



La Nueva Voz

The New Voice, a Bilingual (English/Spanish) Publication
Pomona's only community newspaper!



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Miguel Santana, new President and CEO at Fairplex, sees planning for the future – with input from the community – as his first priority

Miguel Santana, who last month took over the reins as President and CEO of Pomona's Fairplex, told a group of community and business leaders this month he will go to work right away focusing on planning for

the future direction of Fairplex – and he said the community will be heavily involved in the process.

In his second of two meetings with leaders from throughout Pomona and other cities in the

region held in Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, Santana said he has received direction from his board, the Los Angeles County Fair Association Board of Directors, in a number of areas.



Miguel Santana...
... new President and CEO at Fairplex

tions, our unique history, the fact that we're located proudly in the City of Pomona and surrounded by neighbors who have supported us in San Dimas and La Verne and Claremont and the other neighboring cities. How do we take the best of who we are and take that to the next level?"

Santana said the board has approved a strategic planning process that "is actually going to involve all of you."

Steering committee to be created

He explained a steering committee for the process will be made up of members of their board along with members of the fair association.

City councilmembers, mayors, elected officials at both the federal and state and county levels have already been asked "to help us think through the future."

"And then we're going to engage in a form of public hearings," Santana said. "We're ac-

Planning for the future... pg. 5

Muhammad Ali's daughter Laila Ali delivers message of courage at Casa Colina gala

Laila Ali, a boxing champion, television host and daughter of the late Muhammad Ali, appeared at the Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare annual "Tribute to Courage" Gala this month with her own special message of courage.

"I'm really here tonight to help and encourage those who have already shown courage and who may need some courage to face life with strength, faith, compassion for others and courage, of course," she told La Nueva Voz in a one-on-one interview before her appearance.

The annual black tie optional fundraiser, presented each year by The Casa Colina Foundation, was held at the Fairplex Sheraton Conference Center. More than 900 guests attended the event that raised \$500,000, according to a spokesperson for Pomona's Casa Colina.

Ali said she wanted to convey her message by "telling stories about my father through my own experiences."

Asked what her appearance at the Casa Colina event meant to her on a personal level, she said she was honored that she



MUHAMMAD ALI'S DAUGHTER SPEAKS AT ANNUAL CASA COLINA GALA -- Laila Ali, a boxing champion, television host and daughter of the late Muhammad Ali, was keynote speaker this month at Casa Colina Hospital's annual "Tribute to Courage" fundraising gala that raised \$500,000 this year. Posing for La Nueva Voz is Ali with Felice Loverso, President and CEO at Casa Colina.

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10-MINUTE CPR TRAINING! -- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and the Los Angeles County Fire Department gave more than 30 residents a chance to learn "hands only" CPR training -- in only 10 minutes -- at its second annual "Sidewalk CPR Day" in Pomona. Also included was infant CPR and choking procedures, as well as free lung capacity health screening. "Thanks to easy access to training, citizen CPR is rapidly growing as a way to empower bystanders to save a life when someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest," said Debbie Keasley, RN, MS, director of cardiac services at the hospital. She said the training can double or triple the chance of survival.



Green Ribbon Week

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Green Ribbon Week was created to help people have every day conversations about mental health and the stigma associated with it. The more people are talking about mental illness, the more people will feel safe asking for help. The lime green ribbon represents life and growth.

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If you would like Green Ribbons or help planning for Green Ribbon Week please contact Jamie Ritchey. We can answer questions, help you explore ideas, and help you get started.



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PORTRAYING LAURA INGALLS WILDER -- Ac-

tress Judith Helton, dressed and in character as author Laura Ingalls Wilder, was the special guest at this year's 51st annual Laura Ingalls Wilder Gingerbread Sociable at the Pomona Public Library, jointly sponsored by the City of Pomona and Friends of the Pomona Public Library. Kids and their parents found lots of activities from crafts like making paper lanterns (as in Wilder's "Little House in the Big Woods") to reading and, of course, getting autographs from "Laura" herself. "It was wonderful," Helton said when asked about the Pomona audience. "These people know Laura" and have read the books. Wilder (1867 - 1957), an American author, was best known for the "Little House on the Prairie" series of children's books, released from 1932 to 1943 and based on her childhood in a pioneer family. The television series of the same name (1970s and early 1980s) was loosely based on the books. Pictured is Helton in front of a Laura Ingalls Wilder display at the library. Since 1976, Helton has written, costumed and performed four one-woman shows, stepping into the past as either Wilder, Abigail Adams, Beatrix Potter and Lotta Crabtree. She was honored with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" for her work by Professional Artists in Schools Awards in 1996. She performs up to 100 shows each year, many in Southern California schools although she has performed at the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, the Armand Hammer Museum in Westwood, Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, the Homestead Museum in the City of Industry and others.



Former Pomona Councilmember Debra Martin appointed to 'redevelopment dissolution' board by Supervisor Solis

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis appointed former Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin to the Pomona Redevelopment Dissolution Oversight Board where she will oversee disposal of assets and properties of Pomona's former redevelopment agency.

Martin was appointed following action by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors last month.

The Oversight Board is comprised of seven members who meet monthly.

Martin will serve the First Supervisorial District at the discretion of Solis.

All 71 Oversight Boards in Los Angeles County will "sunset," or officially be dissolved, on July 1, 2018, when the county will combine its 71 Oversight Boards into five.

Each Oversight Board consists of two members appointed by the Board of Supervisors, one of them a county member and one a member of the public. Two additional members are appointed by the city that originally formed the redevelopment agency (one representing the city and one representing the former agency employees).

One of the remaining three members is appointed by the largest "special district by property tax share" in the former agency's jurisdiction, one

by the superintendent of the Los Angeles County Board of Education and one by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. All redevelopment agencies in California were dissolved in June 2011 with the passage of two Assembly Bills – the "Dissolution Act" and the "Voluntary Program Act."

