

Jurors convict Jonah's killer in only two hours of deliberations

Sengchan Hou, arrested last year in the Pomona shooting that killed 8-year-old Jonah Min-Tian Hwang, was convicted of first-degree murder this month by jurors who deliberated less than two hours.

Hou, now 37, was found

guilty of one count of first-degree murder, two counts each of shooting at an occupied dwelling and negligent discharge of a firearm, and one count of shooting from a motor vehicle.

Jurors in Pomona Superior Court also found true a special

circumstance allegation that the murder was perpetrated by means of discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle.

Sentencing is set for Jan. 29 when Hou faces life in prison without the possibility of parole, according to the Los Angeles

County District Attorney's office and court records.

According to the district attorney's office, Hou was in a vehicle when he shot at a home in the 1100 block of West 11th Street in Pomona.

During the shooting, young

Jonah was struck by the gunfire, the prosecutor said. The child later died from his injuries.

Hou was also convicted of shooting at the same house on one occasion before the murder and then again twice after the

Conviction... pg. 8

Election winners sworn in at city council, water board

Three new Pomona city councilmembers were sworn in this month at a Pomona City Council meeting – and up the hill at Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia was sworn in for his third four-year term – after final tabulations in last month's election were certified by Los Angeles

County.

The final vote in Pomona's District 2 was Victor Preciado with 50.95 percent of the vote, or 1,696 votes, over Jacqueline Elizalde with 49.05 percent of the vote, or 1,633 votes.

In District 3, Nora Garcia ended up with 56.57 percent or 1,963 votes over long-time City Councilmember Cristina Carriosa, who had 43.43 percent or 1,507 votes.

And in District 5, Steve Lustro won with 43.97 percent, or 2,466 votes, over two-term City Councilmember Ginna Escobar, who had 42.01 percent, or 2,356 votes. George Grajeda came in a distant third with only 14.02 percent, or 786 votes.

In the Three Valleys race, Car-

Election winners... pg. 2



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval administers the oath of office to new Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia.



Mayor Tim Sandoval swears in new Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lustro during a City Council meeting this month.



Mayor Tim Sandoval holds up the official "Certificate of Election" for new Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado after administering Preciado's oath of office.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at right, administers the oath of office for Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia, who represents South Pomona on the Three Valleys Board, during a recent meeting of the water district. Newly elected Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, at left, and Goytia's wife, Catalina Goytia, look on.

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Questions? Contact Bridget Gardea at bridget.gardea@pusd.org.

Election winners... from pg. 1

los Goytia, who represents South Pomona on the water board, was handily returned to office with 61.82 percent of the vote, or 7,777 votes. Challenger and former Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman received 38.18 percent of the vote, or 4,803 votes.

Three Valleys Board members Joe Ruzicka, who represents Diamond Bar and the City of Industry, and Brian Bowcock, who represents Claremont and La Verne, held onto their seat after

running unopposed.

Goytia, who was sworn in for another term by Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, thanked Three Valleys' outgoing general manager and chief engineer Rick Hansen who is retiring this month after 41 years.

"Rick, you took us to a high level, a very respected agency throughout the region and throughout the state and a lot has to do because of your leadership and staff," Goytia said, "and

of course my colleagues on the board of directors."

He also thanked Sandoval and new Pomona City Councilmembers Victor Preciado and Nora Garcia for their support in the campaign.

"This campaign was about the people," Goytia said. "It was the people's campaign and it was evident in the results."

"I'm just humbled and honored to continue to serve not just the people of Pomona but the entire region," he added. "This agency is so respected and I'm just proud to be a part of this agency. I look forward to another four years sitting in the seat (and) I'm looking forward to working with our retail agencies."

Three Valleys Board President Bob Kuhn, who represents Glendora and San Dimas on the Board, congratulated all three returning Board members.

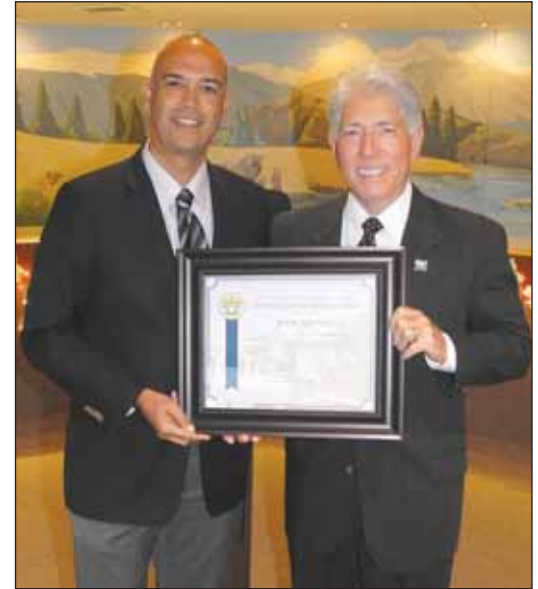
Pomona's Measure PC, which would apply a 6 percent tax rate on gross receipts on the commercial cannabis businesses in

Pomona if they ultimately are legalized by the city council, passed by a 71.21 percent to 28.79 percent margin. The measure also would tax growers \$10 per square foot.

And Pomona's Measure PG, which called for a three-quarter percent sales tax increase in Pomona to generate an additional \$12 million in city revenue each year, passed with a final margin of 66.5 percent to 33.5 percent.

The measure automatically expires in 10 years.

At Mt. SAC, Measure GO, a bond measure to provide funding for making needed upgrades to the college infrastructure, passed with a final count of 62.43 percent to 37.57 percent.



Deven Upadhyay, assistant general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, at left, presents a certificate recognizing 40 years of public service to Three Valleys Municipal Water District General Manager Rick Hansen at a recent Three Valleys Board meeting. "Your efforts have strengthened Southern California's water community, and in particular, the cooperative efforts of Metropolitan's 26 member agencies," the certificate read. It was signed by Metropolitan's General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger. Hansen is retiring at the end of the year. He joined Three Valleys in 1977 and has served as general manager since 1981. Assistant General Manager Matt Litchfield will succeed Hansen as Interim General Manager.

About 33 percent of Pomona's 63,496 voters who were registered on election day turned out at the polls, compared to a countywide turnout figure of about 51 percent.



Three Valleys Municipal Water District General Manager Rick Hansen, at right, administers the oath of office to Three Valleys Board members Brian Bowcock, at left, and Joe Ruzicka, at their Board meeting this month. Both were returned to their seats after running unopposed in last month's election.



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'GOOD FOR THE SOLE' TIME AGAIN -- Members of Pomona Rotary went to work early on a Saturday morning this month making sure 100 kids selected by school health clinic officials from 10 schools in North Pomona walked out with just the right pair of new shoes in their sixth annual "Good for the Sole" give-away. Program chair Carol Wilt said students and their parents lined up outside Big 5 Sporting Goods on Foothill Boulevard and were able to get health screenings courtesy of seven students from Western University of Health Sciences along with "goodie bags" from Big 5 including a water bottle, a pair of socks and a stress ball. Pictured is Sunshine Espindola, 8, a student at San Antonio Elementary School, trying on her shoe with volunteer Yaritzi Huratdo, a freshman at Pomona's Village Academy High School (the school provided about 10 volunteers for the event). "They feel nice," Sunshine told La Nueva Voz. "It's a great event," Wilt said, adding that some of the volunteers who were new this year came from Pomona Catholic as well as Village Academy. Four Pomona Police Department Explorers also were on hand to help.



TRY THIS ONE ON -- Rotarian Jeff Keating of Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences ties a shoelace for Melissa Rocha, 8, a student at Pomona's Barfield Elementary School, during Rotary's "Good for the Sole" shoe give-away program this month.



HOW'S THIS ONE LOOK? -- Pomona Deputy Police Chief Hector Rodriguez, a member of Pomona Rotary, helps Chance McQueen, 10, a student at Lincoln Elementary School, pick out a pair of shoes at Rotary's sixth annual "Good for the Sole" shoe give-away program. Big 5 provides Rotary with a discount on the shoes and opens the store early for the event. They also provide employees who volunteer their time to help, according to Rotarian Carol Wilt, program chair for the give-away.

Former Pomona health care executive Ron Bolding named keynote speaker at annual Martin Luther King celebration

Ron Bolding, former president and CEO of Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan, will be keynote speaker at this year's 37th annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration, sponsored by the Pomona Inland Valley MLK, Jr., Project, scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church.

He will speak on this year's program theme, "Out of the Mountain of Despair, there is a Stone of Hope."

Six students, including four from Pomona, will be honored for their outstanding community service and work in social justice.

Music will be provided by the In-

land Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Ontario.

Pilgrim Congregational Church is located at 600 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

For more information, contact Project President Sherie Rodgers at (909) 261-0247 or by e-mail at piv-mlkproject@gmail.com.

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Mr. D's serving up support for community groups

When it comes to supporting the community, Mr. D's Diner takes it seriously – as seriously as it does serving breakfast or burgers and fries.

During a recent interview with co-owner Stefano Kosmides, La Nueva Voz had access to a list of non-profits the restaurant has supported and counted them up. There were 89 of them and, as Kosmides pointed out, that was just this year!

