designate a non-profit organization that will receive a \$300 contribution in the customer’s name from the bank – clearly another way the bank is “reaching out” to support the community.

The Pomona Wells Fargo Bank branch is located at 321 E. Holt Ave., Pomona. For more information, contact the bank at (909) 620-3514.

planning to add jobs during the year remained unchanged at 17 percent.

Among those who hired new employees in the past 12 months, 35 percent indicated they are hiring fewer employees than they need, up from 29 percent a year ago but below the 42 percent of November 2010.

“At a time when news headlines report mixed economic news and uncertainty in Washington, our survey shows the volatility of business owner sentiment today,” said Doug Case, Small Business Segment manager for Wells Fargo. “Business owners are feeling a bit more positive at the beginning of the year, but they also express concern about the operating environment that could impact future business decisions, such as hiring new employees.”

Additional questions included in this quarter’s survey on the issue of small business hiring focused on the reason companies were not hiring. The top responses were the companies didn’t need additional employees (81 percent); they were worried about revenues and sales to justify new employees (74 percent); they were concerned about the status of the nation’s economy (66 percent); or they were worried about the potential cost of health care (61 percent).

The number of small business owners saying they are not hiring for fear they may no longer be in business in 12 months increased to 30 percent in January, up from 24 percent a year ago.

The top reasons small business owners said they are hiring included increased consumer or business demand (70 percent) and expanding their busi-

ness operations (68 percent).

When looking for new employees, 63 percent of small business owners reported using word of mouth and 47 percent employee referrals. Twenty-three percent said it is very difficult and 30 percent said it is somewhat difficult to find qualified employees – about the same as a year ago.

And 27 percent of owners said the difficulty of finding qualified employees has actually hurt their business over the past 12 months, up from 21 percent a year ago.

Forty percent said they would look for temporary or contract workers when hiring, while 36 percent said they would seek part-time employees, and 22 percent full-time employees.

Looking at their “present situation,” 36 percent said revenues had increased in the past 12 months, up from 29 percent a year ago. And only 22 percent said their company decreased their number of employees, compared with 26 percent the previous year.

Some 25 percent said capital spending was up, compared to only 18 percent fourth quarter a year ago.

Overall financial situation is expected to be very or somewhat good in the next 12 months, according to 57 percent of the companies, compared to only 50 percent in fourth quarter a year ago.

The Wells Fargo / Gallup Small Business Index has surveyed small business owners since August 2003. Results of the latest survey were based on telephone interviews conducted with 601 small business owners in all 50 states between Jan. 7 and Jan. 11.

Project Sister to host second annual ‘Denim Day Fair’ in April

Project Sister will host its second annual “Denim Day and Anti-Violence Community Fair” in April.

The event, which coincides with Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, in the Pomona Civic Center.

Denim Day is a campaign designed to raise awareness and educate the public about rape and sexual assault. It originated following an Italian

Supreme Court decision in 1998 to overturn a rape conviction because the victim wore tight jeans.

To participate in the event, contact Sophia Lopez at (909) 623-1619 or by e-mail at slopez@projectsister.org.

Project Sister Family Services works with men, women and children survivors of sexual assault or child abuse in an area that includes 27 cities in eastern Los Angeles and Western San Bernardino Counties.



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Pomona Lions plan 'Bowl-a-thon' fundraiser Saturday

The Pomona Host Lions Club will hold its largest fundraiser of the year Saturday – the annual Charities Bowl-a-thon – to help fund the club's community service projects.

The event is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at Oak Tree Lanes in Diamond Bar, according to club fundraising director Kris Georgeson.

Also included will be a silent auction.

None of the money goes to administrative costs.

For more information, contact the club at pomona-hostlions@gmail.com.

Donation checks payable to Pomona Host Lions Charities, Inc., can be mailed to P.O. Box 3085, Pomona 91769.

The following public service ads are courtesy of La Nueva Voz:

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- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St. Pomona
- Pomona Unified School District administration building lobby
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Blacklock promoted to Director of Compliance at Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan

Inter Valley Health Plan, a Pomona-based non-profit, federally qualified Medicare Advantage health plan contracted with Medicare, has promoted Gail Blacklock from Compliance Manager to Director of Compliance/Compliance Officer.



Gail Blacklock

Her responsibilities in her new position will include implementing the federal and state regulations to ensure members are given their rights, training and managing the corporate compliance program, monitoring and auditing the entire health plan, and detecting, investigating and prosecuting fraud and abuse in the health plan.

"Gail has proven herself throughout the years to be a dedicated and committed employee," said Ronald H. Bolding, President and CEO of Inter Valley Health Plan. "Her promotion comes as no surprise as her commitment to our members and their rights is unmatched. We are lucky to have her on our team."

Blacklock joined Inter Valley Health Plan 15 years ago as the executive assistant to the president and the board of directors. She holds a degree in healthcare administration from Independence University and has earned her Certification in Healthcare Compliance.

"I love working at Inter Valley because it's a not-for-profit and really gives back to its members and the communities it services," Blacklock said. "It cares about its membership, and I care about protecting the members so my promotion is a perfect fit."

She is a resident of Claremont.

Inter Valley Health Plan, one of the oldest managed care plans in Southern California with more than 30 years in business, serves 20,200 individuals from Los Angeles to Palm Springs and to Riverside, Hemet and Victorville.

For more information, visit the web site at www.IVHP.com.

Downtown proposal to change Pomona's 'Arts Colony,' 'Antique Row' signs fails to win support from business owners

A proposal by the Downtown Pomona Owners Association (DPOA) to change two landmark downtown Pomona signs to "Downtown" received a roomful of opposition in a downtown community meeting this month.