And in June 2012, the California legislature passed and the governor signed Assembly Bill 1484, providing technical amendments to the original legislation and requiring the creation of a "successor agency" to undertake certain "winding down" affairs of the dissolved redevelopment agencies.

The Oversight Boards review the activities of the successor agencies.

The Pomona City Council has designated the City of Pomona Housing Authority as the "Housing Successor Agency" to serve as the successor housing agency for the purpose of



Supervisor Hilda Solis, at left, has appointed former Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin, at right, to serve on the Pomona Redevelopment Dissolution Oversight Board.

managing the affordable housing obligations and assets of the former redevelopment agency and all housing redevelopment functions.

Youth for P³ to sponsor alcohol-free quinceañera

Youth for P³, the youth action council of Partnership for a Positive Pomona, is hosting its third annual quinceañera event sponsoring an alcohol-free quinceañera party for a Pomona youth who would not otherwise have the opportunity.

The winner of the event – designed to raise awareness around underage drinking – will be selected by his or her peers.

Applications will be accepted from young men and women between the ages of 14 and 16 through Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Community partners interested in sponsorships or donating items or services may also contact P³.

Studies have shown that alcohol is the most used substance by youth in Pomona and most youth obtain alcohol from adults over the age of 21.

For more information or to apply, visit the web site at yforp3.weebly.com, call (626) 331-5316 or e-mail lonate@ncaddsgv.org.

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Planning for the future... from pg. 1

tually going to invite the public to come and share their vision for the future of who we should be.”

“When we talk about this being a place where you can live, learn, play and work, what does that actually look like,” he asked, adding that questions to be considered would include whether Fairplex should add housing on site, what kind of housing, what about the surrounding neighborhood, how does Fairplex become a better neighbor, what about partnering with the universities and more.

And, on the core mission of agriculture, he said, “how do we strengthen that core mission?”

“This is really an opportunity to think through the future and lay out a plan and at the end of this process it is our hope that we have a document that we all have contributed to and that we could all say ‘yes, this is where we want to go into the future,’” he said. “And then after that, it’s a lot easier to do our respective parts.”

“What is the county’s role in making that happen, what is the city’s role, what is the (role of the) board of our association... and the surrounding neighborhood,” he said. “All of those things are a lot easier to engage in if we have a common vision about what that future looks like.”

Resolving unresolved issues

“And, of course... we also have to resolve unresolved issues – issues about our governance, issues that surfaced in the various county audits, issues that are being raised by our neighbors,” he added, “(addressing) our future and how are we going to work together in partnership to unleash the potential of this place.”

Santana pointed to the major hospital in the area, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.

“How do we take the jobs that they will be needing with the new trauma center... and have this be the place where people will be trained in partnership... with the universities,” he said. “All of us have a say... this is a canvas to draw upon this community.”

He said Fairplex is a regional asset “but we have the ability to make this campus what it needs to be just with the assets that we have around the corner.”

Fairplex and the schools

Asked by La Nueva Voz how he sees the future of the relationship between Fairplex and local education, Santana said “it’s a critical relationship.”

“The superintendent (Pomona Unified School District Supt.



Cid Pinedo, Board member...
... L.A. County Fair Association

Richard Martinez) is on our association,” he said. “We have a very close relationship with Pomona Unified and the other school districts, we have thousands of kids that we bus in every year during the Fair, and, of course, we have our own educational programming.”

“The thing that I think we’ve been very mindful about is not to compete against the public education system, the programs and the education it’s providing, but rather provide an additional benefit,” he added, pointing to one Fairplex Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) program “where kids roll up their sleeves and literally take a car apart and put it back together.”

“There’s a profession and an entire way of living that appreciates people that have those skills,” he said. “A lot of people don’t realize that we have a child care center here. We have 250 kids who come here who are taken care of from the very early days of their life until they are ready to go on to first grade.”

“Education is one of our core values and working in partnership with all of the educational institutions is a key part of that,” Santana added.

Santana told the group he is “not a stranger to this community” since he raised his children – now young adults – in Claremont.

“So I have a lot of fond memories of this community,” he said, adding that he grew up on the east side of Los Angeles and “was one of those kids that got bused in... to experience the fair and the magical part of it.”

“This is a place that celebrates craftsmanship,” Santana said. “You can learn how to fix a car or you can learn how to sew or you can learn how to grow something from the earth. And hopefully from that the young people that we expose that to, hopefully that becomes a passion for them.”

“The fact of the matter is that Fairplex belongs to all of us – it is a public asset,” he said, similar to the Los Angeles Music Center or the Hollywood Bowl or the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

Fair Association Board member Cid Pinedo

Fair Association Board member Cid Pinedo introduced Santana by explaining that the board wanted someone who could “lead us towards writing a new chapter, writing a new book and really helping to create what should be the next hundred-year history of Fairplex.”

“It was very clear from the beginning that his style and that



New Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana, at right, chats with Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez at a “meet and greet” for Santana this month. At rear is Pomona City Councilmember Adriana Robledo chatting with L.A. County Fair Association Board member Cid Pinedo.

his experience and his success was one of change, was one of collaboration, that he led by participating and not by pointing and dictating, that he also had a tremendous talent and a calm nature that really could help us fix what needed to be fixed but then push us to dream for what we haven’t even yet realized we could be,” Pinedo said.

Santana, who previously served as City Administrative Officer for the City of Los Angeles, also served for 16 years in Los Angeles County government where he rose to become a deputy chief executive officer.

His selection comes at an im-

portant time in the relationship between the Fair Association and the county, its landlord, as recent audits have suggested an evaluation of the association’s lease agreement.