Included were chambers of commerce, service organizations, the Willie White Park Focus Group neighborhood watch, cities, police and fire groups, soccer leagues and social service organizations.

But the big emphasis has been on schools – middle schools, high schools and at least seven area colleges and universities.

"We see ourselves as part of the community so because of that we feel we have to give back," Kosmides said. "Just like the community supports us, we've got to support them."

He said Mr. D's, with locations in both La Verne and Pomona, is a family business.

"We support families," he added. "We are all about education, so we want schools to read about this, especially the universities because we believe in higher education – it gives kids more perspective to getting out and growing."

In some cases, this support can be monetary, possibly helping a sports team purchase new uniforms. Other times, it can be gift cards or simply partnering with an organization on a fundraiser with a portion of the sales going to the organization.

Normally, 15 percent of sales goes to the organization, Kosmides said. Sometimes it is more, especially if it is a family in need.

He said one fundraiser last year was to raise money for a funeral for a young girl killed in a shooting.

"We doubled the amount that we gave them," said Kosmides, who runs the business with his brother Yianni Kosmides.

Supporting the community, however, is nothing new in the family – their dad Dimitri set the bar for giving back early in his



Stefano Kosmides
Co-owner, Mr. D's Diner

own career.

While "officially" retired, Dimitri Kosmides at one time owned as many as 22 restaurants. Most have been sold and Stefano and Yianni are back up to six restaurants and getting ready to open their seventh next month.

"My dad has always been supportive of families of locals and local business, even if they were his competition," Stefano Kosmides

said. "He always made sure that if someone was suffering, he would be out there to help them."

And he said he's trying to follow in the tradition.

As an example, he said Marie Callender's in Claremont just down the street from the Mr. D's Pomona location recently went out of business after losing its long-time lease. He said apparently the property owners have plans to develop the entire corner of Towne Avenue and Foothill Boulevard.

Kosmides stopped in on their last day to chat with the owner and even helped him move a few items out of the restaurant.

The Pomona location of Mr. D's, located at 401 E. Foothill Blvd., will celebrate its third anniversary in June. The La Verne location down the street at 919 Foothill Blvd. will have been open for six years in March.

Kosmides has been able to get to know the community well during that time.

Then how does he feel about both the community and his customers?

"The customers are great – I have no complaint with the customers," he said. "People have been very embracing."

"The problem is that I think they see us as a more higher class restaurant which we're not," he added. "We see ourselves as more of a family restaurant, family operated and family oriented."


That's why he said he is in the process of updating the menu to include more items requested by the customers – things like more Mexican food, along with more vegetarian and vegan items, new breakfast items and a few new dinners like a steak and shrimp dinner featuring shrimp skewers as examples.

The new menu is already at the printer's and is expected to be available around the first of the year.

"We look forward to continuing our family's long-standing tradition of providing good quality food in a nice casual environment in the manner to which the community has become accustomed,"

Serving up support... pg. 10

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House of Ruth awarded \$50,000 to support domestic violence survivors

Pomona's House of Ruth has received a \$50,000 grant from the Allstate Foundation for achieving second place in raising the most public donations in the 2018 Allstate Foundation Purple Purse Challenge, a fundraiser for nonprofits providing life-changing services for domestic violence survivors.

Public donations were raised during the month of October, which is also National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Nearly 300 domestic violence nonprofits competed in the fifth annual Purple Purse Challenge this year.

Together, the organizations raised more than \$3.5 million, according to a news release.

Funds will be used for services for survivors and their families, such as financial aid and financial empowerment, emergency shelter and child care, counseling and case management.

Since the competition began in 2014, it has raised more than \$10 million for services, the news release said.

In addition, the Allstate Foundation this year contributed nearly \$800,000 in incentive grants, including grand prizes to the top five nonprofits raising the most in their division.

House of Ruth raised \$117,362, compared to \$96,060 the previous year.

Scholarship available for low-income students working on careers in education

The Miami-based "A Little Hope Foundation," a nonprofit organization that supports the needs of underprivileged children, is offering a \$2,500 Dr. Emma Lerew Scholarship to students from low-income families who seek a career in education.

Scholarship candidates will be on a path to provide excellent teaching environments and community engagement to the next generation of youth, according to a news release. They may be the first in their family to go to college.

In addition to the scholarship, candidates will receive mentoring from successful teachers and ad-

ministrators. The selection committee, chaired by Emma Lerew, PhD, will consist of a minimum of three public service professionals.

Lerew, who retired from her position as director of programs and services in the Hayward Unified School District in Northern California, serves as executive director of the scholarship program.

The foundation provides up to \$10,000 in scholarships annually. Scholarships are granted based on assessment of need and university selection.

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

"The funds raised by all of the challenge participants not only help us provide necessary services to survivors but also show survivors we're all standing with them on their path to break free from domestic violence," said Pat Bell, director of development for House of Ruth.

"While we're extremely pleased by the amount of critical donations raised during the Purple Purse Challenge, we know funding alone is not enough," said Allstate Senior Vice President Vicky Dinges. "We need everyone - men and women - to join us in standing up for the victims of domestic violence so we can break the cycle for future generations."

Since 2005, the Allstate Foundation has invested more than \$60 million to help empower more than 1.3 million domestic violence survivors through the program.

House of Ruth, serving the Inland Empire and Greater Pomona Valley for the past 41 years, has established a reputation as a leading expert in the domestic violence field, serving close to 5,000 people annually with crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services, and more than 12,000 annually through prevention education programs.

The organization maintains a 24-hour hotline at (877) 988-5559.



FALL IN THE FARM AT FAIRPLEX -- Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, at right, grabs a photo at last month's "Fall in the Farm" at Fairplex, an educational and outreach opportunity at a real working farm providing visitors with hands-on experiences and opportunities to learn more about agriculture, livestock, horticulture, food service and more. Pictured, from left, are Fairplex Association member Joshua Swodeck, Angelica Baltazar, executive director of the Healthy Communities Institute at San Antonio Regional Hospital in Upland, and Fairplex Community Advancement Manager Tammy Roush.



ANIMALS AT THE FARM -- The animals always seem to attract the kids and, we suppose, the animals and the kids always seem to attract the photographers. Here a little of all three combine to show you a little up close interaction with the goats trucked in from Cal Poly University Pomona for "Fall in the Farm" at Fairplex.



WANT TO MAKE YOUR OWN POND? -- OK, maybe you want someone else to make it for you. Either way, pond101.com was on hand at last month's "Fall in the Farm" at Fairplex with lots of pointers on exactly how to do it.



SANTA ARRIVES IN A FIRE ENGINE AT RALPH WELCH PARK -- Two dozen kids in the after school program at Pomona's Ralph Welch Park community center received one early Christmas gift each from Santa and Mrs. Claus (Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and his wife Michelle). The two drove up to the park in a "hook and ladder" fire engine in full lights and siren mode prompting the kids to come out and greet them before going back inside to receive their gifts. Rodriguez has handed out gifts donated by the community to the kids in the park every year -- wearing the same suit, according to Michelle -- since 2006 when he was first elected to the Pomona City Council. Pictured receiving his miniature car collection from Santa is Isaiah Diaz, 5.



MUSIC AT THE FARM -- What down home country event on the farm would be complete without a little guitar pickin' and singin'? Actually, entertainer Jabe Amato's set list includes lots of country and rock and roll -- from current to oldies. And we promised him a plug, so if you are interested in hearing or hiring him, go to his web site at whyfret.net. OK, if you don't listen to anything else, you've got to go to his web site and listen to "Something" by the Beatles.

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SANTA STEPS UP TO THE MICROPHONE -- Santa arrived in a golf cart for Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's 20th annual tree-lighting ceremony this month. "And remember, Santa loves everybody and everybody should love everybody else," he told the audience as hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum looked on.



VISIT FROM SANTA -- Santa stopped by Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's Pitzer Auditorium again this year to talk to the kids and pose for photos before the annual tree-lighting ceremony at the hospital. Pictured with Santa (hospital volunteer Keith Dobbins) are members of the Pena family of Pomona (mom is not pictured but works in the hospital's stores and distribution department).



HOSPITAL PARTNERS WITH POLICE FOR THE HOMELESS -- The Pomona Police Department's "Quality of Life" Unit partnered with Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center this year to collect blankets for the homeless at the hospital's 20th annual tree-lighting ceremony. Donations of blankets and gently used warm clothing for the winter came from police officers, hospital employees and members of the community. Pictured, from left, are Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri, Pomona Valley Hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum and Sgt. Anthony Catanese, of the police department's Quality of Life Unit. Catanese told the audience the donations "are needed by our most vulnerable community which is our homeless."



LIGHTS ON FOR THE HOLIDAYS! -- After a countdown by the audience (using the names of Santa's reindeer) with the help of Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Rubio Gonzalez, the lights on the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's Christmas tree came on atop the hospital's six-floor tower, ushering in the holiday season in Pomona.



SINGING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON -- The Inland Valley Repertory Theatre Dickens Carolers set the stage with their music for the 20th annual tree-lighting ceremony at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.

La Nueva Voz...

