

Election results in two new Pomona councilmembers, one new school board member, and passage of Measure Y

The dust is finally settling in Pomona after this month's election that resulted in two new members on the Pomona City Council, one new member on the Pomona Unified School District Board, and the passage by a wide margin of the controversial Measure Y, a city charter amendment known as the "Pomona Kids First" initiative.

And Pomona's Michelle Rodriguez will take over the seat occupied for the past 11 years by her husband, Freddie Rodriguez, who termed out this year.

The unofficial election ballot count update is based on the latest figures available at press time from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's office and the California Secretary of State's office.

The county is scheduled to certify election results by Dec. 3, and the Secretary of State will certify



A busy, continuous stream of voters turned out to vote on election day this month at a single precinct vote center at Pomona's Ranch Hills Elementary School.

county, state and presidential tallies on Dec. 13.

New faces on the City Council – but not new in Pomona – will be Debra Martin, who served a four-year term as councilmember from 2012 to 2016, and Lorraine Canales, a retired educator who has been active in community organizations for years.

Martin, who received 3,612 votes, or 58.50 percent, unseated incumbent John Nolte, who received

2,562 votes, or 41.50 percent.

Canales received 4,217 votes, or 53.80 percent, defeating Miranda Sheffield, who received 3,622 votes, or 46.20 percent of the vote in the "open" seat with no incumbent seeking reelection. Councilmember Robert Torres was required to step down because of his unsuccessful campaign for California Assembly.

Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole held on to her seat with 3,739 votes, or 54.51 percent, over challenger Guillermo Gonzalez, who received 3,120 votes, or 45.49 percent.

Measure Y passed with 24,823 votes (62.42 percent). The total for "no" votes was 14,942 (37.58 percent).

Across the street at Pomona
Election results... pg. 6

Measure Y approval by voters is 'elephant in the room' as Pomona City Council begins to consider budget impacts

By Jeff Schenkel, Publisher
La Nueva Voz

Pomona's Measure Y, the so-called "Pomona Kids First" initiative, was approved by voters this month in a 62 percent to 38 percent outcome. If it goes unchallenged in the courts and is implemented, it will have a far-reaching

impact on the city's budget for years to come.

But so far, only three weeks after the election and with only one Pomona City Council meeting on the books since voters went to the polls, Measure Y almost seems like that proverbial "elephant in the room" that is there but nobody wants to talk about.

The short version of the back story on this measure is supporters have touted the advantages of kids' programs to the community, and opponents have objected to the plan's method of budgeting by charter amendment and diverting public funding to private groups, backed by organizations outside of Pomona, without accountabil-

ity.

Here's what the ballot said: "Shall the City Charter be amended to require that at least ten percent (10%) of the City's annual unrestricted general purpose revenues be allocated to children and youth programs and services by Fiscal Year 2030-2031, in addition to the current funding for

children and youth programs, and to establish a City Department of Children and Youth to administer funding for said programs and services?"

Sounds pretty good, right? And, the way these things generally work out, the title of the measure is often the only thing voters

Measure Y... pg. 8



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Pomona Deputy Police Chief Hsu, lauded by Chief Ellis for his honesty and integrity, retires after 30 years of service

Pomona Deputy Police Chief Christian Hsu, who retired this month after 30 years of service to the police department, told more than 200 guests, friends and well-wishers at Avalon at Fairplex that it has been “an honor to be a Pomona Police Officer.”

“The city does not owe me anything – I’m indebted to the city for this career, and thank you to Pomona,” he said. “I am absolutely going to miss this because I loved being a police officer, I loved being a Pomona police officer.”

Operations Division Capt. Ryan Rodriguez, master of ceremonies for the event, told guests Hsu entered the field of law enforcement as an intern at the Laguna Beach Police Department after graduating with a criminal justice degree from UC Irvine.

He took a position at the Pomona Police Department and went through all the ranks – corporal, sergeant, lieutenant, captain and deputy chief, Rodriguez said, adding that Hsu committed himself to a career based on education and mentoring and educating others.

“Every step of his career, Christian strived to be the best officer and leader he could be and I can tell you he definitely achieved that,” Rodriguez said. “His ability to balance such a demanding role with grace and precision allowed the department to run smoothly through several difficult challenges that we had throughout this year.”

He said while Hsu was responsible for many things, his primary

mission was to ensure the department functioned efficiently and met its main goal of “great community service and fighting crime in Pomona.”

“He has exemplified what it means to be a reliable and trustworthy second in command, making sure that every decision, big and small, aligns not only with that man’s vision (referring to Police Chief Mike Ellis) but all of our vision,” Rodriguez said.