Santana earned a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University and a bachelor’s degree in sociology and Latin American studies from Whittier College.

He replaces Jim Henwood who served as President and CEO for 20 years until he retired last March. Association Board Chair Mike Ortiz served as interim CEO until Santana came on board.

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Diamond Ranch and UCLA grad becomes published author, writes most comprehensive UCLA football book ever written

Super Bowl LI this month signaled an official end to the football season for a few months but, thanks to a newly published Pomona author and Diamond Ranch High School graduate, you can pick up a copy of his book and still be “ready for some football” – at least through several nights of reading.

The book, “UCLA Football Encyclopedia – From Tears to Touchdowns,” was written by Spencer Stueve, who graduated from Diamond Ranch in 2008. And it is available everywhere.

But the book represents something more for Stueve, according to Roddy Layton, Assistant Principal at Village Academy High School, who was head coach at Diamond Ranch during the four years Stueve played there.

Layton called Stueve a “hard working kid” with a good work ethic.

He worked hard to achieve his goals, Layton said, and never gave up – whether in academics or in football.

“Obviously I’m proud of him,” Layton said. “How often do you have a local student grow up to be a published author?”

“He took his passion of football and made it into a career at a young age,” getting his first book published early in life, Layton added. “He was a really good

football player – he played both sides of the ball with us.”

And the team did pretty good in his senior year with a 7-3 record. The record was erased, unfortunately, because of a mix-up in reporting eligibility of a transfer student from Bishop Amat High School in La Puente. Apparently the paperwork was not recorded properly with the California Interscholastic Federation

(CIF) and the result was that any game the former Bishop Amat student played in did not count.

The team had to forfeit every win for the year, Layton said.

(Layton, who coached at Diamond Ranch for eight years, said the big unknown is how far Diamond Ranch would have gone in the CIF championships that year. He led Diamond Ranch to con-

Grad becomes author... pg. 7

SOIL SAMPLES FOR GOLD LINE EXTENSION

-- Crews went to work last month conducting geologic tests at key locations along the 12.3 mile, six station “Glendora to Montclair” extension of the Foothill Gold Line. The testing to evaluate soil conditions is part of the ongoing effort underway to prepare the \$1.3 billion project for construction, including finalizing the advanced conceptual engineering with partner cities and other key stakeholders, according to a Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority news release. Pictured is the crew working at Foothill Boulevard and Grand Avenue in Glendora collecting soil data with 100-foot borings at two of the two dozen locations along the route of the future project where structures are likely to be built or renovated. An updated construction schedule for the project -- which will pass through and stop in Pomona -- calls for completion in late 2025 or early 2026, two years later than the original plan. The two-year delay is attributed to difficulty in relocating utilities and conducting other pre-construction activities. Groundbreaking on this phase of the project is scheduled for October. The design-build contractor is expected to be hired late next year.



FUNDRAISER FOR POMONA MOTORCYCLE OFFICER -- More than 200 people attended a fundraiser for the family of Pomona Police Motorcycle Officer Trevor Stevenson that was held at Old Stump Brewery in Pomona last month. Stevenson, who remains hospitalized, was critically injured in a motorcycle accident last month while responding to a report of a fatal hit and run accident. Pictured in front of a background of brewery equipment and the buffet line are, from left, event organizers Carolyn Hemming, Ismael Arias, and Beth and Mary Brooks. Organizers said \$5,810 was raised at the event. Supporters included Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and members of the Pomona City Council, representatives of the Pomona business community, Pomona police officers and Police Chief Paul Capraro, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s deputies and police officers from numerous surrounding cities. To make a contribution for medical bills and financial support for the family, a “gofundme” account has been created at www.gofundme.com/37zmet4.

Opening day activities set for Ted Greene Little League

The annual “opening day” and breakfast prepared by Pomona Kiwanis.

Opening ceremonies are scheduled to begin at noon.

Breakfast tickets are \$5 and raffle tickets are \$2 each. Tickets are available from Little League players in advance or at the event.

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

The pancake breakfast will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 11, in the park, located at Orange Grove and La Verne Avenues.

Included will be raffle prizes

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Grad becomes author... from pg. 6

secutive Southeast finals appearances in the two years immediately after Stueve graduated.)

Stueve went on to college – first at Mt. SAC and then to UCLA. But while he had always wanted to play for UCLA, his plans changed when he broke his ankle the summer after graduating from high school. He broke it a second time a year later and his football career was over.

Even so, he said UCLA changed his life. And he is waiting for UCLA to repeat the feat it accomplished in 1954 winning the national championship.

“He came in (to high school) a UCLA fan,” Layton added. “I played football at USC.”

But when it comes to the history of UCLA football in the book, Layton said it doesn’t matter which team you like – “the history in there is great.”

“He put it together really well,” Layton said.

So how did the book idea come about?

Stueve, who still lives in Pomona, said he didn’t even start

thinking about writing until after he got out of college. He told La Nueva Voz he started reading about the early UCLA teams from 1919 and 1920 and, as interested as he was, he thought he should get it out there for more of the fans.

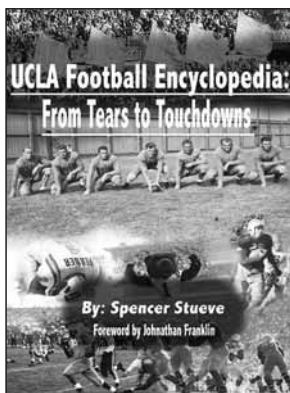
It has been out for a few months and is available on Amazon, through Barnes & Noble, createspace.com and more in either paperback or as an e-book.

And it should come as no surprise that his entire background is football and that he grew up a

UCLA fan. He said he has been watching UCLA football games from as far back as he can re-



Spencer Stueve...
... new author



New book chronicles
history of UCLA football

member. He has had season tickets since his senior year in high school and has gone to games across the country.

