

# La Nueva Voz

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

Thursday, August 27, 2020

# Pomona Unified goes back to school – on computers from home – and students say all is 'OK!'

Some 23,000 students in the Pomona Unified School District went back to school on Aug 11 - from home, on their computers – and, in the words of one fifth grader, "everything's OK!"

Washington Elementary School Principal Alan Pantanini welcomed La Nueva Voz into his school on the first day of classes to see how Pomona Unified's planning all summer long worked out for the kids.

While all students throughout the school district were on line for "distance learning" on their computers, teachers had a choice – they could teach from home using "Zoom" technology, a widely-used on-line conferencing resource, or they could come in to the school if, for example, they had trouble with their own technology.

At Washington, at least on opening day, all classroom teachers were working from home, although school resource teacher Melisa Duardo – along with Pantanini - were on hand at the school to work with teachers via computer connection.

"With our resources that we've had and the exposure to the technology, our teachers feel comfortable doing it at home," Pantanini said.

But if there was a problem, "we're here every day," he added.

When La Nueva Voz



Pictured is Rheilyn Maranan's fifth grade class at Pomona's Washington Elementary School on the first day of school this month, with all students going on line for "distance learning" classes due to COVID-19 restrictions throughout Pomona Unified School District. At top left is the teacher and, just one square to the right, if you look carefully, you can see Principal Alan Pantanini looking over the shoulder of Jeff Schenkel of La Nueva Voz who is photographing the big screen monitor in a classroom at the school. Not pictured, at left rear, is Renee Barbee, was there, Duardo was also of La Nueva Voz, who is video recording the entire session for social media.

helping fifth grade teacher Rheilyn

Maranan, who Pantanini said has

been there for more than 20 years.

Then with all the technology

"I kind of think it's a good thing

because there's everything (CO-

VID) out there," said Noah Olm-

edo, a student in Maranan's class.

"I like it better for every kid in this

district . . . for them to stay home

and do the school at home."

and all the preparation, what did

the kids have to say?

# it is 'OK' to work from home

"It's OK just to stay," he said in response to a question from La Nueva Voz. "You can still go in communication with your classroom and your school."

And how was the teacher working out on the first day?

Well, Jocelyn Rodriguez gave her teacher an "A plus," while Noah gave her a 10 out of 10.

(Of course, the teacher was listening in at the time.)

Pantanini explained that Maranan was

teaching math - focusing on fractions and decimals - in a class right after lunch, using a platform called "Kami."

"She's using our math series digitally," he said, adding that the platform allows students to "annotate" and make notes on their computers.

He said all the assignments are "pushed out" through Google Classroom, a free web service for

Back to school... pg. 2

### Pomona Unified's Enrique Medina returns for second year as Pomona Chamber board chair, pledges to continue 'effective partnerships'

Dr. Enrique Medina, head of the Pomona Unified School District's adult and career education program, was installed this month for a second consecutive one-year term as board chairman of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce where he said he will continue to work to develop "effective partnerships" that he said "produce positive changes" at all levels.

"It is with great honor that I will continue to serve in this capacity to accelerate the incredible transformative work between the business community, educational and governmental agencies to provide the best 21st century opportunities to those we serve in the City of Pomona," he said during an on-line Effective partnerships... pg. 4



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### Tri-City Mental Health receives grants to join California's Adverse Childhood Experiences Aware initiative

Tri-City Mental Health has received \$150,000 in grant funds from the Office of the California Surgeon General and the Department of Health Care Services to participate in the state's Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Aware initiative.

The grant funding will be used to develop and implement free virtual trainings, available in the near future, and a comprehensive communication plan to expand the awareness of ACEs and toxic stress in California, the importance of screening for ACEs, and how local Medi-Cal providers can help respond with trauma-informed care. The funding is part of the \$14.3 million awarded to 100 organizations throughout California to extend the reach and impact of the ACEs Aware initiative.



The term ACEs comes from the landmark 1998 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Kaiser Permanente. It describes 10 categories of adversities children may experience by the age of 18, including abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction. ACEs, trauma and toxic stress represent a public health crisis that significantly impacts the physical health and mental well-being of children and adults alike. But there is hope. Screening for ACEs, assessing for toxic stress and evidence-based interventions can help mitigate the lifelong impact of ACEs and trauma.

The California Surgeon General has set a bold goal to cut ACEs in half in one generation. Tri-City is proud to be part of this statewide initiative to educate and partner with local healthcare providers. "Tri-City supports whole-person care and already works closely with local health partners to coordinate care for the overall health of some of the three cities' most vulnerable residents," says Toni Navarro, Executive Director of Tri-City Mental Health. "This grant for expanded ACEs Aware training for medical professionals will serve to help all of us do more to address the prevention and early intervention phases of care. Adverse Childhood Experiences are not always preventable, but with early identification and prompt referral, there are things we can do, not just Tri-City, but all across our three cities, that can minimize their impact and the negative, long-term effects they can cause." Together, we can help foster resilient communities and ensure individuals and families are ACEs Aware and thriving.

> Learn more about ACEs Aware at www.acesaware.org and visit www.tricitymhs.org for more announcements about Tri-City ACEs Aware activities and to request a free training for your community or organization.



# **Danielle Soto for Water Board**

Danielle Soto will work to:

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- Provide transparency and accountability.

Vote by November 3, 2020 for Danielle Soto for Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Division 6

# Danielle Soto para Directorio de Agua

Danielle Soto trabajará para:

- Asegurar que los residentes tengan agua limpia;
- Invertir en opciones que mantendrán bajos los costos de agua;
- Aumentar los programas de reembolso e incentivos; y
- Proporcionar transparencia y responsabilidad

### Vota el 3 de noviembre del 2020 por Danielle Soto para Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Division 6

"I'm running for water board because we need representation that will communicate to voters and water users about the decisions that are being made on their behalf." – Danielle Soto

"Me estoy postulando para el Directorio de Agua porque necesitamos representación que comunicará a los votantes y usuarios del agua sobre las decisiones que se están haciendo en su nombre." — Danielle Soto

### Soto4Water.com

Paid for by Soto for TVM Water Board 2020, ID#1427308



# Back to school... from pg. 1

schools used for creating, distributing and grading assignments. It is designed to streamline the process of sharing files between teachers and students.

Pantanini said Maranan spent part of the morning on housekeeping items like setting up expectations for the year, safety reminders for COVID-19 and more. She had 21 fifth-graders in her cl

graders in her class on the first day of school.

Three students in the class were wearing "over the ear" headphones to keep from disturbing others in their families, but all 21 were as "bright eyed and bushy tailed" as if they hopped out of bed at the



reminders for COVID-19 and more. She had 21 fifth-

crack of dawn and showed up for a "real" class in their classroom at school.

While most people have seen an on-line conference in action, even if only by watching television news, the entire process becomes

Back to school... pg. 4

# TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO COMPLETE THE 2020 CENSUS

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before September 30 to be counted.







# College, Career and Workforce Development Taskforce recognized by county as best-practice 'model'

Pomona's College, Career and Workforce Development Taskforce has been recognized as a model for other agencies in Los Angeles County by the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board.

Maritza Dubie-Uribe, interim executive director of the board, announced the honor last month in a letter of commendation to Dr. Enrique Medina, director of career readiness for Pomona Unified School District, adding that the local group has evolved into "a significant multi-agency partnership" involving "diverse cross-sector professionals."

Medina chairs the taskforce. Monique

Manzanares, president and CEO of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, serves as co-

In the letter, she recognized Medina's "leadership and the involvement of the Pomona Unified School District for making the taskforce a premiere model in best-practice for implementing and expanding the vision of the Los Angeles County LAP3 (L.A. Performance and Partnership Pilot) initiative to effect major cross-systems change."

That countywide effort aims to improve overall outcomes for disconnected youth ages 16 to 24 in terms of education, workforce, housing, and social well-being.

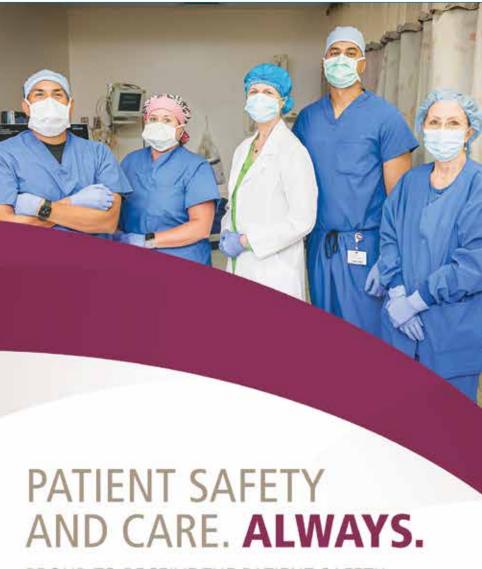
### **ACADEMIC TUTORING AND MENTORING 2nd-12th grade** Emily Schenkel, Pitzer College graduate (2020)

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# Ballmer group awards Pomona organizations \$400,000 grant to launch major 'quality of life' planning effort

The Ballmer Group, a philanthropic organization created by L.A. Clippers owner and former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer and his wife Connie, has awarded a \$400,000 grant to be administered by the Pomona Community Foundation to help seed a 10-year effort to advance the quality of life for Pomona residents.

The grant was awarded effective July 1 and the grant period will continue through Dec. 31, 2021, according to a news release from Pomona's Fairplex.

Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana is chair of the foundation, which incorporates representatives from the City of Pomona, Pomona Unified School District, Cal Poly University Pomona, Tri-City Mental Health and Pomona's Bright Prospect.

The coalition will utilize the grant funds to develop a collaborative framework, which will be known as Pomona Vision 2030, to advance educational outcomes, wellness, housing and employment opportunities across the life cycle of Pomona residents, the news release said.

Kicking off the effort will be "rigorous long-term planning, supporting and extending the reach of community members and local organizations that have been doing this work for years."

By the end of next year, the coalition will have developed a set of metrics that serve as a "North Star" for the city, "guiding institutions and community groups towards a set of collective outcomes that can be achieved with cooperative action between community groups, nonprofits, the private sector and local government."

"Pomona has a history of collective action," Santana said. "With this transformative gift from Ballmer Group, we can now create a framework for Vision 2030. The groundwork has been laid over the past 20 years."

He said the grant will help "set the stage for us to move forward."

"As the Mayor of Pomona, I have been enlightened and inspired working towards the development of Pomona Vision 2030," said Mayor Tim Sandoval. "From the start, it became clear that the city would need to play an important role in helping turn our ideas into action, creating the Pomona

we wish to live, work and grow into by the year 2030."

"With this step-by-step and integrated long-term planning . . . Pomona's residents and organizations can look forward to a community that is engaged, focused on growth, that has its sights firmly set on future prosperity with a roadmap on how to get there," he added.

The foundation, acting as the project's convener, will bring to-

gether agencies representing the life stages of childhood, early adulthood and adulthood, and will work to gauge everything from conditions that allow children to learn in a healthy environment to "wellness" for residents to efforts to enroll more low-income high school students in college and even efforts to develop a framework for recreation, jobs and housing.

"Ballmer Group's support of Po-Quality of life... pg. 16

# Back to school... from pg. 2

even more interesting when it is part of an elementary school math

For example, part of the time, the entire screen is divided into a couple of dozen small, equally sized squares where everyone can see who is talking or who is raising a hand because he wants to say something or ask a question.

