



Happy Holidays!

La Nueva Voz

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



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Pomona Unified opens \$4 million auditorium upgrade with a 'really big show!'

Pomona Unified School District officials last month cut the ribbon for an official grand re-opening of the district's auditorium, originally built in 1935 and now completely remodeled over a period of nine months at a cost of nearly \$4 million.

And the auditorium, located in the district's administrative headquarters, was immediately put to good use with opening day performances by student sing-

ers, dancers, musicians and more from throughout the district.

"This is your place, this is a performing arts auditorium that your kids can come and enjoy, that your families can come and perform in," Pomona Unified Board President Frank Guzman told about 200 parents, faculty, elected officials and administrators on hand for the opening ceremony.

"This is a place where we come



STUDENTS PERFORM IN NEWLY REMODELED \$4 MILLION AUDITORIUM -- Pomona Unified School District musicians in a string orchestra consisting of students from Cortez Magnet School and Pantera and Armstrong Elementary Schools perform on stage in the newly remodeled auditorium at district headquarters.

Pomona's first in series of joint Blue Shield/L.A. Care resource centers set to open

Pomona next month will become the testing ground for the first in a series of health-based community resource centers when it opens under a new collaboration between Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan, part of a \$20 billion company, and L.A. Care Health Plan, a \$10 billion company.

And the best part is anyone can walk into the new center at 696 W. Holt Ave., Pomona, for service and it is all free -- health plan member or not!

The two health plans

Resource center... pg. 8



NEW FREE HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER IN POMONA

Officials in Pomona cut the ribbon to officially open a new "first of its kind" joint community resource center operated cooperatively by Blue Shield Promise and L.A. Care health plans. Scheduled to open early next month, the facility will provide free services and referrals to walk-ins -- whether health plan members or not. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, L.A. Care Health Plan CEO John Baackes, Blue Shield Promise Health Plan President and CEO Dr. Greg Buchert, Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, Congresswoman Norma Torres, Blue Shield of California Chief Operating Officer Todd Walthall, and Blue Shield Promise Vice President of Medical Growth Strategy Kristen Cerf. Mario Ramos, administrator of the new facility, is at far left.

together to celebrate kids, we come together to celebrate the arts, and to really just embrace the community and that we're able to really just maybe put aside what school we're from but we're able to just embrace the arts and embrace the given talents that our kids have," Guzman added.

Board Vice President Adrienne Konigar-Macklin said she echoed Guzman's sentiments.

"With all of the funding cuts, arts was the first to go and many school districts still don't have arts programs that allow our children to express their innate talents," she said. "So we are very, very proud to be PUSD and have the opportunity to have a very ro-

bust arts program and a facility not only can our students use but the community can use as well."

School Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman directed her comments to the community.

"A lot of you here may not have children in our schools but you came out to support us," she said. "It is so meaningful. We don't do this work alone, we do it together. Thank you to all our community members. We are so grateful for your support."

Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez said projects like the auditorium don't happen overnight.

"Sometimes it takes decades for things to happen," he said. "This

Upgrade... pg. 2

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Walking towards mental wellness . . . A message from Tri-City Mental Health

As wonderful as the holiday season can be, it creates tension for all of us and can be especially daunting for those already struggling.

Extra stress, unrealistic expectations, or even sentimental memories that accompany the season can be a catalyst for the holiday blues. For folks looking to manage drug or alcohol use, the holidays may be the first time someone has to go through the holidays sober. People might think, "let's make this year really big!" which justifies having "just one" for the holidays. Or, they might use feelings of loneliness, stress, or depression as an excuse to drink or use.

Here are some tips for coping with holiday stress:

- **Small is beautiful.** Imagine how you can scale back the spending, challenge yourself to 'spend less' this year. In this age of consumerism, a treasured handmade gift can be seen as a memorable symbol of love and caring to the person who receives it.
- **It's ok to say "No."** We have so many opportunities to practice setting healthy limits and boundaries during the holiday season, whether a gift for a child or an outfit for yourself.
- **Plan your strategies.** Think about what kind of things during the holidays might trigger sadness, nervousness, or a re-lapse for you. Give yourself a way to cope with the trigger before it happens.
- **Keep up your self-care routine.** It's so easy to get off track with those things that keep your body and mind sound during the holidays. Keep walking, eating right, meditating or whatever healthy thing you do for yourself. If you are in therapy, stay in therapy.
- **Seek Support.** So, you've done the best you can to scale back, you created your strategies, and you kept up your self-care routine, but you still feel really sad. It's ok. Trained professionals at Tri-City Mental Health Services are here to help you.



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building was built in 1935. This auditorium probably hasn't been touched since 1935. So it's really exciting that we've been able through bond funding, through sales of property, we've been able to do something for you, for our parents, for our students, for our community, and it's going to be here for decades to come."

"It's an opportunity to really showcase the best and brightest and that's our children, and they're going to be able to perform here," he said.

Months of planning – and meetings with parents, students,

district staff and others – went into the project to arrive at a plan for a state-of-the-art, performance-quality auditorium that "pays respect to its mid-century aesthetic roots while also ushering in 21st century technological advances to further support student learning and development in the arts," according to a district news release.

"Our students deserve the very best offerings to support and enhance their learning – both inside and outside of the classroom," Martinez said. "Research indicates that children who are more

Upgrade... from pg. 1

exposed to drama, music and dance are more proficient at reading, writing and math."

The district headquarters building – along with the original auditorium – originally served as a junior high school campus.

Today, the revitalized auditorium includes – for the first time – disability access, along with an integrated sound system, a digital console with a remote stage "rack," a two-touch screen control for audio and video, and a 16-channel digital wireless microphone system.

New theatrical lighting capabilities include three new light bars on the stage and a new light bar in the orchestra pit, all with new energy-efficient LED lights offering 15 color combinations.

Acoustical panels were positioned 280 degrees around the auditorium, and a backdrop acoustical panel was placed in the rear stage wall.

For the first time, the auditorium now includes full air conditioning and heating systems including a 60-ton chiller



GRAND RE-OPENING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDITORIUM -- Officials cut the ribbon to officially re-open the Pomona Unified School District auditorium after a \$4 million renovation. Pictured with administrators and staff are, from left at center, Board Vice President Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Board President Frank Guzman (with the scissors), Supt. Richard Martinez and Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman.

system with four pumps, all insulated in soundproof ductwork to reduce wall noise.

The original seats were removed, stripped down and refin-

ished with a powder-coating to maintain the original design.

An electric drop-down projection screen is viewable from all angles.



Breaking in the new Pomona Unified School District auditorium stage are the Ballet Folklorico dancers from Pomona's Lincoln Elementary School.



Members of Pomona Unified's Diamond Ranch High School choir perform at re-opening ceremonies in the district auditorium.

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‘Lassie’ television star Jon Provost appears at dedication of Pomona’s historic ‘Lassie house’

Lassie came home this month. And it turned out “home” was in Pomona, the “Lassie house” where the fictional character Timmy, played by Jon Provost in the television series, lived as a child.

OK, it wasn’t really Lassie, it was a bronze sculpture likeness. And it wasn’t really Timmy, it was Jon Provost, who came down with his wife Laurie Jacobson from his home in Santa Rosa for the unveiling.

And it wasn’t really his house anymore – it is really now owned by Ray and Michelle Adamyk (Adamyk is the President of Pomona’s Spectra Company, best known locally for revamping Pomona’s historic YMCA building).

We know – this one’s a little complicated so stay with us for a few more paragraphs.

The event was really a grand opening of Pomona’s own Lassie house, located at 1195 Washington Ave., Pomona. The house was open to the public for tours and the Adamyks even provided lunch for their guests.

The Adamyks bought the house for \$660,000 (Pomona’s own Susan Vander Molen was the realtor

on the deal) and just completed two and three-quarters years’ work renovating it in a \$1 million project that is now roughly 95 percent complete.

It has eight bedrooms and eight baths, is about 7,000 square feet, was built in 1900 and is now listed on the local historic registry.

Adamyk told his guests it was moved to Washington Avenue by mules in 1927 from its original location on Holt Avenue.

Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole thanked

Provost for his work as a child actor.

“This is something that brings Pomona into a positive focus,” she said.

And Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said Pomona “is a city that serves more than itself” as he recognized a number of historic preservation advocates in the audience.