Stueve cited the quote “don’t give up on your dreams or your dreams will give up on you.”

“This quote by John Wooden, the greatest college basketball coach in history, the coach of my alma mater, the university I love, changed the direction of my life,” he said in his “author’s biography.”

His next book, scheduled for release on July 1, covers how the rivalry with USC

came about beginning in 1929 and shifting from a friendly rivalry to what it has become to-

day.

And he is already thinking about book number three – it might be a UCLA basketball encyclopedia, probably with a 2019 release date timed with the 100-year anniversary of UCLA.

So far, he said, sales of the first book have been pretty good, as have the responses from readers.

“Everything I’ve heard has been positive,” he said. “It is the most detailed, extensive UCLA football book ever written.”

And it is something die-hard fans have clamored for for a long time, he added.

“The history of UCLA football is a continuous story of highs and lows, ups and downs,” according to the book summary on Amazon. “Though expectations have changed through the years, the goals have not. The single greatest goal in sports is to win your next game.”

“You will read about the magical seasons, as well as the not-so-magical seasons,” the summary continued. “You will read about UCLA coaches, and the

players who have left a lasting legacy.”

Coach Layton told La Nueva Voz he tries to emphasize academics to his students so they will focus on what they will be doing after they stop playing football.

He had two students – one went to Harvard and one went to Yale – both on scholarships -- who were on opposite sides in a football game back east and Layton was there to see it.

In the case of Stueve, La Nueva Voz is pretty sure Layton was behind him pushing a little, as well. They still keep in touch on a regular basis.

“He got his degree from his dream school, took his passion in life and made it his career,” Layton said.

And that’s one of those rare happy endings no matter how you slice it – not just for Stueve but for his coach, as well.

Editor’s Note: Interested in reaching out to the book’s author? E-mail him at SStueveRNT@gmail.com.

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Tuesday, March 21 @ 10 am & 3 pm
(3/21 Meeting in Spanish)

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Pomona Valley Hospital patients show recovery is possible at Holiday Half Marathon

Six patients from Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's Charles Magistro Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Services participated in the recent Holiday 5K, Half Marathon and Penguin Waddle events at Fairplex to demonstrate that achieving recovery is possible with the help of therapists.

The participants, founding members of the hospital's first "I can do it" team, ranged in age from 2 to 72. Patients were invited to participate by their therapists who provided training tips, advice and encouragement in preparation for race day.

"My doctor is always telling me that I need to get in shape and stay in shape so that I can keep my heart healthy," said Marvin Pitts, 63, a resident of Pomona. "I had never done a 5K before, so I thought what better way to challenge myself."

In 2012, Pitts began experiencing atrial fibrillation, a condition that causes an irregular heart beat and can lead to blood clots, stroke and heart failure. After having a catheter ablation procedure at the hospital's Stead Heart and Vascular Center, he completed treatment

through the cardiac rehabilitation program at the hospital.

"Crossing the finish line was a confirmation to my personal commitment to health and wellness," he added. "I'll continue to walk as much as I can."

Other patients participating in the run/walk event were Keith Beeman, 58, of Apple Valley, who is part of the cardiac rehabilitation program; former La Verne Mayor Jon Blickenstaff, 72, who completed his first 5K; and John Hayes, a Chino Hills resident who completed physical therapy for an inflamed Achilles tendon.

In addition, Zuhayry Placentia, age 2, who is undergoing physical, occupational and speech and language therapy at the hospital, completed a 100 foot run/walk with her mother, Adalit Ramos, of Montclair.

And Billie Pate, 66, an occupational therapy patient from Upland, completed the 5K and is now training for triathlons.

Proceeds from the event each year benefit the Rehabilitation Services' Milestones Center for Child Development and the Sports Medicine Center at the hospital.

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Pomona Chamber gets into spirit of volunteerism in the schools with annual 'Principal for a Day'

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, kicking off closing comments at this year's Pomona Chamber of Commerce "Principal for a Day" program, told participants this month that it is "this sort of volunteer culture" that is part of what makes Pomona special.

"As many of you know, we have very real challenges in Pomona but what I see is just the tremendous work that our schools are doing, that our kids are doing, our families are doing," he said in thanking the day's "principals" for their participation.

Some 84 members of the Pomona Chamber, community leaders, school principals and friends participated in the annual "Principal for a Day" program to help increase public awareness of and encourage participation in public education.

Volunteers spent the morning with the principal of their choice in the Pomona Unified School District to see what goes into the job – and learn what typically happens in today's schools – on a daily basis.

The group then convened for a "debriefing" and luncheon at the Village at Indian Hill conference center where participants shared their experiences of the day.

The program is produced by the chamber in conjunction with the Pomona Unified School District to help develop partnerships that strengthen Pomona's educational system and a future workforce for the local business community.

Participants each year "shadow" principals, interact with students and observe school programs to get first-hand experience of what it's like to be a principal.

Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez took the opportunity to show the audience the Pomona school district's 2016 37th annual Golden Bell award for "outstanding community schools through partnerships and collaboration," presented by the California School Boards Association.

The award was for the district's collaboration with the organization "Pomona's Promise,"



'Real' school principals and their partners for the day, participants in this year's 'Principal for a Day,' presented by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and the Pomona Unified School District, pose for the La Nueva Voz camera at the end of the morning's activities. (Several are not pictured because they had to leave early.)

a pre-natal-to-college support system that makes community resources, training and clinics available to families through the schools.

The Golden Bell is the premiere educational award for school districts in California.

"This award was given to us, the Pomona Unified School District, but the reason we received this... is for innovative programs

and doing things that are different and cutting edge," he said.