And part of the time, the teacher herself shows up in a larger "window," possibly next to a chart or other illustration which is really nothing more than an electric audio, the process can become a bit of a challenge for everyone and at times a little noisy, as well, if students talk "unmuted" at the same time, but that's something that works itself out with practice, just like in an "adult" Zoom meet-

#### On-line classes last spring helped with transition

Plus, of course, students had a little experience with all this in the spring after COVID precautions shut down the "real" classroom experience.

> But Miss Maranan's class was obviously an intelligent class and would little have trouble with the mechanics. After all, three students raised their hands asked when how many had heard of La Nueva Voz.

Pantanini said Washington has about

660 students in pre-school through fifth grade. Washington and Roosevelt, which have about the same numbers, are just about the largest schools in the district. (Alcott and Philadelphia have more, but they include kindergarten through sixth grade.)

the resource teacher and a "teacher on assignment" who works in the area of intervention and assess-

And he said all of the teachers were fine with the idea of working from home.

Back to school... pg. 8

### Effective partnerships... from pg. 1

Pomona "

"I think all of you know that the

past four or five months have been

a very difficult time for so many

of both our businesses and resi-

dents," Sandoval said. "I just want

to thank everyone who has stepped

up to help people during this diffi-

He also thanked Monique Man-

zanares, the chamber's president

and CEO, for her leadership and

work heading up one of the city's

subcommittees as part of the CO-

"virtual" Zoom event for the chamber's 132nd annual installation ceremony

Looking back on his first year as board chair, Medina said "it went from a time of the best economic times to the worst economic times in 100 plus years and the worst medical health crisis in 100 plus years."

"Last year, it was a dream to have the first non-profit solar panel factory in the world here in Pomona," he added. "Today, this 21st century solar power application and installation factory is here in the City of

Pomona and it was forged as a result of many partnerships."

He said those partners included the California Workforce Investment Board, America's Job Centers California, the City of Pomona, Community Housing Energy Retrofit Program (CHERP), local, state and federal elected officials, Claremont-Pomona Locally Grown Power, Pomona Unified School District, the district's adult and career education program,

San Antonio Regional Occupational Program, Harvey Mudd College and others.

Medina said he will continue to forge new partnerships in the days ahead.

He thanked Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez and

Pomona Chamber of Commerce

his school board for allowing him

to participate in the chamber for

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval,

on hand as always to administer

the oath of office to chamber board

members, thanked chamber board

members "for your commitment to

helping the business community in

more than 10 years.

President and CEO

Monique Manzanares

VID-19 action committee. Some of the work that group

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval introduces his fourmonth-old baby Roy Emilliano Lennon Sandoval to members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors after swearing in board members during their virtual installation event this month.

nesses complete their applications for "micro business" grants which have been awarded to nearly 80 businesses in the city.

has done, he said, is to help busi-

"And they are also surveying a lot of the businesses in Pomona to try to determine how we can best

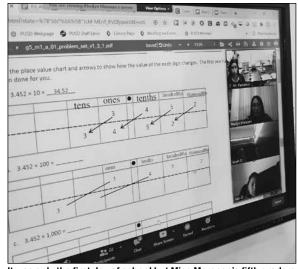
> help them," Sandoval said. "It could not happen without the Pomona Chamber of Commerce."

He added that there is a well-organized coordinated effort on many fronts in the city to help renters with rent relief, to help people with food, to help students obtaining the technology needed for on-line classes, and to help struggling businesses.

"It really speaks volumes about the culture in this city," Sandoval said.

"The heart of the chamber is really . . . your commitment to each other to make sure that all of you are as successful as you can be," he said. "I'm a huge believer that we have so much to learn from each

Effective partnership... pg. 6



It was only the first day of school but Miss Maranan's fifth graders ere already hard at work figuring out decimals in a math class.

blackboard used to help teach the lesson of the moment.

That group screen shot with everybody on there is also a good way for the teacher to take attendance and, throughout the class, to make sure everybody is still there and paying attention.

(La Nueva Voz heard nothing about hall passes during the math class - the students have to stick around but, frankly, it looked like they wanted to stick around and were happy to be there.)

With multiple students raising their hands and sometimes forgetting to "mute" or "unmute" their He has a total of 24 teachers plus

# Election 2020 in Pomona – hold on to your sample ballot to keep up with 25 candidates for local office!

Have you heard about it? The election is coming to Pomona – and everywhere else, of course – on Nov. 3 with candidates on the ballot representing an entire laundry list of local and regional campaigns in addition to the "top of the ticket" candidates for President.

Naturally, the Pomona City Council race will be of great interest in Pomona since, well, lots of people are running this year.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval is up for reelection for the first time since taking over the office four years ago, but he has some competition from philanthropist Jesus Villagomez Campos, human services provider Jacqueline Elizalde, attorney/engineer Mohammad H. Kamyab, and staff accountant Gustavo Ernesto Nunez.

In Council District 1, where Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez is not seeking reelection, candidates lining up for the slot are Virgilio Pico Doniza, a retired Los Angeles Unified School District employee; Geny P. Mejia, a teacher; and former Pomona City Councilmember and community attorney John Nolte.

Also up this time is Council District 4, where incumbent Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole is trying to hold on to her seat in a race with challenger Chara Nicole Swodeck, a community organizer and consultant.

And over in Council District 6, incumbent Councilmember Robert Torres is nearing the end of his first four-year term and is up for reelection with competition from former Councilmember Debra Martin, a commissioner and business owner. Also challenging Torres are Miranda Sheffield, a community activist, and Siraaj A. Muhammad, an allied health care professional.

Two seats are open this year on the Pomona Unified School District Board.

In Trustee Area No. 2, Jason Rothman, on the board since 2009, opted not to seek reelection, leaving an open seat.

Lining up to try to grab that position are Lorena Gonzalez, project coordinator, and Alfredo Camacho, who listed his occupation as healthy communities director.

And in Trustee Area No. 3, incumbent Frank Guzman is running for reelection with Arturo Jimenez, who lists his occupation as school director, challenging Guzman for the seat.

Congresswoman Norma Torres is being challenged by Westmont

resident Mike Cargile, a small businessman and filmmaker.

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez is being challenged by Toni Holle.

Up the hill at Three Valleys Municipal Water District, John Mendoza, North Pomona's representative for the past four years, is trying to hang on with two challengers – former Pomona City Councilmember Danielle Soto, a community liaison, and former Three Valleys Clerk of the Board Victoria Hahn, a strategic business partner.



Photo by Renee Barbee

POMONA POLICE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COVID-19 STYLE -- Members of the Pomona Police Department introduced the department's new command staff and four area quadrant commanders last month using Facebook Live. "Since COVID-19 doesn't seem to be going away any time soon, we decided that we would continue our community engagement effort utilizing today's technology," Chief Mike Ellis told the community in the live interactive presentation from the City Council chambers. Ellis said the department will continue to hold public area commander meetings using Facebook Live, and local "neighborhood watch" meetings using Zoom conferencing technology. Pictured is Ellis, at left, and Deputy Police Chief Christian Hsu. Others introduced included Capt. Dennis Cooper, who heads the department's investigative services unit, and Capt. Eddie Vazquez, who heads operation services.



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# Community volunteer Lorraine Canales named Pomona's 'Woman of the Year'

Long-time service club leader, community volunteer and high school counselor Lorraine Canales was named the City of Pomona's "Woman of the Year" by Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez during his virtual community honorees summer program on his Facebook page last month.

The program normally is presented each year as a backyard community barbecue outside his Chino district office but was moved to Facebook due to CO-VID-19 restrictions.

"As a lifelong Pomona resident, I have seen our community come together," Rodriguez said. "It is an honor to recognize some of the individuals who continue to make Pomona a better place. This year's woman of the year for the City of Pomona goes above and beyond for the city."

He said Canales serves as president of the Pomona Optimist Club, which is known for programs like "Tea for the Soul" for high school girls and "My future in ties" for graduating high school seniors.

He said she also helped orga-

nize the Pomona Rotary Club student of the month program and a scholarship program and helped produce the Pomona Optimist Club's annual "For the Love of Cars" fundraiser car show.

Rodriguez added that she also volunteers for Compassionate Pomona, a community-based support organization, and Helping Hands Youth and Children's Services.

"Congratulations



Guadalupe Parra-Garcia . . ... 2020 recipient of 'Everyone Loves Raymond' scholarship

**Lorraine Canales** . Pomona's 'Woman of the Year'

Lorraine Canales for representing Pomona as our 2020 Woman of the Year," Rodriguez said.

Canales thanked Rodriguez for the award.

"I am honored to receive this award to represent the beautiful City of Pomona," she said. She also thanked Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole for submitting her name nominating her for the award.

"I appreciate you for acknowl-

edging my efforts," Canales added.

Canales has been a high school counselor at Pomona's Village Academy High School for the past five years. She has served as a counselor for a total of 30 years and previously served as a counselor at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise and in Los Angeles Unified School District.

This year's non-profit of the year for Pomona was God's Pantry, which provides food for more than

1,000 families every week in addition to other services.

"God's Pantry continues to deliver relief to so many families in Pomona during this pandemic," Rodriguez said. "Thank you for putting our community first."

His Pomona small business of the year was Donahoo's Fried Chicken, which Rodriguez said has been part of Pomona since the 1970s "and is known for being one of Pomona's hidden treasures."

"Thank you for continuing to serve the City of Pomona," Rodriguez said.

This year's veteran of the year for the City of Pomona was Stefanie Boatman.

"Stefanie is active at the American legion Post 30, she loves being involved in the community and is a member of the Pomona Eagles," Rodriguez said. 2019, she was recognized as the Pomona Eagles member of the year. Congratulations to Stefanie Boatman for being Pomona's veteran of the year."

Finally, Rodriguez said he se-Community... pg. 16



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez



Stefanie Boatman . .

# Effective partnership... from pg. 4

other."

"And that can't happen if we're not a part of something bigger than ourselves, and really the chamber represents that," he said.

Manzanres thanked her board members for "your leadership, thank you for your guidance and thank you for your support."

And using a series of photos appearing on screen, she walked board members through programs of the past year including last year's installation and awards event, the annual "Holiday for Heroes" recognition of first responders, and the chamber's annual Principal for a Day program, in addition to various ribbon cuttings and grand openings.

Serving with Medina on the chamber's 2020-2021 executive board will be Vice Chairwoman Annette Limon of Mt. San Antonio College, Chief Financial Officer Jeff Keating of Western University of Health Sciences, Secretary Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, and Past President Jill Reiff of Valley Vista Services.

Other returning board members include Jim Dale of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Daniel Thomas of Forest Lawn, Kirk







Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Board, from top left clockwise, are Annette Limon, Jill Reiff, Jeff Keating and Renee Barbee.

Pelser of the City of Pomona, Luis Cetina of Metropolitan Water District, Nef Cortez of Re-Max Realty, Josh Landis of Foothill Transit, and Michael Thomas of Management Care Solutions.

Three new board members sworn

in at the event were Leo Arredondo of Uppercuts Barbershop, Daniela Franco of Metro Event Center, and Victor Caceres of the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley, who is returning to the board after three years.

# La Nueva Voz

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### World's first non-profit solar factory set to open in Pomona

What is believed to be the world's first non-profit solar panel manufacturing facility is set to open for business in the next few months as a pilot program right here in Pomona's Village at Indian Hill.

Known as CHERP – Locally Grown Power (Community Home Energy Retrofit Project), the solar panel factory – something that has been five years in the making – will ramp up quickly to begin a program of installing its product at no cost for homeowners in disadvantaged areas of Pomona and Claremont.