“And they don’t get paid to do this, they do it because they love this and it really speaks to the culture here,” he said.



UNVEILING LASSIE -- A bronze sculpture of television star “Lassie” is unveiled in a special ceremony in the front yard of Pomona’s “Lassie House” this month. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, “Lassie” star Jon Provost, who lived in the house when the television show “Lassie” was in production, and the current owners of the home, Ray and Michelle Adamyk, who have just completed a \$1 million restoration of the property.



Visitors to Pomona’s Lassie House got an up-close look at the living room and dining room in the fully restored home.

“It’s really amazing what they’ve done,” Provost said. “The memories are just absolutely incredible. It was nothing but orange groves and Kingsley (Elementary School) across the street.”

He added there were 20 acres of orange groves when he moved in

and only one acre when his family left Pomona.

The house sits on a half-acre lot and is Craftsman-style on the first floor but Victorian style architecture upstairs.

Included are numerous historical artifacts such as light fixtures

Lassie... pg. 14

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Veteran Deputy District Attorney Richard Ceballos, a former Pomona resident and Pomona deputy district attorney, in race to unseat Jackie Lacey

Deputy District Attorney Richard Ceballos, an organized crime and hate crimes prosecutor with 30 years’ experience who once lived in Pomona when he served in the Pomona district attorney’s office, has entered the race to unseat his boss, incumbent Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey.

If elected, he would become the first ever Latino district attorney in Los Angeles County history.

“I have a deep connection (to Pomona),” Ceballos said, adding that he believes it is important to know the neighborhood.

For example, he is sensitive to the fact that people in different communities have different needs.

“There’s no way you can pigeonhole L.A. County and say

we all think alike,” Ceballos said.

And, because he has not lived in all areas of the county, he understands he will be “playing catch up” with some of the other communities. But that’s not the case in Pomona.



Richard Ceballos

“I understand the issues there, particularly the crime issues, but I understand what people see as important,” he told La Nueva Voz in a recent telephone interview.

“People just want to be happy, they want to feel safe, they want to go outside of their homes and have their kids play in the front yard without fear,” he said. “(Pomona) is a very family-oriented community.”

Ceballos, who first reached out to La Nueva Voz in September at the Pomona Valley Democratic

Ceballos... pg. 14



Pomona Unified School District ADULT AND CAREER EDUCATION

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Final del Trimestres	6 de marzo y 28 de mayo
Día del Presidente Lincoln (Dia Festivo).....	10 de febrero
Día del Presidente Washington (Dia Festivo)	17 de febrero
Receso de Primavera	30 de marzo al 3 de abril
Día Conmemorativo	25 de mayo
Ultimo día clases.....	28 de mayo

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January 6First day
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 February 10.....President Lincoln's Day
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 March 6 & May 28..... Quarter Ends
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'TATTOOS FOR THE CURE' RAISES \$4,222 FOR CANCER -- Organizers of the 11th annual "Tattoos for the Cure," a cancer charity fundraiser presented each year by Pomona's Ink'd Chronicles, presented a check for \$4,222 this month to the City of Hope. The fundraiser has donated more than \$54,000 to cancer charities, including more than \$10,000 to City of Hope over the past two years. Flanked by tattoo artists from Ink'd Chronicles, Terry Dipple and his daughter Tess Dipple, front row at left, present the check to Kevin Kate McQuhae, senior director of development at City of Hope. "Piercers" and tattoo artists work for free one day each year and proceeds go to charity to fight cancer. Ink'd Chronicles is located at 264 W. 2nd St. in Downtown Pomona.



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Deadline next month for sponsors for annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Youth Social Justice Awards

Deadline for sponsors for this year's 38th annual Youth Social Justice Award Celebration of the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr., Project is Friday, Dec. 6.

The event, this year on the theme "The Reverend Dr. King's 20/20 Vision," will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Pomona.

As many as 300 participants attend the presentation each year.

Keynote speaker this year is Lily Gossage, Director of Maximizing Engineering Potential in the College of Engineering at Cal Poly University Pomona.

The Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr., Project is a nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to promote the ideals of King and to provide social justice awards to youth in the community who have made a sig-

Justice Awards... pg. 8

Larry Egan, retiring from DPOA at end of year, named Christmas Parade grand marshal

Larry Egan, executive director of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association since 2007 and a driving force in efforts to bring the Christmas Parade back to Downtown Pomona in 2009, will serve as this year's grand marshal when the parade rolls down Second Street next month.

Egan's selection for the grand marshal honor is particularly fitting since, while he has been "threatening" to retire for some time, he now plans to leave the DPOA "this year," according to a Christmas Parade news release.

This year's parade, which will be the 11th back in its original location downtown, will again be a nighttime parade – a tradition that was brought back beginning in 2015. That parade was the first nighttime parade in Pomona since 1967.

Pomona's Christmas Parade moved from Second Street to Holt Avenue, where it was held for 40 years until returning to Downtown Pomona in 2009.

This year's parade theme is "Once Upon a Christmas Parade." The parade starts at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 and travels down

Second Street before circling back through Downtown Pomona to its starting point on the campus of Western University of Health Sciences.

The parade committee, which consists of local community members, invites cultural groups and organizations from throughout Pomona and surrounding communities to participate in the parade.

Registration fee is \$25 and registration is available online at downtownpomona.org. Groups can sign up through the first week of December.

More than 100 entries including some 3,000 people walking, marching, bicycling or riding on floats – youth groups, bands, floats, car clubs, dignitaries, drill teams and more – are expected to participate, along with another 5,000 spectators lining the streets.

And, since the parade came back to Downtown Pomona in 2009, Egan has always been the "behind the scenes" quotable spokesperson for the news media on all things related to the parade – from facts and figures on participants and crowd size estimates to how the weather impacted the



Larry Egan

event (it has only rained on the Pomona Christmas Parade twice in the last 10 years – 2009 and 2013, according to a quick La Nueva Voz review).

During Egan's tenure as executive director of DPOA, Downtown Pomona has undergone a resurgence and has become one of the safest districts in the state.

He attended Pomona's Ganesha High School, served in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman and lived in Pomona in the 1960s.

Today, he continues to work diligently making Downtown Pomona a desirable location for the

community to come together to work, shop, live and play.

Downtown Pomona now hosts a wide variety of special events and attracts large crowds – from the Second Saturday Art Walk and Market Night, Collectors Street Faire, Pomona 5k/10k Run, ViVa Pomona, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Independence Festival, Fist of Gold Youth Boxing, and the Chalk Art Festival, in addition to the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade.

"It's a bittersweet emotion for me to be retiring," Egan said on his decision to step down. "There is so much more to do. We've taken the Downtown to a place that brings in over 1.5 million visitors a year. Proud to have been a part of that."

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Resource center... from pg. 1

have been operating resource centers of their own in Southern California.

“Both plans have a deep history of serving the low income... populations,” said Thomas Tran, senior community resource center manager for Blue Shield Promise. “It just made sense that we’re doing that separately, why not come together and actually combine our resources.”

Those seven original independent centers will now be rebranded under the joint arrangement, he said.

The two companies have made a \$146 million commitment, just announced in September, to operate a total of 14 facilities – seven new and the original seven rebranded and upgraded – across Los Angeles County.

In Pomona, the 15,000 square foot facility, which formerly housed a sporting goods store (the remodel took about seven months), will have a total of 15 staff members on hand – staffers from both health plans – to be available to either deliver services or refer walk-ins to appropriate service providers.

And, whether a care manager or a social worker is handling the request for services, the idea is to help the individual “get healthy and stay healthy,” officials said.

Tran told visitors to a resource “pre-opening” fair in the parking lot this month that the resource center is “the first of its kind in L.A. County between two health plans that actually have a very long record and deep roots in the community in helping L.A. County’s most vulnerable population.”

Included will be a wide variety of exercise, nutrition and health management classes – from Zumba and yoga to healthy cooking classes, preventive screenings and more.

“The centers will offer services and resources to our members and the community that will keep them active, healthy and informed,” said John Baackes, L.A. Care CEO. “Ultimately, the resource centers will help to improve health outcomes and reduce health care costs over time.”