He said it was really an award for the entire community, adding that it will be displayed at City Hall, at Cal Poly University Pomona, at churches and other locations where supporters helped make a "huge difference" in the school district over the years.

Pomona Unified School District... is for innovative programs
Principal for a Day... pg. 12



Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez shows off the school district's 'Golden Bell' award at 'Principal for a Day.'

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Principal for a Day... from pg. 11

trict Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman said “this job of educating our children in this community (is) incredibly difficult... and we can’t do it alone.”

“We need our community to come together for this important work,” she said as she thanked the day’s “principals” for their participation.

“Every time I am with a princi-



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval welcomes participants in this year’s ‘Principal for a Day.’

pal I am amazed at the amount of work and how hard you work... so thank you to our principals,” she said.

School Board member Adrienne Konigar-Macklin said she viewed the group of principals and community members as “family.”

“I see a family of individuals in this community that have come together for the purpose of helping those that we’re responsible for, all of those beautiful children that come to us on a daily basis that really want to know, particularly at this time in America’s history, ‘what do I do tomorrow,’” she said.

“Being a principal is a hard job,” she added, “and being a member of a community where you really fight for the rights of other people is a hard job, too.”

She said she is “very thankful that we’ve all come together for a common cause which is to make Pomona grow, to make our children world class citizens and so that they know that they are valued.”

Principal for a Day Andrew



Pomona Unified School District Board members Dr. Roberta Perlman, at left, and Adrienne Konigar-Macklin

Quinones, of the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, said he is a former Pomona Unified student and “just to see the changes with the community is amazing.”

“The energy is here and the dedication is here,” said Quinones, who visited Washington Elementary School and Principal Alan Pantaini for the morning.

And Nona Tirre, of State Farm Insurance in Claremont, visited Pomona High School and Princi-

pal Roger Fast-
ing.

“It was such an amazing school, it was an inspiration meeting the future of tomorrow,” Tirre told the group.

She added that one of the teachers actually graduated from Pomona High School and is now back teaching

even though she had difficulty with the math. “The kids are learning so much so early.”

Gloria Mitchell of Gloria Mitchell Bail Bonds in Pomona spent her morning at Marshall Middle School with Principal Juan Ortiz.

“(Principal Ortiz) is a man who just genuinely wants to be the best for every one of his students,” Mitchell said, adding that he is going “beyond.”

West Covina attorney and community activist Thomas Allison, who was “Principal for a Day” at Pomona’s Lopez Elementary School with Principal Jesus Peralta, said he was impressed with the school that serves 600 students.

He was particularly impressed with the smallest details the principal discussed with parents including specifics about special dietary issues of students.

Allison said he learned the school started a robotics club and expected perhaps 20 to 30 students to become involved and 250 showed up.

Principal for a Day... pg. 13

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Principal for a Day... from pg. 12

"I think that all of us need to have a stake in making sure not only principals are supported but I met teachers who are paying for books," Allison said. "No teacher should ever have to pay for a book for a student who wants to read."

"We as community leaders have to figure out a way to fill in these gaps," he said.

Mario Olmos of the organization "Your Voice Matters," a non-profit organization focusing on ending sexual abuse of chil-



Nona Tirre

dren, visited Emerson Middle School and Principal Jesse Altamirano.

He said he enjoyed just walking around the school and learning the skills.

"I'm here to challenge the businesses and the people in the community that are here," he said. "We have so many . . . resources available that our kids need because it's not just about the education, sometimes it's the family, sometimes it's the home life, and sometimes it's employment or help with uniforms or help with shoes or parenting



Michelle Lemoine

skills."

"And we have that here in our community," he added, encouraging participants to give the schools access to their own resources that they have available.

Nef Cortez, of Re/Max Realty 100, Inc. in Diamond Bar, visited Lexington Elementary School and Principal Silvestre Maravilla.

He said he learned what students are learning at that age, adding that it was his second year at the school where his grandson currently is in the

Principal for a Day... pg. 14



Andrew Quinones

Inter Valley Health Plan names new chief financial officer

Veteran financial executive Paul Biberkraut has been named chief financial officer of Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan.

Biberkraut, who has more than 25 years of experience, most recently held executive financial positions at the not-for-profits Community Health Center Network and United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley, Inc.

At Inter Valley Health Plan, he will help position the organization for continued growth and support its mission to deliver the highest quality of care to its members, according to a company news release.

"It's important to us to have leadership that cares and understands what we are trying to achieve and we are honored to have Paul as a vital member of our team," said President and

CEO Ron Bolding. "After nearly 40 years, we are proud of our reputation and look forward to having Paul help us achieve even greater success in the coming years."

Biberkraut is a certified accountant, holds a masters of business administration degree from Pepperdine University and currently lives in Newport Beach.

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Principal for a Day... from pg. 13

fourth grade (and was a little embarrassed last year when he was called to the principal's office to see his grandfather).

Deon Edwards of Twice Dot Inc., a software company, visited Pantera Elementary School and Principal Albert Tan in Diamond Bar.

He said he was impressed with the district's dual immersion language program (students at Pantera have the opportunity to learn in both English and Mandarin).

"We need to expand that because the world is evolving," he

said.

And Richard Mason of Primavera visited Alcott Elementary School, the district's largest el-

ementary school, and Principal Juan Arretche.

He said he was impressed with the collaboration of the kids in the classroom as they worked

in small groups, rather than "all lecture."

"Kids working together" is important, Mason said.



Thomas Allison



Mario Olmos



Nef Cortez



Deon Edwards



Gloria Mitchell



Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erica Frausto kicks off comments at this year's 'Principal for a Day.'