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May this time of the year be filled with great memories and joyous celebrations for you and your loved ones!

¡Que esta temporada del año este llena de buenos recuerdos y celebraciones alegres para ti y tus seres queridos!





EL SUSHI LOCO COMES TO POMONA -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce helped cut the official ribbon this month at the grand opening of a new El Sushi Loco in Pomona. The restaurant began as a food cart that was purchased on Craigslist in Tijuana, Mexico, for \$1,200. Today, the chain has locations in La Puente (which opened in 2011) and Downey in addition to Pomona, serving its core food group, Mexican sushi with its "undeniably unique taste," according to a news release. Pictured at the ribbon-cutting displaying the Pomona Chamber membership plaque, from left, are Chamber Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Chamber Board Chair David McElwain, of the Los Angeles County Office of Education Pomona GAIN job services program, Chamber Executive Director Monique Manzanares and Griselda Mendoza and her husband, owner Frank Mendoza. The restaurant, a new member of the Pomona Chamber, is located at 1542 W. Holt Ave., Pomona.

Conviction... from pg. 1

murder.

Houl was arrested without incident on March 26 in an unincorporated area of Pomona and booked at the Pomona city jail in connection with the murder which occurred on Feb. 20, 2017.

Then-Police Chief Paul Capraro said at the time the suspect was stopped driving the suspect vehicle believed used in the shooting. Capraro said after the arrest the suspect had in his possession the firearm believed used in the shootings.

Resources involved in the investigation included the FBI, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, and the San Gabriel Valley AB 109 Task Force which includes officers from several area law enforcement agencies.

Young Jonah, who was a student at Pomona's Cortez Math and Science Magnet School,

had been adopted from an orphanage in Taiwan and had been in this country for less than three years when he was struck by a stray bullet in the apparent drive-by shooting while having dinner with his parents and family friends.

The community reacted to the slaying by holding a candlelight vigil at Pomona's Sacred Heart Church and a memorial service at Pomona's Purpose Church.



Jonah Min-Tian Hwang



Sengchan Houl

The case was investigated by the Pomona Police Department. Deputy District Attorney Lance Hansen prosecuted the case.

The story attracted the attention of nearly every news

media outlet in Los Angeles along with national and even international news media coverage.

Do you have a news story?
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"I am proud to have been re-elected in 2018 to serve my second term in the California State Senate representing the 20th State Senate District. My district includes the cities and communities of Bloomington, Chino, Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Montclair, Muscoy, Ontario, Pomona, Rialto and San Bernardino."

As your State Senator, I am committed to improving California's schools, environment and communities, as well as creating quality jobs throughout the 20th State Senate District and California. I firmly believe that California families benefit most when we invest in and help strengthen small businesses and other job drivers that create good paying jobs in our local communities.

During my first term in office, I authored 29 bills that were signed into law. Here are a few:

- Require review of environmental justice impacts on local communities (SB 1000)
- Eliminate the statute of limitations on rape (SB 813)
- Increase access to affordable housing programs for mobile home residents (SB 329)
- Criminalize sextortion and protect minors and young women (SB 500)
- Increase efforts to prevent and respond to inmate suicide (SB 960)
- Ban secret settlements in sexual harassment, assault and discrimination cases (SB 820)
- Expand educational services for homeless students (SB 1068)

If you would like more information, please visit my web page at <https://sd20.senate.ca.gov/> or call my office.



PHOTOS BY RENEE BARBEE VOLUNTEERS POSE FOR THE CAMERA -- Volunteers in this month's annual Pomona Optimist Club shopping spree at Walmart take time out for a photo. Included are firemen, Junior Optimist Octagon International Club members, former Miss Pomona Princess Lauren DeMott (at center), and Pomona Optimist President Lorraine Canales, fifth from right.



SANTA VISITS THE KIDS AT POMONA'S WALMART -- There's no such thing as too many visits from Santa at this time of year and if you want a second opinion on that, just ask the kids. Santa stopped by Pomona's Walmart on Rio Rancho Road this month to visit with kids from Pomona Unified School District during their shopping spree picking out their holiday gifts in an annual event sponsored by Pomona Optimist Club and Walmart. Volunteers included firemen from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, members of the community and members of the Junior Optimist Octagon International Club.

CHRISTMAS IN THE CLASSROOM AT SAN ANTONIO -- It was an early "Christmas in the Classroom" at Pomona's San Antonio Elementary School, provided by a non-profit organization of the same name. Maria Vazquez founded the organization in 2004 when her daughter, a second-grade teacher in Fontana, asked her mom to sponsor her class because most of the students didn't celebrate Christmas. Her co-workers at All-Coast Forest Products helped, her CEO sponsored another classroom and it has grown since then. This year, through contributions from businesses, family and friends, the group will bring holiday joy to 5,000 children at six Title I schools -- three in Fontana and two in Jurupa Valley as well as San Antonio in Pomona. Vazquez, who grew up with eight siblings in East Los Angeles, said her own mother was not able to give her children Christmas gifts when they were young. The family had Christmas because of the generosity of the Los Angeles police and fire departments and local businesses. For more information, contact Vazquez at christmasintheclassroom1@gmail.com.



POSING WITH SANTA -- "Christmas in the Classroom" founder Maria Vazquez, left rear, behind Santa, poses with Santa after passing out the gifts to the kids at Pomona's San Antonio Elementary School. Pictured with Santa (Marty Ocheltree), from left, are Vazquez and Ken Ezell, both of Quad Graphics, and San Antonio Principal Selene Amancio. Ezell is master of ceremonies for the program and Quad Graphics donations allow the group to distribute the toys to the schools.



POMONA OPTIMISTS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH -- Newly-elected Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado stopped by a meeting of the Pomona Optimist Club last month at Mr. D's Diner -- before he was even sworn into office -- to congratulate the new students of the month as they received their recognition from the Pomona Optimist Club. Pictured with Preciado are Alexis Lopez and Gloria Rodriguez, both eighth graders at Lexington Elementary School. Lopez was recognized because he is a "responsible, motivated and focused student," according to his certificate, while Rodriguez was recognized for her "leadership qualities both socially and academically." Lexington seventh graders Andrea Valasquez and Carlos Valtierra also were honored (Valasquez for being highly motivated and displaying excellent citizenship and Valtierra for being hardworking, reliable and motivated) but were unable to attend. Lexington Principal Anna Rico also was on hand for the presentation. Lorraine Canales is club president and M. Joyce Baksmith is coordinator of the student of the month program.

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Photo courtesy of Jeopardy Productions, Inc.
POMONA RESIDENT WINS ON JEOPARDY -- Pomona resident Mary Ann Borer, a marketing coordinator from Pomona who works at Christian Community Credit Union in San Dimas, became a four-time champion last month on the Jeopardy television quiz show, with winnings totaling \$86,500. She won \$38,200 on Nov. 5, \$15,200 on Nov. 6, \$14,400 on Nov. 21 and \$18,700 on Nov. 22. She came in third on Nov. 23. "It was a crazy day," Borer told La Nueva Voz, since they taped five shows for the week in one day last October. It was the best day of my life -- it's been a dream of mine since I was a kid to be on Jeopardy," she said, adding that winning was "icing on the cake." Borer, originally from Texas, received her bachelor's degree in broadcasting communications from the University of La Verne. She said she plans to save her winnings and invest them. Pictured is Borer with Jeopardy host Alex Trebek.

Serving up support... from pg. 5

Kosmides said.

Community groups and particularly schools and universities interested in exploring fundraising opportunities or in need of support for a project can contact Mr. D's at mrdsdiner@gmail.com.



ANOTHER GOOD USE FOR LA NUEVA VOZ -- The kids in the after school program at Pomona's Garfield Neighborhood Center at Garfield Park made piñatas this month out of leftover copies of La Nueva Voz. That's La Nueva Voz buddy Christian Perez, 10, kind of holding everything steady as it hangs from the ceiling (and appearing to be doing a little supervising at the same time). After watching a how-to video on YouTube, the kids started with a balloon and strips of newspaper to make a paper mache ball. Once everything dried, of course, it was time to stick something in there and pop the balloon.

AND NOW ON TO CHRISTMAS CARDS -- After those piñatas we were talking about, it was time to make some home-made Christmas cards. Pomona recreation worker Florycell Valenzuela shows the kids how it works -- simple, really -- trace the cut-out, put something fancy inside where it shows through, and voila! The after school recreation program at Garfield is for kids ages 7 to 17 and most come from Kingsley and San Antonio Elementary Schools, but they are open to more kids from other area schools.



And they do more than just art projects -- they help with homework and even participate in a citywide sports program with competition in football, soccer and basketball, Valenzuela said. Kids can come whenever they want and all they need is registration and proof of income from their parents. Hey, they even have field trips in the summertime like outings to the city swimming pool at Washington Park. The programs are offered at 13 parks around the city. For more information, call (909) 802-7730.