“Beyond traditional health and wellness offerings, the centers will also offer personalized services to members from both plans, including on-site care management,”



WELCOMING RESOURCE CENTER TO POMONA -- Minerva Hernandez, President of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Pomona, speaking at a “pre-opening” fair, presents a certificate to officials of the new Community Resource Center in Pomona, a health-based service and referral center opening next month and operated jointly by Blue Shield Promise and L.A. Care health plans. Pictured, from left, are Alex Luevano, community health advocate with Blue Shield; Hernandez; and Mario Ramos, site manager of the new facility, located at 696 W. Holt Ave., Pomona. Free services offered at the community fair included free haircuts provided by Eminence Barber Academy in Riverside and free dental exams provided by Parktree Community Health Center in Pomona.



said Dr. Greg Buchert, President and CEO of Blue Shield Promise. “Our two plans have a long history working together, and this new collaboration will allow us to leverage our respective strengths for the benefit of everyone in the Pomona area who uses the centers.”

Both Baackes and Buchert participated in a ribbon cutting at the Pomona resource center three days before the community resource fair.

Site administrator for the new facility will be Pomona resident Mario Ramos.

Alex Luevano, community health advocate with Blue Shield, confirmed the services are available at no cost, with or without insurance.

“We are actually encouraging the community to come and take advantage of all of these resources that are going to be available to them at no cost,” he said.

Justice Awards... from pg. 7

nificant impact. Sponsorship levels range from “friend/sponsor” for donations of \$99 and under all the way up to “platinum sponsor” donations of \$2,000 and up.

Marketplace vendor space also is available.

Award recipients receive between \$200 and \$1,000 to honor their contributions to outstanding service in the community.

For more information, contact Project President Sherie Rodgers and the 2020 board and committee at pivmlkproject@gmail.com or visit the web site at pivmlkproject.org.

Jorge Valles
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Pomona Hospital recruiting volunteers

Looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of hospital patients and their families?

The Auxiliary Board at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center is hosting a fall volunteer recruitment drive for community members interested in getting involved through customer service, education, arts and even driving around

those cute little golf carts to take folks to and from their cars.

Established in 1937 by 24 volunteers dedicated to serving the hospital, the Auxiliary Board since its birth has maintained as its primary goal furthering the best interests of the hospital and helping out in the promotion of its activities.

Volunteers can serve patients and their families directly or indirectly and are placed based on their strengths and comfort level. Opportunities range from working in the hospital gift shop to even playing live music.

To learn more, visit the web site at www.pvhmc.org/volunteer or e-mail volunteers@pvhmc.org.



FUNDRAISING? PIZZA SEEMS TO WORK! -- Members of the Pomona Optimist Club teamed up this month with the new Pomona Pizza Co., 46 Rio Rancho Road, Pomona, to raise funds to support programs for the kids of Pomona. Organizers spent most of the day as supporters popped in hour after hour for a successful event. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Pizza manager Anthony Vargas, Optimist members Debra Martin, Renee Barbee and Ruby Jung, and President Lorraine Canales.

Pomona Concert band Christmas concert Dec. 13

The Pomona Concert Band will present its annual Christmas concert, this year titled "A Most Wonderful Christmas," at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, in the Palomares Park Community Center, 499 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona.

Sponsored by the City of Pomona Community Services De-

partment, the concert will include Christmas carol favorites arranged, according to a news release, in very special ways.

The event is free and open to the public.

The Pomona Concert Band was founded by G. Stanton Selby in 1947.



LEGISLATION PROTECTING STUDENT NEEDS -- Congresswoman Norma Torres unveiled her bill known as the Basic Assistance for Students in College (BASIC) Act this month at an informational meeting at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut. The legislation would ensure college students, and particularly Pell Grant recipients and attendees of community colleges or minority-serving institutions, are able to meet their basic needs such as food security, stable housing and access to federal aid benefits while pursuing their education. According to Torres, nearly half of all college students have experienced food insecurity and more than one in 10 have experienced homelessness. Her bill would provide \$500 million in grants to help institutions of higher learning support their students. "Higher education is an invaluable asset in the 21st century workforce, but students can't go broke trying to pay for it," Torres said. Pictured, from left, are Mt. SAC student Daija Lopez; UC Riverside Well and R' Pantry Director Devon Sakamoto; Montclair High School Vice Principal Victor Garnica; MAZON National Synagogue Organizer Samuel Chu; Torres; Rise, Inc. CEO Max Lubin; UC Riverside Undergraduate Government Relations Director (and UC Students Association board member) Vincent Rasso; and UC Riverside student Angel Huerta.

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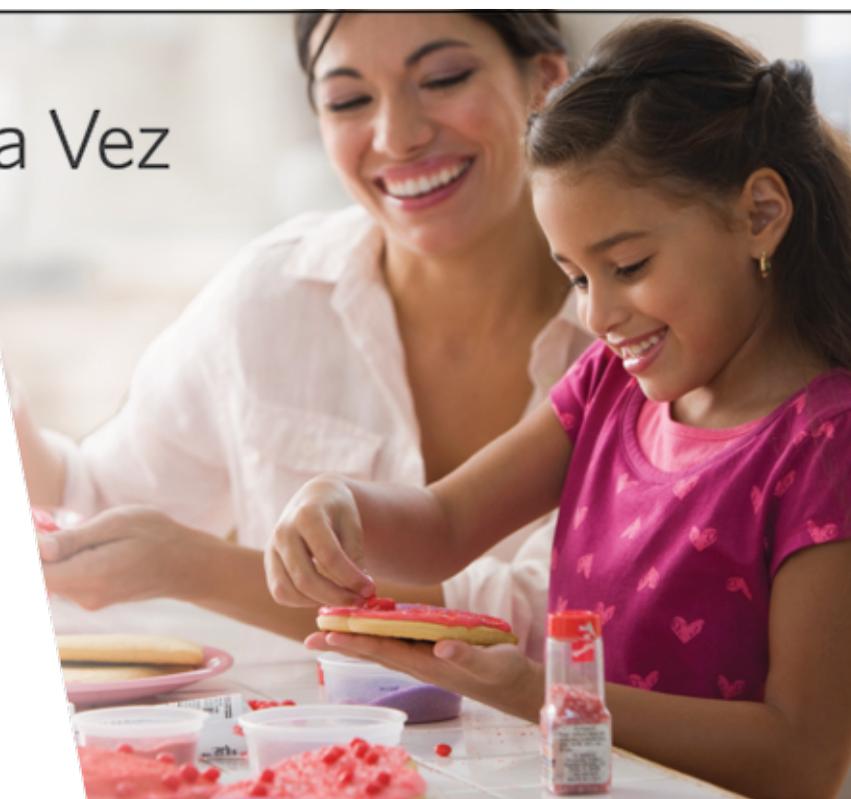
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San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps names Norma Quinones executive director

Norma J. Quinones has returned to work at the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps (SGVCC), this time as its executive director, according to a news release from the organization's board of directors.

The move was effective Nov. 11.

"Norma's extensive experience in the non-profit and governmental sector will help launch a dynamic new chapter for SGVCC," Interim Board President

Mario Olmos said in the release. "Her vision for the Corps aligns with that of the Board, and the organization's mission."

"She brings enthusiasm, energy, experience and insight to the position and I have every confidence that she will do an excellent job leading the organization going forward," Olmos said.

Quinones most recently served as district director for Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, working in the Pomona field office, since 2016.

She served as deputy director at SGVCC from 2008 through 2016, during which time the organization,

based in El Monte, opened its new campus in Pomona.

Danny Oaxaca, founder of the organization and its executive director for the past 16 years, will continue to provide support as needed to ensure a successful transition, the statement said.

SGVCC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that helps disadvantaged and disengaged youth develop the motivation, self-

confidence, work skills and education necessary to take advantage of an opportunity to succeed in life. Guided by adult leaders and educators who serve as mentors, role models and technical trainers, participants work in crews of five to 10 to rebuild or revitalize blighted areas in their communities within the San Gabriel Valley.

Since its founding, it has had an impact on thousands of lives throughout the region while providing vocational, educational and leadership development to more than 3,500 youth ages 16 to 24.