And as a bonus, the product is actually a safer and more efficient product than those manufactured by the "for profit" companies – products that the company claims are "the world's most advanced solar panels."

Plus CHERP will be accomplishing all of this – producing one panel every six to 10 minutes – out of a 6,000 square foot assembly floor (7,200 square feet counting the office space upstairs), according to Jason Flejter, director of manufacturing, whose duties this month still were focused on overseeing the installation of all of the equipment that will be used in the production assembly line.

He's also working on things like getting electrical certification and

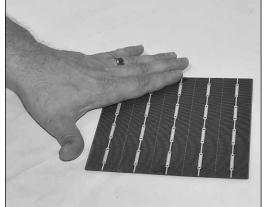
> ensuring compliance in the facility with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

> "We're basically creating a micro factory, and so we're going to prove to the world that you don't need a 50,000 or 250,000 square foot facility that's fully automated to make solar, that we can bring manufacturing back to local economies,"

he said, "and that's kind of where the 'locally grown power' came from, and bring the jobs back home."

While giving a tour of the new facility to La Nueva Voz this month, he explained that most of the huge factories producing solar panels to-

day are overseas. "I'm just ex-



Pictured is a close-up of what will be cut into four individual solar cells. A total of 60 cells will be installed on each panel.



Pictured is a laser cutter used to cut the solar cells to allow 60



Solar panels will roll out of this laminator where the layers are sealed together befor

cited to be part of this to help create jobs and teach people some manufacturing skills to job skill them up and get them back to work," said Flejter, who has been in manufacturing for more than 15 years.

One of the advantages of the CHERP solar panels is that – while they look like solar panels that are visible on rooftops everywhere – they incorporate new technology.

"Our solar panels are much more simplistic to build

and they will have some new technology where they will not have hot spots and they should be extremely efficient," Flejter said.

He explained that "hot spots" in solar panels are a known problem in the industry globally.

"When one of the cells weakens, the other cells tend to attack that cell, creating a hot spot in the panel that can get up to 400 degrees Celsius (752 degrees Fahrenheit) . . . and that will start a fire," Flejter said. "We have new technology that will not."

That technology is basically a mini-computer on a circuit board, about an eight-inch by eight-inch board that is mounted on each solar



CHERP's Jason Flejter demonstrates the size of the actual finished product by holding up a solar panel frame that will be locked into place and sealed with silicone before testing the electrical connections.

panel and is capable of eliminating that whole hot spots issue.

Then is this new "micro factory" going to be big enough to make a difference in the local energy land-scape?

"We're hoping to produce 50,000 panels a year or 15 megawatts of solar power," Fleiter said.

A typical house has 14 to 16 panels, so 50,000 panels a year would be enough for about 3,300 homes.

And a megawatt hour of electrical power, or a million watts of power per hour, is about equivalent to the amount of electricity used by about 330 homes for one hour.

Manufacturing the panels begins with the solar cells themselves

which will be divided into four on a laser cutter to allow 60 cells per panel.

The cells will be soldered together into "strings" that are placed on glass panes by automated equipment that is precise to within a millimeter.

A backing film is cut to size and added to the panel, and it goes to a soldering table where the wiring along the edges of the strings is soldered, making it possible for the cells to communicate with each other.

Then the entire package goes through a laminator using a conveyor belt to place four panels inside at

Solar factory in Pomona... pg. 8

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# Back to school... from pg. 4

"I think if the teachers had to come back to school and work from their classrooms, they would – they have the resources that they need digitally since their modernization," Pantanini said, referring to a beautiful remodeling of the "old" school two years ago. A brand new "L-shaped" two-story classroom building was constructed out back a year before that.

"Our teachers have had access to the level of 'tech' that they are experiencing and using," he said. "They did need some training on how to maximize the resources that are available."

# Teachers have jumped in 'full force'

But he said each teacher has jumped in "full force and given it a hundred and 10 percent."

"I can't thank our teachers enough for the work that they've put in on their own time developing things and the work that they're doing for their own learning and professional growth," he said. "It's far beyond what we could have expected from our teachers."

La Nueva Voz asked how the teachers would adapt when the school district begins to transition back to closer to normal, probably first through a "hybrid" model with students in the classroom half the day and at home half the day.

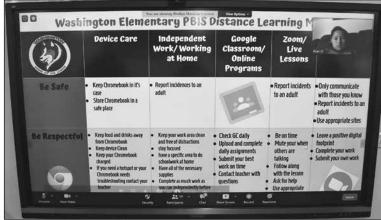
"I think they'll be able to take it to that next level even further," Pantanini said. "They will be able to not only have their students doing asynchronous assignments at home independently at their own pace but also synchronize that instruction so students can be at home while also joining in in the classroom."

This will make it possible, he

explained, for students to do group activities by linking "virtually," so "that'll be a good thing."

He added that the district's educational technology department "has done an amazing job of supfront of a child, and they will succeed."

Then what about the highergrade levels like high school? Will students be showing up in front of their computers or will that be a



Pictured is a slide showing tips for "distance learning." The slide was part of an orientation session for students on their first day back to school.

porting and providing resources for the teachers" along with "nonstop training for the teachers."

La Nueva Voz told Pantanini it looked like the kids were adapting well to the computers.

"Technology, to this generation of students, they were born with it." he said.

"It's definitely something, like they said (when the students were interviewed), it's something that they want to do to keep safe, they can find new ways to communicate with each other, they can find new ways to join the group, they are enjoying it, it keeps them engaged, and the lessons and the activities that are being provided to them is also going to help them," he said.

"So hopefully, the learning gap that everybody says we're creating is minimal because . . . if the students are motivated and encouraged to do their best, they'll try, they'll go above and beyond," he said. "You put the expectations in problem?

Pantanini said he has twin 16-year-olds who are juniors in high school.

"They woke up ready to go (on the first day of school)," he said. "They were excited."

"It's different, so it's kind of new, but as long as we do our job on our end keeping it engaging, making those personal connections, building those relationships, our students will be engaged," he said.

# Teachers need to keep expectations high

"It's when our expectations fall short of what their expectations are is when we start to lose our kids," he added. "So, we need to keep our expectations high, we need to provide them the best rigorous learning activities that we can possibly expect them to complete, and provide them that support and make ourselves available."

"If we do that, our students will

succeed," he said. "And the teachers are doing it."

"I think it's going to be a challenging year," Pantanini said. "I think we're going to have some stumbles, everybody will."

"But we're resilient, like Mr. (Supt. Richard) Martinez said, and we're going to pick ourselves up and keep moving."

Duardo, the school's resource teacher, is in her second year in Pomona after working for seven years in the Los Angeles Unified School District. A Cal State University Los Angeles graduate, she taught at a school in the El Sereno area while in Los Angeles.

How does she believe Pantanini is doing at Washington?

"He's doing a great job being our leader and I think teachers are going to see that, and it's just going to pick up right where we left off" last spring.

She doesn't believe it will be any more challenging than it was at the end of last school year – "It's just different."

Back to school... pg. 14

# Pomona Unified School Supt. Martinez says think of the 'positives' and keep everyone safe

Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez, in an open letter, called on the community to "focus on the many positive things that today's challenges are teaching us – the value of reconnecting with our friends, a renewed eagerness to resume learning, and reminding us once again about the importance of engaging with others and working to keep everyone safe."

"As is often said, it is amazing what we can accomplish when we are in it together," he said.

Martinez, referring to the CO-VID-19 restrictions, said the school district wants to "make a difference for the children and community we serve" and is ready with safety protocols and strategies to help students continue to learn.

At the top of the list, of course, the district opened the school year with "distance learning" in keeping with guidelines from public health officials.

"We have provided every student with a Chromebook (computer) to help our children learn how best to support the children.

from the safety of their homes," he said, adding that students also have been provided with backpacks.

"Our educational programs . . have been aligned to provide students with a cohesive, accessible and challenging experience, and teachers are ready and eager to reconnect with their students," he said.

"Even though we are opening with distance learning, PUSD continues to provide meals for our students," Martinez said. "We also applaud the many students, parents and community-based organizations working to help families in distress, by helping with food banks or raising money through the Pomona Community Foundation."

He said parents "have always been the first and most important teachers in our students' lives" and he said parents and caregivers – as many as 2,300 of them – have reached out to the district in record numbers through "town halls" and "webinars" to learn how best to support the children.

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# Solar factory in Pomona... from pg. 7

a time for a 15-minute process before going to the trimming table for trimming and then placement into the final frame for locking in place and sealing the edges with silicone.

The panel's electrical connections are tested, the circuit board is attached to the panel and it is tested again before the panel is stacked on racks and pallets ready for loading onto trucks heading out into the field for installation on homes.

CHERP has a start-up staff of about a half dozen people plus consultants and will be hiring up to 15 people for the manufacturing process once the company is in full production in the next four months.

When fully operational, the company also

will employ three to six two- to three-member crews for signing up homeowners and installing the panels on rooftops in Pomona and Claremont.

So not only is the production and installation handled locally creating local jobs, the company is "working diligently," Flejter said, to find as many resources they can find locally before going nationally and then internationally to make sure they purchase "as many things as we possibly can purchase domestically."

Like the idea so far? The facility is not even completed yet and Devon Hartman, CHERP, Inc., president and CEO, believes

Solar factory in Pomona... pg. 11

# Community turns out to wish World War II veteran Carl Harstine a happy 95th birthday!

It was all about "Happy 95th Birthday Carl" on Saturday, Aug. 15 – as it should have been – as dozens of well-wishers from throughout the San Gabriel Valley and beyond turned out to salute, blow their horn, hold up a birthday sign and more for Carl Harstine, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II.

Harstine, of course, is a resident of San Dimas and a well-known personality in local cities, where he devotes his time – always in dress blues complete with white gloves – at farmers' markets, Fourth of July celebrations and more.

But this time it was for him, all organized by his daughter Donna Harstine, who staged the "drive by" event at her brother's and sister-in-law's home in Glendora.

And well-wishers turned out – from the Friends of the Fourth motorcycle group leading off the

parade to classic car owners, a couple of Glendora police cars with lights going (and sometimes a siren or two), even a yellow school bus loaded with people (from Lighthouse Baptist Church in La Verne) and a garbage truck (we're not sure if the driver was invited or just out making collections, but he blew his horn and waved when he got to the front of Donna's house).

Glendora Mayor Michael Allawos even parked his white Porsche in the middle of the street to walk over, present Harstine with a certificate and pose for a handful of photographers.

Harstine himself was comfortably seated under an easy-up in the shade on a triple digit morning, and all appropriate COVID precautions were being taken to protect his health, according to his daughter who said before the event she wanted to make sure

they were "celebrating our hero in a safe and honorable way."

In an interview with La Nueva Voz that was later posted on Facebook, Harstine said he served four years during World War II in the Pacific Theater – from 1942 to 1945.

He said he went into the Marines on his 17th birthday and saw his first combat when he was 18.

"We had to keep the country Happy 95th!... pg. 21

HONORED ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY! -- U.S. Marine veteran Carl Harstine, who served four years in World War II's Pacific Theater, was honored by dozens of well wishers this month in front of his daughter's home in Glendora as a parade of cars, motorcycles, police cars and even a school bus and a trash collection truck drove by, honked horns, saluted and waved signs in a true COVID-19 style celebration. Harstine still today is often seen in full dress Marine Corps uniform at farmers' markets, Fourth of July celebrations and other community events, always ready to extend his white gloved hand to shake hands

with anyone who comes up to chat. Pictured with Harstine are Dean Parker, at left, and David Palomares, along with their mascot, Sgt. Caesar. The two, who both served in the Marine Corps in Vietnam, are part of a group that provides support to the military. Members were preparing this month for a relief mission to the Navajo Nation in New Mexico where they were planning to take medical supplies and food. For more information, contact Palomares at (626) 625-7405.