THE FINISHED PRODUCT! -- OK, back to those piñatas -- La Nueva Voz went back to Garfield Park for a follow-up visit 10 days later to see how they turned out. Well, see for yourself -- that La Nueva Voz ball is in the center with those starfish-like arms sticking out tacked on with cones made out of posterboard, and crepe paper glued down around the whole thing. Not bad, huh? Just like you'd see in the party stores. But (drum roll please) then enters Monster-rat Ramirez, 8, carrying a big stick and, after a couple of swings, wham! She got that thing open and, of course, all the candy fell out (almost all -- another kid whacked it a couple times more to get the last few pieces of candy). So, alas, the moral of the story is that, while building a piñata out of newspaper is a good art project and helps teach recycling to the kids, the piñata itself really doesn't last that long -- in fact, kind of like the day's news that was in that newspaper in the first place. But the kids clearly enjoyed the project.

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Three Valleys Municipal Water District



A La Nueva Voz special “pull out” section: The 2018 Pomona Christmas Parade Brought to you by Valley Vista Services Providing quality waste and recycling service for over 50 years

Estimated crowd of 10,000 turns out for 10th annual Pomona Christmas Parade

The 10th annual Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade this month attracted, according to official estimates, more than 10,000 on-lookers, the most ever, and, for the record, there was a reason for that – the parade just keeps getting better and better every year.

And while word travels fast on Pomona’s Second Street, word on the parade now has traveled well beyond Pomona’s city limits to cities throughout the San Gabriel Valley and the Inland Empire with parade-goers and their kids driving in from miles around.

“It’s been a labor of love and it started in July with an awesome Christmas parade committee,” organizer Larry Egan, Executive Director of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, told La Nueva Voz before the start of the parade. “And every year it seems like we’ve forgotten something because we get so used to it.”

“But I think it’s going to be a very delightful...
Pomona Christmas Parade... pg. 14



GRAND MARSHAL -- Pomona Christmas Parade Grand Marshal Harold Ray Brown, a founding member of the band War and a long-time resident of Pomona, talks to the crowd as he is interviewed by Stephanie Benjamin at the reviewing stand.



Congresswoman Norma Torres speaks to the crowd.



State Sen. Connie Leyva, at left, wishes the crowd happy holidays as she is interviewed by Stephanie Benjamin.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval addresses the crowd at the Christmas Parade reviewing stand as he walks the parade route shaking hands along the way.



Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez walked the entire parade route with his wife, Lorena Gonzalez, at right, and daughter, Meztli Gonzalez, a 10th grader at Pomona’s Ganesha High School.



Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres rode the parade route in a convertible with Mari-sol Guerra and their son Julien.



Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado also walked the parade route handing out candy canes to the kids.

VALLEY VISTA SERVICES -- Will you look at all the lights? We’re betting La Nueva Voz friend Jill Reiff of Valley Vista Services fixed up the company float all by herself this year, what do you think? Seriously, the entry looks good as always. (And Jill was riding shotgun in the truck as always.)



Mt. San Antonio College Board members Manuel Baca and Rosanne Bader wave to the crowd in the Christmas Parade. And in case you don’t recognize the driver, that’s former Pomona Mayor Chuck Bader (and former Assemblymember, etc.). We’re thinking now, though, we’ve really got to get him a chauffeur’s hat, what do you think?



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and his wife Michelle always get a good reaction from the crowd at parade time.



A car loaded with some of the best staff members of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis rode in the parade. Pictured at left is Assistant Field Deputy Yolanda Fuquay and at right is Caseworker Eva Thiel-Maiz.



Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member John Mendoza (representing North Pomona) was back this year to wave to the parade crowd.



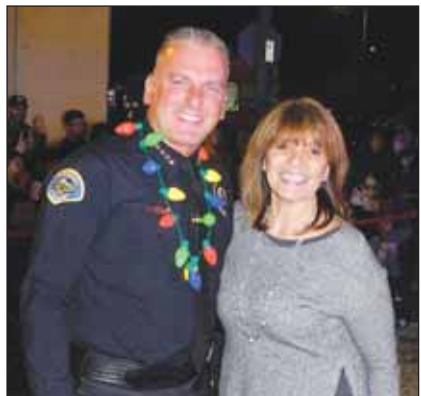
Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia walked the parade route handing out candy canes along the way.



Special Valley Vista Services “pull out” section -- The 2018 Pomona Christmas Parade



Everybody likes the Pomona Christmas Parade, even those spectators with four legs and sweatshirts.



Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri pauses for a photo with parade “roving reporter” Stephanie Benjamin in front of the reviewing stand. Nice lights, Chief.



Ethel Gardner of the Kennedy-Austin Foundation greets the La Nueva Voz camera in the parade.



Why, there's Thummer and Daisy, the official mascots of the Los Angeles County Fair, riding down Second Street in the Pomona Christmas Parade to remind us that the L.A. County Fair is only nine months away! Miguel Santana and Tammy Roush of Fairplex were also on the float but that photographer from La Nueva Voz just couldn't get focused fast enough.



You can tell those girls are from G-Diva Productions, Pomona's “official” dance studio, because they are great dancers plus they have those dresses that light up. The girls wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

And there's former Pomona City Councilmember Ginna Escobar herself riding ahead of the girls in the back of a pickup truck, directing all those moves. The girls were looking good, Ginna!



Pomona's Diamond Ranch Marching Band looked good as always in the parade. The band won the band sweepstakes award.



Some of the No Te Rajes Jalisco Folklorico dancers were in fine form in the parade.



Members of the Ganesha High School Marching Band made an impressive showing in the parade. The band won second place in the high school band competition.



Pomona's favorite K-9 officer Jax walked the parade route wearing his own set of Christmas lights, just like handler Officer Jason Conley.



Pomona Lions Club President Anne Henderson marched in the parade to wish everyone a happy holiday season. Good job, Anne!



And when it comes down to it, Christmas parades are really all about the kids, especially cute ones and cute ones wearing lights, so we're thinking these three are looking good, guys, on all counts.

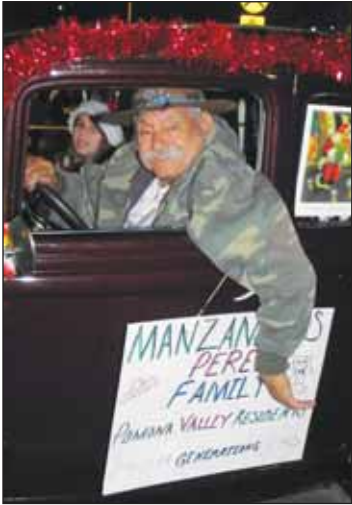


Here's a close up look at the Garey High School Marching Band woodwind section, always an impressive sight. The band took first place in the high school band competition.



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Members of the Manzanares-Perez family -- and there were a lot of them walking and riding in the parade -- were in good form wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. The family descends from some of the original founders of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys and they have 13 documented generations going way back. The family is celebrating the upcoming 90th birthday of the patriarch and La Nueva Voz friend Stephen Manzanares who served in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division and retired from the Los Angeles County Fair after a long career. Happy birthday!



Parade "play by play" announcer Nancy Matarrita of Pomona's Purpose Church, at left, and her assistant



Rotarians Monique Manzanares, executive director of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, and David Speidel, of Pomona's Mayfair Hotel, ride on the Pomona Rotary float in the parade with Beth Brooks of Brooks Property Management at right rear.



Pomona Unified School District Board members Dr. Roberta Perlman and Frank Guzman walked the parade route while their colleagues Board members Andrew Wong, Jason Rothman and Adrienne Konigar-Macklin rode the route.



Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia riding in an open top car in the parade with his wife Catalina.



The current Miss Pomona and her court are pictured in the parade at left with former Pomona Princess Lauren DeMott at right.



Members of Pomona's Historic Preservation Commission looked good in the parade in a preserved historic vehicle.



Frank and Vita Gonzales and the kids of U.S.A. Fit Force Taekwondo, Pomona's only non-profit Taekwondo, walked in the parade.



Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley Board members John Forbing, at rear, and Mike Schaub were among those representing "The Club" in the parade.



Parade "roving reporter" Stephanie Benjamin asks a parade spectator for the answer to a trivia quiz question as folks competed for prizes like gift cards to Mr. D's and Subway before the start of the parade.

Students from Pomona Catholic School were looking good marching in the parade this year.



Cultural Arts Commissioners Joshua Swodeck and Venita Reynolds were decked out with holiday lights in the parade.

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Pomona Christmas Parade... from pg. 11

ful parade, and everybody will enjoy it," he added.

And enjoy it they did!

Just for the marching bands alone, for example, Egan said there were a dozen bands in the parade including four high school bands from Pomona, with more bands than ever before coming from all over Southern California.

"That's kind of exciting," Egan said. "Last year we had nine, so we beat our record there."

In all, there were 97 entries in the parade with about 3,000 people walking, motorcycling, riding in cars, riding on floats, riding on police SWAT vehicles and fire trucks and more to make their way along the parade route down Second Street and back along Mission Boulevard to the staging area in the parking lot at Western University of Health Sciences.

And it all happened under clear skies with temperatures that seemed a bit warmer than in some years past.

Some participants made the loop twice in two different groups or on two different floats.

It was that kind of a parade

and, as has been the case for four years now, it just seemed to be more fun for all as a night time parade under the lights after dark.