Richard Mason

Cortez Magnet School turns to community for help with new logo project

Pomona's Cortez Math and Science Magnet School, celebrating 10 years of excellence on its anniversary, is making plans to paint its new logo on the school wall and is turning to the community for help.

"This is a great way to show our community that we have pride in our school and that we believe education is important," said Principal Lacey Lemus.

She said the school is asking families and local businesses to help cover the cost of the project with a tax deductible donation in exchange for a "thank you" letter with the school's tax identification number, a logo advertisement spot in the school's yearbook, and recognition on a "thank you for your generous donation" banner which will be displayed outside the school.

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Message of courage... from pg. 1

was asked to present the keynote address.

“Obviously, I have experience with my father having an illness that he had to overcome – so many people here have Parkinson’s,” Ali said. “They (Casa Colina) have Parkinson’s patients and neurological disorders that need to be rehabilitated and some of them can’t walk, they can’t lift or they can’t speak or they can’t eat or do the things that they used to do and they need encouragement in life.”

“So I was happy to be here because Casa Colina has done so much great work over the years and many people have been able to come here and get health care without even having to pay for it which is important,” she said, “especially at a time when more

and more people are getting sick and more and more people don’t have the means to pay for their health care.”

She said she learned more about the hospital and the work they do as she prepared for her appearance.

“I just really can appreciate that they have upheld the tradition of Mrs. Smith over the years (Frances Eleanor Smith, known as “Mother Smith,” who was the founding director of Casa Colina in 1936 when she went to work in response to the tragic polio outbreak without taking a salary),” Ali said.

“They have a staff that seems to really care about their patients and I think that’s so important when it comes to healing... is just having love and having com-

passion,” Ali added. “That alone just helps people heal so quickly.”

Proceeds from the event benefit Casa Colina’s primary free and uncompensated care fund, which helps provide care for under-resourced patients and, in some cases, temporary housing for patients’ families so they may be near their loved ones during the often-lengthy rehabilitation process.

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ronment that recognizes their uniqueness, dignity and self-esteem.”

Casa Colina, founded in Chino in 1936, moved to Pomona in 1959 and the facility expanded its medical and physical rehabilitation services to concentrate on treating people of all ages and



RECOVERED FROM TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY -- Brent Watkins, who recovered at Casa Colina from a traumatic brain injury, is honored at this month’s “Tribute to Courage” gala by actress and singer Renee Lawless, who hosted the event.



HONORED AT GALA -- Spinal cord injury victim Nancy Smith is honored at this month’s Casa Colina “Tribute to Courage” gala. Pictured at left with Smith are Mark Smith, her husband, and, at right, keynote speaker Laila Ali, daughter of Muhammad Ali.

disabilities resulting from neurological and/or orthopedic conditions.

For more information, visit the web site at www.casacolina.org or call (909) 596-7733, ext. 2232.



MAKING PROGRESS CHIPPING AWAY AT 30 MILLION WORD GAP -- The Pomona Unified School District’s “Footsteps2Brilliance” literacy program is making progress chipping away at the 30 million word gap by age 3 between children in “affluent” and “non-affluent” households. A spokesman for the program told members of the school district’s Literacy Collaborative last month that, to date, some 12,430 users have signed up and are using the program. As of January 2016, before the official program launch last May, 12,861 books had been read in Pomona and 4.3 million words read in 1,104 hours on line. As of January 2017, 340,296 books had been read and 93.6 million words read in some 26,814 hours on line. Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez said part of the problem with the 30 million word gap is that 40 percent of kids qualified for pre-school are not going to pre-school, placing them at an added disadvantage in later grades. “Early learning matters,” said Deputy Supt. Stephanie Baker. Pictured are Martinez and Baker at last month’s meeting of the collaborative. The literacy program goal is for Pomona students to read one billion words by the end of the school year using a free on-line software program available at www.myf2b.com/register/pomona. La Nueva Voz is a member of the collaborative, along with other representatives of businesses and community groups in Pomona.

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 Sat.:
 Noon to 5 p.m.
 Fri., Sun.:
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HORSE SHOWS ARE BACK AT CAL POLY -- Monthly horse shows that are open to the public are continuing again this year after getting under way with the January event. The shows are scheduled for 2 p.m. the first Sunday each month. Remaining shows this year will be held on March 5, April 2 and May 7, all at the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center. Pictured at last November's show is Christy Sims, an animal health science junior from Tucson, riding Major Applause. Ticket prices are \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children 6 - 17, and children 5 and under free. Sunday exhibitions of the beautiful Arabian horse were started by Kellogg himself in 1926 long before his foundation donated the property to the state to be used as a university campus. For more information, contact the Kellogg Arabian Horse Center at (909) 869-2224.



Photo by Renee Barbee
Pictured are the snow-capped San Gabriel Mountains as seen last month from the parking lot of Pomona's Mountain Meadows Golf Course, looking over the Fairplex RV & Boat Storage facility on West McKinley Avenue on the Fairplex campus.

Pomona Concert Band to present 2017 winter concert

The Pomona Concert Band will present its annual winter concert titled "Meet the Band" next month in the Palomares Park Community Center.

The concert is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 3, in the community center, lo-

cated at 499 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona.

Pomona's Community Services Department is the sponsor of the free event.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval will serve as master of ceremonies.

Included will be "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "You Raise Me Up," "Pie in the Face Polka," two marches by John Philip Sousa and others.

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

Inter Valley Health Plan announces April classes for seniors

Inter Valley Health Plan has announced its April list of classes designed for the over 55 community.

"Intro to the Symphony,"

a look at the backgrounds of musical pieces and artists to be performed by the Claremont Symphony Orchestra in an April 30 concert, is scheduled

for 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 11.

"Bunny Towel Creation," the art of making towel creations seen on cruise ships and in high end hotels, is set for 1

p.m. Thursday, April 13.