### History of Pomona decorates the walls of Tony's French Dips

Interested in the "real life" history of the City of Pomona? You don't have to look any farther than the walls of Tony's Famous French Dips in Pomona.

These aging photos and more can be seen daily and you can grab a beef dip at the same time.

(Or you might try a tuna sandwich or an egg salad on wheat, a couple of favorites among the La Nueva Voz lunch gang.)

The restaurant has been at the same location for 60 years and does a great job. If you are lucky, you might see owners Gino and Diane Elias at the back table having lunch.

Tell them La Nueva Voz sent you. The restaurant is located at 986 E. Second St., Pomona, and offers

either dine-in or take-out depend-

ing on which way the wind is blowing in the governor's office.

For information, call (909) 623-4695.

Hanging out in a 1927 Hudson police car are several names out of the past with the late Sanford Newton, of Newton Realty in Pomona, sitting up front riding shotgun.

SACRED HEART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Here's what Pomona's Todd Memorial Chapel looked like in 1907. Note the horse-drawn hearse in the foreground. The company was founded in April that year — when Pomona was still in the village stage — by Walter B. Todd. Today, fourth generation John R. Todd is running the business along with fifth generation Brian Pewe along with Keith Pewe.



The caption on this 1958 photo speaks for itself. And if you see anybody in there you recognize, let us know and we'll mention it next time. Of course, some folks still say in Pomona that if you are not related to someone who went to school at Sacred Heart, you KNOW somebody who did.

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Friends of Carl Harstine unfurl a "birthday greeting" banner for the community's favorite Marine before his birthday "parade" this month in Glendora. Pictured, from left, are La Verne Mayor Pro Tem Robin Carder, Dr. Afshin Kavian-Mehr, of Foothill Family Chiropractic in La Verne, and former La Verne Chamber of Commerce executive director Brian McNerney.





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#### Pomona's 'Rabbi Zev' remembers Congressman John Lewis

(Editor's Note: Congressman John Lewis, who died on July 17, wrote an essay that he submitted for publication on the day of his funeral to the New York Times and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. It also was published in other newspapers and on web sites around the world. Lewis, who marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in King's civil rights movement, said in his essay last month that "Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself. Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring." Pomona's own community and civil rights advocate "Rabbi Zev" submitted the following to La Nueva Voz upon Lewis' passing.)

#### By Rabbi Zev-Hayyim Feyer

I marched with John Lewis in 1982, in the 17th anniversary Selma-to-Montgomery march. When I arrived at Brown Chapel AME Church (the staging area), James Orange immediately put me in the front

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'Rabbi Zev"

row of the marchers. The next morning, my picture was on the front page just of about every newspaper in the South, marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, armin-arm with John Lewis and Coretta Scott King.

When my cousin (who lived in Jackson MS at that time) picked up his Clarion-Ledger from his front porch at about 6:30 a.m., there I was, looking at him from above the fold. He immediately phoned my mom (who also lived in Jackson then), waking her up with "Do you know what your son has done now!" My mom was not surprised.

Seven years later, I was driving from

Montgomery (where I had a speaking engagement) to Jackson to visit my mom and



Congressman John Lewis

cousins when I spun out, flipped over (at 60 mph), and went about 40 yards into a pasture, taking out a flimsy fence and a couple of saplings.

The EMTs who picked me up said that there was a hospital in the small town a few minutes away, but that they were taking me to Selma Regional Hospital, about a 45 minute drive. "It's a much better facility," they said, "but their specialty is OB-GYN."

"That's fine," I replied. "Those folks know everything there is to know about back pain."

Bottom line: The photographer who had taken the picture in 1982 was Jewish and was a volunteer at Selma Regional Hospital. He recognized me and notified the Selma Jewish community, and I had a steady stream of visitors during the four hours or so that I was there.

All that is background.

John Lewis will be remembered by history as a hero, a giant, the conscience of the Congress. He was all that, and more.

Lewis remembered... pg. 16





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### **Solar factory in** Pomona... from pg. 8

others will like it, as well, and he's already talking to people in San Bernardino County as well as in several states where there is interest in opening similar factories using the same non-profit business model and basing the factory on the pilot program in Pomona.

Some of the solar panels might actually be sold, Fleiter said, although it is too soon to project percentages. But the plan is that any profits would go back into the nonprofit.

He said he hopes to hire three or four people by the end of October, start a training process and have the entire operation up and running by the first of the year.

And the non-profit is also looking for volunteers of all ages who might be interested in coming down and learning how to make a solar panel.

The project was made possible through a collaboration of numerous agencies and organizations, although Dr. Enrique Medina, who heads the Pomona Unified School District's adult and career education program, was instrumental in bringing it to Pomona.

Solar factory in Pomona... pg. 14

# Pomona's poet laureate honored by Fox Theater with his name on the marquee

Pomona poet laureate David Judah Oliver, honored by the Fox Theater this month with his name up in lights on the theater marquee, said it all "feels like a very real lucid dream" and he is still "soaking it in."

The city's first ever poet laureate was selected by the city last year.

"It's interesting during this time of COVID and (having) everyone in the house so we can't really celebrate the way we want or continue our 'open mic' the way we would but we do what we can," Oliver told La Nueva Voz.

Oliver and his DJ Cesone produce an open mic night at 8 p.m. every Saturday night on Insta-

He said while people can't get out during COVID, the Instagram event gives people a chance to "express themselves and stay in touch and just continue the com-

Oliver said he's been working with poetry and the arts in Pomona for the past 20 years.

"I've contacted hundreds of artists, I used to own an art gallery right down the street, so we're

very active," he said. "I had poetry shows weekly, I had art shows weekly, I had classes weekly . . . so I touched on a lot of artists."

He said his poetry venue has been operating in Pomona for the past 12 years, and he said his group sent the only team to represent the Inland Empire to a national poetry competition.

"We came home with second in the nation," he said. "I took rookies with me, no one knew who they were, they know who they are now, they are the national champions."

The City of Pomona announced Oliver's selection as poet laureate in December and his two-year

term began in January.

Photos by Renee Barbee Family members and supporters join this month with David Judah Oliver, Pomona's firstever "poet laureate," as he is honored by Pomona's Fox Theater with his name on the marquee. Pictured, from left, are friends Megan Deangelo and Ryan Robinson; Oliver's mom, Donna Montgomery; "Cesone," who is Oliver's "DJ:" Oliver: friend Shimeka Arnold: and his brother Kenneth "Ken the Bar-

The concept of the new position was to honor a local poet to

increase community connection to and vitality within the art of

Pomona poet laureate David Judah Oliver's name was up in lights this

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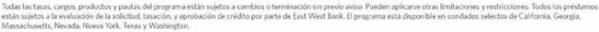
La compra de su primera propiedad puede traer múltiples preguntas y dudas. Desde nuestros inicios en el sur de California a más de 130 ubicaciones hoy en día, hemos ayudado a familias inmigrantes a alcanzar sus metas y sueños. Nuestros especialistas en préstamos le proporcionarán las opciones de financiamiento de acuerdo a sus necesidades.

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# 'THE CARGILE PLAN' -- AN ORIGINAL IMMIGRATION PLAN THAT WORKS!

I believe I may have the best (and maybe the only) plan to solve the immigration crisis in our country. This plan will quickly solve the issues surrounding DACA, Asylum Seekers and Guest Workers. My approach to immigration is rooted in two things: the Bible and the Law. Almost every issue plaguing our country at this moment can be solved with the simple Biblical principle "Treat others the way you want to be treated." If I had been born in another country and saw what the United States offered in terms of freedom and opportunity, I would have done everything in my power to get here and make that available for myself and my family.

Rather than deal with immigration strictly through immigration laws, we should view the issue at hand as a contract...an unwritten contract. For decades, there has been an unwritten agreement between the United States and the rest of the world that if you can just get here and assimilate into the fabric of our society, we will not enforce our immigration laws against you. How do we know this agreement exists? By the simple fact that millions and millions of undocumented immigrants uprooted their families, came here and did just that!



But now, we're changing the terms of the agreement. With the building of the wall, we're telling the world that we're operating under a new agreement. From this time forward, we will enforce our immigration laws and you must use our designated ports of entry to enter into the United States. So where does this leave those who relied on the old agreement? Those who are now on this side of the wall? Enter... The Cargile Plan.

In summary, upon completion of the wall, all non-citizens residing within the continental United States will have a three-year period to begin filing for citizenship. Every available federal resource will be allocated to expediting this process. This will be a ONE TIME offer. If you fail to begin the process within that three-year period, you missed out on this opportunity. If you are a convicted felon and have abused your time in the United States, this offer is not available to you. However, if you have lived and worked in the United States, paid your taxes and obeyed our laws, you will have a once in a lifetime opportunity to become a citizen of the United States. To see more of the details of this plan, please visit the website at www.cargileforcongress.com.

If this plan makes sense to you, then please give me the opportunity to try and make it a reality. Please elect me as your Representative to Congress for the next two years. If I cannot make meaningful changes for our communities in that time, I will step aside and help find someone who can. You have my word.

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#### MIKE CARGILE ... 'THE FAMILY MAN'

I am an Army veteran, small businessman and filmmaker, a father and a Christian. I see a great potential for the people of our district. However, poor leadership has forced many Californians to lose hope; thousands are leaving California because of crime and gang ridden streets, no jobs, high taxes, and closed schools. We deserve better. The vision I have for our area will make our community the place people want to come to, not leave. My wife was born at the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. This is our home. This is where we raised our kids. We have invested our lives here. Our church family is here. I want everyone to feel safe and secure. I want every parent to have schools that are ready to teach our children. As violent mobs torch and destroy our country, we need to assess years of failed leadership. Opponents of free speech attack anyone they disagree with as being "racist." The radicals that burn, loot, and murder also demand that no police will come to your aid. Some will cancel your heritage and freedom because it doesn't matter to them. Your security is important to me. Your God-given rights are not negotiable. This election may be the most important decision you will ever make. This is the time for choosing. Will it be freedom and opportunity or fear and hate? I am asking you to allow me to serve our community for the next two years as your Representative in Congress.

### 'EL PLAN CARGILE' - IUN PLAN ORIGINAL DE MIGRACION QUE FUNCIONA!

Yo creo que yo tengo el mejor (y quizás el único) plan para resolver la crisis migratoria en nuestro país. Este plan podrá solucionar rápidamente los problemas asociados con DACA, solicitantes para asilo y trabajadores temporales. Mi propuesta para inmigración está arraigada en dos cosas: la Biblia y la Ley. Casi todo problema afectando nuestro país en este momento podría ser solucionado con un básico principio Bíblico "Tratar a otros como deseas ser tratado." Si yo hubiese nacido en otro país y observara yo lo que los Estados Unidos ofrece con respecto a la libertad y la oportunidad, yo hubiera hecho todo lo posible para llegar aquí y lograrlo para mí y para mi familia.

Antes de intentar hacer frente a la inmigración precisamente a través de leyes migratoria, debemos visualizar los asuntos en cuestión como un contrato...un contrato no redactado. Por décadas, existe un acuerdo sin redacción entre los Estados Unidos y el resto del mundo que si solamente logras llegar aquí y asimilarte con la estructura de nuestra sociedad, no implementaremos nuestras leyes migratorias contra ti. ¿Como

sabemos que este acuerdo existe? Por el simple hecho de que millones y millones de inmigrantes indocumentado desarraigaron a sus familias, llegaron aquí, e hicieron exactamente eso!

