

World of science brings nearly 40,000 students to Fairplex for inaugural two-day 'STEAM' event

What is the scientific principle that brings 20,000 students to Fairplex on a Friday, another 20,000 on Saturday and holds their interest and even teaches them while they're there?

OK, we're not sure but we could have asked Bill Nye "The Science Guy," who appeared at this month's "STEAM" Fair (which focused on science, technology, engineering, arts and ag, and math), this year for the first time a production of Fairplex as a free curriculum-based community event.

Or for that matter, we could

have asked Albert Einstein (well, not the REAL Albert Einstein, but master story-teller Jim Coogan, who was doing a good job of explaining his theory of relativity and the concept of atoms and molecules to school kids).

But when it comes down to it, it was the science itself that brought kindergarten through 12th grade kids and their parents to the event – and they came from everywhere from school districts in Pomona to West Covina to Walnut, Compton and even Torrance.



Photo by Renee Barbee
Bill Nye "The Science Guy," at right, leads a panel discussion that was recorded as an interactive podcast with The Planetary Society, of which he is CEO. Nye also conducted science demonstrations on day two of the STEAM Fair at Fairplex.

Pomona Mayor Sandoval calls for advisory council and affordable housing, announces new development in second 'state of the city'

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval – opening his second "state of the city" address last month with his usual show business flair, a musical introduction and flashing stage lights – looked back on a year that he said brought a "political revolution" and "continued to bring transformational change to Pomona" as he announced a 2019 that now will include everything from a new Mayor's Advisory Council to more partnering with Cal Poly University Pomona to

a possible new city ordinance to ensure developers include affordable housing in any future project.

Part of that political revolution included last November's election of three new city councilmembers, along with another three new councilmembers – and a new mayor – in 2016.

"You, the voters, have spoken," Sandoval said. "You want us to do things differently."

State of the city... pg. 9



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval makes a point as he presents his second "state of the city" address last month in Pomona's Fox Theater.

A number of private schools also participated.

The event itself was spread out over the fairgrounds – filling several exhibition buildings and the midway areas between them.

Folks at the 48th District Agricultural Association exhibit were teaching kids how rice was introduced as a crop in California.

(Did you know rice wasn't originally grown in California until it was brought here to serve the needs of people immigrating here who included a lot of rice in their diet?)

And the Pomona Council PTA

was putting the national PTA motto "Every child, one voice" into words and self-portraits.

The PTA is an "advocacy group that is fighting on behalf of our children, whether it's the arts, education or early child development or parent engagement, union involvement and the atmosphere of the environment at the schools," said Pomona PTA Council President Chara Swodeck. And the artwork that was being created at the event by both kids and adults was an example of "how we are engaging our students and engaging our parents into the system."

She explained students were writing about who inspired them on one side of a chalk board and parents and teachers were writing on the other side about students who inspired them.

Meanwhile, over at the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center booth, experts were on hand to talk about diabetes and physical therapy.

Oh, and did we mention that Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board member Jill Reiff of Valley Vista Services was hard at work explaining how recycling

World of science... pg. 12

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A PATCH OF POPPIES RIGHT HERE IN POMONA? -- We're not sure, but it certainly looks like it. Pictured is a patch of wildflowers just east of and above the entrance to Mission Hills Estates off of Mission Boulevard, just down the hill from Temple Avenue. Now we're not 100 percent on this, since we didn't get up there to take a close look. So if any of our readers decide to take a little hike, please let us know what they are and we'll report your findings in La Nueva Voz next month. (Just watch out for rattlesnakes -- we heard somebody had a run-in with one in Lake Elsinore looking at the poppies, and we're not sure our insurance covers that.)



Photo by Renee Barbee



Photo by Renee Barbee

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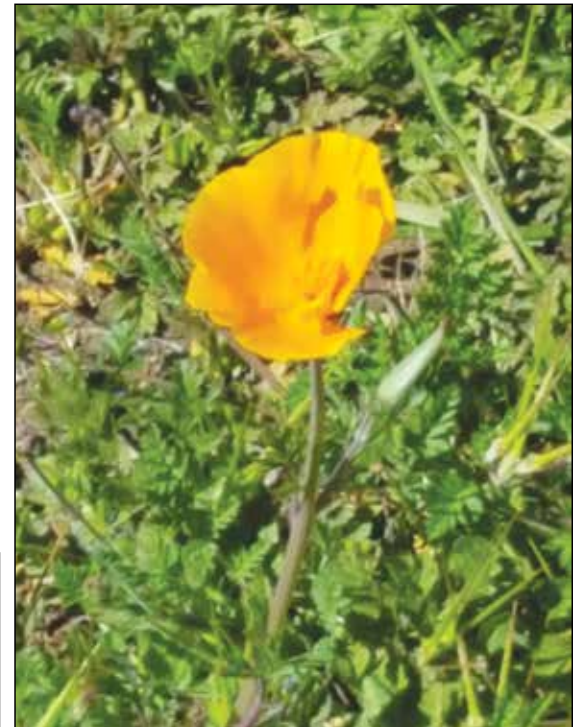
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CALIFORNIA POPPY SUPER BLOOM -- Too much of a good thing? Probably so if you ask officials in Alberhill and Lake Elsinore. Thousands of Southern California residents converged in a rural area between the two communities over the weekend this month to see the "super bloom" of California poppies -- so many, in fact, that the locals were unable to handle it -- they issued a press release to Los Angeles television stations urging people to stay home until a week day and, briefly on that Sunday, they even closed the area to traffic altogether. The super bloom, apparently the result of the recent rains, attracted interest among news media internationally and one web site even offered a look at what the super blooms looked like from space. Here's a "wide shot" of one of the slopes just off a frontage road to I-15 taken by Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz. Look closely and you'll see several people walking up the slope and, we're guessing, trampling a few of the poppies while they are at it -- something that is definitely frowned on by authorities. But those slopes filled with poppies literally went on for miles. The area was listed on the internet as one of the top 10 poppy destinations in Southern California.

Here's another reason to read La Nueva Voz -- we'll save you a trip up the slope and give you a close-up look at what one of the blooms actually looks like. Of course, you still have time to get out there yourself. We can tell you that up close or from a distance, the California Golden Poppy, our state flower, is looking good this year and is worth the trip -- and the effort.



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Vice Mayor Rubio Gonzalez

A message from Pomona District 1 City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez:



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Debra Martin, Chair Historic Preservation



Melissa Ayala, Chair Parks and Recreation



Jorge Grajeda, Vice Chair Planning



Duane Smith, Chair Board of Library



Fred Van Allen, Vice Chair Board of Parking



Vince Carpio, Vice Chair Community Life



POMONA

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES 2019



Fremont Academy

Wednesday, May 29
at 4:00 p.m.

Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



Adult & Career Education

Wednesday, May 29
at 5:30 p.m.

Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



*Palmares
Academy of Health Sciences*

Thursday, May 30
at 4:00 p.m.

Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



*Village Academy
High School*

Thursday, May 29
at 5:30 p.m.

Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



Garey High School

Thursday, May 30
at 7:00 p.m.

Garey High School
Football Stadium



Pomona High School

Thursday, May 30
at 7:00 p.m.

Pomona High School
Football Stadium



*School of Extended
Educational Options &
Pomona Alternative School*

Friday, May 31
at 4:00 p.m.

Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



Park West High School

Friday, May 31
at 5:30 p.m.

Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



Ganesha High School

Friday, May 31
at 7:00 p.m.

Ganesha High School
Football Stadium



*Diamond Ranch
High School*

Friday, May 31
at 7:00 p.m.

Diamond Ranch HS
Football Stadium

David Baron named senior vice president/provost at Western University

David Baron, who holds both a doctorate of osteopathic medicine and a master's in education, has been named senior vice president and provost of Western University of Health Sciences effective July 1.