Prior to 2015, the last time the parade was held at night was in 1967.

The parade returned to Downtown Pomona in 2009 after being held for 40 years along Holt Avenue.

Grand marshal this year was Harold Ray Brown, a founding member of the band War and a long-time resident of Pomona, who was interviewed by community volunteer Stephanie Benjamin at the parade's reviewing stand.

"Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad to everybody, peace on earth," Brown said to the crowd within range of the public address system. "It's time for all of us to come together."

Benjamin presented Brown with a plaque recognizing his appearance in the parade and Brown held it up for the audience.

"For some reason, it (the plaque) is more important than even the gold and platinum re-

cords I've got," he said. "It's great to be right back here in one of my hometowns, Pomona. P-town!"

Brown moved to Pomona in 1967 and met Pomona resident and conga master Sylvester "Papa Dee" Allen in a service station and the rest was history.

He left the band to attend college in 1983, majoring in computer science with a minor in music.

He moved back to Pomona where he set up a studio in his house for rehearsals, and today he works with young people at First Lutheran Church, where he first learned to play the drums.

War, an American funk band, formed in the 1970s with Brown serving as drummer, percussion, vocalist and bandleader.

Hits included "Slippin' into Darkness" and "Cisco Kid."

His musical background worked well with the parade's theme this year "Sounds of Christmas."

High school band competition awards went to Pomona's Garey High School, first place with a score of 93.1; Pomona's Ganesha High School, second place with a score of 89.3; and Rancho Verde High School, third place with a score of 87.0.

Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School won the band sweepstakes award with a score of 94.1.

High school auxiliary winners were first place Diamond Ranch, second place Garey and third place Ganesha.



The Pomona High School Marching Band was looking and sounding great as they marched in good form down Pomona's Second Street in the parade.



Pomona's Old Stump Brewing Co. was looking good with a musical float in the parade this year.



Pomona's own Native American tribe the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe carried a banner in the parade to get a plug in for the annual "Big Time" Pow Wow held each year on the last weekend in April in Pomona's Tony Cerda Park.



The kids from Pomona's Village Academy High School walked this year's parade route.



For some cars in the Pomona Christmas Parade, it looks like three wheels were enough to make their way down Second Street.



Pomona's favorite cop in an old cop car Walt Barkley and his wife Sylvia rode the parade route in their classic car with the old-fashioned "bubble gum machine" flashing red light on top.

And high school drum major winners were first place Garey, second place Ganesha and third place Diamond Ranch.

Judging was handled by representatives of the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association.

Roving "reporter" with the microphone interviewing celebrities at the reviewing stand was Stephanie Benjamin and "play by play" announcer again this year was Nancy Matarrita who introduced each entry as it passed the reviewing stand at Second and Main Streets.

The DPOA's Larry Egan and Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz,

a member again this year of the parade planning committee, were also stationed at the reviewing stand to help with logistics and come up with quiz questions before the parade for prizes including everything from gift cards to Mr. D's Diner, Subway and IHOP to tee-shirts from the DPOA.

A live video of the entire parade, produced by Renee herself and which has already received nearly 1,200 views, is available on the La Nueva Voz Facebook site (search for La Nueva Voz Pomona, "like" the page and scroll down to the parade video).

Isaiah's Rock sorts out 1,800 Christmas gifts for annual holiday give-away as it partners with Fairplex for year two filling Building 9

There were dozens of bicycles, there were stuffed animals, there were Star Wars characters, and there were forklifts bringing more in all the time from huge trucks outside Building 9 at Fairplex last week – all while speakers filled the huge hall with “oldies” rock and roll and Christmas music – as volunteers with Isaiah's Rock Ministry based in Chino prepared an annual toy give-away that on Dec. 23 would be distributed to 5,000 children from families throughout the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire.

And they've done it for the past 20 years, although founder Charlene King told La Nueva Voz this year was bigger and better than ever before.

Part of that, she said, was because the word is getting out and more individuals and companies are donating than ever before.

“Every year it grows,” King said.

There are more volunteers, too, totaling probably more than 200, based on a rough estimate by La Nueva Voz, all sorting out and packing more than 1,800 Christmas gifts including toys and food baskets into sections spread out over the floor the size of a football field by age category for boys and girls and families.

egory for boys and girls and families.

“It's bigger and better because I think people are getting bigger and better and I think that if you don't help the poor you're poorer than the poor, and I think people are beginning to realize that we need to reach out and help our neighbors,” King added.

And the word must be getting out – about 30 prospective recipients were already camping out three or four days before the event in the Chino Civic Center where the give-away was held.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval greeted the group at brief ceremonies last week to thank the organizers and volunteers for their efforts who are “trying to make sure that every kid, no matter what family they are born into has an opportunity to get something special on Christmas morning.”

He said this was the biggest toy drive he has seen.

Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana told the group he was approached by State Sen. Connie Leyva last year after

Holiday give-away... pg. 18



SORTING OUT CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ONE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST TOY DRIVES -- Volunteers working with Isaiah's Rock Ministry of Chino sort out gift packs, food items and Christmas presents last week at Fairplex -- from stuffed animals to Star Wars characters, bicycles and more -- for 5,000 kids throughout the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire.



FAIRPLEX RECEIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION -- Isaiah's Rock Ministry founder Charlene King presents a special recognition to Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana last week as some 200 volunteers worked to get ready for a huge toy give-away two days before Christmas in the Chino Civic Center.




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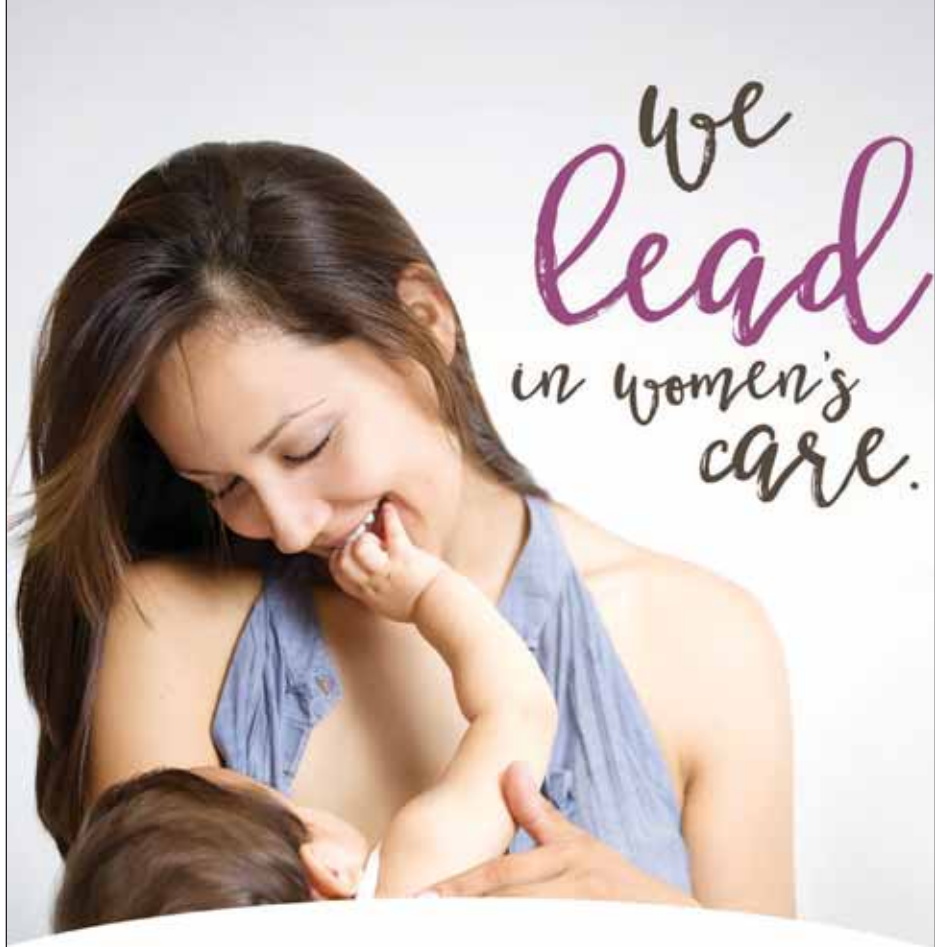
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Personal Care Product Safety

Continuing with consumer product safety since we discussed toy safety in the last column, we will now cover cosmetics and personal care products: their history, ingredients of concern, and safety. One would think that these products would be manufactured and regulated to provide safe products for consumer use. Throughout history, and more recently, this had not been the case.

Before we proceed, let's define cosmetics (from FDA website): The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) defines cosmetics by their intended use, as "articles intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body...for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance" [FD&C Act, sec. 201(i)]. Among the products included in this definition are skin moisturizers, perfumes, lipsticks, fingernail polishes, eye and facial makeup preparations, cleansing shampoos, permanent waves, hair colors, and deodorants, as well as any substance intended for use as a component of a cosmetic product. Bear in mind that personal care products are largely unregulated. The FDA does not even require safety testing of ingredients in personal care products before they are used, according to the Environmental Working Group.