Pero ahora, estamos cambiando las condiciones del acuerdo. Con la edificación de un muro, le damos a entender al mundo que estamos operando bajo un nuevo acuerdo. Desde este momento en adelante, impondremos nuestras leyes migratorias y tendrán que usar nuestros puertos designados para entrar a los Estados Unidos. Entonces, ¿en donde quedan aquellos que dependían del viejo acuerdo? ¿Aquellos que ahora se encuentran de este lado del muro? Presentando... El Plan Cargile.

En resumen, al terminarse lel muro, todos los que no son ciudadanos que residen dentro de los Estados Unidos continentales tendrán un período de tres años para empezar sus trámites para la ciudadanía. Todos los recursos federales disponibles serán asignados para apresurar este proceso. Esto será una propuesta única. Si no cumples en empezar el proceso dentro de ese periodo

de tres años, has perdido esta oportunidad. Si eres un delincuente convicto y has abusado de tu tiempo en los Estados Unidos, esta propuesta no está disponible para ti. Sin embargo, si has vivido o trabajado en los Estados Unidos, has pagado tus impuestos y has obedecido nuestras leyes, tendrás una oportunidad que solamente se da una vez en la vida para convertirte en un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos. Para ver más detalles sobre este plan, favor de visitar el sitio Web en www.cargileforcongress.com.

Si este plan tiene sentido para ti, entonces dame la oportunidad para intentarlo y hacer de ello un realidad. Por favor elígeme a mi como tu Representante al Congreso para los próximos dos años. Si yo no puedo hacer cambios significativos para nuestras comunidades en ese tiempo, yo me hago a un lado y ayudo a busca a alguien que pueda. Tú tienes mi palabra.

# MIKE CARGILE WWW.CARGILEFORCONGRESS.COM

# MIKE CARGILE ... 'HOMBRE DE FAMILIA'

Soy un veterano del ejército, un comerciante, y productor de cine, padre y un Cristiano. Veo gran potencial para la gente de nuestro distrito. Sin embargo, el mediocre liderazgo ha obligado a los Californianos a perder sus esperanzas; miles están dejando California a causa del crimen y las pandillas, no hay trabajos, altos impuestos, y escuelas cerradas. Nosotros nos merecemos algo mejor. La visión que yo tengo para nuestra área hará de nuestra comunidad el lugar donde la gente desee venir, no dejar. Mi esposa nació en el Hospital Medico del Valle de Pomona. Aquí es nuestro hogar. Aquí es donde hemos criado a nuestros hijos. Hemos invertido nuestras vidas aquí. Nuestra familia de la fé esta aquí. Yo deseo que todos se sientan confiados y seguros. Yo quiero que todo padre tenga escuelas que estén preparadas para enseñar a nuestros hijos. Mientras que violentas multitudes queman y destruyen nuestro país, debemos de evaluar los muchos años del pobre liderazgo. Los oponentes de la libre expresión atacan de racista a cualquiera que esté en desacuerdo con ellos. Los extremistas que queman, roban, y asesinan también demandan que los policías no vengan a auxiliarte. Algunos cancelan tu ascendencia y tu libertad porque a ellos no les importa. Tu seguridad es importante para mí. Tus derechos dados por Dios no son negociables. Esta elección quizás sea la más importante decisión que jamás hayas hecho. Es el momento de elegir. ¿Será la libertad y la oportunidad o será el temor y el odio? Yo te pido que me permitas servir a la comunidad por los próximos dos años como tu Representante en el Congreso.





OBSERVING KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE AGREEMENT -- Pomona's American Legion Post 30 last month observed in a virtual on-line event the Korean War Armistice Agreement, signed on July 27, 1953, which was designed to "ensure a complete cessation of hostilities and of all acts of armed force in Korea until a final peaceful settlement is achieved." Post Commander Roberto Arnold said the "forgotten war," which started in 1950, "took an effect and definitely changed the course of American life." He said his father was a U.S. Air Force veteran who served in the Korean War. Pictured at the podium is Arnold with members of Post 30's color guard behind him, led by Post 30 Second Vice Commander Robert Radcliff, at left. While Post 30 has several members who are veterans of the Korean War, they were unable to attend due to COVID-19 concerns.

Send your news tips to: reneebarbee7@gmail.com



NATIONAL DAY OF RECOGNITION -- Amer ican Legion Post 30 Adjutant Stefanie Boatman, pictured, told an on-line audience last month that President Bill Clinton proclaimed July 27 a national day of recognition to "honor and give thanks to our distinguished Korean War veterans." She said Clinton's action came in 1998 on the 45th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement. Boatman also pointed out that the Korean War was the turning point for women in the military, explaining that more than a third of the women serving were health care providers for those injured as the death toll moved upwards of 50.000. Some of the injuries to veterans resulting later from radiation exposure were not always recognized by the federal government at the time. "I'm proud to say now all the Korean veterans are well taken care of and well looked after." Boatman said.

# Solar factory in Pomona... from pg. 11

According to CHERP's web site, its mission is "to extend the reach of renewable energy to economically disadvantaged communities."

"We're dedicated to creating green-sector jobs – particularly for those with barriers to entry in the workforce," the web site continued. "We aim to stimulate local economies, pursue environmental justice and achieve greenhouse gas reductions"

According to CHERP, the installation of 6,000 solar systems will save households \$6.5 million every year and the monthly savings – which becomes an increase in disposable personal income – will increase city revenues by 12 percent.

The panels are projected to last more than 25 years.

For more information for both volunteers and donors, visit the web site at www.cherp.net or contact Megan Anderson at (715) 308-1277.





# Get to know Debra

- Pomona Resident for 35 years
- Pomona Business Owner 20 Years
- Pomona City Commissioner 20 Years
- Elected Pomona City Council Member
- Elected LACDP Member
- President of the Pomona Valley Dem Club
- County Oversight Commissioner
- Congressional Women of the Year Award
- Community Achievement Award
- PUSD Community Merit Award

# **Experience Matters**

Website: debramartinforcouncil.com

Paid for by Debra Martin for City Council 2020 I.D. #1421994

# Back to school... from pg. 8

And how does Pomona compare to schools in El Sereno?

She acknowledged the two areas are similar kinds of neighborhoods, "but you can tell this community is very close knit."

Plus, she said she was at a smaller school before coming to Washington, which she said is "huge" and has "so many students to cover and families to support, but it's a family."

"And even the teachers, they will tell you every day that they feel like a family here," Duardo added.

In addition, she said, some districts are bigger and harder to "navigate."

But when she joined Pomona Unified, she felt like she met everyone and knows who to go to and where to access resources.

And in a COVID-19 pandemic environment for education, those resources will be more important than ever.

# Nearly 200 cars join communitywide 'witness' for Black Lives Matter

Nearly 200 cars lined up at Pomona's Village at Indian Hill last month before taking off on a 16-mile-long slow-paced Saturday drive through Pomona, Claremont and La Verne in a motorcade in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Organizer Karen Vance, of the Claremont Quakers, told La Nueva Voz before the start of the motorcade that the event was a "faith witness that turned into a comon the east

Groups on board for the event include the Pomona Valley branch of the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women, representatives of historically Black churches and

Among those participating were State Senators Connie Leyva and Anthony Portantino, along with two Claremont city councilmembers and Pomona's own City Councilmember



Some of the elected officials participating in last month's Black Lives Matter motorcade are, from left, Claremont City Councilmembers Ed Reece and Jed Leano, State Sen. Connie Leyva, former Claremont City Councilmember Sam Pedroza, and State Sen, Anthony Portantino,

munitywide witness for Black Lives Mat- Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole. ter."

(She explained the term "witness" has a slightly different meaning than in some Evangelical Christian denominations where it refers to approaching someone outside of the church to discuss religion. Among Quakers, however, Vance said it means "we stand and witness to see it," a "Quaker word" she said goes back to 1500.)

Vance, a recently-retired long-time elementary school teacher, said originally only 40 to 50 groups were invited but interest grew to include faith-based groups, community groups and organizations and individuals and families – some from as far away as Pasadena on the west and Fontana

Then what did the huge response mean to organizers of the event?

"It means there's a lot of love out there," said Vance, who added she had a "leading" or a "call" to have what she described as a COVID-safe Black Lives Matter motorcade.

"It was supposed to be little and we put out invitations and it grew really big," she said.

With all the recent Black Lives Matter demonstrations in recent months in Pomona and nationwide. La Nueva Voz asked Vance how this one was different.

"This is a witness, not necessarily a demonstration, it is a faith witness to the spirit of

Black Lives Matter... pg. 23



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### Former Councilmember Danielle Soto challenging incumbent John Mendoza in Three Valleys water board race

Former Pomona City Councilmember Danielle Soto has announced her candidacy for the Three Valleys Municipal Water District board, challenging incumbent John Mendoza who she said has not brought change but has "shown to be a 'rubber stamp' for others' agendas."

The board position, which represents North Pomona, is one of two Pomona seats on the Three Valleys Board.

"John voted in favor of the Cadiz Water Project, a shady water deal that is looking to steal 65 billion gallons of water per year from underneath a national monument," Soto said "This deal was so alarming that the state legislature took it upon them to craft and pass Senate Bill 307 in order to have state agencies to assess the project and the damage it would cause to springs and desert wildlife."

Even more alarming, she added, the Trump administration keeps weakening state environmental authority in order for projects like these to go through.

"This means such a project could come back down to the local level where it will be up to water board members to vote 'no' on giving business to such projects," Soto said.

She said water boards should act as "water stewards" to protect a precious resource for generations to come.

"Stealing an unsustainable resource that will jeopardize desert wildlife is not the answer," she said. "California already knows the answer to supplying water conservation, proper ground water management and investing in reuse."

Quality of life... from pg. 4

mona Vision 2030 holds the promise of empowering and transforming communities in Pomona and throughout the region," said Cal Poly President Soraya Coley. "A critical component of Pomona Vision 2030 is our collective efforts to strengthen the pipeline from high school to success in college

"We look forward to building

She said she respects time and effort Mendoza has spent serving on the board but is attempting to "differentiate myself as a candidate for the same seat."

Soto also said she has heard "great things" about

Victoria Hahn who is also running for the same seat on the board.

In another area, Soto said she sees opportunities "to increase public access and transparency to the water board."

"While many other levels of government have made improvements, water boards have been lagging behind," she said, adding that she has many ideas of "bringing forth Three Valleys to be more focused on public engagement and education regarding water conservation."

Soto is the granddaughter of two pioneering California Latino legislators, the late Phil and Nell Soto.

After graduating from UC Santa Cruz with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies, and inspired by her grandparents' lifetime of dedication to public service. Soto sought to continue the good work her grandparents accomplished over the years.

She served on the Pomona City Council from 2008 to 2012 representing the first district, the same position her grandmother held for 12 years before going on to a distinguished career in the California

on our partnerships with Pomona Unified School District, Bright Prospect, Fairplex and others in expanding opportunity for students and families in Pomona."

Community members and organizations interested in becoming involved in the planning process may contact Natalie Chaidez at chaidez@fairplex.com for more information.

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She also worked on obtaining more than \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Energy's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for energy efficient streetlights.

legislature.