Norma Quinones



DEDICATING NEW MURAL AT CITY HALL -- Pomona City Councilmembers Steve Lustro, Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Victor Preciado and Nora Garcia, along with Pomona's dA Center for the Arts President and Co-founder Chris Toovey, congratulate the volunteers who worked on a new "Wallflower" mural on the north side of Pomona City Hall in unveiling ceremonies last month. The mural was the idea of Lila O'Leary (fourth from left, behind the podium) who championed the project and contributed throughout its completion as her Girl Scouts Gold Award project. She said she approached the dA with the idea after working with kids at Pomona's Hamilton Park on an art project and she incorporated their ideas into the mural design. From left are volunteer Alina Barron, Lustro, Cole, O'Leary, Preciado, Garcia, volunteer Eddy de los Rios, Toovey, and volunteer Estevan Orozco.



Photo by Renee Barbee, member, library Board of Trustees
POMONA PUBLIC LIBRARY TOURS -- The Pomona Public Library itself made it onto the list of sites on this month's Pomona Heritage Home Tour. And actually, it all makes sense, considering the original library was founded in 1887 as the Pomona Library and Floral Association, six months before the city was incorporated. The current location, the library's fourth, opened in 1965. Pictured, at right, with two guests ready for their tour of the library before the facility opened for business for the day is library Board of Trustees President (and at this event, tour guide) Duane Smith.



LEARNING A FEW NEW STEPS -- Long time dance student Claus Kraemer of Chino Hills learns a little something new at a private salsa lesson from Evie Quinones, of Evie Dance Studio in Downtown Pomona. Evie said Kraemer and his wife have been coming to her studio on and off since 2010 and their dancing skills have improved amazingly. She also said she has a lot of young ladies from Pomona coming in to learn how to tango for weddings and quinceañeras. The studio is located at 237 E. 2nd St., Pomona. For information, call (909) 242-4462.



RENEWAL OF VOWS -- David and Amy McElwain exchange vows at their renewal of wedding vows ceremony and celebration of their 34th wedding anniversary at Chase's Restaurant in La Verne this month. Officiating was Rev. Daniel Lai of San Francisco, at center in photo, a family friend, who told them "life is precious and unpredictable -- take advantage of every opportunity" to celebrate benchmarks along the way. McElwain, immediate past president of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and formerly head of the Pomona office of the Los Angeles County Office of Education GAIN program, has been diagnosed with a form of stomach cancer which he says is terminal. La Verne Mayor Don Kendrick, who toasted the couple and said he has known them for many years, called them an amazing couple and represent everything good about what a city can be. Family members shared in hosting the event.

Renewing marriage vows

Editor's Note: The following poem was read to David McElwain by his wife Amy at their recent "renewal of vows" ceremony in La Verne.

*Our lives have been a fairy tale,
A story quite intriguing
The way we met so magical,
Some folks struggled believing
We've had our ups and downs as well
And have worked quite hard and strived
First to gain your health before
Our children three arrived
And life would carry on, my dear
Through many many years
A journey by the two of us
That has brought us now and here
It has not always been easy
There have been worries and fears
But together I have courage
So long as you are near
And I will stay with you my love
Right here side by side
No matter where this journey leads
Taking this life in stride
My love is stronger every day
No matter what may come
Cancer can't take that away
My dear, my number one.*

A Steg McElwain



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Xoom Rolls Out Domestic Money Transfer Services in the U.S.*PayPal's international money transfer service works with Walmart and Ria to offer cash pick-up in minutes at 4,700 Walmart and 175 Ria locations across the country***Xoom presenta nuevos servicios de transferencia local de dinero en EE. UU.***El servicio de transferencia internacional de dinero de PayPal trabaja con Walmart y Ria para ofrecer retiro de efectivo en minutos en 4,700 tiendas Walmart y 175 centros Ria en todo el país*

Xoom, PayPal's international money transfer service, has rolled out the ability for customers to send money to recipients in the U.S. for the first time. Through strategic alliances with Walmart and Ria, Americans can now use Xoom to send money fast for cash pick-up typically in minutes at nearly 5,000 locations across the country (fees and limitations apply).

Xoom's services potentially benefit more than 44 million foreign-born people in the U.S. who send remittances to family and friends in their home countries. With the introduction of domestic money transfer services, Xoom will now serve even more customers, including more than half of Americans who make domestic person-to-person (P2P) payments. Using Xoom's mobile app or website, consumers will have the ability to send money quickly and securely for cash pick-up at any Walmart or Ria-owned store in the U.S.

"Many of our customers in the U.S. already send money to loved ones in the country, and they usually prefer that the money is available right away," said Julian King, Xoom's Vice President and General Manager. "This rollout reinforces our commitment to make money transfers fast, easy and affordable for everyone, whether they are at home or on-the-go."

Many consumers in the U.S. face personal, institutional and policy-related barriers to access the financial system. These underbanked consumers rely heavily on fringe financial service providers to conduct routine financial transactions and pay high fees in the process. With Xoom's introduction of domestic transfers, Americans can send money at affordable rates for cash pick-up quickly at 4,684 Walmart stores and 175 Ria locations across the United States. For more information on store locations and eligible banks, visit xoom.com.

A pioneer in digital remittances, Xoom is a fast way to securely send money, pay bills and reload phones for loved ones in over 160 countries globally. These remittances serve as a lifeline for many people around the world and are used to pay for every day needs like utility bills, healthcare, and education costs, as well as emergencies. The largely cash-based system of sending money across borders is full of paperwork, high fees, standing in line and an ever-present uncertainty of when, and if, the money will arrive when it's needed. By providing fast and more secure payment options for customers to seamlessly and securely send money across borders by going online or using a mobile device, PayPal and Xoom are helping to expand and improve the financial health of millions of people worldwide.

Xoom, el servicio internacional de transferencia de dinero de PayPal, ha puesto en marcha la posibilidad para que los clientes envíen dinero a destinatarios en EE. UU. por primera vez. A través de alianzas estratégicas con Walmart y Ria, los estadounidenses pueden ahora usar Xoom para enviar dinero con rapidez que podrá retirarse, por lo general, en minutos en casi 5,000 puntos en todo el país (se aplican cargos y restricciones).

xoom
A PayPal Service

Los servicios de Xoom potencialmente benefician a más de 44 millones de extranjeros en EE. UU.1 que hacen envíos a sus familiares y amigos en sus países natales. Con la presentación del servicio de transferencia local, Xoom dará servicio ahora a más clientes, incluso más de la mitad de los estadounidenses que hacen pagos locales de persona a persona (person-to-person, P2P)2. Usando la aplicación móvil o el sitio web de Xoom, los clientes pueden enviar dinero en forma rápida y segura para que se retire en cualquier tienda de Walmart o centro de Ria en EE. UU.

"Muchos de nuestros clientes en EE.UU. ya envían dinero a sus seres queridos en el país, y usualmente prefieren que ese dinero esté disponible de inmediato", dijo Julian King, vicepresidente y gerente general de Xoom. "Esta presentación refuerza nuestro compromiso de hacer que las transferencias de dinero sean más veloces, fáciles y accesibles para todos, sea que lo hagan desde su casa o conectándose en línea".

Muchos clientes de EE. UU. enfrentan barreras personales, institucionales y relacionadas con políticas para acceder al sistema financiero. Estos clientes no bancarizados dependen en gran medida de proveedores de servicios financieros no oficiales para realizar sus operaciones financieras de rutina y pagan cargos elevados en el proceso. Con la presentación de las transferencias locales de Xoom, los estadounidenses pueden enviar dinero a costos razonables para que el efectivo sea retirado con rapidez en 4,684 tiendas Walmart y 175 centros de Ria por todo Estados Unidos. Si desea más información sobre la ubicación de las tiendas y los bancos elegibles, visite xoom.com.

Xoom, pionero en envíos digitales, es una manera rápida de enviar dinero en forma segura, pagar cuentas y cargar celulares para los seres queridos en más de 160 países a nivel global.



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Claremont Symphony to perform

Beethoven's 9th

The Claremont Symphony Orchestra, now in its 67th season, completes its cycle of Beethoven's nine symphonies with Symphony No. 9 scheduled for Dec. 1 on the Claremont Colleges campus.

The cycle began in 2011.

Free to the public, the performance will begin at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, in Bridges Hall of Music on the Pomona College campus, 150 E. 4th St. (at College Avenue), Claremont.

Doors open at 3 p.m. Seating is open and there are no reservations. A \$5 donation is suggested.