The Egyptians, at the time of the pharaohs, may have been the first to pile on toxic cosmetics. Their "over the top" eye makeup was made of malachite (a green ore of copper), galena (lead sulfide), and, most famously, kohl, a paste made of soot, fatty matter and metal (usually lead, antimony, manganese or copper). In ancient Greece, men and women went even further by plastering lead not just around their eyes, but all over their face. Their white lead face cream, according to a 2001 article in the journal *Clinics in Dermatology*, was designed to "clear complexions of blemishes and to improve the color and texture of the skin." Beginning in the 15th century and continuing through the 18th century, the "spectral white" look was the style of the day. Men and women lathered their faces with a

concoction of white lead and vinegar, peeled their skin with white lead and derivative of mercury and used lead sulfate to remove their freckles (and hopefully nothing as important as a nose). It goes without saying that this exposure to toxic metals and mercury resulted in scarring of the skin, insomnia, mental illness, blindness, and death. Throughout the 19th and 20th century, personal care products contained lead, mercury, mercuric chloride, carbolic acid, and rat poison. In 2007, a consumer advocacy group, Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, reported that a third of lipsticks examined by an independent lab found a "hazardous level" of lead. Also, in 2008, U.S. Marshals seized 12,000 tubes of eyelash growth product. The product contained a prescription drug used to relieve pressure to the eye.

There are many chemicals and heavy metals that are considered as unsafe for human use. The following substances are some of the more common toxic ingredients in health care products used by consumers:

1. BHA (butylated hydroxyanisole) and BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene) are related synthetic antioxidants used as preservatives in lipsticks and moisturizers, among other cosmetics. They are also commonly used as food preservatives. They have been found to trigger allergic skin reactions. The International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies BHA as a possible human carcinogen. (David Suzuki Foundation)

2. Coal tar-derived dyes are widely used in cosmetics. P-phenylenediamine is a specific coal tar dye used in many hair dyes. It is derived from petroleum distillates and is a mixture of many chemicals. Coal tar is recognized as a human carcinogen. Some of these dyes may be contaminated with low levels of heavy metals and some are combined with aluminum substrate. Aluminum compounds and many heavy metals are toxic to the brain. (David Suzuki Foundation)

3. DEA (diethanolamine) related ingredients are used to make cosmetics creamy or sudsy, or as a pH adjuster to counteract the acid-

ity of other ingredients. They are commonly found in soaps, cleansers and shampoos. The European Union classifies DEA as harmful to health from prolonged exposure. It can also react with nitrites in cosmetics to form nitrosamines, which the International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies as a possible human carcinogen. (David Suzuki Foundation, National Toxicology Program Study, 1998)

4. Dibutyl phthalate (pronounced thal-ate), or DBP, is predominantly used in nail products as a solvent for dyes and as a plasticizer that prevents nail polishes from becoming brittle. It is predictably absorbed through the skin. In laboratory experiments, it has been shown to cause developmental defects, changes in the testes and prostate and reduced sperm counts. (David Suzuki Foundation)

5. Formaldehyde – releasing preservatives: DMDM hydantoin, diazolidinyl urea, imidazolidinyl urea, methenamine, quarternium -15, and sodium hydroxymethylglycinate. These chemical ingredients slowly and over time release small amounts of formaldehyde that perform as a preservative. The International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies formaldehyde as a known human carcinogen. (David Suzuki Foundation)

6. Parabens, methylparaben, butylparaben, and propylparaben are the most commonly used preservative in cosmetics. An estimated 75 to 90 percent of cosmetics contain parabens (typically at very low levels). Parabens easily penetrate the skin and are suspected of interfering with hormone function (endocrine disruption). Parabens can mimic estrogen, the primary female sex hormone. In one study, parabens were detected in human breast cancer tissues, raising questions about a possible association between parabens in cosmetics and cancer. Parabens may also interfere with male reproductive functions. (David Suzuki Foundation, Campaign for Safe Cosmetics)

7. The word "fragrance" or "parfum" on the product label represents an undisclosed mixture of various scent chemicals and ingredients used as fragrance

dispersants such as diethyl phthalate. Fragrance mixes have been associated with allergies, dermatitis, respiratory distress and potential effects on the reproductive system. Fragrance is an obvious ingredient in perfumes, colognes and deodorants, but it is used in nearly every type of personal care product. Even products marketed as "fragrance-free" or "unscented" may in fact contain fragrance. In addition to their use in cosmetics, fragrances are found in numerous other consumer products, notably laundry detergents and softeners and cleaning products. (Environmental Working Group, David Suzuki Foundation)

8. PEGs (polyethylene glycols) are petroleum-based compounds that are widely used in cream bases for cosmetics as thickeners, solvents, softeners and moisture-carriers. PEGs may be contaminated with measurable amounts of 1,4-dioxane, depending on how the product is manufactured. The International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies 1,4-dioxane as a possible human carcinogen. It is also persistent in the environment. Specifically, it doesn't easily degrade and can remain in the environment long after it is rinsed down the shower drain. (David Suzuki Foundation)

9. Also known as mineral oil jelly, petrolatum is used as a barrier to lock moisture in the skin in a variety of moisturizers. It is also used in hair care products to make hair shine. A petroleum product, petrolatum can be contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). This contamination can occur during the manufacturing process and is difficult to track. Studies suggest that exposure to PAHs – including skin contact over extended periods of time – is associated with cancer. On this basis, the European Union classifies petrolatum a carcinogen and restricts its use in cosmetics. PAHs in petrolatum can cause skin irritation and allergies. (David Suzuki Foundation, Safe Cosmetics Group)

10. The silicone-based compounds cyclotetrasiloxane, cyclopentasiloxane, cyclohexasiloxane, and cyclomethicone are used in cosmetics to soften, smooth and

moisten. They make hair products dry more quickly and deodorant creams slide on more easily. They are also used extensively in moisturizers and facial treatments. The European Union classifies cyclotetrasiloxane as an endocrine disruptor, based on evidence that it interferes with human hormone function, and a possible reproductive toxicant that may impair human fertility. (David Suzuki Foundation)

11. Triclosan is used mainly in antiperspirants, cleansers and hand sanitizers as a preservative and an antibacterial agent. This chemical can be found in household products, including garbage bags, toys, linens, mattresses, toilet fixtures, clothing, furniture fabric, paints, laundry detergent and facial tissues, as well as cosmetics. Triclosan is absorbed by the skin and is suspected of interfering with hormone function (endocrine disruption). U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention scientists detected triclosan in the urine of nearly 75 percent of those tested (2,517 people ages six years and older). Other studies have raised the possibility that exposure to triclosan contributes to making bacteria resistant to antibiotics. (David Suzuki Foundation)

12. Talcum powder is a mineral composed of hydrated magnesium silicate. The danger is that babies can easily inhale tiny powder particles that are light enough to be dispersed in the air. When inhaled, talc can dry an infant's mucous membranes, adversely affect the baby's breathing, and cause serious lung damage. Studies have shown that talc can lead to shortness of breath and wheezing in babies and can also lead to obstruction of the airways. Some babies have developed pneumonia and some have died as a result of respiratory failure from inhaling the powder. Cornstarch isn't ideal either, but its particles are larger and are not as easily inhaled as talc. You should also be careful not to use either of these powders around older children or adults who have asthma because of the irritation it can cause when inhaled. There are questions and controversy at this time on whether talcum can result



Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz and Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri take time out during the city's tree lighting ceremony this month to have their picture taken with Santa and his elves and talk about what they want for Christmas. Whaddaya think, have they been good?

Congresswoman Norma Torres stopped by the Pomona City Hall tree lighting ceremony this month to extend her season's greetings to the community.



Members of the Pomona City Council gather on the City Hall steps after administering the oath of office to three new councilmembers during a council meeting this month to light the lights on the city's tree (at rear) and throughout the civic center. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and City Councilmembers Victor Preciado, Nora Garcia, Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Steve Lustro and Robert Torres.

Repertory Opera noon concerts continuing

Have you been yet? Don't forget those "Music at Noon" concerts Pomona's Repertory Opera Company is offering each Wednesday at Trinity United Methodist Church. And the concerts are free but donations are accepted. Trinity is located at 676 N. Gibbs St., Pomona.



Holiday give-away... from pg. 15

King lost her husband and co-founder of the project right before the holiday donation drive.

And, of course, Leyva stopped by the event last week to greet the organizers and volunteers.

King received another blow when the warehouse she normally used to house the donations was no longer available at the last minute.

Fairplex stepped up to help by offering one of its exposition halls to the group free of charge and was doing the same thing again this year.

Santana spoke of the thousands of kids and families in the

region who would benefit from the program.

"It takes all of you to make that happen," he said.

"As part of our mission at Fairplex, we provide a benefit to the community," Santana said. "Last year I committed that we would be here this year, and this year I am committing that we will be here next year."

Interested in the Isaiah's Rock program? "Like" them on Facebook at Isaiah's Rock Community Outreach Program, "Like" a post or comment on Instagram at Isaiahsrock, or contact them at Dublin1923@aol.com.