Baron, currently vice president for clinical and external relations since joining Western University last May, previously served for eight years in a variety of roles within the Department of Psychiatry at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, including vice chair of the department and chief of service at Keck-USC Hospital.

Before that, he was deputy clinical director and director of medical student and residency education at the National Institute of Mental Health. He also served for 12 years as chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Temple University School of Medicine.

Baron will succeed Gary Gugelchuk, who has served as provost and chief operating



David Baron

officer at Western University since 2012 and has held a variety of administrative positions at Western over the past 33 years.

Gugelchuk will remain with the university as professor and provost emeritus as well as special advisor to the president.

Baron was selected by Western University President Dan Wilson following a nationwide search that got underway last fall.

He was the first doctor of osteopathy resident at USC, the first doctor of osteopathy section chief at the National Institute of Health, and the first doctor of osteopathy adviser to the International Olympic Committee.

In his new position, Baron will serve as chief academic officer of the university responsible for academic, accreditation and budgetary affairs, and will help propel all academic priorities.

"I am deeply honored to be selected by President Wilson," Baron said. "Since joining WesternU 10 months ago, I have experienced firsthand the total commitment of the university family to innovative scholarly pursuits and interprofessional graduate health education in our nine graduate health sciences colleges. (The university) celebrates a commitment to its core mission while never forgetting the role of humanism in training the next generation of graduate health providers and researchers."

'Olympic Day' family event set for Saturday, May 11, at Village at Indian Hill

The spirit of the Olympic movement will roll into Pomona in May featuring everything from tacos to Taekwondo, presented again this year by U.S.A. Fit Force Taekwondo.

Frank Gonzales, president and director of Pomona's only non-profit Taekwondo studio, said the third annual "Olympic Day" activities will continue from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 11, in the parking lot at The Village at Indian Hill (outside the studios of U.S.A. Fit Force Taekwondo).

Admission is free and tacos from Lily's Tacos will be on sale.

Included will be everything from Taekwondo demonstrations by the students, "sparring," board breaking, guest appearances by athletes and public officials, kid games, community booths and food, all in celebration of commemorating the birth of the modern Olympic Games that include Taekwondo.

Music featuring "oldies" will be provided from noon to 1 p.m. by Jeff Schenkel on his guitar.

According to Gonzales, a sixth-degree black belt master instructor, the mission of the event for the entire family is to promote fitness, well-being, culture and education while promoting the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect. He said the pillars of the Olympic Games are "move, learn and discover."

"Our event will offer encouragement of children to lead healthy, active lives and have interactive exercises," Gonzales added.

Pomona's celebration will be one of more than 2,400 others taking place nationwide during the months of May, June and July.

The Village at Indian Hill is located at 1460 E. Holt Ave., Pomona.

For more information, sponsorships and registration, contact Gonzales at (909) 979-7473 or by e-mail at tkd4usa@gmail.com.

Suggested booth donation is \$50 and may be tax deductible.

Area educator says African-Americans delayed two years in diagnosis for autism

A school principal in Walnut Valley Unified School District who is reaching out to parents of children with developmental disabilities said Caucasian and African-American children are diagnosed differently – for example, she said there is a two-year lag delaying the time it takes to effectively diagnose an African-American child on the autism spectrum.

Her comments came last week in a special presentation at Pomona's Kennedy Austin Foundation which was the first event held in the foundation's new offices in the Village at Indian Hill.

Donna Hunter, principal at Walnut Valley's Ron Hockwalt Academies, told the group her own 28-year-old daughter is on the spectrum and that when she was young in the 1990s adequate resources were not available, especially in the African-American communities, making it difficult to receive early diagnosis, intervention and treatment.



Photo by Renee Barbee
Kennedy Austin Foundation Executive Director Ethel Gardner, at right, introduces educator Donna Hunter at special presentation for parents of children with developmental disabilities.

Because no support was available, she spent the first 15 years of her daughter's life with her.

More recently, when she went back to school and earned her Ph.D. degree, she based her doctoral dissertation on her experience – all to help ensure that the parent perspective is addressed in the schools.

Today, she is continuing her

effort to reach parents to help make them aware of resources available to them, just by calling on the expertise she has developed in connection with her own challenges. She has been attempting to reach out to parents through churches and non-profit organizations, among others.

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Just Us 4 Youth seeking adult volunteers to mentor 'at-risk' youth at upcoming retreat

A Pomona-based non-profit organization Just Us 4 Youth that focuses on mentoring middle and high school aged youth is looking for adult volunteers representing a variety of job sectors to help teach "life skills" to 20 targeted at-risk young men participating in a May overnight retreat – the group's first annual "manhood camp" – at Bonelli Park in San Dimas.

Mentors will help address the "father wound" element in at-risk youth.

"This epidemic of fatherlessness breaks our hearts," said Paul Hudak, director of operations and community development for the organization.

He said the group's mission is to mentor urban youth to "revitalize their communities," working with programs both on and off of school campuses.

The retreat is scheduled for May 18-19. Adult volunteers will walk young men through three tracks including character development, navigating relationships and basic life skills.

Trade-based experiences will include representatives of fields such as construction, woodwork, electrical, plumbing, painting, mechanics, cooking and more.

To volunteer as a mentor or to support the organization, contact Hudak at paulh@ju4y.org or visit the web site at ju4y.org.

Autism... from pg. 4

She has created an entire symposium, complete with a documentary in which a variety of experts are interviewed, to help tell the story.

And, Hunter said, the same problems are there for any child with a developmental disability, not just autism.

Her approach is to talk to parents from her own perspective as a mom and, of course, parents have an opportunity to ask questions.

The Kennedy Austin Foundation, founded by Executive Director Ethel Gardner, is a non-profit wellness and crisis intervention center serving residents of Pomona and surrounding cities since 1993.

Gardner founded the organization after her teenaged son lost his life in an automobile accident.

It is located in Room 182 at 1460 E. Holt Ave., Pomona.

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

PUSD, ROP fill conference center for 4th annual 'Pathways to Career Success' event



Representatives of the American Society of Safety Professionals were on hand at the ROP "Pathways" event. The organization for more than 100 years has served as a global advocate for the occupational safety and health profession by providing advocacy, education and standards development to help create safer work environments. Pictured, from left, are Louis Therrien, a regional safety manager; Angelina Gutierrez, environmental health services foods manager for Golden State Foods; Ernie Castillo, a safety supervisor, also with Golden State; and Karen Townsend, a senior health, safety and environmental manager at Sodexo and president of the Southern California Industrial Safety Society, the oldest safety society in California.



Michelle Lemoine of Chaffey Federal Credit Union, also a Board member of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, talks to visitors about careers in the credit union industry at the ROP "Pathways" event.



Pomona Unified School District adult school's cosmetology program was one of the offerings at the San Antonio ROP "Pathways" event. Pictured telling a visitor how it all works are, from left, Veronica Mendoza, operator of Vero's Hair Salon in Pomona and an instructor in adult school cosmetology, and Sandra Duque, Pomona Unified's adult education bilingual receptionist. Medical insurance billing and coding also was a hot topic for the adult school.



KICKING IT ALL OFF -- Dr. Enrique Medina, head of Pomona Unified School District's adult education program, and Marie Dennis, head of the San Antonio Regional Occupational Program, kick off "Pathways to Career Success 2019" last month at the Village at Indian Hill conference center. Hundreds of adult career seekers and high school students from throughout Pomona were on hand to see what dozens of companies and industry groups had to offer, giving them a chance to talk to industry professionals one on one. And there was plenty to see -- from business and finance to energy and utilities to engineering, fashion, health science, manufacturing and more. Inland Empire United Way was also a partner in the presentation.