Music director Robert Sage will conduct the orchestra.

The orchestra will present its annual sing-along of Handel's Messiah at both 1:30 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, also in Bridges Hall of Music.

For more information, visit the web site at www.claremontso.org or call (909) 596-5979.



POMONA BOXING CHAMP MOVES CLOSER TO OLYMPICS -- Pomona boxing champion Ernesto "Tito" Mercado picked up the lightweight (132 pounds) title winning his first elite national title making him first in the nation in his category by a 3-2 decision over Daniel Garcia of Westminster, Colorado at the 2019 "Last Chance" Qualifier and National PAL Championships this month in Oxnard. The win qualifies him to compete in the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for boxing that will take place next month in Lake Charles, Louisiana. A total of eight boxers will compete in each division. Pictured is Mercado at right and Garcia at left. Mercado trains at G2G Boxing Club at 637 W. Holt Ave., Pomona.



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS FOREST LAWN STYLE -- Thousands of guests turned out at Forest Lawn - Covina Hills last month for a Dia de los Muertos festival honoring the memories of the dead while illuminating the rich history of the holiday. The community celebration offered continuous entertainment on two stages including a performance by the all-female group Mariachi Divas, pictured. Also included was face painting, a vendor fair, a farmer's market and community altars where guests could place photos of and offerings to departed loved ones.

Cortez School one of 10 in nation named 'best practice showcase'

Pomona's Cortez Math & Science Magnet School has been designated as one of only 10 schools in the U.S. that earned the distinction of being a Distinguished National Best Practice Showcase Site.

Schools earning the honor must satisfy eight stringent

criteria established by Paxton/Patterson LLC, a leader in career and technical education in the U.S.

Also honored were Principal Maria Franco-Madrugal and the school's 21st century career readiness lab teacher, Christine Melanson, for their

exemplary leadership and educational effectiveness.

Criteria for the recognition include students must be able to explain their "lab" program to visiting educators, students must be shown to be benefiting from the lab classes, the school must welcome visitors

for site visits and the school district administration must be supportive of the lab and provide ongoing professional development as needed.

The award was presented at a Pomona Unified School District Board meeting this month.

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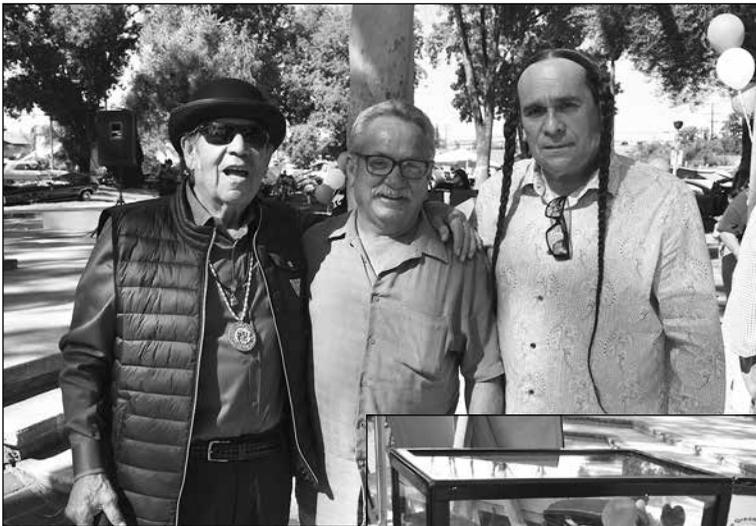


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TONY CERDA PARK 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY -- Pomona's own Native American tribal chief and community leader Tony Cerda told La Nueva Voz last month he remembers going to Madison Park with his grandmother when he was four years old. For the last 10 years, his name has been on the monument sign naming the park in his honor. Hundreds of visitors to the park joined with Cerda at a 10th anniversary celebration of the name change -- complete with a car show, vendors and official ceremonies and comments by elected and appointed officials -- including Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, City Councilmember Victor Preciado, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Fabian Pavon and Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia. "It's always been good memories here in this park so it's good to see so many people here enjoying it," Cerda told the crowd. He told La Nueva Voz later that he didn't ask for the recognition of naming the park in his honor but it still makes him feel good. Cerda became known years ago for coaching and mentoring youth boxers in Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Cerda, Albert Davila of Upland, and master of ceremonies at the event Mark Castaneda, a member of Cerda's tribe, the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe. Davila and Richard Sandoval, now of Las Vegas, both trained by Cerda, went on to become bantam weight world champions. Tony Cerda Park is located at 400 W. Grand Ave., Pomona. Goytia, a Pomona Parks and Recreation Commissioner for eight years, was active in the original move to name the park in Cerda's honor because, Goytia said, "we wanted to make sure that it was reflective of the community." Also pictured is a collection of boxing gloves used by Cerda's boxers back in the day.



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS AT CAL POLY -- Students, staff and faculty all came out to celebrate the 25th annual Day of the Dead in the Bronco Commons at Cal Poly University Pomona this month. Included were more than 30 altars commemorating the spirits of those who have died, like this one created by "Dr. Cadena's EWS 4310 (ethnicity, gender and religion) class" as a community altar welcoming contributions of photos and other memories to help the departed on their journeys. Also included were food and gift vendors and even Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez stopped by to present certificates to organizers of the event for their "efforts in keeping this historical Latin American tradition viable and faithfully reflecting the diversity of Cal Poly Pomona and Southern California." Pictured, from left, are Hector Avila, a fourth year international business and marketing major and a social justice leader with the Cesar Chavez Center for Higher Education on campus; Sarah Alpuche, a staff member in Cal Poly's Office of Student Life and Cultural Centers and a geology major in the class of 2021; and Gonzalez. Alpuche said the celebration helped her feel connected with her identity and gave her a sense of belonging on campus. The event was presented by the Cesar Chavez Center and Cal Poly's Ethnic and Women's Studies Department. Featured were Danza Azteca Teuxihuitl, Mariachi Los Broncos, singers and the Suavecito Salsa Club.

Bonita High Chamber Singers – heading for Carnegie Hall in March – to perform for local California Retired Teachers luncheon

La Verne's Bonita High School Chamber Singers, the premier ensemble in the award-winning Bonita High School choral program, will perform next month at a meeting of the California Retired Teachers Association

Pomona Valley Division 13 at the Hillcrest Retirement Community Meeting House. The annual holiday luncheon gets under way at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, with a business meeting focusing on

a pre-retirement workshop for local teachers the group has planned for March 12 in the Bonita Unified School District board room. Lunch is at noon, followed by the chamber singers at 12:45

p.m. The group is scheduled to perform next month at the Disneyland Resort and in March will perform in Carnegie Hall in New York. Reservations are required and

cost is \$19. For information, call (626) 963-6242. Over the past year, California Retired Teachers Association members performed nearly two million hours of volunteer service valued at \$57.8 million.



POMONA CHAMBER AMBASSADOR OF THE MONTH -- Roberto Arnold, founder and CEO of Alpha Prime Logistics consulting, was named Pomona Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Month at this month's chamber networking luncheon at Pomona's Metro Ale House. Pictured, from left, are ambassadors Milton Drake, marketing representative for Proactive Work Health Services in Pomona, and Jo Ann Camelat, of Kaleo Real Estate in La Verne, ambassador's committee co-chair; Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, chair of the ambassador's committee; Roberto Arnold; and ambassador Leo Arredondo, owner of Pomona's Upper Cuts Barber Shop.

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Ceballos... from pg. 3

Club's annual awards dinner at the Ebell Museum of History, describes himself as a "progressive prosecutor" which, he said, is someone who is "always looking forward and looking for new and innovative ways to do the work that we do."

He said it is "important for us as prosecutors to understand... as society changes we need to change as well in working with the criminal justice system and working with the community."

Then what about a specific example?

"The war on drugs was clearly a failure – there was no point in that because you are trying to criminalize what is essentially a public health situation and you don't do that by sending people to jail," Ceballos said.

And how does a progressive prosecutor view California's move toward eliminating cash bail?

"I think it's the recognition that there is a . . . disparity in the way that it's worked over the years and . . . those folks who have been charged with crimes including murder and have the financial means could bail themselves out of jail while those who do not have the financial means remain in jail," he said.

"Our system of justice should not be based upon a person's ability to pay," Ceballos added.