His work along the way included internal affairs, a burglary task force, a detective sergeant and a weaponless defense instructor, although Rodriguez said perhaps his biggest impact was in his “beloved traffic division,” where he served two tours as sergeant.

“Under his watch the division became one of the most proactive and effective units in the region,

Deputy Police Chief retires... pg. 6



CONGRATULATING DEPUTY CHIEF CHRISTIAN HSU ON HIS RETIREMENT -- The entire Office of the Police Chief got into the act this month congratulating Deputy Chief Christian Hsu who was stepping down after a 30-year career with the Pomona Police Department. The chief’s office presented Hsu with a special framed message of congratulations. Pictured, from left, are Investigative Services Capt. Todd Samuels, Chief Mike Ellis, Civilian Division Commander Kendra Farmer, Deputy Chief Hsu, Operations Division Capt. Ryan Rodriguez, who served as master of ceremonies at the event, Professional Standards and Training Lt. Deon Brown, and department coordinators Maritza Vera and Alice Cruz.



The Christian Hsu family presents the retiring deputy chief with a framed collection of all of the badges he used over the course of his 30-year career. Pictured, from left, are son Joshua Hsu, wife Wennie Hsu, daughters Kristin and Abigail Hsu, and Deputy Chief Hsu.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at left, presents Deputy Chief Christian Hsu with a replica of the Goddess of Pomona statue, the city’s highest honor.

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Reciclaje de materia orgánica y reducción de desperdicios de alimentos en Pomona

¿Qué necesito saber?

Como parte de los requisitos de la Ley del Senado de California (SB) 1383, todas las residencias unifamiliares, viviendas multifamiliares, empresas locales, así como escuelas e instituciones, deben participar en el reciclaje de materia orgánica. Esto significa separar los restos de jardín, los restos de comida y el papel manchado con comida (100% a base de fibra) de la basura y los materiales reciclables y colocar todos los materiales orgánicos aceptables en el contenedor verde. Athens Services, el transportista exclusivo de desechos de la ciudad, brinda servicios de recolección de materia orgánica para todos los clientes residenciales y comerciales.

Consejos útiles para clientes residenciales

- Use un balde de cocina o un recipiente reusable con una tapa hermética para almacenar los restos de comida de la cocina.
- Forre el balde con una bolsa de papel o periódicos viejos para ayudar a absorber la humedad.
- Rocíe ligeramente el balde con bicarbonato de sodio para ayudar a eliminar los olores.
- Evite los olores fuertes congelando los alimentos en mal estado y con mal olor (por ejemplo, carne, huesos y productos lácteos) y agréguelos al balde justo antes de vaciarlos en el recipiente exterior.
- Enjuague el balde después de vaciarlo y déjelo secar.

Consejos útiles para viviendas multifamiliares y empresas

- Fomente la participación haciendo que los contenedores de desechos orgánicos sean de fácil acceso para empleados, inquilinos y clientes.
- Asegúrese de que todos los contenedores estén etiquetados correctamente y coloque carteles que especifiquen qué materiales son aceptables en cada contenedor.
- Eduque anualmente a todos los empleados, inquilinos, contratistas y clientes sobre la clasificación adecuada de los desechos (los nuevos inquilinos deben recibir información dentro de los 14 días posteriores a la mudanza).
- Coloque contenedores de desechos orgánicos en todas las áreas donde se proporcionan contenedores de basura y reciclaje para los clientes (excepto en los baños).
- Prohíba a los empleados colocar desechos orgánicos en contenedores de materiales reciclables o de vertedero.
- Inspeccione periódicamente los contenedores de desechos orgánicos para detectar contaminación e informe a los empleados si los contenedores están contaminados.

Para garantizar que todos los clientes de Pomona estén familiarizados con los requisitos de la SB 1383, Athens Services cuenta con un equipo de auditoría de “Lid Flippers” que revisan todos los contenedores de residuos para detectar cualquier contaminación. Los Lid Flippers revisan el contenido de cada contenedor, toman fotografías y documentan cualquier contaminante observado. Se notifica a los clientes sobre estos hallazgos y se les brindan recomendaciones sobre cómo clasificar y desechar adecuadamente su basura, materiales reciclables y desechos orgánicos. Los resultados también se envían a la ciudad de Pomona, que debe informar los resultados y la eficacia de la recolección de desechos orgánicos en toda la ciudad a CalRecycle.

Para obtener más información sobre los requisitos de la SB 1383, visite AthensServices.com/SB-1383. Para obtener una guía detallada sobre los materiales aceptables para cada contenedor, consulte la Guía de qué va dónde de Athens Services en CanIRecycleMy.com.