LOOKING IN ON THE CARPENTERS -- La Nueva Voz safety columnist and certified safety professional Jose Bermudez, at right, also a teacher at San Antonio Regional Occupational Program, chats with representatives of the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters and the Southwest Carpenters Training Fund, an apprenticeship training group for the industry, at the ROP's fourth annual "Pathways to Career Success" event. The group was recruiting ROP students and high school graduates. It also sponsors a pre-apprentice program at Pomona's Park West High School offering "soft" skills and individual and team building projects so that when they graduate they are ready to go to work for a participating contractor. Pictured, from left, are Southwest Regional Council outreach specialist Jeffrey Scott, career connections liaison Michael Labruno, and Bermudez.

Kellogg family member to be honored at Cal Poly's 'Farm to Table' event

Three chefs from local restaurants – including one from Cal Poly University Pomona – will be featured preparing produce grown by college students at next month's fifth annual "Farm to Table Spring Harvest Dinner" at Cal Poly.

The event, organized by Cal Poly's Huntley College of Agriculture, is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, at AGRIsapes center on the Cal Poly campus.

Participating chefs will be from

Sowing Seeds launches annual chocolate bunny drive

Sowing Seeds for Life is working on its annual chocolate bunny drive, one of its longest on-going traditions, with a goal to collect 600 bunnies for the kids of families who come to their food pantry.

The group hopes to send each child attending the Easter pantry on April

Chase's and Pappas Artisanal Grill, both in La Verne, and Cal Poly Pomona Foundation dining services.

Susan Kellogg-Bell, a long-time fashion industry executive and consultant and a great-great-granddaughter of W.K. Kellogg, will be presented the 2019 Jim Hicks Agricultural Achievement Award from Cal Poly at the event.

For more information and tickets, visit the web site at <http://springharvest.cpp.edu>.

17 home with an Easter basket complete with a chocolate bunny.

To donate bunnies or funds to purchase them, contact Fran Robertson at (909) 293-7735, ext. 232. Deadline for dropping off candy is Thursday, April 11, at Sowing Seeds for Life, 1350 Arrow Highway, La Verne.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONICA MEDINA-JIMENEZ
POMONA OPTIMISTS PICK SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS IN ANNUAL ORATORICAL COMPETITION -- Pomona Optimist Club judges last week selected the three top speakers from a field of 10 from three high schools in Pomona participating in the club's annual oratorical competition held this year in the Pomona Unified School District board room. Pictured, from left, are Optimist members and judges Renee Barbee and Rebecca Santana; third place winner Gerardo Martinez, of Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School; Optimist Club treasurer Fernando Meza; Optimist Club vice president and judge Ruth Alvarez; second place winner Reece Sorensen, of Pomona's Village Academy High School; Optimist Club President Lorraine Canales; first place winner Miriam Landaverde, of Pomona's Ganesha High School; Optimist Club member and Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman; Optimist member and event timekeeper Rudy Herrera; and Optimist member and parent of a contestant Arturo Jimenez. First place winner took home a check for \$500, second place \$300 and third place \$200. The winnings must be spent on college expenses.

Pomona's Promise to hold citywide 'Early Childhood Well-being' summit

Responding to recent data showing that the community's youngest children often are at risk of heading toward less than successful "life outcomes," Pomona's Promise is holding a major citywide Summit on Early Childhood Well-being in May.

The event is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, at the Village at Indian Hill conference center. Registration opens at 8 a.m.

A news release from Pomona's Promise, which calls itself the city's collective impact initiative, said the event is free and open to the entire community.

It will explore the question of how to create desirable quality of life conditions for children and

families in the community.

Pomona's Promise provides a structure for individuals and agencies to connect and increase their impact by working together in the areas of education and career readiness, health, economic development, community safety and community engagement.

The event, sponsored by Pomona's Promise and the Pomona Unified School District, is being billed as a "cross-sector exploration of how we can create a healthy climate in Pomona where our youngest children can develop and learn and families can flourish."

For on-line advance registration, go to <https://pomonaecw-summit.eventbrite.com>.

Saddles Café at Cal Poly offering 'gourmet on the go' snacks

Saddles Café, Cal Poly University Pomona's newest dining unit and a dining spot that incorporates Cal Poly's equestrian heritage, is open for business in the Bronco Student Center.

The café incorporates the "farm to table" concept and serves fresh produce from Cal Poly's College of Agriculture and the Farm Store at Cal Poly.

Offerings also include pastries, panini sandwiches and the entire

Starbucks menu.

"Saddles Café features subtle elements of our campus heritage and showcases our rich campus resources and in-house culinary talent," said Aaron Neilson, Director of Dining Services for the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation.

Sandwiches are handmade by a Cal Poly chef and his staff, have an "artisanal" look and taste, and are perfect for a "gourmet on the go" snack, according to a news release.

House of Ruth's Sue Aebischer lauded at retirement celebration

Friends and colleagues of Sue Aebischer, executive director of Pomona's House of Ruth who devoted 28 years to the domestic violence organization, described her at a retirement celebration in Downtown Pomona this month as a role model, a leader and an activist whose chief interest is in helping others.

About 100 well-wishers gathered at the Metro Event Center for an evening of reminiscing about Aebischer's career – with speakers both on script and off script with their memories of their leader who they said had pride in the organization, helped increase awareness of the issue of domestic violence and added to the safety and well-being of the victims of domestic violence.

"It has been my pleasure to have worked closely with Sue for 28 years, both as a volunteer on the board and part of the leadership team," said Sharon McGrath Gold, chief financial officer for House of Ruth. "I have seen the incredible passion and determination Sue has for helping those in need resulting from the horrible crime of domestic violence."

Gold said Aebischer founded one of only 250 shelters in the nation in 1979 and that today "passion continues to define her."

"Sue puts everyone at ease, bringing the best out of them," Gold said. "With Sue, it is never about herself, she's about helping others . . . it is part of what makes her such a great leader."

Tracing Aebischer's career, Gold said she took over as interim executive director when her predecessor was on sabbatical and immediately was tasked with renovating their current facility which they occupied in 1999.

"To Sue's credit, the project was very successful," she added. "Your legacy is the determination you brought every day to make House of Ruth services responsive to client and community needs."

"In the 28 years you have devoted to this agency, countless women, men and their children



House of Ruth Chief Financial Officer Sharon McGrath Gold, at left, traces the career of House of Ruth Executive Director Sue Aebischer, seated, during Aebischer's retirement celebration in Downtown Pomona this month.

have received services that are client-centered and ever-changing because of the respect and passion you have for listening to the clients and hearing what they really need from us."

"As a result, the agency is stronger professionally and positioned to continue to improve our services," Gold said. "Your passion and unwavering devotion to the mission and vision of House of Ruth has truly changed many and saved many lives."

Aebischer, seated throughout it all in a throne-like high-backed

chair wearing a princess tiara in her hair and a fuchsia feather boa wrapped around her neck, told the room filled with her "best friends" that she valued working with all of them, some of them case managers and counselors from House of Ruth and from similar agencies in communities as far away as San Bernardino.

"I am so proud of all of you and all of you have the potential to continue to make House of Ruth the wonderful, perfect place that it is, and I can't wait to hear about what happens in the future," she said.

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Pomona Motorcycle Officer Trevor Stevenson, injured two years ago while responding to a call, back on duty and hoping to get back on a bike

Pomona Police Officer Trevor Stevenson, who went down on his police motorcycle in January 2017 while on duty after an alleged drunk driver turned left in front of him, is already back on full-time patrol duty – in a black and white car – and has a goal of getting back on the bike.

Then is it like getting back on a horse?