DPOA Executive Director Larry Egan said the proposal was to modify the "Arts Colony" and "Antique Row" arches over Second Street to read "Downtown," partially to help overcome what is perceived as a huge "divide" where Garey Avenue cuts the downtown area in half.

Egan said something more generic like "Downtown" or "Welcome" was considered as an option.

He said while the signs are city property, the city has no money to maintain them, and DPOA has been paying the costs associated with keeping the neon lighting running. He said it would cost \$30,000 to convert the signs to LED lighting, while one bid was received for \$6,000 to convert the signs to read "Downtown."

Planning Commissioner Arturo Jimenez, who operates Laguna



Carolyn Hemming



Arturo Jimenez

Technical College in the downtown area, suggested keeping the arches as they are but adding "Downtown" signs at Garey Avenue and Mission Boulevard and at Garey and Holt Avenues.

Artist Juan Thorp, of Bunny Gunner Art Services and Art Gallery on Second Street, proposed a "Downtown" sign that could be constructed

Pomona and many of them are not art galleries or antique stores.

Deputy City Manager Raymond Fong said he did not hear any support for the proposal and would carry that message back to City Hall.

Downtown business owners also heard of efforts under way to attract more film and commercial production to the downtown area under way



ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL -- Artist Juan Thorp of Bunny Gunner Art Services, at right, uses his laptop to illustrate a "Downtown" sign on the Garey Avenue overpass designating the Downtown Pomona area, as Downtown Pomona Owners Association Executive Director Larry Egan looks on.

on the railroad crossing over Garey Avenue at First Street.

Others in the audience pointed out that artists worldwide know of the arts colony and antique row in Pomona.

And Pomona Councilmember Debra Martin, who operates a photography business in Pomona, agreed.

"I'm here tonight to say the folks

by Film Pomona production services. Victoria Howard told the group businesses involved in the filming typically are paid depending on the level of inconvenience. In addition, she said background actors typically are hired from the Pomona area.

For more information, contact Howard at (310) 382-7309 or visit the web site at www.filmpomona.com.

SCE warns Hispanic business and residential customers of new payment scam

Southern California Edison is warning Hispanic business and residential customers to be on the lookout for a new telephone scam demanding immediate payment for allegedly past due electricity bills.

Imposters have been calling SCE customers threatening to disconnect electrical service if they do not receive immediate payment. Callers are demanding that payment be made through a prepaid cash card, such as a PayPal or Green Dot card.

Some 94 percent of customers notifying SCE of the calls have been Hispanic and, of those, 85 percent have been business customers.

Customers suspecting a fraudulent call should ask for the caller's name, department and business telephone number. If the caller refuses, terminate the call and report the incident to local police or call SCE at (800) 655-4555.

Customers also are reminded to ask for identification when a stranger comes to the door claiming to be a utility worker. SCE utility workers will provide verification when asked.

A spokesman for SCE said SCE employees will never ask for money in person and customers are urged to never reveal credit card, ATM or calling card numbers to anyone.



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Pacific Western kicks off third annual food drive to support Inland Valley Hope Partners

Pacific Western Bank recently kicked off its third annual food drive to benefit the four food pantries operated by Pomona's non-profit Inland Valley Hope Partners.

Eight branches are working toward a goal of 500 food items for each location.

Participating bank branch locations are in Corona, Claremont,

Covina, Glendora, Irwindale, Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario and Upland.

Inland Valley Hope Partners provides nearly 70,000 pounds of food every month to children and families in need in the community.

For more information or to host a food drive, contact Frank Robertson, (909) 622-3806, ext. 231.



RIBBON CUTTING AT CREDIT UNION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA -- Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held last week at Pomona's Credit Union of Southern California branch, making official the former single-branch Inland Empire Credit Union's merger with the 10-branch credit union based in Brea. The credit union -- open to those who live, work, worship or attend school in the San Gabriel Valley or Orange County -- now includes some 55,000 members and has more than \$600 million in assets. Inland Empire members voted overwhelmingly last June to approve the merger. Inland Empire's former President and CEO Rick Hoffman now serves as Vice President of Business Development and Legislative Affairs. "Credit Unions are an integral part of California," Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman said at the ribbon cutting, adding that the merger "will make a big difference in the strength of the credit union we have here today." Pomona City Councilmember Freddie Rodriguez welcomed the new organization to the city with a proclamation from the city council. "We are so honored to partner with you," said Dave Gunderson, President and CEO of the Credit Union of Southern California, adding that the branch was already adding an average of about 50 new memberships each month. "We're really excited about serving this community." Pictured, from left, are Jill Reiff, President-elect, Pomona Chamber of Commerce; Pomona Chamber Executive Director Frank Garcia; Pomona Chamber ambassador and State Farm agent Nona Tirre; Ynez Canela, representing Assemblymember Norma Torres; Donna Lee, of SCE; Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman; Dave Gunderson; Downtown Pomona Owners Association President Carolyn Hemming; Rick Hoffman; and Pomona Councilmember Freddie Rodriguez. The credit union is located at 435 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona. For more information, call (909) 865-2655.

Pomona Concert Band winter concert Friday

The Pomona Concert Band's annual winter concert "Meet the Band" will be held tomorrow night at Palomares Park Community Center in Pomona.

The concert, sponsored by the City of Pomona, will include musical arrangements that feature individual

soloists and sections of the band and is free and open to the public.

Program time is 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 1, at Palomares Park, 499 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona.

For more information, visit the web site at www.pomonaconcert-band.org.



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