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- Pomona Chamber of Commerce, 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Pomona Unified School District administration building lobby
- Western University of Health Sciences Patient Care Center
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center maternity lobby, outpatient services, emergency room
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- Jicamex Tacos Y Carniceria, 604 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaundryLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



Dr. Dolores Gonzales, honored by University of La Verne for her support, looks back on career in education with advice for teachers

Dr. Dolores Gonzales – one of the first minority women with doctorate degrees teaching at the University of La Verne, one of the first three minority students to graduate from the university (then known as La Verne College) and a lifelong educator – said her advice to teachers today goes back to her doctoral dissertation – writing is the most important thing they can focus on.

“If they can talk, they can write and if they can write they can read,” Gonzales told La Nueva Voz in a recent telephone interview.

She added that students who are good readers can write and be good spellers.

And she said it is important for today’s teachers to make time every week to allow children to write.

In an era of computer and cell phone texting shorthand, she said she hasn’t “completely lost hope” in students learning to write.

Gonzales, a resident of La Verne, was honored by the university recently – for her years of service in education and her support of the university – at a dedication of a mural entitled “Nevertheless . . . they persisted” which recognized the current diverse student body.

She and others were spotlighted in the mural for her continuing support of the university.

Her career itself was an exam-

ple of persistence – she retired after serving for 30 years in the Bonita Unified School District, which serves La Verne and San Dimas, teaching kindergarten through sixth grade, and went on to serve as a professor in the Department of Education at the University of La Verne for another 21 years training student teachers.

Along the way, she also taught for six years as a reading specialist in the Imperial Valley.

What was her reaction to the recognition?

“It was incredibly unbelievable – it was such a great honor to be recognized as having served as a leader in education,” she said. “They felt that I had given enough years and enough leadership in education.”

Gonzales received her master’s degree at Cal State University Los Angeles and went on to the Claremont Graduate School, where she received her doctorate, so she could teach at the university level.

She said her dream was to teach teachers how to teach, adding that she “loved that – those were the greatest years of my life.”

She also has worked to help ensure that Latino students are encouraged to continue their education.

And she continues to serve the field of education as an active member of the California Retired Teachers Association,



EARLY UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE MINORITY GRAD AND COLLEGE SUPPORTER HONORED -- Dr. Dolores Gonzales, whose career in education has spanned more than 50 years and who has been a long time contributor to the University of La Verne, is recognized at a recent dedication of a mural at the university in which she is depicted as a minority leader in education. Pictured at the dedication, from left, are La Verne Mayor Don Kendrick; Ahmed Ispahani, University of La Verne business professor; University President Devorah Lieberman; mural artist Kristy Sandoval; Dr. Dolores Gonzales; university student Damairis Lao; Dr. Jon Leaver, professor of art history; and Beatriz Gonzalez, university vice provost and chief diversity officer.

Division 13.

The mural itself grew out of a “Murals in the Art of L.A.” class taught by Dr. Jon Leaver, a professor of art history at the University of La Verne.

Students became concerned this spring that art on campus did not recognize the university’s diverse student body.

An arts council was formed, ideas were submitted, and art student Kristy Sandoval’s theme of women’s empowerment was selected.

She sketched out the basic design on the south wall of the university library and students helped paint it during a campus work day.

The mural depicts a female student in the center flanked by nine historically significant contributors who helped define the central qualities of the university.

Gonzales, for decades involved in university planning and projects, moved to La Verne at the age of 4, attended Lincoln and Roynan elementary schools and served as a cheerleader and drum major at Bonita High School.

She met her future husband Ruben, who she called “a handsome football player,” at a football game between Bonita and Chino High School.

She received her bachelor’s degree and teaching credential from the University of La Verne.

Gonzales and her husband had two children, Kathy, an at-

torney, and Philip, a professor at Fresno State University.

She became noticed by teachers from throughout Los Angeles County for one of her early programs while teaching second graders in Bonita Unified in which she set up an “authors’ center” where students wrote and bound their own books.

On weekends and during summers she presented workshops in student authorship in California and Arizona and was the featured speaker at several reading conferences.

She also developed special strategies to help Spanish speakers adapt and become successful in English.

Gonzales completed her doctorate program at Claremont Graduate School in seven years while working full time.

She has served on the University of La Verne alumni board and has been an active member for 55 years of Delta Kappa Gamma, which promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

And what advice does she have for teachers in training?

“Follow what you like the most and have a passion for what gives you happiness,” she said. “Don’t give up when the road is rough. Keep visualizing your goal. Love what you do.”



SAYING GOODBYE TO AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -- Board members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce say goodbye to Erica Frausto, who served as executive director of the chamber for four years. She left last month to take a position as executive director of the San Gabriel Pomona Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross in Arcadia. Pictured at a “going away” party at Vita Italian Bar and Grill in Pomona’s DoubleTree, from left, are Michael Thomas, of Pomona Valley America’s Job Center; Sandra Vaughan-Acton, of the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation; Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz; Frausto; Monique Manzanera, of the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps (now serving as executive director of the chamber); Jill Reiff, of Valley Vista Services; Daniel Thomas, of Forest Lawn; Jeff Keating, of Western University of Health Sciences; Larry Egan, of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association; and David McElwain, Board Chair, of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Pomona GAIN Job Services.

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OPINION

Memo to campaign managers: Pomona voters pick candidates who play nice

Newspapers like elections. They provide plenty of interesting information for page one stories, and they bring with them plenty of political advertisements and the ad revenue that goes along with all of that.

This was certainly the case this time around in last month's election at La Nueva Voz. Five of the seven Pomona City Council candidates and all three of the city's ballot measures (two for Pomona and one for Mt. SAC) had ads in our paper in one form or another.

In fact, strictly from an advertising perspective, it was the biggest election we've ever had in the nine and a half years we've been here – and we're guessing

it was bigger than at any time in the 28 years of the old La Voz before us.

Big two months of advertising or not, it was still a difficult decision around here in October to turn down a full-page ad from an outside political action committee that in their own words was a "hit piece," the kind of political ad that pulls out all the stops and turns to negative campaigning to communicate a message.

We made the decision based on the reasoning that this simply was not representative of who we are.

OK, it might not have made any difference – the ad message got out there in mailboxes, on billboards and through a social

media video production company based outside of Pomona.

And (no surprise here) it kicked up quite a fuss on several social media platforms.

Now in the interest of full disclosure, La Nueva Voz accepted a couple of ads from the political action committee in our September issue when the ads looked pretty much like any other political ads – in other words, they were "playing nice." (It wasn't until after the fact that we learned one of the ads supported a candidate without her knowledge, but even so it was a favorable ad.)

Then how'd it all turn out? Well, the incumbent in one council district who was sup-

ported by the political action committee lost. Her opponent, who was the subject of some of that negative campaigning, was elected to office. And in another council district where two candidates were running for an open seat, the candidate supported by the political action committee (without her knowledge) lost and her opponent, whose background also became the subject of the "hit piece" effort, won despite the negative campaigning.

Plus, Pomona's long-time city attorney, whose law firm was a major contributor to the political action committee, lost his job after the majority on the city council changed.

Oh, and remember those three

ballot measures we mentioned earlier? All three of those – as far as we could tell – used only positive campaigning and all three (two tax measures in Pomona and a bond issue for Mt. SAC) were approved by voters in wide margins.

So we're thinking one of the main messages here (clearly there are several) is that Pomona voters were able to see through all of this – and they decided to take the high road and show the campaign managers that they still prefer to elect candidates who play nice.

Congratulations to all the winners. And, for that matter, congratulations to the voters, as well.

Product Safety... from pg. 17

in ovarian cancer. Scientific studies are leaning towards this, and 22 women sued Johnson and Johnson for \$4.69 billion based on this claim. (Dr. Andrew Weil)

In 2017, there was progress in cosmetic safety on the part of several corporations. Proctor & Gamble unveiled a new preservative tracker to inform consumers about preservatives in their products. They also agreed to phase out triclorosan/triclocarbon in 2017. Unilever agreed to disclose "fragrance" or "parfum" through SmartLabel by 2018. Proctor & Gamble made a similar commitment by 2019. These actions also were followed up by Target Corp., CVS, Costco, and Walmart with plans to eliminate toxic substances/ingredients in the next few years. These important changes have been brought about because U.S. PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) Education Fund and their coalition partners (state PIRGs, Breast Cancer Prevention Partners, Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, and Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families) made a concerted effort through petitions on college campuses and in communities throughout the country. (Campaign for Toxic Free Products)

There are many other cosmetic and personal care substances that can be researched to determine whether they are safe to use. The best strategy is to read labels and research websites that provide in-

formation, such as the following:

California Safe Cosmetics Program Database, <https://safecosmetics.cdph.ca.gov/search/>

Environmental Working Group Skin Deep Cosmetics Database, <https://www.ewg.org/skindeep/>

Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, <http://www.safecosmetics.org/>

The Personal Care Products


Council is the leading national trade association representing global cosmetics and personal care products companies. Founded in 1894, PCPC has approximately 600 member companies that manufacture, distribute, and supply the vast majority of finished personal care products and ingredients marketed in the U.S. (<https://cosmetic-sinfo.org/>)

The choice is ours to be concerned and informed about products that we and our families use. Only through information and knowledge about these products can we protect ourselves and our loved ones.