“I hope so – I haven’t been back on the saddle yet,” he told La Nueva Voz in an interview this month. “As far as my rehab’s been all good in the right direction, I hope that . . . being back on the bike will be the same.”

And it was that rehab – at Pomona’s Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare – that he said made all the difference.

In fact, it was because of his remarkable recovery from severe brain injuries and massive facial fractures that he was recognized this month as one of three honorees by Casa Colina at the annual Tribute to Courage Gala at Pomona’s Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center.

Following the 2017 incident, Stevenson said, an adult male Pomona resident was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence. He said that case is still continuing in court.

Stevenson, now 34, said he was riding a police BMW 1200 which weighs roughly 700 pounds. The driver of the other vehicle was behind the wheel of an SUV – a Ford Explorer.

He was transported to Los Angeles County USC Medical Center where he spent two weeks – in intensive care and surgery – until he was transferred to Casa Colina for six weeks.

Unable to walk and with his entire right side disabled, Stevenson was in the medical-surgical wing for a week. He then spent another five weeks in Casa Colina’s acute rehabilitation wing.

Pomona Catholic to hold spring open house

Pomona Catholic School will hold its spring open house from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 11.

Families will have an opportunity to stop by for a tour, meet the teachers and learn about cur-

riculum at the school, located at 533 W. Holt Ave., Pomona.

He told La Nueva Voz he remained an outpatient there until August 2017 receiving daily therapy.

And he said his message to Casa Colina’s 900 supporters at the gala was that his wife, Brett, was told by numerous people that because of his injury she needed “to fight on getting me into Casa Colina. She’d never heard of it.”

The two live in Rancho Cucamonga with a son, Carter, now 5. “Now I know why – because the therapy, the doctors, the physicians, everything is by far one of the best if not the best in this country, I would say,” Stevenson added. “My neighbor across the street said they’ve flown their son who had a stroke from Missouri to come to Casa Colina for his injuries. So it’s one of the best places.”

Stevenson said he’s been back on full duty since November 2018, although he was working office duty before that – working the “light” duty from February through August of 2018, beginning only 13 months after his accident.

After his ordeal, what is his message to other motor officers in Pomona and elsewhere and, for that matter, other riders in general?

“I hate to sound like I’m beating a dead horse but it’s not if, it’s when, because a lot of the time you have control of what happens to you but you’re not always in control because there are other people that can make decisions for you unfortunately,” he said.

Stevenson started his law enforcement career after graduating from the Rio Hondo College Police Academy in 2005 and going to work at the Monrovia Department.

He moved to the Pomona Police Department after two years and, in 2015, was selected for his

riculum at the school, located at 533 W. Holt Ave., Pomona.

The middle school is co-educational for grades 6, 7 and 8 and the high school is an Archdiocesan all-girls college preparatory school.

“dream” assignment as a motor officer.

The original “Nixle” message said the motor officer was responding to a fatal hit and run traffic collision at 6:35 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017 at 2200 North Garey Avenue when he was involved in a separate collision in the 1400 block of North Garey Avenue.

The suspect in the original accident reportedly returned to the scene.

And the driver of the SUV that allegedly struck Stevenson’s motorcycle remained on the scene until he was transported to the Pomona Police Department



Pomona Police Officer Trevor Stevenson, at right, who went down on his police motorcycle during an on-duty response two years ago and recovered at Pomona’s Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, poses for La Nueva Voz with Casa Colina President and CEO Dr. Felice Loverso. Stevenson and two other Southern California first responders were honored this month at Casa Colina’s annual Tribute to Courage Gala fundraiser.

for questioning. Following the accident, as reported in the January 2017 La Nueva Voz, the community rallied behind Stevenson selling

“Stevenson Strong” t-shirts and hosting fundraisers to help defray costs of his treatment.

Also honored at the gala were Ira Douglas, a 30-year Los Angeles firefighter-paramedic, who was “T-boned” by a garbage truck on his way to an emergency call, and Beverly Hills Police Officer Tyler Blondi who ran into a cement light post during a foot pursuit of a stolen vehicle suspect.

Both were patients at Casa Colina and Douglas still is being treated there.

The gala, this year honoring first responders and Casa Colina’s primary fundraiser each year, raised \$657,000 to fund free and subsidized care.

“Behind these success stories is an intricate network of caregivers and public servants that our patients count on in their most vulnerable moments,” said Dr. Felice Loverso, Casa Colina’s president and CEO. “At Casa Colina, we are proud to be an integral part of that system.”

For more information, visit www.casacolina.org.



Notice of Public Hearing of the Mental Health Commission
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TUESDAY - APRIL 9, 2019

- Learn about the status of programs funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA, Prop 63)
- Share your input about the MHSA Annual Update Fiscal Year 2019-20

MARTES - ABRIL 9, 2019

- *Aprenda sobre los programas fundados por la Ley de Servicios de Salud Mental (MHSA, por sus siglas en inglés)*
- *Comparta sus comentarios sobre el Reporte Anual del Año Fiscal 2019-20 de MHSA*

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Slain Pomona Police Officer Casillas remembered on anniversary of his death

Two somber events this month – the dedication of a freeway memorial and a candlelight vigil in the Pomona Civic Center – marked the anniversary of the death last year of Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas who Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri said “represented the best in law enforcement” whose “sacrifice will be remembered forever.”

Olivieri, speaking at the candlelight vigil a year to the day after Casillas was killed in the line of duty, called the officer “brave, a wonderful young man, full of life, dream and hope ripped from all of us.”

“Instantly, his family, friends, our police personnel experienced sharp emotional trauma that was devastating and taxing, lives changed forever,” the chief added. “Officer Gregory Casillas displayed extraordinary heroism and bravery under conditions that involved an extreme personal hazard to himself, other officers and to the community.”

Olivieri presented Claudia Casillas, the officer’s widow,

“with the department’s most important and distinguished award for his heroism, bravery and his ultimate sacrifice.”

He actually presented two medals – the Pomona Police Department’s gold medal of valor and the purple heart medal.

“As police chief losing Gregg under my watch, I think of him often,” Olivieri said. “I think of his service, his dedication and



Photo by Renee Barbee
Gregory Casillas VI, now 5, son of slain Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas, is held by his uncle Dominic Casillas before ceremonies to dedicate a section of the San Bernardino Freeway in the young police officer’s honor.



Officer Gregory Casillas

legacy – the life that should have been, the father and husband that he was supposed to continue to be, I think of our tremendous loss.”

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval called Casillas a “real super hero.”

“It was a painful time for all of us but most of all to the Casillas family,” he added. “Officer Gregory Casillas lay down his life to protect and serve our com-

munity.”

Sandoval, speaking to members of the Pomona Police Department, said he remembered a year ago they said they would “be there” for the Casillas family.

“And you have – in fact, I know that on Gregg Junior’s very first day of school, many of you were with him so that he certainly was not alone,”

Sandoval said.

Pomona Police Officers’ Association President Jesse Cardenas, who said he was Casillas’ first training officer, called him “a young man with a lot of drive and devotion.”

He thanked the Casillas family “for letting us be a part of your family and know that we will always be here for you so long as you allow us.”

Casillas’ father, Gregory Officer Casillas remembered... pg. 14



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, at right, and Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri, second from right, unveil a new sign to be placed along a stretch of the San Bernardino Freeway in Pomona to dedicate that section of the freeway to slain Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas. Pictured at far left is Gregory Casillas IV, father of the slain officer, and, second from left, Pomona Police Officer Alex Nguyen, Casillas’ field training officer who was with Casillas when he was shot. Nguyen himself was shot in the face in the incident and was hospitalized for treatment for two days. Casillas’ father asked Nguyen to participate in the unveiling because, he said, the dedication was for him, as well. He thanked Nguyen for being with his son during that time.