Organics Recycling and Food Waste Reduction in Pomona

What Do I Need to Know?

As part of the requirements of California Senate Bill (SB) 1383, all single-family residences, multifamily complexes, local businesses, as well as schools and institutions, are required to participate in organics recycling. This means separating yard trimmings, food scraps, and food-soiled paper (100% fiber-based) from trash and recyclables and placing all acceptable organic materials into the green container. Athens Services, the City’s exclusive hauler, provides organics collection services for all residential and commercial customers.

Helpful Tips for Residential Customers

- Use a kitchen pail or a reusable container with a tight-fitting lid to store kitchen food scraps.
- Line the pail with a paper bag or old newspapers to help absorb any moisture.
- Lightly dust the pail with baking soda to help eliminate odors.
- Avoid strong odors by freezing spoiled and smelly food (e.g. meat, bones, and dairy) and only add it to your pail right before emptying into the outside container.
- Rinse the pail after its emptied and allow it to air dry.

Helpful Tips for Multifamily Complexes and Businesses

- Encourage participation by making organics containers easily accessible for employees, tenants, and customers.
- Ensure that all containers are properly labeled and post signs that specify what materials are acceptable in each container.
- Annually educate all employees, tenants, contractors, and customers on proper waste sorting (new tenants must be provided with information within 14 days of moving in).
- Provide organics containers in all areas where trash and recycling containers are provided for customers (except for restrooms).
- Prohibit employees from placing organic waste in recyclables or landfill containers.
- Periodically inspect organics containers for contamination and inform employees if containers are contaminated.

To ensure all Pomona customers are familiar with requirements of SB 1383, Athens Services has an audit team of “Lid Flippers” who check all waste containers for any contamination. Lid Flippers check the contents of each container, take photos, and document any observed contaminants. Customers are notified of these findings and provided with recommendations on how to properly sort and dispose of their trash, recyclables, and organics waste. The results are also submitted to the City of Pomona, who must report the results and effectiveness of citywide organics collection back to CalRecycle.

To learn more about the requirements of SB 1383, visit AthensServices.com/SB-1383. For a detailed guide on acceptable materials for each container, check out Athens Services’ What Goes Where Guide at CanIRecycleMy.com.



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Gold Line receives \$798 million to get tracks to Montclair

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) last month approved a \$798 million amendment to its funding agreement with the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority, making it possible for the completion of the Los Angeles County portion of the final 3.2-mile, two-station construction segment of the Gold Line from Pomona to Montclair.

Metro will use a State of California Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program grant to pay for its portion of the project.

The San Bernardino County Transportation Authority has dedicated \$80 million of state and local funding for the portion of the project in San Bernardino County.

“Completing this project is essential to the future of this corridor and to the region,” said Construction Authority Board Chair and Claremont City Councilmember Ed Reece. “This project will expand mobility with reliable and sustainable transit, reducing em-

issions and improving quality of life for all.”

“Bringing Metro rail to the residents of the northern San Gabriel Valley has been a priority for Metro for more than two decades,” said Metro Board Chair and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn. “(This) approval allows that vision that so many in these communities have been waiting for to become reality, and I look forward to breaking ground on it next year.”

Assemblymember Chris Holden said officials had been working on obtaining the funding through two legislative cycles since the original six-station project was shortened in 2018.

“I want to thank Metro for utilizing the funds quickly to get to work building more transit in



GOLD LINE FUNDS TO GET PROJECT TO END OF THE LINE -- Officials meeting at Metro headquarters in Downtown Los Angeles celebrate the approval by Metro of \$798 million to complete the final 3.2-mile segment of the Foothill Gold Line all the way to Montclair. Pictured, from left, are Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority Board member, La Verne Mayor Tim Hepburn, Arcadia Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Kwan, California State Sen. Anthony Portantino, Assemblymember Chris Holden, (at rear), Metro Board member Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, (in front), Metro and Construction Authority Board member, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval (at rear), Metro Board member Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, (in front), Metro Board member Glendale City Councilmember Ara Najarian (at rear), Construction Authority Board Chair Claremont City Councilmember Ed Reece (in front), Construction Authority CEO Habib Balian (in front), Construction Authority Board Alternate Montclair City Councilmember Bill Ruh (at rear), Construction Authority Board Vice Chair Glendora Mayor Mendell Thompson, Construction Authority Joint Powers Authority member Montclair Mayor John Dutrey, and San Bernardino County Transportation Authority Board President Chino Hills City Councilmember Ray Marquez.

Los Angeles,” he said.