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For nearly 11 years, she has worked on staff at the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Southern California's four-county air pollution control agency, as a senior public information specialist conducting community education and engagement for the

She is a Historical Society of Pomona Valley board member and a former appointed member of the Pomona Community Life Commission.

lects a Garey High School student each year to receive the "Everyone Loves Raymond" scholarship that he created in honor of Raymond Garcia, a Garey High School student who passed away in 2007.

"Raymond's mother, Loretta Garcia, is proud that this scholarship provides a student with the

**Latino Roundtable Cesar Chavez** 'breakfast' to go 'virtual' next month

March 31 and the 16th annual Latino and Latina Roundtable Cesar Chavez breakfast was canceled but it will be held "virtually" next month as the organization adapts to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Roundtable officials made the announcement this month and said they would provide an Eventbrite link for tickets and a "streaming" link for viewing as soon as they are available.

La Nueva Voz will share both on various social media sites as

Honorees will include NAACP Pomona Valley Branch President Jeanette Ellis-Royston, Roundtable board member and housing rights attorney John Nolte, and

Cesar Chavez day was on United Farmworkers Union President Teresa Romero, the first Latina and first immigrant woman to become president of a national union in the United States.

> Community members are honored each year for contributions to the community that mirror the values of labor leader and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez.

The virtual "breakfast" is scheduled for 9 a.m. Sept. 25.

Tickets and tables previously purchased will be honored for the new date.

Cesar Chavez Day was proclaimed a federal commemorative holiday by President Obama in 2014.

For more information, contact the Roundtable at (909) 480-6267.

# Lewis remembered... from pg. 10

To me, however, he was, above all, a mensch (Yiddish for "a person of integrity and honor"). I visited his office numerous times. He always welcomed me, even though I was not his constituent. And -- here is how I especially remember him -- when we sat in his office chatting, he wasn't doing anything else at the time.

That's not a small thing. Almost everyone, when they are engaged in almost any activity, has part of their mind on other

Community... from pg. 6 opportunity to continue their education," he added. "She knows

that he also would be going to college." This year's scholarship recipient was Guadalupe Parra-Garcia, who is attending Cal Poly Univer-

sity Pomona this fall and plans to

that if Raymond was still alive

things -- How much longer? What will I be having for dinner? What other appointments/dates/ commitments do I have today? How did my football/baseball/ basketball team do today? Will it rain tomorrow? Not John Lewis. When we met, he was completely

I doubt he could have accomplished all the heroic things he did without having somehow mastered that one-pointed concentration.

major in business.

"She is a student athlete who is determined to prosper and give back to her family and community," Rodriguez said.

"Congratulations to all our nominees and winners," he said. "Thank you for the difference you make in Pomona."



Donahoo's named 'small business of the year



God's Pantry named 'non-profit of the year

# Archdiocese gives Pomona's St. Madeleine Catholic School a good report card, targets school for growth effort

Pomona's St. Madeleine Catholic School – based on the level of education it is providing its students – has been targeted by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, San Gabriel Pastoral Region, as one of only three Eastern Los Angeles County Catholic schools with the potential to grow and even better serve its community – and the Archdiocese has sent in two community outreach



Richard Soto

consultants to help.

In essence, the Archdiocese Pastoral Region is saying "what a great opportunity they have for their children literally in their back yard that will give them a higher education," Richard Soto, one of the consultants, told La Nueva Voz.

"I've seen their enthusiasm and (their) showing what they can do for this community is amazing, and I'm hoping with our help and as a team we can build the school where it should be," he added.

The program incorporating the new "grass roots" marketing team, which is being funded by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, San Gabriel Pastoral Region, through Bishop David O'Connell, currently is still in its first month at St. Madeleine, a pre-kindergarten through fifth grade school. Soto said the other two schools are located nearby in the East San Gabriel Valley.

He explained he and Cassandra Rangle were given the assignment by Bishop O'Connell to cultivate relationships within the community and make families aware of the advantages and opportunities of a faith-filled education based on excellence.

In many instances, he said, families rule out Catholic schools because they believe they are expensive. That concerns the Archdiocese, according to a school spokesperson, because small, private Catholic schools in the region

originally were designed to serve, among others, the lower income and immigrant populations which often are underserved.

"But there is help to bring these families in to get not only religion but a higher education," Soto said, adding that the Archdiocese Pastoral Region sees both the potential and the need in the community and, perhaps more significantly, it sees what

St. Madeleine can do.

"You see . . . their drive and they (the Archdiocese) want them to excel," he said.

The school's success, he said, is a result of the dedication of everybody from the teachers to Principal Maria Irma Jimenez, who is beginning her seventh year at the school.

He said everyone there works long hours – "they really want their kids to have the best of the best."

Soto, a former business owner, has worked with the Archdiocese for the past eight years, while Rangle has worked for Catholic schools as a religious education instructor.



Cassandra Rangle

How long will the program continue?

"As long as they need us," Soto said.

"To receive the marketing support and hear the encouraging word of our Regional Bishop is a daily blessing," Jimenez said. "We are honored to work in collaboration with his team, staying faithful and focused on our mission to bring Catholic education to the children of Pomona."

St. Madeleine Catholic School is located at 935 E. Kingsley Ave., Pomona. For more information, contact the school at (909) 623-9602 or visit the web site at www.stmadeleineschool.org.



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS -- New Board members were installed this month at House of Wings in La Verne for Unit 30 of the American Legion Auxiliary, affiliated with Pomona's Post 30 American Legion. Pictured, from left, are Shawna Nelson, first vice president; Rachel Melendez-Lydick, secretary; Bunny Sanchez, president; and installing officer Judie Tabacchi, first vice president for District 18 of the American Legion Auxiliary. Not pictured is Cristina Reynoso, who will remain on the board as treasurer. Tabacchi told the new officers they should "always remember that the welfare and success of this unit depends on you." And she reminded them of the obligation that every Auxiliary member assumes -- "the obligation of preserving the integrity of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary ... (and) the ideals of justice, freedom, democracy and loyalty."

### 47th annual 'Walk for the Hungry' to go 'virtual'

Inland Valley Hope Partners will hold this year's 47th annual "Walk for the Hungry and Homeless" a virtual event this year due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.

The event - in which partici-

pants can walk, run, skip, hop and bike anywhere – will be held from Sept. 12 – 20.

Supporters will once again be able to create teams and fundraise, and on-line donations are now open on the web site. Pledge forms can be downloaded at www. inlandvalleyhopepartners.org.

Photos and videos can be shared with IVHP on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by tagging @inlandvalleyhopepartners and using

Walk for the Hungry... pg. 20



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You see, your strategy is destroying the very tax base that insures your salaries, benefits, and pensions. Every time you instruct your puppets to raise taxes, it causes more and more businesses, their employees and families to move out of the state. This is not good for you. Let me give you a small example. Your governor single-handedly ran Elon Musk and his car manufacturing company, Tesla, out of this state. Now, I know what you're thinking – "So what? That means less cars on the freeway and cleaner air for me." Maybe so, but with Tesla also goes its over 10,000 employees, their \$1.5 billion in taxable income, over \$1 billion in sales taxes and hundreds of millions of dollars in property taxes and other fees, most of which would have ended up in your pockets.

In order to save your tax base, you must change your strategy. Stop bankrolling these business-ignorant, anti-business Democrats into the state legislature. All they know is how to raise taxes. Start bankrolling business-savvy entrepreneurs and business owners into the state legislature. They know how to generate taxes. You see, there's a big difference between raising taxes and generating taxes. Raising taxes is a simpleton's method of funding the government. Generating taxes requires a higher level of education in how an economy functions. A successful economy and tax base calls for attracting businesses, creating jobs, manufacturing products, and the buying and selling of things all of which create a dependable tax base for your support.

Take a good look at what you see happening around you. Your Democrat governor just torched our economy by putting 7 million people out of work, and now your business-ignorant legislature is getting ready to pour gasoline on the flames of this economic catastrophe by "finding new sources of revenue." Well, let me tell you something — there's no such thing as a new source of revenue. There's always been only one source of revenue — me, the taxpayer. Let them raise taxes again and you'll run off more businesses, their employees, their families and their billions of tax dollars, further eroding your tax base.

It gets worse. Many economists already are predicting that of the 7 million unemployed Californians, 5 percent or more will not get rehired. That's at least 350,000 people who will be permanently without a way to make a living. And since your legislature has made California such a business-unfriendly state, no business owner in his right mind will move here to hire all of these people. That means that they too will all have to move out of California, taking with them many more billions of dollars in taxable income, sales taxes, property taxes and most likely leaving behind about 300,000 vacant homes that will have to be repossessed. This can cause another economic collapse just like you're seeing now.

Please, heed this warning. You must start placing the right kind of people into our state legislature. They can be found among the Independents, the Tea Party and the Republicans, but you will not find one among your hand-picked California Democrats. Keep doing what you're doing and you're going to keep killing off your tax base and the goose that's been laying your golden eggs to support you. In fact, keep on doing what you're doing and you're not only going to kill off the goose, you're going to kill off the whole damned flock!

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Ray Moors raymoors1@verizon.net

### Water industry veteran Victoria Hahn seeks Three Valleys water board seat

Victoria Hahn, whose career in the water industry in the East San Gabriel Valley began in 1992, has announced her candidacy in the Nov. 3 election for Division 6 board member (North Pomona) at Three Valleys Municipal Water District, and has called on voters to both vote and complete the U.S. Census.

"First, vote," she said. "It is important, critical and your one chance for another four years to have your voice heard in several very important races."

Second, she encouraged Pomona residents to complete the Census despite possible fear among some undocumented residents.

"Be assured addresses are not being included in the data, only numbers by category," she said. "Without the data from everyone, we will not have accurate information in Pomona to provide adequate services."

Hahn is running for the water board seat against two other candidates – John Mendoza, who currently holds the office, and former Pomona City Councilmember Danielle Soto.

Her career in California began supporting the senior executives of JJ Newberry's before joining the staff of Golden State Water Company, a water retailer that serves more than one million customers throughout California.

She went to work at Three Valleys in 2008 where she served in a variety of capacities including Clerk of the Board. She stepped down from her position after 12 years, making her eligible to run for the water board seat.

"It is incumbent upon each voter to be informed," she said. "I am committed to educating voters on the world of California water, and I will look for and evaluate opportunities to bring additional regional water resources that will benefit the Pomona area."

She said that during her time at Three Valleys, she was directly responsible for helping to introduce solutions that set Three Valleys apart from its peer member agencies by applying for and being awarded the District of Distinction and Transparency Certificate of Excellence.

Hahn was given the green light by the board of directors and the general manager and, in 2014, Three Valleys was awarded this certification and has been recertified every two years since.

As part of this process, each board member and key leadership were required to participate in six hours of independent governance leadership training through the Special District Leadership Foundation.

"This is in addition to the biennial ethics and workplace harassment prevention training that is required



Victoria Hahn

each vear," she said.

Based on her education in public administration, she also was able to become a Certified Municipal Clerk, a designation awarded by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Hahn has lived in Pomona with her husband since relocating here from Oklahoma City in 1987.

Her campaign web site is available at www.hahn4waterboard.com.

Three Valleys Municipal Water District is a supplemental water wholesaler providing some of the local water supply to Pomona and 12 other member agencies.

# Community leader, businessman and volunteer Arturo Jimenez announces candidacy for Pomona school board

Arturo Jimenez, a 43-year resident of Pomona who is a former Pomona Planning Commissioner and president and founder of Laguna Technical College in Downtown Pomona, has announced his candidacy for Pomona Unified School District board member.

Jimenez is challenging incumbent Frank Guzman for the Trustee Area No. 3 seat on the board.