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State of the city... from pg. 1

“I believe we are up to this challenge,” he added.

Speaking to a near-capacity audience of 300 in Pomona’s Fox Theater after serving complimentary appetizers from Pomona’s own Lily’s Tacos, Sandoval reminded a receptive crowd that last year he said his vision for Pomona was for “every resident and business to take ownership of this community.”

“You have responded,” he said. “I see it happening every day.”

He said this “ownership” takes place on Tuesdays and Saturdays as the community joins with city councilmembers in Sandoval’s hallmark program of cleaning up the streets throughout Pomona.

And he said the city took ownership at the ballot box when it approved a temporary three-quarter percent sales tax in Pomona that is expected to generate an additional \$12 million each year for 10 years.

“This will give the city the financial resources to provide the services you deserve in the

coming years,” Sandoval said. “Thank you for stepping up and taking ownership over your city’s financial future.”

He borrowed a page out of the history books from when Pomona was incorporated in 1888 and citrus crops were “king” in Pomona.

“The city needed bold, innovative leadership,” Sandoval said. “Like the pioneers who built Pomona from a city of 400 to over 160,000 people . . . I ask of you today that you work with me and the city council to imagine and plan for our future.”

He said to begin this “ongoing community dialogue and discussion, I propose . . . that we focus our conversation on two key assets – the people of Pomona and our institutions.”

Some of those people, he said, can be the students of Pomona who have gone on to graduate from some of the top universities throughout the country, many of them the first in their families to attend college.

And he pointed to the city’s institutions, such as the San



Photo by Renee Barbee

Members of Mariachi Los Broncos de Pomona, a group of mariachis from Cal Poly University Pomona, pose for a photo “op” in front of Pomona’s Fox Theater before last month’s state-of-the-city address. The group performed outside as guests arrived and again inside on the stage of the Fox. Cal Poly President Soraya Coley was in the audience for the presentation.

Gabriel Valley Developers Summit at Fairplex last September when he was asked to speak to business leaders from

throughout Southern California about economic opportunities in Pomona.

“The message was clear –

Pomona is open for business,” he said.

“To realize the goal of

State of the city.... pg 17

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FAMILY WEDDING LEADS TO 'SLOW SPEED' CHASE -- OF A BALLOON! -- La Nueva Voz drove down to La Jolla Shores in San Diego last weekend for a family wedding on the beach. Pictured above are the bride and groom, Katarina Alvarado and Ryan "Joey" Scarmack with waves breaking and an occasional surfer walking by at rear. Nearly 100 guests were in attendance. But it was after the reception literally in a mansion overlooking the ocean that we spotted four hot-air balloons ending their day's outing from the beach to a landing spot well inland. We actually know that because La Nueva Voz hopped off the freeway and literally followed the balloons across San Diego -- from the I-5 to the I-15 -- where we saw them touching down. Pictured is one of the four just a few feet off the ground. Moments later, he ran into a little trouble trying to avoid several trees next to the highway and his friends grabbed his lines as he deflated without incident. Interesting sport, but La Nueva Voz pretty much decided we'd rather take photos from the ground than hop up into the wicker basket.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT PRIMM -- It was Black History Month at Pomona's Primm Tabernacle A.M.E. Church this month as the church choir, pictured, performed songs representing the development of African-American music -- from its beginnings with the music of Africa until it spread around the world, influencing literally all genres of music.

TRADITIONAL AFRICAN DANCE -- Tee Clark, who attends church at Pomona's Primm Tabernacle, demonstrates a traditional style of African dance during Black History Month activities this month at Primm.

EXPLORING THEIR CULTURE -- Tee Clark, at right, told La Nueva Voz she wanted to support Primm Tabernacle during Black History Month this month. She has been involved in youth and young adult ministry and has produced a black history program on inventions by African-American inventors. Peter Lee, her brother-in-law, at left, is a resident of Pomona and also attends church at Primm. "I got a reminder about Christ in my culture," he said. "It makes me feel proud of my history, proud of my people." Clark said about half of the participants in the audience were church "regulars," while the other half included visitors from outside of the church.




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World of science... from pg. 1

is done at Valley Vista and how it helps the environment?

And Denny Mosier of the Pomona Lions Club was explaining how aquaponics takes animal waste product as a nutrient solution for a hydroponic growing

system, growing those plants in PVC pipes with little cut-outs with water pumped out of fish tanks.

“STEAM education is so important for students,” said Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana. “STEM jobs are expected to grow by 16 percent in the U.S., and they are some of the higher-earning careers. The key is to grab children’s attention when they are young and steer them toward STEAM.”

And, he added, education is part of the mission of Fairplex, so creating the STEAM event was “the perfect idea,” especially in the geographical location of Fairplex which

is centered between the Inland Empire, eastern San Gabriel Valley and northern Orange County, all areas that did not previously have an event of this type.

Faculty members from Cal Poly University Pomona were there with their bug exhibit to explain the balance of nature and students from Pomona’s Western University of Health Sciences were on hand representing the Doctor of Physical Therapy program where younger students were building their own small-scale human joints.

And even younger students were busily building, well, whatever they were building using yard-long cardboard tubes connected with plastic fittings at a “Two Bit Circus.”

In fact, that “Two Bit Circus” exhibit really helps describe the entire two-day event – kind of a three-ring circus of its own (without the elephants and tigers) with something going on pretty much everywhere a passing group of students happened to stop in and have a look.

The event began as a “learn-



Cal Poly University Pomona faculty members were on hand at the STEAM Fair at Fairplex this month. They brought their bug exhibit to see if they could generate a little buzz among the students over entomology.



Jill Reiff, of Valley Vista Services and a Board member of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, explains to students at the STEAM Fair at Fairplex how recycling works at Valley Vista and how it has an impact on the environment.

ing expo” years ago and later became known as the Sarah Ross Learning Expo.

It was originally created under Pomona’s Youth and Family Master Plan by the Promoting Academic Achievement Task Force, essentially only for students from Pomona, but it continued to grow in size and, since it was already being staged at Fairplex, officials there agreed to take it over and simply expand

attendance countywide.

Other offerings this year included robotics and live animals for the first time from Cal Poly.

In addition, Cal Poly offered cockroach “races,” human powered machines, food science and sugar in soft drinks, Rose Parade float decorating and more – a total of a dozen hands-on learning activities for students.

The American Society of Me-

World of science... pg. 13



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Photo by Renee Barbee

WITH 40,000 KIDS YOU GOTTA HAVE SOME PTA FOLKS SOMEWHERE! -- And they were there this month at the STEAM Fair at Fairplex. Pomona Council PTA was well represented, working hard with a variety of projects to engage both parents and students into the system, according to Council President Chara Swodeck. Pictured with self-portraits of the kids being posted on the wall are, from left, Maria Ruiz and Luz Zirbes, parents at Pomona’s Philadelphia Elementary School; Janet Molina and Margarita Esparza, parents at Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design in Pomona; Swodeck; Pat Leyva and Anna Guevara, parents at Pomona’s Palomares Academy of Health Sciences; and Otis Cross, Diversity and Inclusion Chair of the California State PTA.

Students at the STEAM Fair at Fairplex had a chance to line up and climb up on a horse in the Big Red Barn (OK, it wasn’t a REAL horse) and lasso a calf in a little calf roping exercise (OK, it wasn’t a real calf either, but the lasso was real). And some of the kids did a pretty good job -- good enough to get a gleeful cheer of encouragement from their classmates.



World of science... from pg. 12

chanical Engineers even held its E-Fest West engineering festival where 600 engineering students from five western United States universities showcased their technical skills and connected with practicing engineers for career advice and guidance.

Their event – featuring presentations on everything up to and including human space exploration – was held alongside the STEAM Fair as an effort to attract the attention of pre-college students to the world of engineering.