The Construction Authority expects to award a construction contract next spring and break ground later

in the year. The final segment will complete the Gold Line’s 25-station system, making it possible to get from Montclair

to Pasadena by rail in just over 40 minutes and from Montclair to Los Angeles in about 75 minutes.



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POMONA POLICE PRESENT 'PINK PATCH' CHECK TO POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL -- Representatives of the Pomona Police Department this month presented a check for \$6,000 to the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Foundation's Breast Health Fund in honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. Funds were raised through an annual sale of pink patches for police uniforms. The funds will help the hospital's Robert & Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center give breast cancer patients access to nurse navigators, support groups, a wig program, exercise classes and improved diagnostic and treatment therapies. From left are Pomona Police Community Service Officer Courtney Louie, breast cancer survivor and Pomona Valley Hospital nurse Yvette Wojtasiak, RN, Hospital Executive Vice President of Patient Care Darlene Scaffidi, MSN, RN, Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis, Pomona Police Officer Enrique Diaz, and Hospital Vice President of Development Jim Dale. The police department's Pink Patch Project is part of a collaboration involving more than 500 public safety agencies nationwide. According to the American Cancer Society, one in eight women in the U.S. will develop breast cancer.

Claremont Symphony Orchestra to perform free annual sing-along Messiah, works by Verdi, Wagner, Mendelssohn, Doppler

The Claremont Symphony Orchestra will present works by Verdi, Wagner, Mendelssohn and Doppler in a 72nd season performance at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, with two performances of the annual sing-along Messiah set for Sunday, Dec. 22.

Performances of the Messiah are scheduled for 1:30 and 4 p.m.

All performances are free (donations of any amount accepted) and will be held in Bridges Hall of Music at Pomona College, 150 E. 4th St., Claremont.

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

La Nueva Voz... For ads, call (909) 629-2292

Nurturing compassion for yourself and others post-election

By Diana Elizabeth Hernandez
Member, Compassionate Pomona

Elections have the ability to evoke a mix of emotions. Whether it's hope for progress, frustration at the state of the world, or a mixture of both, the political season can feel both exhilarating and exhausting. With intense debates and contrasting viewpoints, they often leave us feeling worn out. No matter what the outcome, it's important to reconnect, recharge, and face the future with compassion. By cultivating compassion and being kind to ourselves and others, we can move through this period with more understanding and unity.

Accept your feelings

After an election, you might feel any combination of frustration, relief, confusion, sadness, or even numbness. Accepting the range of emotions within yourself – and recognizing that they are part of being human – can be a deeply compassionate act. Allow yourself to feel these emotions without judgment or the pressure to “move on” too quickly.

Reflecting on these emo-

tions, either through journaling or a conversation with a trusted friend, can help you process. Avoid comparing your reactions to others; each person's experience is completely their own. By



Diana Elizabeth Hernandez

allowing yourself to feel whatever comes up, you build a foundation of self-compassion, making

it easier to show understanding toward others as well.

Recognize shared humanity in others

One of the most powerful aspects of compassion is the ability to look beyond labels and see people as individuals with complex lives and stories. After an election, this can be challenging when political labels take center stage. Remember that everyone has unique experiences that shape their views. Try to approach others with a mindset of empathy, even if it feels challenging.

Listening to people's stories and understanding the roots of their perspectives can help break down walls. Compassion means looking beyond labels and seeing each person as someone with their own story.

Prioritize community and collaboration

Regardless of political leanings, everyone ultimately wants to see their community thrive. Post-election, refocusing on your local community and finding ways to contribute to its well-being can foster unity and purpose. Volunteering, supporting local initiatives, or simply engaging in meaningful conversations with neighbors can remind us that we all play a role in building the kind of community we want to live in.

These small actions can foster a sense of connection and common purpose, providing an avenue for positive change that isn't dependent on political events. Reclaiming community as a source of unity, not division, reinforces the idea that we're all working toward a shared future.

Be gentle with yourself and others

Compassion isn't just a one-time act; it's a practice of patience and kindness toward yourself and those around you. Accepting that

it may take time to process and move forward from an election can alleviate self-imposed pressures. Similarly, remember that others may be processing at their own pace, with unique emotions and challenges.

Whether it's through self-care routines, daily acts of kindness, or simply choosing to pause before reacting, practicing gentleness can make a difference. By meeting yourself and others with patience and respect, you create a compassionate space that fosters connection, resilience, and hope.

In the wake of an election, compassion is more than a passive act – it is an active choice that helps heal divides and bring people together. Choosing compassion, both for ourselves and those around us, paves the way for healing, understanding, and a sense of shared humanity that transcends any political season. When we focus on connection instead of division, we help ourselves and our communities move forward with hope and strength.