He's got his work cut out for him – the election is coming up in just a few months on the March primary ballot. If no candidate wins outright, the top two will face each other in a runoff on the November ballot.

Plus, because there is also a presidential election going on at the same time, a higher than normal voter turnout is expected – something Ceballos sees as working in his favor.

"It brings out the Democrats and it will bring out all the anti-Trump vote and more importantly bring out people who are much more socially aware and conscious of what is going on in our country and things we need to change," he said.

Ceballos knows he'll face some competition along the way, beginning with his boss Lacey who, as the current office holder, carries a built-in advantage. She is running for her third four-year term in an office that has no term limits.

Lacey is the first woman and the first African American to serve as Los Angeles County District Attorney.

In addition, Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Joseph Iniguez, who has served in the district attorney's office for the past four years, is expected to be on the ballot.

Former San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon, also a former assistant police chief in Los Angeles, has announced he is entering the race.

The filing deadline is Dec. 1.

Will Ceballos be able to work well with others in the regional criminal justice system like controversial Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva?

Ceballos told La Nueva Voz he has met the sheriff and talked with him, adding that any relationship starts off with the ability to recognize the other individual's issues and concerns before working toward a consensus.

"Clearly there are some issues with our sheriff but I think I have the ability to be able to sit down with folks and listen . . . and then try to reach a mutual understanding," he said.

What about his relationship with the news media?

"I think the media has a very important role in our government," he said. "I think it is there to keep us honest and keep us on our toes."

He added that he sees the news media "not only as the voice of the public to question what we do and why we do it but also (to) be our voice with the community and to the community."

Ceballos, whose office is in the Hall of Justice across the street from the criminal courts building in the Los Angeles Civic Center, lived in Pomona from 1997 to 2011 and, for part of that time, worked at the Pomona district attorney's office.

Today, he is assigned to the hate crimes unit of the district attorney's organized crime division where he said roughly half of

his caseload involves organized crime cases which, in Los Angeles County, typically are gang cases. The other half of his caseload involves prosecuting hate crimes.

Asked by La Nueva Voz to describe Pomona's statistics involving organized crime or hate crimes, he said neither is a major problem here.

"From my point of view, Pomona does not have a current significant problem with organized crime or hate crimes," he said. "That doesn't mean it does not exist – it just means it has not reached the level where I need to get involved."

Previously he worked in the sexually violent predator unit for about a year, focusing on men who were civilly committed to state hospitals as opposed to prosecuting street crimes.

La Nueva Voz pointed out that Pomona is nearly 80 percent Hispanic and asked how Hispanics are faring in the district attorney's office.

"Latinos comprise approximately 10 percent of the deputy district attorneys in our office, even though the Latino population in Los Angeles County is nearly half of the population," Ceballos said.

He added that he co-founded the Latino Prosecutors Association in 2000 and later assisted in the formation of the Latino Prosecutors Foundation.

"The primary goal of these two groups was to increase the number of Latinos hired into the DA's office and thereafter promoted within the DA's office," he said.

Ceballos, a USC graduate, received his law degree from Loyola Law School. His teaching experience includes serving as a lecturer at the schools of law at both USC and UC Irvine. He graduated from Loyola High School in Los Angeles.

He has had experience as a small business minority owner, he has served since 2013 as a community advisor (and USA Boxing licensed coach) at the Hollenbeck Police Business Council's Hollenbeck Youth Center in Boyle Heights, and he has appeared at numerous conferences both throughout the United States and internationally, including Johannesburg, Beijing and Moscow.



TWO LOCAL VETERANS HONORED BY POMONA COUNCIL -- Raymond

Correa, in photo above, accepts his recognition for his military service from the Pomona City Council at a meeting this month. He encouraged members of the audience to support Pomona's American Legion Post 30. Correa attained the rank of Sergeant in the U.S. Army serving from 1972 to 1975. Recognized at a later city council meeting this month was Post 30 member and supporter Jeff Hodge, pictured with Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. Hodge served with the U.S. Army 1st Special Forces unit during the Vietnam era.



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS WITH THE SENATOR -- It was Dia de Los Muertos plus a legislative update and reception this month at the new Pomona office of State Sen. Connie Leyva. Pictured in front of a "community" Dia de Los Muertos altar in Leyva's office are Leyva, at left, and Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia. Members of the community were invited ahead of time to stop by and bring photos of loved ones to be added to the altar.

Lassie... from pg. 3

in the library originally from the set of the movie "Gone with the Wind."

And a "Lassie" library includes promotional photos and artifacts from the Lassie television series.

Outdoors, it even includes a "farm" complete with live goats, turkeys, peacocks, chickens, rabbits and tortoises.

The Provost family owned and occupied the house from 1954 to 1959.

Provost starred as Timmy Martin in "Lassie" from 1957 to 1964. He also appeared at the "Lassie house" last year for the dedication of a "Lassie" well.

"Lassie" is the fourth longest-running series in television history.

Spectra Company, the West Coast's largest historic contractor, restored the home. The company has restored other projects including the Hearst Castle in San Simeon, the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, the Catalina Casino in Avalon and others.

What's up next at the house? The Adamyks are inviting the kids of Pomona to come join Santa and Mrs. Claus for some fun and carols from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. Light refreshments will be served.

Your insert here!

Call (909) 629-2292



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AT LORBEER -- Pomona Unified School District's Lorbeer Middle

School in Diamond Bar celebrated its 50th anniversary this month "striking up the band" -- the Lorbeer Longhorn Project under the direction of teacher Doug Lee. Also pictured, in full costume, is the school "Larry the Longhorn" mascot, along with Pomona Unified School Board President Frank Guzman, at rear in center, and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. Diamond Bar Mayor Steve Tye also appeared, and Principal Krista Fairley officiated at the event. Five former principals also attended -- Carol Wilner, Stephanie Baker, Dr. Kathrine Morrillo-Shone, Dr. Krystana Walks-Harper and Mrs. Angelique Butler.

Photos by Keney Su



TURKEYS FOR THANKSGIVING -- Representatives of Golden State Water Company teamed up with Pomona's Salvation Army this month to distribute 52 turkeys in their 29th annual "Operation Gobble." The turkeys were provided to local nonprofit organizations and elected officials for passing them along to those in need. This year, Golden State employees distributed more than 8,000 turkeys to community groups, churches, food banks, senior centers and others in the more than 80 communities they serve throughout California. The company has donated more than 240,000 turkeys since the program began in 1990. Pictured, from left, are Golden State employees Gabriel Martinez, Javier Martinez and Dennis Lopez, along with Major Tammy Ray of the Salvation Army of Pomona. Golden State Water serves 270 residential customers and 30 commercial customers in Pomona.



AKA HOSTS COLLEGE AND CAREER SUMMIT -- Nearly 300 high school students, parents and school staff from 13 area school districts participated last month at a College and Career Readiness Summit hosted by Alpha Kappa Alpha's local Epsilon Eta Omega Chapter and Pearls of Service, Inc., the organization's charitable arm. Three \$50 "on the spot" scholarships were presented to high school students who submitted a 300 to 400 word "personal statement" essay, according to event co-chairs Endy Farrow and Lori Johnson-Rucker. Pictured are some of the AKA sorority members and the scholarship winners at the event in Pomona's Village at Indian Hill conference center.

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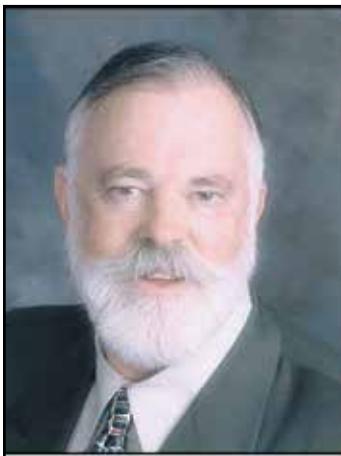
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SAFETY FIRST By Jose Bermudez, Certified Safety Professional

Irreplaceable – A look at protecting the eyes from injury

A serious injury can significantly change a life and the respective income earning ability. There are several injuries that can greatly affect one in this manner. An individual can lose use of their fingers, hand, arm, feet, and legs as a result of a debilitating injury or an amputation. Artificial limbs and hands may allow one to function productively and resume a relatively rewarding lifestyle. The disability is significant and will require time, medical treatment, mental health counseling, and physiotherapy in order to resume a fulfilling and productive life.