Pomona Lions Club First Vice President Denny Mosier explains one of our favorite topics -- how aquaponics takes animal waste product as a nutrient solution for a hydroponic growing system -- to the kids and their parents, for that matter. Mosier is explaining how those plants are able to grow out of cut-outs in those PVC pipes, but one young visitor is more interested in the fish in that tank supplying some of that waste product we were talking about.



A popular attraction at the STEAM Fair at Fairplex this month was the Two Bit Circus where one of the acts allowed visitors to build things using cardboard tubes and plastic fittings. We're not sure what they were building but it looked like the process was similar to the process we use at La Nueva Voz to publish a newspaper every month -- you just start putting pieces together and see where they all end up going.



WHEN IT COMES TO SCIENCE, EVERYTHING IS RELATIVE -- Everybody was there this month at the STEAM Fair at Fairplex -- even legendary scientist Albert Einstein. OK, not the REAL Albert Einstein but master story-teller Jim Coogan, explaining his theory of relativity and the concept of atoms and molecules. Of course, La Nueva Voz would be happy to explain either one of those concepts to you in greater detail -- just give us a call after you finish reading this issue. Hey, we're here to help.



Interested in a career in the medical field? All you had to do was stop by the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center booth where they were talking about everything from diabetes to physical therapy. Pictured, from left, are Amber Brenneisen, the hospital's marketing and communications coordinator; David Silva, a physical therapist assistant, and the hospital's Vice President of Development Jim Dale, also a Board member of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, holding on to that backbone.



Kathleen McPherson, at right, a Board member of the 48th District Agricultural Association, Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Program, explains to students that rice did not grow naturally in California but had to be imported and introduced as a crop to serve the needs of everyone immigrating here who included a lot of rice in their diet. Pictured at the 48th District exhibit in the Big Red Barn at Fairplex are, from left, Patty Anis, business assistant at 48th District; 48th District CEO Silvia Bishop; and 48th District Board members Coralea Harbushka and Kathleen McPherson.

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Officer Casillas remembered... from pg. 8

Casillas IV, said he was there “to remember him and not forget him.”

“We are going to celebrate his life, not his passing,” he added. “He lived for the department, he lived for all of us, he loved all of us and he’ll continue answering the call, not in physical but in spiritual.”

Memorial highway dedication

A day earlier, members of the community and officers from the Pomona Police Department and other area law enforcement agencies gathered on the grass in a small park across White Avenue from Ganesha Park just north of the San Bernardino Freeway to dedicate a sign to be placed on the freeway naming a section of the I-10 in honor of Casillas.

“Sadly he was taken from us on March 9, 2018, in the line of duty,” said Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez. “Tomorrow marks the first anniversary of his passing.”

He said Casillas had just started his public safety career in March 2015 as a Pomona police records specialist, and he entered police academy in March 2017. He was sworn in as a police officer “achieving his life long goal” on Sept. 7, 2017.

“Officer Casillas was a true gentleman in every sense of the word and will be remembered for his dedication to detail, his honesty and by his serving as a calm, collected individual who always thought ahead,” Rodriguez added.

He said he hoped the ceremony would serve as a “lasting reminder of the sacrifices” made by Casillas.

Rodriguez said last year, along with State Sen. Connie Leyva and Assemblymember Chris Holden (D – Pasadena), he authored Assembly Concurrent Resolution 236 to designate the portion of the freeway from the San Antonio Avenue undercrossing in Los Angeles County to Mountain Avenue in San Bernardino County as the Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas Memorial Highway.

“It’s a sad day and we so appreciate everything that he did for the City of Pomona but it’s also a day to celebrate and we’ll

never forget him,” said State Sen. Connie Leyva. “And what I really wanted to say today is to all of you, our men and women who serve every day, how much we appreciate all of you – and I know that your job has only gotten harder over the years.”

“All of us as servants experience different levels of sacrifice for the good of others,” said Olivieri. “That is part of the nobility of public service that we all share. However, losing your life is not the type of sacrifice that we will ever allow to be normalized or ever accept as part of public service duty.”

Casillas’ father thanked “all the men in blue, the Pomona Police Department, the mayor, councilmen, and all of you that share this moment with us.”

Rodriguez said he shared the cost of producing and maintaining the sign with the Pomona Police Department.

About 150 people attended each event.

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

Pomona Police Officer Alex Nguyen, Casillas’ field training officer, also was shot in the face during the incident and was hospitalized for treatment but was released two days later.

Isaias De Jesus Valencia, 38, was arrested in the incident following an overnight standoff on numerous charges including allegedly murdering a police officer and attempting to kill other officers. The case is still pending in Pomona Superior Court.

Eagles to host \$10 steak dinner, present check from golf tournament to Special Olympics

The Pomona Aerie of the Eagles will host a steak dinner next month celebrating the Pomona group’s 83rd birthday and presenting a check from the 2018 golf classic to the Special Olympics of Southern California.

Dinner is at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 6. Cost is \$10.

Special Olympians will be honored at the event and



Family, friends, police officers and members of the public gathered this month in the Pomona Civic Center for a candlelight vigil as a memorial on the anniversary of the death of Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas, who died of injuries received when he was shot while attempting to take a suspect into custody.



Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri presents the police department’s “most important and distinguished award” to Claudia Casillas, widow of slain Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas, during this month’s candlelight vigil marking the anniversary of the young officer’s death.



Gregory Casillas IV speaks at the dedication ceremony to name a section of the San Bernardino Freeway in honor of his son.



State Sen. Connie Leyva, at right, who co-authored the resolution to name part of the San Bernardino Freeway in memory of Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas, speaks at the dedication ceremony as Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, at left, also a co-author, looks on.

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 has co-facilitated at Pomona’s Tri-City Wellness Center.

Pomona Optimists to host first-ever 'Tea Party for the Soul' for Pomona high school senior girls planning on attending college

Members of the Pomona Optimist Club will host their first-ever "Tea Party for the Soul" next month for young women of Pomona who will be attending college after high school in an effort to focus on preparing young women for life after high school, the challenges they will face in college, and even living away from home.

The event, scheduled for noon to 5 p.m. on Friday,

April 12, at the Pomona Ebell Museum of History, is expected to be an afternoon filled with special guest speakers and valuable information that will last a lifetime, according to a news release.

Each student will be given a tea cup, a spring hat, white gloves and a special book ("Words for the Soul – a collection of authors with positive messages") to take with them to college to reflect

back when challenges arise.

Lunch will be provided, and pearls will be available to wear for the day.

The Optimist Club is looking for high school senior girls to enter an essay contest. Winners from each high school will be selected to win scholarships.

Contestants will be required to describe a facet of their identity, background or story that is essential to who they are.

Students submitting essays

will be required to show proof of acceptance to a college.

Essays must be between 300 and 500 words and must be typed in a 12-point font, double-spaced format.

Sponsors for the event are needed and range from bronze (\$100) to platinum (\$2,500). Table sponsorships are \$1,000, and in-kind donations also will be accepted.

For complete details, contact Lorraine.canales@pusd.org.

Low-cost mammograms available at Pomona Valley Hospital in annual program

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center is offering its annual reduced cash price mammograms for \$50 during the month of April.

Eligible women must be over 40, not have breast implants, have no breast problems and have had no history of breast cancer in the last five years.

For appointments before April 30 in Pomona, Chino Hills, Claremont or La Verne, call (909) 469-9395.

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H0545_FUY2019_M_124 Accepted

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Young worker safety

Child labor (very young children) in America is considered a thing of the past because we have federal and state labor laws and regulations to comply with. Even with these constraints, we have illegal labor utilization of children in this country and more so throughout the world. This subject was briefly touched on before and may be covered in the future. Our current focus is young worker safety from 14 through 24 years of age, taking into consideration that a person is classified as an adult at age 18.