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Election results... from pg. 1

Unified School District, School Board President Arturo Jimenez handily held on to his seat in a nearly three to one margin with 4,687 votes (72.52 percent) over challenger Angel Arellano, who had 1,776 votes (27.48 percent).

And political newcomer Tamara Gonzalez won a decisive victory with 4,656 votes (60.36 percent) over her challenger, Pomona Planning Commission Chairman Alfredo Camacho, who received 3,058 votes (39.64 percent).

The race was for another vacant seat because incumbent Lorena Gonzalez decided not to seek reelection. She defeated Camacho in the 2020 election when she successfully ran for the first time.

Pomona Unified's Measure UU, a \$385 million bond issue to fund school facilities' "classroom repair (and) safety," passed easily with 33,119 votes (70.55 percent) to 13,828 (29.45 percent) in this seventh largest school district in Los Angeles County.

Other races

Democrat Michelle Rodriguez came in on top with 81,986 votes (57.7 percent) over Republican Nick Wilson, with 60,031 votes (42.3 percent).

Incumbent Democratic Congresswoman Norma Torres won with 133,748 votes (58.5 percent) over Republican challenger Mike Cargile, who had 94,701 votes (41.5 percent).

And former Covina Mayor Jorge Marquez won a seat on the Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board with 7,756 votes (41.76 percent) over John Mendoza a former water board member, who had 6,614 votes (35.61 percent).

Incumbent Danielle Soto, on the board for the past four years, received 4,203 votes (22.63 percent).

The Division 6 seat includes North Pomona and parts of Claremont and San Dimas.

Voter turnout in Los Angeles County in the Nov. 5 election was 66 percent of the registered voters, compared to 76 percent in the 2020 election and only 44 percent in the mid-year 2022 election.

La Nueva Voz exit poll showed Phillips Ranch going Trump

Unofficial brief "exit polling" by La Nueva Voz on election day this month at a randomly-selected vote center at Pomona's Ranch Hills Elementary School showed, interestingly, that voters at least at that one location appeared to be voting for President-elect Donald Trump by a two to one margin.

A quick sidewalk survey as voters walked out of the polling location showed voters in the single precinct vote center were voting Trump over Kamala Harris 8 to 4. One of the Harris voters was a 19-year-old who said it was his first election.

Only one voter said she was voting for Green Party candidate

Jill Stein, who ended up with 1.1 percent of the vote in Los Angeles County, just below Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who had 1.23 percent in Los Angeles County.

Two voters declined to respond.

On Measure Y, the controversial Pomona Charter amendment known as the "Pomona Kids First" initiative, those who voted on the measure supported it 5 to 2.

And on the school district's Measure UU, a \$385 million bond issue to fund school facilities up-

setting the high standards for other departments," he added. And he said his leadership in this area helped save lives, reduced accidents and made the city a much safer place.

Chief Ellis thanked members of his family "for giving us Christian for 30 years."

"Everything he's touched has been just done with excellence and honor and integrity," Ellis said. "When it was time to pick a deputy chief, it was a very easy decision to select you and have you as my partner chief for the last four and a half years."

"I know I'm biased in this statement but with all of your hard work and the work that the command staff and everybody else that has a hand in this, I think the department is running more efficiently," Ellis added. "I've never seen morale higher, and I just think that's a testament to how you make decisions. You've been the person running the operation day to day for the last four and a half years and a lot of that credit goes to you."

Ellis said Hsu makes decisions

grades, the exit polling vote was an overwhelming 7 to 1 (several voters didn't check a box either way on that one).

In the Pomona Unified School District school board race between Tamara Gonzalez and Alfredo Camacho, Gonzalez won in the exit poll – as she did in the "real" election – with a 3 to 1 vote.

Several voters at Ranch Hills indicated they live in Chino and were not eligible to vote on the Pomona ballot items.

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with what is best for the organization in mind.

"That is the key to being a leader," he said.

"You're honest, you have integrity and even in these hard decisions you're fair," Ellis said. "It's been a great ride the last five years with you as my partner."

Ellis handed Hsu his retirement badge so that he could, in his words, "send you on your way."

Hsu's son Joshua told guests he learned from his dad what it means to work hard.

"I don't remember him ever complaining," he said, despite the fact that cops "go out on patrol every day to help people who will never appreciate them and be willing to put their lives on the line for people they never know."

Hsu's wife, Wennie, told a sto-

ry about Hsu's duty as a motorcycle officer once on Christmas Day when he was scheduled to work and hand out traffic tickets – something that his family asked him not to do.