The loss of or impairment of vision is more disabling because eyes cannot be replaced or corrected as with an artificial limb and is a sense that is difficult to function without. There are steps such as learning Braille and using a support dog that help but it is very challenging to do without the ability to see. Eye injuries are as equally prevalent at work and at home. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), 90 percent of injuries are preventable and 78 percent of in-

jured were not wearing protective eyewear. As with work injuries, we will discuss ways to protect vision and prevent eye injuries and illnesses which need not occur off the job.

At home, people often do not consider protective eyewear – safety glasses, goggles, or a face shield when cooking, cleaning, doing home repair, working in the yard, or in the garage. That is despite the frequency of home related eye injuries.

Prevent Blindness America strongly supports the AAO and the American Society of Ocular Trauma (ASOT) in their recommendation that every household have at least one pair of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved eyewear. The eyewear should have the “Z-87” logo stamped on the frames (inside the temple) and can be purchased at hardware stores and home building centers.

Approximately 40 percent of home eye injuries occur in the yard or garden. Yard equipment including mower or power trimmer debris can impact the eye at a

high rate of speed. Prevent Blindness America offers these tips on how to protect your eyes while doing work in the yard:

- When mowing, wear safety glasses with side protection or wraparound goggles. Check your yard and remove debris before mowing.

- When using a weed eater, wear safety glasses or goggles under a face shield.

- Wear goggles when working with power saws or trimmers.

- Turn off power tools when near an unprotected bystander, especially when young children approach. Bystanders and helpers need eye protection when around tools that are in use.

- Wear goggles to protect your eyes from fertilizers, pesticides and other yard and home chemicals, including lime dust, bleach and other household cleaning products.

- Read and follow all product instructions. Obey warnings on yard chemicals and equipment.

- In cold weather while using snow blower and shoveling snow, safety glasses can protect eyes

from blowing snow and wind.

- Approved safety glasses can be purchased with ultraviolet radiation protection.

- Also, after any project, make sure hands are washed thoroughly before touching the eyes or face.

One other risk is Computer Vision Syndrome, also known as Digital Eye Strain, that refers to a group of eye- and vision-related effects that result from extended computer, tablet, e-reader and cell phone use. An American worker, on average, spends seven hours a day on the computer either in the office or working from home. To help resolve digital eye strain, the 20-20-20 Rule is recommended – take a 20-second break to view something 20 feet away every 20 minutes.

Lastly, when protecting vision, one needs to consider ultraviolet radiation. Sunscreen is used to protect our skin by everyone, but one must remember to protect our vision as well from ultraviolet light. According to the AAO, studies show that exposure to sunlight may increase the risk of developing cataracts and growths on the eye, including cancer. This risk applies when using tanning beds,

so indoor UV light as well needs to be accounted for when protecting the eyes. Sunlight reflected off sand and water can cause photokeratitis, the condition responsible for snow blindness. This applies to anyone who frequents the beach and swimming pools.

According to Michael Kutryb, MD, an ophthalmologist in Edgewater, Florida, and clinical correspondent for the AAO, “UV radiation, whether from natural sunlight or indoor artificial rays, can damage the eye’s surface tissues as well as the cornea and lens,” he said. “Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the dangers UV light can pose. By wearing UV-blocking sunglasses, you can enjoy year round leisure and work activities safely while lowering your risk for potentially blinding eye diseases and tumors.” It is important to start wearing proper eye protection at an early age to protect your eyes from years of ultraviolet exposure. Children are more sensitive to UV because of their developing physiology and cumulative effect of radiation. Remember that sunlight is strongest mid-day to early

Irreplaceable... 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,
Sheltering the Homeless**
Grocery Distribution at
209 W. Pearl St.
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Volunteering: 909-622-3806
www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

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24-hour hotline:
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Pomona Public Library Hours
Mon., Tues., Wed. Thurs.:
1 to 7 p.m.
Sat.:
Noon to 5 p.m.
Fri., Sun.:
Closed

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

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Free 'Early Learning Literacy' App!
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Photo by Renee Barbee

SPEAKING ON CAREERS -- Pomona Unified School District's Deputy Supt. of Human Resources Darren Knowles, pictured, speaks to members of Pomona's College, Career and Workforce Development Task Force this month on the importance of mentoring students. He also said the school district has plans to hire several high school juniors and seniors to help teach computer coding to elementary and middle school students who attend "The Learning Connection," an after school program at various schools in the district. The task force, chaired by Dr. Enrique Medina, director of Pomona Unified's adult school and Board Chair of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, is made up of both educators and representatives of the business community. Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares is co-chair of the task force.

La Nueva Voz columnist Susie Perales went with her sister, Rose Espinoza, and her granddaughter, Jacquelyn, to a Dia de los Muertos dinner this month at her uncle's house in the Montecito Heights area of Los Angeles -- and her uncle just happens to be Moctesuma Esparza, movie producer and CEO of Maya Cinemas, the huge movie theater chain catering to the U.S. Latino audience that is in negotiations with the City of Pomona to build a multiplex theater development in Downtown Pomona. Pictured is a Dia de los Muertos altar in her uncle's home, featuring photos of his parents (left and center) and an uncle. Susie said the food was excellent. "Especialmente el guacamole y los tacos de papa."



Irreplaceable... from pg. 16

afternoon, at higher altitudes, and when reflected off water, ice or snow. Wraparound glasses are the best protection from side and reflective UV radiation. Use only glasses that block both UV-A and UV-B rays and that are labeled either UV400 or 100% UV protection.

Our vision is an irreplaceable gift that we all need for a productive and enjoyable life. We can keep and maintain our vision by protecting it and preventing exposure to physical, chemical and radiation hazards from an early age and throughout our lives.

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 Manage-

ment, 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.

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Photos courtesy of American Legion Post 30

VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES AT POST 30 -- Military veterans and other patriots of all ages came out to support the American flag during Veterans Day ceremonies this month at Pomona's American Legion Post 30 -- from these Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts who came with their own flags to 91-year-old Stephen Manzanares, top left photo, one of Pomona's favorite veterans, who helped prepare American flags that had outlived their usefulness for proper and honorable retirement by burning. Manzanares, a lifelong resident of Pomona, served in World War II, is a member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association Honor Guard, and worked at Pomona's Fairplex for 44 years as a labor supervisor.

Through the Stained Glass Window
The beauty is seen from the inside.

A little girl was talking to her mother about what she would like to receive for Christmas. She stopped when her mother asked her: "What are you going to give God for Christmas?"

That is an important question and one we do think about very often. Just what might we be able to give to God for Christmas? What is on God's shopping list this Christmas and every Christmas?

How about sharing the meaning of the Christmas story and the reason for the birth of the Savior? How about mending a quarrel with someone? What about forgiving someone who did you a wrong? You could take time to listen to someone tell you about a problem and then take time to pray with that person. How about reaching out to a friend you have not seen for a long time and having a visit? How about reaching out to someone who has very little of this world's goods and helping them with their needs and sharing with them the joy of Christmas?

Wise men from the east brought gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh and gave them to the Christ child. These were not gifts for a child but for one who came into the world as Savior and Lord. We can only respond with humility and gratitude. There is only one response we can make to the gift of eternal life through the life and the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. May we be our gift to God this Christmas and every Christmas.



Rev. Dr. Lowell W. Linden

Pilgrim Congregational Church
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Photos by Renee Barbee

YOU NEVER KNOW! -- That's the tag line for La Nueva Voz friend Gloria Mitchell Bail Bonds, but in this case you never know what you're going to see on the freeway -- a two-by-four with nails sticking out, a kitchen sink, or one of our favorites, a can of paint dropping off a truck across the center divider and splashing up on your car's paint job. La Nueva Voz saw two people riding up I-5 in the slow lane south of Valencia on Veterans Day weekend (La Nueva Voz was on the way to a family wedding in Visalia) -- in their living room couch.



And it wasn't just any couch -- it came complete with a lamp and lamp shade, coffee table and houseplants blowing in the wind. La Nueva Voz saw it coming on at an on-ramp (looking in the rear view mirror) and couldn't resist pulling over in the emergency lane and waiting for it and then slowing down alongside it for the picture out the window. (Just don't tell La Nueva Voz friend CHP Officer Rodrigo Jimenez, news media spokesperson out of the Baldwin Park office. Hey, it was official news media business.) We weren't able to chat and get their names but they appeared to be used to the attention.