Editor's Note: Jose Bermudez, a safety professional for nearly 40 years, has worked as a consultant and a regional safety and health

manager for colleges, hospitals and an environmental engineering consulting firm, working for companies such as General Electric, Waste Management, Inc. and Quaker Oats. He received the designation of Certified Safety Professional from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. His column is presented as a public service. He can be contacted at jsbrmdz8@gmail.com.

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

<p>Project Sister Family Services Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Services 909-626-4357 or 626-966-4155 www.projectsister.org</p>	<p>Feeding the Hungry, Sheltering the Homeless Grocery Distribution at 209 W. Pearl St. Pomona  Volunteering: 909-622-3806 www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org</p>
<p>HOUSE OF RUTH Abused by your partner and need help? 24-hour hotline: (909) 988-5559 or toll free at (877) 988-5559</p>	<p>Pomona Public Library Hours Mon., Tues., Wed. Thurs.: 1 to 7 p.m. Sat.: Noon to 5 p.m. Fri., Sun.: Closed</p>
<p>Sign up for Pomona Unified School District's Free 'Early Learning Literacy' App! It's a fun way to improve reading skills. Register at www.myf2b.com/register/pomona footsteps2brilliance La Nueva Voz is a proud member of PUSD's Literacy Collaborative.</p>	
<p>Info on student group program at AGRIscares: www.agriscares.cpp.edu 4102 S. University Drive, Pomona (next to the Farm Store)</p>	

Hope & Hurdles

By Evy Schuman



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

And before the parade was the annual Holiday in the Plaza festival!

Parade... from pg. 14



Santa (community volunteer John Schmidt) and one of his elves wait patiently as mom (just out of the frame at left) takes a photo of her kids.

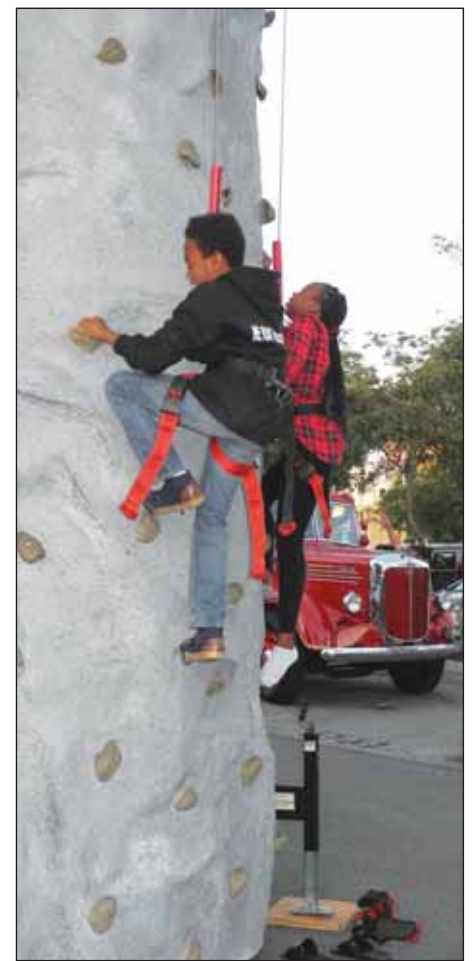


The Pomona Youth Orchestra performed again this year for Holiday in the Plaza and was sounding better than ever with an amazing trumpet player who made his way all the way up to the high notes.

And, as always, those amazing volunteers with the Pomona Kiwanis Club were on hand to prepare those famous Kiwanis burgers. (Nice hat, Linda!)



This guy's face says it all as he sleds down the snow slope at Holiday in the Plaza.



There's something special about those kids willing to go up on the climbing wall.

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Photo by Renee Barbee

HISPANIC CHAMBER CUTS RIBBON FOR LA CACHANILLA #5 -- Members of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Pomona Valley conducted an official ribbon-cutting ceremony this month to open La Cachanilla #5, a neighborhood grocery and convenience store, located at 1135 N. White Ave., Pomona. The store is the company's second location in Pomona. Two other stores are located in Azusa and one in Corona. The company employs about 40 residents of Pomona and surrounding communities. Pictured, from left, are Roberto Arnold, Vice President of the Hispanic Chamber; Pomona City Councilmembers Victor Preciado and Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; Minerva Hernandez, President of the Hispanic Chamber; Abraham Haifa, father of the store owners (just inside the door); store manager Ehab Haifa; his mother, Haifa Haifa; Kiki Haifa, also a store manager; and at far right, Sofian Haifa, manager of the new White Avenue store.

Pomona Valley Hospital recognized for reducing C-sections

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center has been recognized as one of 122 California hospitals to meet or surpass a federal target aimed at reducing Cesarean births to 23.9 percent for first-time mothers with low-risk pregnancies, according to

the California Health and Human Services Agency.

The agency announced the 2018 achievement awards to hospitals on behalf of Smart Care California, a coalition of public and private health care purchasers that collectively

purchase or manage care for more than 16 million people statewide, or 40 percent of all Californians.

"We want to ensure that C-sections are only performed when medically necessary," said Dr. M. Hellen Rodriguez.

HAPPY 54TH ANNIVERSARY!

Feliz aniversario a mi corazón

'Without You'

You ask me if I really love you. Before you I was just existing. Now I know that I was born to love you beyond life itself. Don't you know how much you mean to me? I can't imagine living my life without you – there would be no rainbows and no sunshine in the sky, and no sweet kisses in the night. Without you, there would be no flowers, and no cool winter showers. Without you, I wouldn't know what to do to fill the hours.

and I would be so sad if you said you didn't love me anymore . . . Don't you know that I was born to love you beyond life itself? There is no one else that can kiss me and mesmerize me so completely. When I gaze into your eyes, I can see the stars dancing through your soul. You are the heaven in my life. Without you, there would be no rainbows in the sky . . .



Susie Perales © 2000

Editor's Note: Susie Perales, an occasional contributor to La Nueva Voz, said she read this poem to her "Viejito" and "started crying my eyes out." Happy anniversary, Susie and Angel!

Without you, I wouldn't have your tender arms to hold me and caress me through the night. If I didn't have you all the light in my life would quickly fade away. There would be such darkness

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Pomona resident William Shelton to judge Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York

Pomona resident William Shelton will be among the judges traveling back to the 143rd annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, attracting entrants from around the world, to be held in New York City in February.

It will be Shelton's first assignment at Westminster. He will officiate over several breeds during the daytime competition held at Piers 92/94 on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 11 and 12.

Shelton has had a lifelong devotion for all animals and the sport of purebred dogs. He manages a successful professional handling career that spans decades and he has a particular passion for the Coventry Pembroke Welsh Corgi.

His family's breeding program was honored as "Breeder of the Year" in both 2012 and 2017. The Coventry Pembroke Welsh Corgi again was honored this year as the American Kennel Club "Herding Dog Breeder of the



POMONA DOG EXPERT TO JUDGE WESTMINSTER DOG SHOW IN NEW YORK -- Pomona resident William Shelton has been selected to judge the 143rd annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York in February. Pictured is Shelton with his favorite Corgi.

He is a columnist in the field and has lectured for the American Kennel Club and other organizations across the country and abroad.

And he was presented a Show Dogs of the Year Winkie Award for "Judge of the Year" last year.

Interested in watching? The competition will be telecast live on FS1 beginning at 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (4 p.m. Pacific Time) on Monday, Feb. 11, and on Fox Sports Go from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern Time.

The Westminster Kennel Club, established in 1877, is America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs. Some 204 breeds and varieties of dogs compete in Best of Breed judging at Piers 92/94 with the winners advancing to Group and Best in Show competitions at Madison Square Garden.

The competitions are part of "Westminster Week" which now includes more than 3,000 dogs from around the world.



GETTING THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED

-- Pomona police were getting the attention of Pomona residents this month with their "Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive" outside Target. Pictured, from left, are Officer Cynthia Jimenez, Daniel Jimenez, 5, a student at Roosevelt Elementary School, and Officer Diana Hernandez.



STUFF A CRUISER

TOY DRIVE -- Actually, the Pomona Police Department was able to stuff a cruiser and, pictured here, stuff the back of a SWAT vehicle this month in their first-ever program of its type in front of Target in Pomona's Target shopping center. Corporal James Gibson, who has headed up the police department's crime prevention department for the past two years, said in the past officers have relied on donation boxes in City Hall, the Police Department and at about 20 businesses around town to collect toys. But after adding the shopping center location to the existing boxes and spending most of the day collecting toys in front of Target for the first time, he said people were coming out of the store with entire shopping carts full of toys and kids were climbing up into the SWAT vehicle putting the toys in themselves. The toys were for the kids of Pomona. Pictured at the rear of the SWAT vehicle filled with toys, from left, are Corporal Ernesto Rios, who is taking over for Gibson as Gibson rotates back into patrol duty; crime prevention specialists Natalie Diaz and Norma Macy; and Gibson.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

New Year's Resolution(s)?

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