She said he relented and said instead he'd let drivers off with a warning if they told him a good joke – something that caused other motorcycle officers in the back of the room to cringe.

"From that day on, we had good conversations about wisdom of enforcing the law, understanding the spirit of the law and just showing grace," she said, adding that the last five years as deputy chief probably was the most challenging time of his career.

"As the deputy chief, he had to make tough decisions trying to

Deputy Police Chief retires... pg. 8

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<https://pomonaca.gov/ppl-digital-collections> and go to page 2 for La Nueva Voz.

Publisher: Jeff Schenkel

Tel: (909) 224-0244 • jeffschenkel@verizon.net

V.P. of Marketing & Operations: Renee Barbee
Cell: (909) 762-1446 • reneebarbee7@gmail.com

Layout & Design: Dora Cruz
dcruz1549@gmail.com

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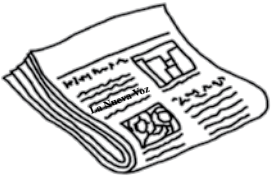
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- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- CVS, 150 W. Willow St., Pomona
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- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaundryLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



Editor's Note: This page is the eighth in a series of a Phase Three statewide program with three focus areas -- "Anti-Hate," "Socioeconomic Justice and Equity" and "Health." The program is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs as part of the "Stop the Hate" program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to <https://www.cavshate.org/>.

Hate, Justice, Equity and Health – Phase Three of an on-going series as La Nueva Voz participates in a statewide program as newspapers attempt to help make a difference

California ranked fifth in country for 'civic racial equality'

By Jeff Schenkel, Publisher
La Nueva Voz

Next month La Nueva Voz will be wrapping up its third year of participation in a statewide program focusing in three areas – "Anti-Hate," "Socioeconomic Justice and Equity," and "Health."

We were delighted to be selected each of those three years to participate – along with about 10 other newspapers throughout California – in the portion of grant funding administered by the Latino Media Collaborative in Los Angeles.

The program itself – which also included television stations and other media outreach outlets – was funded by the State of California and administered by the California State Library.

Through our work over these past three years, we've learned these difficult topics that are so important to so many people are more pervasive than we originally believed.

And yet, at the same time, we have begun to see signs that perhaps things are actually improving, incidents of hate may be declining and the overall climate, in California at least, appears to be improving in some areas.

One of those signs came in a recent news release from our friends at WalletHub. Many of our readers will remember seeing stories on their studies appearing in La Nueva Voz in the past.

This one, however, was right on point – the WalletHub survey showed that California is ranked as the fifth best state in the country (fifth overall highest ranking of 83.84) for civic racial equality.

Of course, the term itself already comes complete with at least two qualifiers, so we'll try to unpack the term to determine exactly what it means in this context.

In order to determine which states have the most racial equality in civic engagement, WalletHub compared 48 states and the District of Columbia across five key metrics.

The data set compares the difference between white and Black Americans in areas like the share of single-parent households, the volunteer rate and voter turnout. (And just to clarify, the study was conducted before the Nov. 5 election.)

Right off the bat, the numbers showed that only 64.1 percent of Black Americans registered to vote compared to 70.9 percent of white Americans.

And analysts pointed out that while it is easy to see racial discrepancies in areas like employment and education, it is important to dig even deeper to learn differences in civic engagement.

"Most equality" for purposes of this study equals 1, and the average is 25, showing that California appears to be very close to the top of the rankings in this study.

Of course, other indicators factor into the findings. California ranks 20th in the share of single-parent households and first in its share of veterans. Other highlights include California is 17th in its "volunteer" rate, and 9th in its voter turnout rate.

Then what does it all mean?

"Promoting racial equality in civic engagement holds significant importance as it provides minorities with greater opportunities to hold influential positions and address their needs, making society more equitable as a whole," said Cassandra Happe, an analyst with WalletHub. "Increased civic engagement also fosters better connections among people of different races, enabling them to learn more about



Cassandra Happe

each other and overcome existing prejudices."

What would be the most effective ways to promote civic knowledge and self-efficacy among youth belonging to racial minorities?

"The most effective way . . . (to promote this) among youth belonging to racial minorities – as well as majority youth – is investment in race-related education for all students," said L. Kaifa Roland, Ph.D., director of global Black studies and associate professor at Clemson University.

Dr. David Canton, director of African American Studies and associate professor at the University of Florida, takes a broader view.

"The most effective ways . . . are through the home, community, church, social organizations and school," he said. "Racial minorities do not have the luxury of not understanding the American political system. There is a growing number of 'low information voters' who do not understand the political system."