"Medicare Step by Step," a look at options for Medicare coverage and how to avoid possible penalties, is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 18, and 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 19. (Register on line for this class only at ivhp.com/step-by-step.)

"Armchair travel to Ghana, Western Africa" is the next stop in an around-the-world tour at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 19.

"Alexander Method to Pain Relief," a popular holistic ap-

proach to pain relief, is set for 10 a.m. Thursday, April 20.

And "Healthy Eating and Pro-Biotics" is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 26.

All classes are free and will be held at the Inter Valley Health Plan Medicare Information and Vitality Center, in the Pomona Valley Health Center Building, 1601 Monte Vista Ave., Suite 275, Claremont.

RSVP's are required by calling (800) 251-8191 or going on line at forhealthandliving.com/ivhpevents.

Pomona Optimists sponsor 'Irish Open' poker fundraiser

Members of the Pomona Optimist Club will sponsor an "Irish Open" poker "hold-em" tournament and fundraiser next month at O'Donovans's Restaurant and Pub.

The event is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 11, at O'Donovan's, at 101 E. Third St., Pomona.

Earn extra chips by register-

ing early and by bringing a guest.

Registration at the event begins at 6 p.m.

Buy-in is \$60 for \$3,000 in chips, a taco plate, unlimited draft beer and more.

For more information, call (909) 203-9325 and ask for Mark or e-mail odonovanspub@hotmail.com.



TESTING FOR NEXT BELT LEVEL -- Pictured are 17 student athletes ages 4 - 11 who tested last month for their next level Taekwondo belt at Pomona's Fit Force U.S.A. Taekwondo. Pictured with the kids is Fit Force President and Director Frank Gonzales, Jr., Students in the program are taught how to take correct actions of thought and deed, Gonzales said, in what he calls "training for a balanced life." The school is located in the Village at Indian Hill, 1460 E. Holt Ave., Room 15, Pomona. To arrange a free trial class, call (888) 853-4872.

Sprint provides 300 free mobile hotspot devices to Pomona High students to help eliminate 'homework gap'

Kevin Kunkel, Sprint Regional President for Southern California, visited Pomona High School last week to drop off 300 free mobile hotspot devices for students to use to help them better complete their school assignments from home as part of a Sprint corporate initiative to level the playing field and eliminate opportunity gaps.

The Pomona event – held in the school library – was part of Sprint's "1Million Project" in which the company has a goal of providing similar devices to one million high school students nationwide.

Pomona Unified was selected as one of only 11 pilot markets – out of more than 16,000 school districts across the country – to participate in the pilot project and receive 500 devices each.

The 300 Pomona High students – and another 200 Pomona Unified students selected at Pomona's Fremont Academy, Village Academy High School and Palomares Academy who received their devices earlier this month – received the mobile hotspot devices and will receive free wireless connectivity to help close the homework gap.

"I want you guys to think big, use your internet service, have a lot of fun, listen to tunes, but most importantly, get that homework done, get the A's that I know you guys can crank out very easily, and make sure you do share it with your family because everybody deserves that opportunity," Kunkel said.

Sprint President and CEO Marcelo Claure is a board member of My Brother's Keeper Alliance, a non-profit that supports kids from day one until they go to college. President Obama first introduced the initiative as a way to help level the playing field and eliminate opportunity gaps for African-American, Hispanic and young men of color.

Sprint has pledged \$2 million to My Brother's Keeper and another \$3 million more of in-kind support to make sure broadband internet connections are available to more students in and out of the classroom.

Pomona High Principal Roger Fasting thanked the representatives of Sprint for

their contribution.

"One of our missions at Pomona High School is that everyone works together, the community, the school, the adults, to provide opportunities for you," he told the students. "All these people here... we're all here for you, we believe in you, and this is a wonderful opportunity."

He said the resource will put the kids "on another level in the very, very competitive world that we live in."

"This is what support for students looks like," Fasting said. "Take advantage of your resources."

Pomona Unified School Board member Adrienne Konigar-Macklin said the school district completed an application for the Sprint program after she noticed Pomona High had no wi-fi on campus.

And Pomona Unified Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman said "this is a company that is willing to give."

"Technology is part of your education... and sometimes you need the internet," Perlman said. "Well, now you will have access to the internet."

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, who told students he graduated from

Pomona High School, said when he was in school, students accessed information in an encyclopedia.

"The work that's being done here with the school district and Sprint is to say that no matter what family you're born into or what community you grew up in, we should all have access to information and that nothing should stop us from being doctors (or) attorneys," Sandoval added.

Research shows that five million U.S. families with school-aged children do not have internet access at home, but 70 percent of teachers assign homework that requires web access, creating a "homework gap" that puts these students at a disadvantage academically.

Sprint and the Sprint Foundation are working to change that with their multi-year initiative to foster academic success for one million low-income students across the country with reliable connectivity to complete their school assignments from home.



Kevin Kunkel, Regional President Sprint of Southern California



Talon Brissette, a 10th grader at Pomona High School, checks out his free brand new mobile hotspot device he can now use to help with his school homework, courtesy of Sprint and part of a nationwide program to eliminate the "homework gap."