We think of our youth as our future but when our high school students and graduates enter the job market, oftentimes they are not effectively prepared by their high schools and/or respective employers for their assigned jobs and work safety. This is an extremely important stage in young people's transition from school to work and adulthood. Overall in the U.S., approximately 1.6 million teens (aged 15-17) work. About 50 percent of 10th graders and 75 percent of 12th graders have jobs. The following data was derived from the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

- Every nine minutes, a teenager is injured on the job.
- In 2016, there were about 19.3 million workers under the age of 24. These workers represented 13 percent of the total workforce.
- In 2015, 8,350 young workers between the ages of 16 and 24 in construction experienced an injury at work.
- In 2015, 403 workers under the age of 24 died from work-related injuries.
- In 2015, there were 24 deaths of workers under 18 years of age.
- In 2015, the incidence rate for non-fatal injuries for workers, ages 16-19, was 110.5 per 10,000 full-time employees and 98.3 per 10,000 full-time employees for workers, ages 20-24.
- In 2014, the rate of work-

related injuries treated in emergency departments for workers, ages 15-19, was 2.18 times greater than the rate for workers 25 years of age and older. In the same year, the rate of work-related injuries treated in emergency departments for workers, ages 20-24, was 1.76 times greater than the rate for workers 25 years of age and older.

There are several reasons why young workers are more susceptible to accidents and injuries:

1. Physical and cognitive abilities are still in development. Studies have shown that their brains are not fully developed until their mid-20s.
2. Lack of experience and maturity in deciding what is hazardous and safe in the work environment (related to first reason).
3. Insufficient job and occupational safety and health instruction that encompasses mentoring and supervision. This includes knowledge of their worker rights, and safety and health regulations.

4. Unwillingness to ask for instruction because they either lack confidence to ask questions or they feel invincible.

5. Eager to perform a good job.

6. Hazardous and illegal job work environments where they are put at risk.

In order to prepare young workers for the job market and provide occupational safety and health training, California and all other states have adopted Youth@Work—Talking Safety, the NIOSH young worker curriculum, customized for each U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The curriculum is also available in Spanish (for selected states).

In 2013, NIOSH launched the Safe • Skilled • Ready Workforce Program to build on two decades of young worker research at NIOSH and advance science for the design, implementation, and evaluation of OSH programs that prepare vulnerable workers for safe and healthy employment. To address the disproportion-

ate injury burden on workers beginning new jobs, the program seeks to equip young, contingent, and other high-risk workers with essential OSH competencies, the NIOSH 8 Core Competencies needed to benefit from and contribute to safe, healthy, and productive workplaces.

The eight core competencies include the ability to:

1. Recognize that, although work has benefits, all workers can be injured, become sick, or even be killed on the job. Workers need to know how workplace risks can affect their lives and their families.
2. Recognize that work-related injuries and illnesses are predictable and can be prevented.
3. Identify hazards at work, evaluate the risks, and predict how workers can be injured or made sick.
4. Recognize how to prevent injury and illness, describe the best ways to address workplace hazards, and apply these concepts to specific workplace problems.
5. Identify emergencies at work and decide on the best ways to address them.
6. Recognize that employers are responsible for—and workers have the right to—safe and healthy work. Workers also have the responsibility for keeping themselves and their

co-workers safe.

7. Find resources that help keep workers safe and healthy on the job.

8. Demonstrate how workers can communicate with others—including people in authority roles—to ask questions or report problems or concerns when they feel unsafe or threatened.

A study of the NIOSH core competencies found that this framework for teaching young workers fundamentals about safety and health on the job fills a critical need in preparing young people to be aware of and knowledgeable of workplace risks. So, although the intention is for the core competencies to be integrated into school curricula, companies can—and should—integrate teaching these basic skills into their safety orientations for young (and new) workers.

When students choose to pursue careers that do not require a college four-year degree, whether in construction (apprenticeship programs provide OSH training) or general industry, high schools, community colleges, and vocational schools have the option of utilizing the NIOSH curriculum and OSHA 10-hour training to better prepare young workers for employment while they are still completing their edu-

Safety... pg. 17

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

Project Sister Family Services
 Sexual Assault and
 Child Abuse Services
 909-626-4357
 or 626-966-4155
www.projectsister.org

**Feeding the Hungry,
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 Grocery Distribution at
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 Volunteering: 909-622-3806
www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

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 It's a fun way to improve reading skills.
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 La Nueva Voz is a proud member of PUSD's Literacy Collaborative.

Info on student group program at AGRiscapes:
www.agriscapes.cpp.edu
4102 S. University Drive, Pomona (next to the Farm Store)

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

Pick up your free copy of La Nueva Voz at these locations and dozens more:

- Pomona City Hall lobby
- Pomona library
- Claremont library
- Claremont City Hall lobby
- La Verne City Hall lobby
- La Verne Senior Citizens Center
- 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
- LaunderLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



State of the city... from pg. 9

maximizing Pomona's economic potential that benefits all segments of our city, I am proud to announce the formation of a Mayor's Advisory Council made of up business and civic leaders," Sandoval said. "I don't have all the answers."

But he said some of the questions he will ask this group include:

- How to leverage the city's existing number of health-related businesses into an expansion of Pomona's health care sector and an accompanying increase in job opportunities for Pomona residents and the region.

- How to capitalize on the social, environmental and economic advantages that the Foothill Gold Line can bring to Pomona before its arrival in 2025.

- How to engage more businesses to be connected and engaged in Pomona's civic life.

- How to partner with developers to build mixed use developments in economically distressed areas of Pomona like parts of Holt Avenue using Federal Opportunity Zones.

- And how to "reimagine" Pomona's Corporate Center Drive with high rise structures that house and employ people from Pomona and the region.

On that Foothill Gold Line project that in recent months sounded like it may or may not make it to Pomona because of budget overruns, the mayor also took credit for joining with representatives of State Sen. Connie Leyva, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and Congresswoman Norma Torres and others for pressuring the Los Angeles Metro Rail Board to commit \$97 million to build the tracks to Pomona in Phase One.

Safety... from pg. 16

cation. This is a choice from which students, their families, and all affected parties can greatly benefit.

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 consult-

"This will result in hundreds of millions of dollars in investment coming to the area around Pomona North Station when it arrives in 2025," he said.

Sandoval said only a week before his presentation a group of Pomona residents met with Pomona City Manager Linda Lowry, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado and himself on a proposal to "convene residents and community leaders to engage in a reimagining of Civic Center Plaza."

"On their team is Lucas Rivera of Fairplex who helped bring new life through a public-private partnership to Grand Park, turning a dry, unused space between Los Angeles City Hall and the Music Center into a vibrant park used by tens of thousands of people in Los Angeles," Sandoval said.

"There's a lot we can imagine together if we put our minds, hearts, energy into it, if we are bold and work together on imagining the future," he added.

In the area of change in 2019, he said the city will work with Cal Poly next month to "explore the possibility of the university returning to and establishing an innovation lab in Downtown Pomona."

He also said he has already directed city staff to prepare an "inclusionary housing ordinance" for the city council's consideration.

"Passage of such an ordinance will ensure that developers build affordable housing and sell it below market rate as part of any future development project," Sandoval said. "Too many of our residents are being priced out of the housing market, so we need to carefully look at what

ing 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.

other options we have to stem this crisis."

And he said several public improvement projects will be on the list, including the completion of Phil and Nell Soto Park, miles of repaved streets and work under the award to Pomona last month from the California Transportation Commission of \$9.2 million to improve walking and biking in the city.

"We were ranked 14 out of 550 submissions," Sandoval said.