As a result, Canton added, some young racial minorities are voting against their own interests or may not

vote."

"Students take social studies classes, but American K-12 education is designed to make students good citizens and does not encourage students to become critical thinkers," he said. "As critical thinkers, young voters will ask important questions such as why full-time working Americans are still poor."

As a strategy, he suggested state and local governments should create non-partisan civic literacy summer "camps" where students can learn about the political process.

This, he said, would cause them to look forward to registering to vote at age 18.

Canton said instructors would discuss the history of American politics and explain the difference between local, state and federal elections.

"States should pass a law that requires all high school graduates to receive their voter registration card with their high school diploma," he added. "Local and state governments must promote younger racial minority candidates because this may increase turnout."

He also suggested that local governments should promote volunteering as a form of social and civic engagement among racial minorities by requiring volunteer hours in order to graduate from high school.

"More American youth must be engaged in volunteer service because it exposes the student to the issues of the group they are assisting," he said, whether that group is a homeless shelter or a food bank, as examples. "The earlier students are exposed to volunteering, the more likely they will register to vote and become engaged citizens."

The study weighted the results with 20 points possible for each of the five metrics studied.

WalletHub is a personal finance company that empowers consumers to lead financially healthy lives. It provides services and tools including tools to compare credit card offers, personal loans and car insurance companies; 100 percent free credit scores; a clear path for improving credit scores; and a "holistic" picture of an individual's financial health.

Measure Y... from pg. 1

read before marking their ballots.

But a deeper dive reveals things like the 10 percent of the city budget (it will phase in to 10 percent over a period of years) will come from existing programs including everything from funding the police department to fixing potholes.

And that 10 percent of the city budget would likely work out to about \$17 million of Pomona's tax dollars.

And an entire 15-member "accountability board" – with half of the members between the ages of 15 and 24 – would be created to decide who receives funding and what types of programs are offered.

And that entire new city department would be created under the auspices of the Pomona City Manager with another executive director paid by the city just to run it.

Did we mention that the two biggest funders of the measure were outside of Pomona?

One of them, the Heising-Simons Action Fund, is a 501(c)(4) private organization based in the San Francisco Bay area. According to its web site, it focuses its efforts in areas of climate and clean energy, early childhood education, human rights and the impact of technology on society.

The other, the California Community Foundation, based in Downtown Los Angeles, according to its web site works to transform Los Angeles in areas of education, health, immigration and housing.

And does anyone else find it interesting the way little caveats are written into the initiative, even in the last paragraph of the 14-page document (Section 14, paragraph 9, "Legal Defense") where it says if voters approve the measure and "if" the measure is challenged in

court, it will be "defended by the City of Pomona."

In other words, unless a judge at some point tosses out this language, regardless of who files the lawsuit, the city would be required to defend the measure in court.

Just for the record, deceptive and biased ballot titles are nothing new in California and an entire organization, Reform California, is working on ballot title reform to prevent misleading or confusing voters.

But back to that "elephant in the room" part we mentioned, this one is so interesting that it almost seems like our elected officials are talking about it by really talking around it.

For example, in last week's Pomona City Council meeting, Measure Y was not mentioned until close to the end of a very late-night meeting – after a long rent stabilization discussion and a five-minute break that essentially cleared the room for the last item, a little routine mid-year budget review discussion increasing revenue estimates by \$12 million and appropriations by \$13 million.

Part of this discussion, however, included a PowerPoint slide on Measure Y and included three "bullets" – one repeating the "10 percent of the general fund for youth programs" requirement, another stating that the "first action" of the measure would impact the current fiscal year with a contribution of 2 percent of the general fund as of Jan. 1, and the third stating that the projected impact on general fund reserves would be \$1.6 million being moved to the "Children and Youth Fund" in fiscal year 2024-2025.

Pomona Public Works Director Rene Guerrero told councilmembers that \$1.6 million would bring

the city's deficit closer to \$4 million.

There was no discussion during the meeting at that point, although City Councilmember Steve Lustro pointed out during the rent stabilization item discussion that Measure Y would be expected to have an impact on what the city's various rent control options would cost the city once Measure Y implementation begins to deplete revenue available to the city.

La Nueva Voz reached out to Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval by telephone before the meeting asking what action, if any, the city planned to take regarding Measure Y, but he held firm with a "no comments at this time" response.

Even so, Sandoval was on the record in opposition to the measure before the election and was even sending out mailers and walking neighborhoods to voice his concern.

And City Councilmember Nora Garcia, insisting she was acting as a private citizen, appeared in opposition to the measure during a public informational forum in September at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church.