He said he's running for school board "because I know that PUSD can be a school district that truly works for everyone – for all our students and all our working families – and I want to do what I can to make sure that happens," he said. "I believe that our community deserves an effective school district, an efficient government that's open, accountable, transparent and genuinely responsive to the needs of its people."

He added that to become that kind of school district, Pomona Unified "needs innovative ideas developed and implemented through strong collaboration among our institutions and community members."

Jimenez came to Pomona with his family at the age of 10 from San Diego. He and his wife Monica Medina are raising their four children here – a Cal Poly University Pomona student and three others still attending schools in PUSD.

"My wife and I have built a business here, a technical college that readies adults for meaningful jobs," he said. "And my wife is an elementary school teacher here."

He is a self-described parent, business owner and 30-year advocate for quality education and fiscal accountability who will work to ensure facilities and staff training for safer schools, career education and life skill classes to prepare students for 21st century jobs, and improved academic achievement.

Jimenez also said he is an advocate for respectful classroom behavior and anti-bullying programs, access to mental health, decreased dropout rates and increased percentages of students attending college.

And he will work for innovative educational programs focusing on science, technology and the arts, improved communication with parents and increased computer and

internet accessibility.

"As owner of a technical college, I understand the importance of providing opportunities to students as they explore and pursue college and career paths," Jimenez said. "Providing support for every child from cradle to career is my goal."

Laguna Technical College is a state-approved school with a mission to serve and build a stronger Pomona Community and to contribute to strengthen the educational standards of the early childhood centers it serves.

Laguna Tech's educational team is entering its 18th year and has trained more than 5,000 individuals. It has been accredited by the Better Business Bureau since 2009 and has earned an A+ rating.

Jimenez is past president of the Pomona Valley Democratic Club,



Arturo Jimenez

past treasurer of the Pomona Public Library Foundation, current City of Pomona Community Life Commissioner and served on the Pomona Planning Commission as member, chairman and vice-chairman for more than nine years.

He is past president of the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pomona Valley, a member of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Pomona Valley, a member of the Pomona Valley Branch of the NAACP, a member of the Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, a member of the Knights of Columbus and he holds a lifetime membership at the Historical Society of Pomona Valley.

He has won nearly two dozen professional and community service awards.

For more information, contact Jimenez at artjimenez@verizon.net.

SUPERVISOR SOLIS FOOD GIVE-AWAY

-- Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis -- on the same day she appeared on national television "virtually" participating in the Democratic National Convention to endorse Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden -- sponsored a drive-through regional food and diaper give-away last week -- in conjunction with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and the City of Pomona -- on the grounds of Pomona's Fairplex. Solis told a national viewing audience watching the convention that it was Biden who administered her oath of office as Secretary of Labor in the Obama administration. Pictured are volunteers lining up to place boxes and bags in the trunks of cars



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#### SAFETY FIRST By Jose Bermudez, Certified Safety Professional

### **Underground digging protocol**

Digging into soil whether on your property, or onto client property as a contractor, can be a risky proposition when digging begins without notifying and obtaining assistance from the respective authority in your state. This is due to the utility lines: gas, water, sewer, electric utility pipelines that may be located below the property. Within the U.S. for any state, and in the Canadian provinces, the phone number to call is 811 or click on http://call811.com/before-you-dig to find out what is required in your state. In Southern California, and Northern California, it is 811 or online at https://www.digalert.org/

Routinely, the steps to take are:

- Pre-mark or outline the proposed dig area using white paint or flags
- Contact 811 in California or in any state - on the phone before you dig
- Wait the required time until all operators in the affected area have provided a positive response
  - Respect the marks
  - Dig with care

When you call, the one-call center will collect information about the location of your intended dig and then contact the companies that may operate underground facilities in that location, including facilities such as hazardous liquid and natural gas pipelines, telecommunications systems, electrical utilities, and sewer and water pipelines. Those companies must, by law, determine if their facilities could be affected by your excavation. If so, they must visit the excavation site and mark the exact location of their facilities with flags or paint. State laws specify how much time they are given to perform these actions and, thus, how far in advance you must call before digging.

Utility companies, when responding to the 811 call center, generally utilize the following marking colors: white (proposed excavation), pink (temporary survey markings), red (electric lines and lighting cables), yellow (gas, oil, petroleum and stem lines), orange (communication lines, cables or alarm signals), blue (potable water), purple (reclaimed water or irrigation lines) and green (sewer and drain lines). (Source: U.S. Department of Transportation).

The ground you walk, drive and play on every day covers an unbelievable amount of underground utility lines. According to data compiled by CGA (Common Ground Alliance) from various industry groups, there are more than 20 million miles of underground utility lines in the U.S. This figure amounts to more than one football field (105 vards) of lines below ground for every man, women, and child in the country. You can understand why it is very important that you contact 811 to determine what is below ground. It is better to be prepared and safe than sorry and suffer the dangerous and costly consequences.

Editor's Note: Jose Bermudez, a safety professional for nearly 40 years, has worked as a consultant and a regional safety and health manager for colleges, hospitals and an environmental engineering consulting firm, working for companies such as General Electric, Waste Management, Inc. and Quaker Oats. He received the designation of Certified Safety Professional from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. His column is presented as a public service. He can be contacted at jsbrmdz8@ gmail.com.

### Reliable Help Wanted! Cleaning houses, offices

Reliable workers wanted for full- or part-time work Monday through Friday.

Immediate positions are available!

Must be honest, healthy, dependable and neat in appearance.

Work sites are in and around Upland, Claremont and Chino. Transportation provided to job site.

Company provides cleaning services for offices and houses. Clients include real estate agents and property management companies.

Call Robin for details at (909) 418-4388.

# Cal Poly cancels pumpkin festival but pumpkins still to go on sale!

Cal Poly University Pomona is canceling its annual pumpkin festival scheduled for this fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic – but the pumpkins still will be on sale!

Festival organizers are growing the pumpkins at Cal Poly's Spadra farm and will make them available for sale to both individuals and, in bulk, to groups.

"New this year, we are growing organic pie pumpkins for all of you who have rediscovered your kitchen during the lockdown," said festival director Craig Wal-

Organizers are still working out the details about how the public can come on to campus to pick out and buy pumpkins.

In addition, they plan to share

recipes for pumpkin pie, pumpkin bread and pumpkin soup and will hold a series of "virtual" contests, activities and live broadcasts, including a pumpkin carving con-

Details will be posted on the festival's website. Facebook page. Instagram account and e-mail list.

"We welcome your input and ideas to make this a fun but safe October," Walters said.

The festival had its origins more than 25 years ago as a humble pumpkin patch and became a weekend fair that attracted thousands from across Southern California

For more information, visit the web site at www.cpp. edu/~pumpkinfestival/.

# Walk for the Hungry... from pg. 17

the hashtag #walkforthehungryandhomeless.

Inland Valley Hope Partners has been serving low-income families and individuals and homeless residents of eastern Los Angeles County and western San Bernardino County for the past 50 years, providing food, shelter and other services to more than 75,000 men, women and children each year.

For more information, contact Autumn Washington at (909) 622-3806, ext. 105.

#### Please visit our web site at www.lanuevavoz.net

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

### **HOUSE OF RUTH**

Abused by your partner and need help? 24-hour hotline:

(909) 988-5559 or toll free at (877) 988-5559

Feeding the Hungry, Sheltering the Homeless

Grocery Distribution at 209 W. Pearl St. Pomona

Volunteering: 909-622-3806

www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

**Pomona Public Library Hours** Mon., Tues., Wed. Thurs.: 1 to 7 p.m.

> Sat.: Noon to 5 p.m.

> > Fri., Sun.: Closed

# Save the date!

The Historical Society of Pomona Valley has scheduled a "Zoom" fundraiser to "SAVE THE EBELL" for Tuesday, Sept. 29.

> Time, information on obtaining Zoom links and other details will be announced later.

For more details, visit the website at pomonahistorical.org.



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# Pomona Valley Hospital awarded \$15 million grant to build upgraded pediatric inpatient unit

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center has been awarded a \$15 million grant from the California Health Facilities Financing Authority to expand access to vital healthcare services for pediatric patients across the region.

The hospital will use the grant to build a new state-of-the-art 15-bed pediatric inpatient unit which is expected to be completed by December 2022.

The unit will replace the hospital's current 34-bed pediatric unit which, while offering fewer beds, will have an improved layout allowing safer and more modernized and efficient care in primarily private rooms.

It will continue to be staffed by pediatric hospitalists (staff physicians at the hospital) and neonatologists through an affiliation with Children's Hospital of Orange County.

"Our new unit will allow for pediatric patients to receive the in-hospital care they need without leaving the comfort of their community," said hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum. "This advancement supports our hospital's mission to provide evidence-based, family-centered care, close to home."

Michele Atkins-Young, RN, the

hospital's director of children's services, told La Nueva Voz that while the hospital currently is licensed for 34 beds, it has only seven rooms (the new unit will have nine plus three semi-private rooms), which means there can be a shortage of private rooms.

She said this can present a challenge to be sharing a room with other patients when the child needs to have mom and dad in the room.

The new plan will provide children an area in their own room with privacy and state-of-the-art equipment "where we can have the best of the best."

She explained her average daily census doesn't mean she is stacking kids in there "but I would like to improve access" to prevent sending patients out of the community.

"I want to be able to offer them a higher level of care in this new unit," she said. "And that's how I'm going to be able to pull more patients into our unit," essentially by better utilizing what they have.

Atkins-Young has worked as a registered nurse for 38 years, all in neonatal, pediatric and maternity, and she has served at Pomona Valley for 21 years focusing on neonatal and pediatric.

She said three pediatricians are

# Happy 95th!... from pg. 9

free," he said, adding that he saw action in Guadacanal, Bougain-ville and Guam.

And, he said, he had a guardian angel "or I would not be here," explaining that he missed his ride on a ship that was heading out to Iwo Jima, the site of a battle described in history as an epic military campaign between the U.S. Marines and the Imperial Army of Japan in early 1945.

Then what advice would he have for a young man or woman today interested in joining the military?

"I think the military is pretty good nowadays, it's not like it was when we went in, we had to sleep in foxholes, live out of tin cans," he said, at least until the U.S. Navy Seabees, the Naval Construction Battalions, came in to provide hot showers and hot food.

Sounds like some good advice from someone from the Greatest Generation.

Helping Donna with arrangements were former La Verne Chamber of Commerce executive director Brian McNerney and Joe Cina, president and CEO of the Glendora Chamber.

"The turnout was amazing, and Carl had a blast enjoying his parade," McNerney said after the event.

Thank you, Carl, for all you did for your country and for all you continue to do for your community

And happy birthday!

Need to advertise in La Nueva Voz? (909) 629-2292 www.lanuevavoz.net

on site at the hospital 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In addition, the hospital supports the community pediatricians who have their patients admitted into the hospital and still maintain their own private office on the outside.

"Meanwhile, she said the hospital already is picking out colors and designs for the new unit which will include an "outdoor" playground (in an atrium-like area of the hospital that is surrounding by the hospital building itself).

The new rooms will be designed around the playground and will be located just off the women's center on the hospital's first floor (next to the existing neonatal intensive care unit).

"I think to have a unit that mimics the excellent patient care we provide, it's just going to elevate

Music is a wondrous gift from

the heavens. It is a passion that

burns through the soul. It is a

song just completed on the keys

of a heavenly realm. It is a note

finally found in a sea rich with

music that expresses the joy and

the sadness that we feel deep in-

It is the hope that we find at

the end of a beautiful song. It is a

sweet melody that will linger for-

ever in the hearts of all men. It is

a heavenly dream just come true.

things," she said, adding that it will "uplift those nurses to have a place that matches what they're giving out, their energy."