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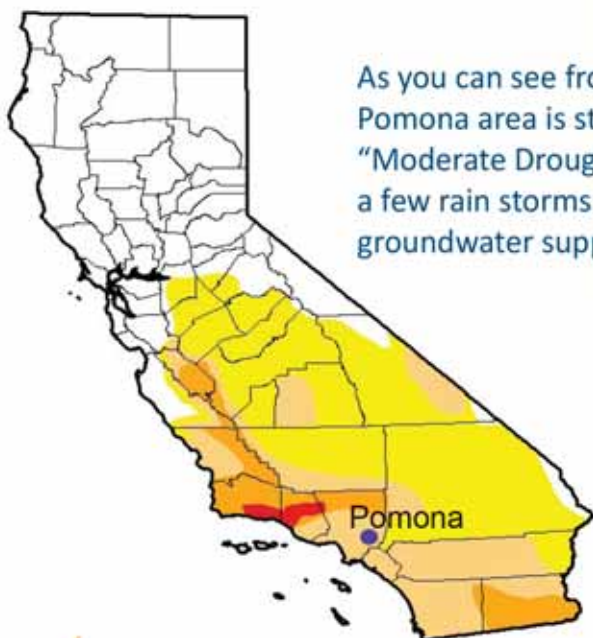


NEW BURGER JOINT IN TOWN -- Big D's Burgers, featuring everything from huge specialty triple-decker hamburgers to a full bar to an old-fashioned soda fountain and "shake stand" for the kids, officially opened in Downtown Pomona this month with a Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting. Pictured in front of the bar, from left, are Miss Pomona Princess Lauren DeMott; Mario Ramos representing Congresswoman Norma Torres; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Big D's general manager Mario Drieslein (at rear); Big D's owner Robert Drieslein (cutting the ribbon); Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez (at rear); Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Vanessa Wierco, representing State Sen. Connie Leyva; Pomona Chamber Board Chair Jill Dolan of Mt. San Antonio College; Pomona Chamber Board member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz; Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; and Pomona Chamber Ambassador Richard Mason, of Primerica. Big D's is located at 135 E. 2nd St., Pomona. The restaurant also operates a second location in Whittier.

La Nueva Voz... Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

**U.S. Drought Monitor
California**

February 14, 2017
(Released Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



As you can see from this recent map, the Pomona area is still considered to be in "Moderate Drought". It will take more than a few rain storms to restore our local groundwater supplies.

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
Jessica Blunden
NCEI/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

DROUGHT...? NO DROUGHT...?

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is asking that everyone continue to live the "waterwise lifestyle".

You have done an excellent job these last few years of conserving water. Your efforts have helped us weather a tough time. However, droughts create long-term impacts.

Locally, our groundwater basins have still not fully recovered. The recent rains have helped, but it will take much more to refill the basins. We also have to remember that these rain and snowstorms may dry up at any time.

PLEASE keep up the good work and continue using water efficiently -- it must be a way of life in California.



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Pomona's Spotlight . . . Making a Difference

Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz in 'Pomona's Spotlight' to launch new feature

Welcome to "Pomona's Spotlight," a new feature focusing the spotlight of Pomona on a deserving individual in the community who generally has gone above and beyond the call of duty to make a positive impact.

What better such individual could there be for this first in a series than a major part of La Nueva Voz itself, Renee Barbee.

On paper, Renee is the Vice President of Advertising Sales and Operations for La Nueva Voz, Pomona's only community newspaper. But in "real life," she is really so much more.

At the newspaper, first and foremost, the idea to go ahead and continue plans to "bring back" the old La Voz when it went out of business eight years ago (after publishing for 28 years) was Renee's. She just said we would make it work. And work it did, with the number of pages, volume of stories and advertising revenue continuing to increase each year.

Renee likes to say that the newspaper has become a part of Pomona and, of course, Pomona has

become an important part of La Nueva Voz.

Today, she essentially runs the day-to-day operation of the newspaper, handles the ad sales, tracks progress of the ad development either in-house or on the client or ad agency side and more.

But she also manages nine social media sites and the newspaper's web site, generally providing the client "added value" for the advertising dollar at no additional cost.

And between "real life" and social media, she knows the Pomona gang. Just on her personal Facebook page, she has more than 720 friends. On the newspaper's Facebook page, she has a few thousand followers there as well. (As an example, a recent "ad-

vance copy" story on Miguel Santana taking over as President and CEO at Fairplex as of press time had been read by more than 1,700 viewers.

Renee has taken that same energy to the next level at the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, where La Nueva Voz has been a member virtually for the past nearly eight years. Renee served as a Chamber Ambassador for a year – never missing a ribbon-cutting, grand opening, mixer or any other Chamber event – and last year became one of the first three Chamber Board members to be elected by the membership at large.

As a Chamber Board member, she attends Board meetings, votes to approve new member applica-

tions, oversees today's Chamber Ambassadors and chairs Ambassador meetings.

While an Ambassador, she served on committees to organize events including everything from the Chamber's annual Legislative Luncheon and the annual Taste of Pomona Valley.

Outside of her Chamber activities, she volunteered last year to serve on the Pomona Christmas Parade Committee of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association and plans to do so again this year.

And in addition to everything else, she spends a lot of her time networking – not for the newspaper but for others in the community, whether individuals, businesses or organizations. For Renee, "matchmaking" just seems to be something that gives her a great deal of satisfaction.

She also gets to meet celebrities in this business and recently met Laila Ali, daughter of Muhammad Ali, and she has had her picture taken with everyone from Tommy Lasorda to "Criminal Minds" star Joe Mantegna.

Of course, because of the nature of the business, she regularly "hangs out" with present and former mayors and councilmembers, legislators from all levels including Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, a friend of La Nueva Voz, and the list goes on.

And Renee takes it all in stride like it is just another day at the office (although frequent questions from clients or friends when they see her are 'how do you do it all?' or 'where are you going to go next?').

Well, we're not sure where Renee's going to go next but we're pretty sure that wherever it is, it is going to make a difference in Pomona.

Editor's Note: "Pomona's Spotlight" is a regular feature focusing the spotlight of Pomona on an individual who has made a contribution to the image, betterment and growth of the greater Pomona community. Suggestions for future candidates to be considered may be submitted to La Nueva Voz by e-mail or through the comments section at www.lanuevavoz.net.



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