Photo by Renee Barbee

LATINO COLLEGE EXPO -- Representatives of the Los Angeles County Fire Department chat with a student at last month's Latino College Expo held at the Village at Indian Hill. Representatives of more than 50 universities were on hand at the free event "powered by" the National College Resources Foundation and hosted by Pomona Unified School District.

Chili cook off fundraiser in February to benefit 'The Club'

The Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley has scheduled a chili cook off fundraiser to be held next year at the Old Stump Brewery in Pomona.

The event will be held from 6 to

10 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20.

Included will be chili, tacos, beer, live auction and a silent auction including two VIP tickets to Stagecoach Country Music Festival in Indio, a hot tub from Cal Spas, and a

week "anywhere in the world."

Tickets are \$50 and include a taco plate, two pints of beer and an event glass.

For more information, visit the web site at theclubpomona.org.

House of Ruth annual holiday store in need of donations

Pomona's House of Ruth is reaching out to the public for help in filling its annual holiday "store" with donated gifts to make sure victims of domestic violence and their families are remembered at this time of year.

"House of Ruth's annual holiday store provides new toys and gifts to survivors and their children at no cost," said House of Ruth Director of Development Rhonda Beltran. "Families personally 'shop' for their children, and kids can pick the perfect holiday surprise for their parent."

"For many families rebuilding vio-

lence-free lives, the holiday store may be their only source of gifts and food," Beltran added.

Last year, the holiday store supported 138 families with holiday gifts.

"Last December, my family and I thought we were about to experience the worst Christmas ever," said "Marina," a House of Ruth client. "We had just left the abusive relationship, moved into a shelter and had no income."

"But instead, we experienced the best and most blessed Christmas, thanks to the House of Ruth holiday

store," she added. "We will forever treasure your kindness."

For a copy of House of Ruth's "wish list" or to make a donation, visit the web site at www.houseofruthinc.org or call House of Ruth at (909) 623-4364 for more information on helping families experience a joyous holiday.

House of Ruth has been providing lifesaving services to the community for 42 years and is dedicated to the prevention of domestic violence and the safety and well-being of those impacted by it.

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

Pomona Chamber to host 'Holiday for Heroes'

The Pomona Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual "Holiday for Heroes" luncheon next month to honor Pomona police, fire fighters and veterans for their service.

The event will be held at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at Fuego Cocina and Cantina, 205 E. Second St., Pomona.

Individual tickets are \$30 and sponsorship opportunities are available up to the "Heroes" sponsor level of \$1,000.

For reservations or information, call (909) 622-1256 or e-mail info@pomonachamber.org.

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POMONA HOSPITAL HONORED FOR SUPPORTING VETERANS

-- The U.S. Department of Defense honored Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center with the Patriot Award for providing support and flexible schedules for hospital employees who leave civilian life to serve in the military or reserves. Reginald Fields, a representative of the Department of Defense and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, presented the Patriot Awards during a Veterans Day luncheon to hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum, who served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, and Michelle Atkins Young, the hospital's director of children's services. The award "reflects the efforts an individual has made to support citizen warriors through a wide range of measures." Some 50 hospital associates and volunteers also were honored by the hospital for their service. Pictured, from left, are hospital Chief Financial Officer Michael Nelson, accepting the award on behalf of Yochum; Young; Fields; and Juanita Dubon, DNP (Doctor of Nurse Practice) and a hospital associate, who nominated Young for the award. Dubon is currently on active duty in the U.S. Air Force.



CLEANING UP THE PARK -- Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia kicks up a little dust with his rake during a clean-up day at Pomona's Martin Luther King Jr. Park this month, organized by Pomona Parks and Recreation Commissioner Fabian Pavon. Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval was on hand to help.

Pomona resident and former city employee Jerry Perez (he now works for the City of Fontana) shows what he can do with a roller and a little red paint during the Martin Luther King Jr. Park clean-up day.



HANDING OUT ASSIGNMENTS -- Pomona Parks and Recreation Commissioner Fabian Pavon, at left, hands out assignments to volunteers at Pomona's Martin Luther King Jr. Park, from left, Terrence Thomas, Thomas' grandmother Pam Banks, and Thomas' sister, Tyze' Thomas, all of Pomona. Banks said she was around years ago when parents asked the city to replace aging wooden playground equipment with safer plastic slides and swings for the kids.



Community volunteer T a m e l a Hutchinson, at left, and her son, Isaiah, 14, a student at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise, pitch in at clean-up day at Pomona's Martin Luther King Jr. Park.



Photo by Renee Barbee

We're not sure what the fate of that October La Nueva Voz was going to be, but it was real close to that trash can.



Photo by Renee Barbee
Representatives of Pomona's House of Ruth receive a certificate of recognition from the Pomona City Council at a council meeting last month "commending you for your dedication to spreading awareness to end domestic violence in our community." Pictured with city councilmembers are, from left, House of Ruth Director of Development Rhonda Beltran, House of Ruth member Brian Kraatz, and House of Ruth Executive Director Pat Bell.



CANDLELIGHT VIGIL AT HOUSE OF RUTH

-- Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia, at left, speaks at last month's annual candlelight vigil at Pomona's House of Ruth honoring victims who have lost their lives from domestic violence and celebrating survivors living free from abuse. "For the services that you provide to our city and our community we are extremely grateful," Garcia told Executive Director Pat Bell, at right. Pomona Police Lt. Bert Sanchez, head of the department's investigative services division, told the audience the police department handles more than 900 domestic violence cases each year.



Shoes on display in front of the audience at last month's candlelight vigil at Pomona's House of Ruth represent those who lost their lives to domestic violence in the past year in Los Angeles County. Two of those recognized at the vigil were from Pomona. House of Ruth has been providing life-saving domestic violence services for residents of eastern Los Angeles County and western San Bernardino County since 1977.



Photo by Jean Anderson

DRIVING ELECTRIC? -- Pomona now has two new fast-charging stations at the 7-Eleven at 808 Indian Hill Blvd., thanks to 7-Eleven and, in part, Southern California Edison's "Charge Ready" program, which pays for the necessary electrical infrastructure and then gives participants rebates to pay for part of the charging stations themselves. "Our collaboration with SCE . . . is a win-win for everyone," said Ann Scott, senior director of energy, engineering and store planning for 7-Eleven. Electric vehicles now can be fully charged in as little as 30 minutes. The two stations are the first to be owned, operated and branded by 7-Eleven. Pictured "filling up" an electric vehicle at a "plug in" ceremony in Pomona last week are, from left, Katie Sloan, SCE's director of e-mobility and building electrification, Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares, and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. SCE has helped install more than 1,200 charging stations at about 70 sites in its service area through Charge Ready, but 7-Eleven is one of the first participants to add fast charging. SCE plans to install about 50,000 charging stations over the next five years to help California meet its goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2045.

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December 7th – 1 to 3 pm

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Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri hangs out with the gang last month at the Pomona Police Department Pink Patch fundraiser at Old Stump Brewery in Pomona. The event featured the police department's famous barbecue, raffle prizes, live music and more. Olivieri told members of the Pomona City Council at a meeting this month that the event raised \$20,000 for the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Police Community Service Officer Melissa Conlin, Olivieri, and Conlin's mom Jere Conlin who volunteered to help at the registration desk for the night.



Pomona community volunteer Yesenia Perez, at left, chats with Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez at the Pomona Police Department's pink patch fundraiser at Old Stump Brewery. Freddie's wife, Michelle, can be seen at rear.

SO MANY PATCHES! -- Paige Jarvey, 6, checks out patches from area law enforcement agencies on display at the Pomona Police Department's pink patch fundraiser.



POMONA CHALK ART FESTIVAL -- Downtown Pomona's 13th annual chalk art festival, sponsored this month by the Pomona Cultural Arts Commission in conjunction with Pomona-area schools and the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, filled up Shaun Diamond Plaza with hundreds of artists of all ages, sizes and abilities -- all the way up to professional category. Pictured behind his "raccoon in the woods" creation is artist Gus Moran of Pomona, one of the professionals in this year's competition. He won both last year and this year in that category. This year's theme was pop art.



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