"We had a great team working on this together," she said, including everything from the finance department which handled the grant application to the design team and architect.

The hospital's current inpatient pediatric unit is one of only three inpatient pediatric services offered by hospitals within a 15-mile radius, which serves approximately 1.5 million residents. The new unit will expand pediatric inpatient services and improve access to higher levels of care without pediatric intensive care, lessening the number of patients transferred to out-of-area hospitals and give local pediatricians and primary care physicians

an option for direct admissions to Pomona Valley.

The new unit will support a continuum of prenatal to adolescent care already offered by the hospital, including a perinatal center, high-risk maternity care with a transport team, one of the largest birthing hospitals in California, a 53-bed Level 3 neonatal intensive care unit and more.

"We're proud to build on our commitment to provide vital healthcare for both women and children by delivering an even higher level of care to pediatric patients," Yochum said.

The grant was issued under the Children's Hospital Program of 2018 made possible by Prop. 4 in November 2018. Some \$1.5 billion in general obligation bonds were issued to fund the program.

### A Heavenly Dream Just Come True By Susie Perales

(chorus)

It is the hope that we find at the end of a beautiful song, It is a heavenly dream just come true.

Music is a passion that burns through the soul. It is a song just completed on the keys of a heavenly realm. It is a note finally found in a sea rich with music that expresses the joy and the sadness that we feel deep inside.

(chorus)

It is the hope that we find at the end of a beautiful song, It is a heavenly dream just come true.

Editor's Note: Poet and La Nueva Voz contributor Susie Perales wrote this poem in 2002 for "Mr. Henry," a music teacher at Westmont Elementary School – who was her children's music teacher years ago -- at his request. He planned to use it in connection with a special music program for Pomona Unified School District. Perales said it brought tears to his eyes when he read it.



Photo by Renee Barbe

KETTLE CORN ANGELS PRESENT 'PPE' TO POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL -- Owners of Pomona's Kettle Corn Angels sold bags of kettle corn, lemonade, funnel cake and more, pretty much since the COVID-19 lockdown -- all under their own "easy up" at various locations in and around Pomona -- to raise money to buy personal protective equipment -- 100 surgical masks and 100 face shields -- for Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. Pictured at the presentation of the "PPE" to hospital staff members last week are, from left, hospital nurses Kimberli Rivord, RN, and Jacqueline Moya, RN, and "Angels" co-owners Isis Curriel and Sabrea Curriel. The family-owned and operated business, based in Westmont, is available for fundraiser events of all kinds. For more information, call or text Kettle Corn Angels at (909) 257-7536.

# Pomona may be flattening the curve on COVID-19 cases

Pomona actually may be flattening the curve with a decline in COVID-19 cases as numbers at Pomona's Fairplex Sheraton Hotel

For the last three months, La Nueva Voz has been tracking the impact of the COVID pandemic on Pomona by using the occupancy rate at the hotel, where all 244 rooms have been used to house COVID patients not severe enough for hospitalization – or others exposed to COVID who need to be in quarantine – under a contract with Los Angeles County.

La Nueva Voz decided that, in theory, using those numbers as an indicator was as good an idea as anything else.

### Pomona Leadership Network to conduct 'give-away' for 'state preschool,' 'Head Start' students

The Pomona Leadership Network, which includes numerous corporate and non-profit sponsors in the community, will hold two "Ready by Five and Beyond" distributions in coming weeks to help support families who are part of several Pomona child development programs.

Pomona's dA Center for the Arts

And, as it turns out, it looks like it might have been accurate since as the hotel numbers are on the decline, so are the trends continuing to drop in Los Angeles County.

By coincidence, the hotel numbers peaked, growing higher each month – for three months in a row – exactly on the news deadline day at La Nueva Voz - the Friday before publication.

While the numbers each month were up a bit and down a bit from day to day, on deadline day in May, which was May 22, hotel occupancy reached a new high of 70 – the highest ever since the hotel opened its doors to only COVID-related guests on March 25. The same thing happened on June 19, also

is helping purchase distribution

"mini" backpacks filled with items

items for the events, and Pomona Unified School District's child development program is providing "Give-away" items will include lists of resources for food pantries and COVID-19, along with books,

Give-away... pg. 23

deadline day, with a new all-time high of 109. Last month, the numbers set yet another record, again on deadline day, on July 17, with 148 patients in the hotel.

This month it all changed.

Again, numbers were up and down during the month (measured from July 20 through August 21) from 129 on July 20 to a preliminary new high of 161 on July 29, dipping the next day to 156, and then to the high for the month on July 31 of 162.

But the numbers dipped to 133 on Aug. 3 and never got back up. In fact, patients in the hotel dropped to only 99 on Aug. 17, closing out the period on Aug. 21 with only 111 – significantly down from the all-time peak last month

And, as has previously been the case each month, far more patients are being housed in the Pomona hotel than at any other countycontracted facility which, most recently, include a total of four locations. The Pomona hotel also was the first hotel in the county network to be used for COVIDrelated purposes.

"Guests" have included ev-

erything from first responders to members of the region's homeless population and others with no other place to go during treatment or self-quarantine.

Of course, it is not known if there will be a second wave as some experts are predicting.

According to official Los Ange-

les County Emergency Operations Center COVID-19 update figures, Pomona has reported a total of 4,700 confirmed cases of COV-ID-19 which have resulted in 92 deaths to date, compared to 2,535 cases and 42 deaths by the end of the La Nueva Voz reporting period last month.



Photo by Renee Barbee

La Nueva Voz was able to paddle in for a close-up of this beautiful (and huge) Great Blue Heron (later identified as such by Ashley Schenkel) on a recent kayaking adventure on Puddingstone Lake in San Dimas. And if you look closely, he has a friend on the log at his feet who looks like he's coming out of his shell.

# Be 'Water-Aware'. Fall is just a month away and days will be getting shorter. Remember to:

space for the events.

- Reduce the time you irrigate eliminate minutes or even a whole day that you irrigate. (Even if it's hot, shorter days mean less "thirsty" plants.)
- Check your sprinkler heads.
- Fix leaks.

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### Three Valleys Municipal Water District's Areas Served:

Azusa, Boy Scouts of America-Firestone Reservation, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, City of Industry, Claremont, Covina, Covina Irrigating Co., Diamond Bar, Glendora, Golden State Water Co., Hacienda Heights, La Puente, La Verne, Mount San Antonio College, Pomona, Pomona-Walnut-Rowland Joint Water Line Commission, Rowland Heights, Rowland Water District, San Dimas, Suburban Water Systems, Valencia Heights Water Co., Walnut, Walnut Valley Water District and West Covina

# Black Lives Matter... from pg. 15

what is happening in these times," she said.

Vance said the cars would travel at a constant 15 miles per hour and that signs would have a single purpose.

"Our only message today is Black Lives Matter," she said.

Quakers, Vance added, are not strangers to civil rights issues - she said it was Quakers who helped conduct the "underground railroad," a network of secret routes and safe houses in the U.S. during the early to mid-19th century, helping enslaved African-Americans escape into free states and Canada.

She also said Quakers were on record in opposition to slavery by the time of the Revolutionary War "and we've been a witness ever since then for civil rights and rights action."

She said Quakers also supported Japanese-Americans when they were held in internment camps during World War II.

Vance said there were no opening remarks at last month's

event because of COV-ID-19 restrictions.

There are about 50 members of the Claremont Quakers "meeting house."

Leyva, who drove her own car in the procession with the other elected officials, was asked by La Nueva Voz if COVID had had an impact on her number of appearances in the district but she said it had

"We were at St. Madeleine's on Friday delivering food to them so that they could distribute it," she said. "Team Leyva has been out and about since COVID began. Mostly, we've been out and about in Pomona, in Chino, in Ontario, San Bernardino, delivering food to families, making sure that our front

line workers know that we appreciate them, taking them lunch, taking them dinner, we did it at grocery stores, we did it at Pomona Valley (Hospital Medical Center), we did it at Chino Hospital. . . we've been out and about quite a bit."

Then how did she feel about last month's motorcade approach with a slightly different focus?

"This is amazing – we have all of this support for Black Lives "When Matter," Leyva said. my office was contacted to participate, they said it's a COVIDfriendly event which I thought was super smart."

"We want to continue to draw attention to the Black Lives Matter movement until we actually achieve real change and justice and make sure that we have equity for everyone in society including our Black community."

And on the move to involve the faith-based community?

"I love that we have so many faith-based groups out here today



Pictured are two of the nearly 200 cars participating in last month's motorcade through Pomona, La Verne and Claremont in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.



Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, at left, and Pomona Cultural Arts Commissioner Venita Reynolds chat before the start of last month's Black Lives Matter motorcade.



and that they reached out to everyone even in the secular community to come out and join," she said. "You know, our faith-based groups, I think sometimes they underestimate themselves and they really do have a lot of power. They have

ally make a big difference."

Pastor Tommy Morrow of Victory Community Church in Upland led the motorcade riding with his wife Kim Anthony Morrow in a limousine driven by Mark McKay, owner and operator of McKay's Family Mortuary, along the route that looped back around to the starting point at the Village at Indian Hill.

Your ad here! (909) 629-2292



Karen Vance, organizer of the event, directs a participant to the right group of cars before the start of last month's Black Lives

# Give-away... from pg. 22

Events for state preschool and Head of building on the south side). Start students are scheduled for 1:30 to 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28 and Monday, Oct. (323) 640-8057.

like a lunch tote and a water bottle, and 26, at PUSD's child development offices, snacks for the parents, a spokesman said. 1460 E. Holt Ave., Pomona (enter at rear

For more information, contact Leticia at

# Do you have a news story?

Send your news tips to: reneebarbee7@gmail.com

# We're returning \$2 billion to our auto policyholders.

constituencies in their

congregation and when

State Farm® announces the Good Neighbor Relief Program. Our auto customers will receive, on average, a 25% credit for their premium between March 20 and May 31. No policyholder action is needed. That's \$2 billion in customer savings. Because now more than ever — being a good neighbor means everything.

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# A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM LA NUEVA VOZ:

# Coming to grips with the pandemic

The pandemic is impacting all of us. At La Nueva Voz, we understand. With stay at home orders and many businesses on lockdown, the nation is in a financial crisis the likes of which we have not seen since the impairment of the financial system in 2008. Many businesses are feeling the pain and, as a result, many are unable to maintain basic operating functions – even including advertising their goods or services.

At La Nueva Voz, one of our goals even in normal times is to provide advertising opportunities to businesses to help those businesses grow and prosper – whether by telling their buyers what they have to offer or by running what we call "positioning" ads, or simply explaining where they stand on all of this and how they are dealing with ripple effects of COVID-19.

So here's what we're willing to do.

For any new advertiser requesting it (political advertising excluded), we have developed a special new set of advertising rates we're calling our COVID rates.

Call it anything you like, but we're offering "half off special" ad rates, based on our rate card "one time" black and white rates, to any business that asks for it. That's 50 percent off!

This offer begins with our \$126 "oversized" eighth page ad and is good up to our full-page ads.

And we're making special deals on color pricing as well.

And this offer continues until, well, until things get a little closer to being back to normal around here.

After all, COVID can't last forever.

And we're all in this together.

At La Nueva Voz, as always, we're here to help.

For more information, give Renee Barbee a call today at (909) 629-2292.