And, he added, across the street from the Hilton Gardens at Rio Rancho Center, which he said is scheduled to open later this year, groundbreaking is expected soon on more than 100 single family homes by Lewis Development.

Among the surprises included in the address was the announcement that long-time Pomona City Manager Linda Lowry – who has served Pomona for the past 13 years – plans to retire at the end of the year. Sandoval thanked Lowry and the rest of the city's staff for their leadership.

He also announced the launch of a Pomona Beautiful "Adopt a Neighborhood Program" and said more than 25 people and institutions have already signed up for the beautification effort.

"Pomonans have heeded the call and are taking ownership of this city every day," he said. "One of the most beautiful things I see is that there are so many people who care about and love this city and want to give back, so many people who are imagining what's possible for Pomona and working together to make it happen."

"You the people are our greatest asset," he said. "Everyone can take part in this kind of constructive imagination. Each of us can talk to a neighbor or another resident of Pomona or another person who works in Pomona. We can say 'Hey, I have this dream for what's possible, what do you think?'"

"And then it's possible to decide together, just like people did in 1883 to get water for oranges, we can also imagine and connect the plan," Sandoval

said.

He concluded by calling on residents to take responsibility, recognize the potential and recognize the power they have to invest in the good of the community.

"And we are going to use that power toward our highest imaginings with all the energy and resources we can muster for the long-term thriving of our city and everyone in it, for Pomona," he said.

Pomona Beautiful Award winners

Winners of this year's Pomona Beautiful Award, announced and recognized on stage before the state-of-the-city address, in District One were Jeanette Ellis-Royston and Kathryn Kirui; District Two, Chara Swodeck and Minerva Hernandez; District Three, William Harper and Dr. Kyle Brown; District Four, Dr. Roberta Perlman and Lorraine Canales; District Five, Dianne Goodwin and Eric Jung; and District Six, Catia Plascencia and Brenda Morris.




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Janet Roy
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Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Board Chairman Richard Fass, at right, celebrates the 12th annual Power of Red event last month. Pictured, from left, are Fass' wife, Amy Fass; foundation Board Chairwoman M. Hellen Rodriguez, M.D.; keynote speaker Dr. Janet Wei; and Fass.



Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Board member Jane Goodfellow, at left, and hospital Board Vice Chair Rosanne Bader, both also members of the hospital foundation board, wear red in support of the hospital's 12th annual Power of Red event last month in Pomona. More than 100 attendees, most dressed in red, heard Dr. Janet Wei of the Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Center at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles discuss "What's in Your Medicine Cabinet -- the benefits or hoaxes that come with taking medications, vitamins and supplements as it relates to heart health."



PAINTING FOR 'POWER OF RED' -- Artist Christine Neill, of Living Heart artistry, paints for the enjoyment of the guests during Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's 12th annual Power of Red event last month at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel in Pomona. The event, presented by the hospital foundation, raised funds for the Stead Heart and Vascular Center's Stead Heart for Women program at the hospital that offers information on risk factors, lifestyle modification, diet and exercise. Neill donated half of the proceeds from the evening's purchases to the Stead Heart and Vascular Center.

Free weekly Repertory

Opera Company concerts continue

"Music at Noon" -- an on-going series of free 40-minute concerts at noon Wednesdays presented by Pomona's Repertory Opera Company -- is continuing this month at Trinity United Methodist Church of Pomona.

The church is located at 676 N. Gibbs St., Pomona. For information, call (909) 230-4949.

Pomona resident competing on television's 'American Idol'



Photo courtesy of American Idol (ABC/Kelsey McNeal) Alejandro Aranda of Pomona, a contestant on television's "American Idol," is pictured during his audition for the show.

Alejandro Aranda, a 24-year-old Pomona resident who formerly worked as a dishwasher, after only four years of playing music is competing as a contestant on television's "American Idol" talent search for singers.

The reality series showcases pop star hopefuls competing for a golden ticket to Hollywood and a record deal before a panel of judges.

A spokesperson for the show, which has aired on the ABC network since the 2017-2018 season following a 15-season run on the Fox network, said competition is continuing and the show "finales" in a couple of months.

In the show's second episode of the season that aired March 6, Aranda made it past the judges to Hollywood Week where viewers will be able to tune in to see if he makes it to the next round of competition.

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Crafts for the kids were an important part of the Dr. Seuss birthday bash at the Pomona Public Library this month.



Children's librarian Crystal Orosco, at left, introduces Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lustro to do a little "Cat in the Hat" reading at the Pomona Public Library this month to help celebrate the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss.



NOW THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT! -- One young library patron decided this whole Pomona Public Library thing is working out just fine as he lined up for a piece of cake in celebration of the birthday of American children's author Dr. Seuss, whose more than 60 books sold more than 600 million copies and were translated into more than 20 languages by the time of his death in 1991. His books, many of them the most popular children's books of all time, included such titles as "The Cat in the Hat" and "Green Eggs and Ham." The annual birthday bash was held this month in the children's room at the library.



Volunteer readers of Dr. Seuss books always seem to come out of the woodwork at birthday events celebrating the work of the famous children's author. This year, they came out of Pomona City Hall. Pictured, reading to the kids this month at the Pomona Public Library, are, from left, Pomona City Councilmembers Steve Lustro, Rubio Gonzalez and Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole.

Deadline nears for applying for 'food hardship' grants

Deadline is April 9 to apply for five \$2,500 "food hardship" grants available to non-profits in Los Angeles and Orange County – including Pomona.

"fairlife, LLC," the makers of fairlife ultra-filtered milk, is offering this year's grant program to community groups working to improve food systems. The program was introduced last year in four U.S. cities with high rates of food insecurity in an effort to improve nutrition.

This year's program is expanding to eight cities, and five community groups in each area will be chosen to receive a \$2,500 grant.

Information on submitting an application is on the web site at fairlifegrant.com.

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Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report
Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Phase 2B
(Azusa to Montclair)

Foothill Gold Line

Notice of Availability & Public Meeting/Hearing

You are invited to review and comment on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) and to attend a Public Meeting hosted by the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (Construction Authority). The purpose of the Draft SEIR and Public Meeting are to evaluate through analysis, documentation and discussion the changes proposed to the phasing and design of the 12.3-mile, six-station Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Phase 2B Project (Project) and to solicit public feedback on the Draft SEIR. Proposed project modifications include construction and operation of the Project in four construction phases (see map below), rather than two phases; relocating the future parking facility at the Pomona Station from the north side of the station to the south side; and implementing a new mitigation measure that would widen White Avenue near the La Verne Station (from 1st Street to 6th Street in La Verne).

The Draft SEIR has concluded that one new significant unmitigable traffic impact will occur as a result of the proposed changes to the project, at the intersection of Glendora Avenue/Route 66. All other impacts have been mitigated to less than significant levels.

PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMENT PERIOD:

March 22, 2019 - May 6, 2019

The Draft SEIR is available for a 45-day public review and comment period. The document is available at www.foothillgoldline.org and the Construction Authority's office: 406 East Huntington Drive, Suite 202, Monrovia, CA 91016

Additional copies are available at local city halls (public information counters) and libraries in the corridor cities of Azusa, Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair.

PUBLIC MEETING/HEARING:

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

5:30 PM – 8:30 PM (6:00 PM start time for public hearing)

La Verne Community Center
3680 D Street, La Verne, CA 91750

Written comments on the Draft SEIR will be accepted if received by May 6, 2019, addressed to:
Lisa Levy Buch, CCO
Foothill Extension Construction Authority
406 East Huntington Drive, Suite 202
Monrovia, CA 91016-3633
Email: LLevyBuch@foothillgoldline.org

Project Corridor - Proposed Possible Construction & Operation Phasing

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