Lustro, whose letter to the editor in opposition to Measure Y appeared in last month's La Nueva Voz calling the measure a "bad deal for Pomona," told La Nueva Voz in an e-mail after the election that he had not heard about anyone saying the city would file legal action if the measure passed.

"What I expect, at a minimum, is that the finance department will do an assessment of the fiscal impacts of the measure to present to city council in the near future because passage of Y will absolutely have a bearing on future decisions we make regarding city programs and services," he said.

Lustro added that several residents have contacted him "worried about the impacts Y will have on the rest of the budget."

"I have simply told them that, just as we have the initiative process, there is a referendum process (submitting a measure back to a popular vote), as well," he said.

The complete initiative – and the city's impact analysis report – can be found on the home page of the La Nueva Voz web site at www.lanuevavoz.net.

Pomona Hope helps kids with challenges growing up in city

Pomona Hope Executive Director Jeff Johannsen told guests at his organization's annual fundraising gala last month that the City of Pomona offers many positive assets although there still are "numerous challenges facing youth growing up in this city."

"Pomona Hope faces these challenges head-on, providing youth a safe environment, a loving community, a place to play, to learn, to grow," he said at the event at Kellogg West on the Cal Poly campus.

"We understand what a critical turning point the teenage years are," he said. "The decisions and experiences that occur during adolescence can affect a young person for years to come, perhaps for a lifetime."

The theme for the evening was "Hope on the Horizon."

"Pomona Hope believes that every student has potential, regardless of where they are raised," Johannsen said. "However, sometimes a student's life circumstances make it harder for them to realize their potential."

"This is why, in addition to academic support, Pomona Hope engages students in a wide variety of enrichment activities such as the arts, gardening, STEM, fitness and leadership development, in the hopes of helping students realize a passion or a skill they didn't realize they had," he said.

He added that the organization was founded 21 years ago when a group of Pomona residents gathered to discuss the challenges they observed in the city – challenges like poverty, gang violence and drug abuse.

He said the conversation turned to "what are we going to do about it?" And that, he said, was the beginning of Pomona Hope.

Those same community members canvassed the neighbor-

hood, speaking with residents in their homes to see what sort of issues were most impacting the neighborhood, working alongside neighbors as they petitioned the city for street lights on dark streets, and coordinating with police to break up a local prostitution ring and to do something about a local smoke shop that was selling drug paraphernalia.

"But the number one concern that they heard from the community was 'we just want a safe



Jeff Johannsen

place for our kids to go after school," he said, as many parents were working multiple jobs and were concerned about their children being unsupervised in the streets in the afternoon.

That effort resulted in the formation of the organization, first known as Pomona Hope Kids, an after-school program.

Today, the organization, operating in available space at the First Presbyterian Church of Pomona, offers a gymnasium, a kitchen, classroom spaces and more.

Elementary aged students receive help with their homework and, since students initially were aging out of the program, Pomona Hope added programs for middle school and eventually high school kids.

The group today even offers a summer enrichment program, giving the organization year-

Pomona Hope... pg. 20

Deputy Police Chief retires... from pg. 6

do the right thing when the right thing was the hard thing or the unpopular thing," she said. "He led with integrity – and I'm proud to say the way he is at work is the way he is at home."

"You may not walk the halls of the 'PD' any longer, but I hope that what you have done and passed on continues to have its effect on people," she said.

Hsu received commendations

at the event from Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez, Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles, Lt. Robert Shepherd (who worked motor division with Hsu), representatives of the Pomona Police Managers' Association, representatives of Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, State Sen. Susan Rubio and Congresswoman Norma Torres, and others.

Merry Christmas

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Pomona Valley Hospital receives ‘A’ hospital safety grade from national patient safety group

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center has earned an “A” hospital safety grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national non-profit watchdog organization focused on patient safety.

Grades are assigned to general hospitals across the country based on more than 30 performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent them.

“We are proud to earn national recognition for our commitment to patient safety from Leapfrog for three consecutive reporting periods,” said hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum.

“Earning this ‘A’ grade is based upon the dedication of our entire organization to provide the highest standards in patient-centered care,” he added. “From our doctors, nurses, technicians, (and) staff to administration, each person plays an integral role in implementing industry best practices while providing compassionate care that makes a difference in the lives we serve.”



ATHENS SERVICES CHECK PRESENTATION FOR 'LA GRAN POSADA' -- Athens Services officials presented a \$10,000 "presenting sponsor" check this month (see theater marquee below) to help make possible the third annual "La Gran Posada," a free community event celebrating the vibrant traditions of Mexico featuring folklorico and mariachi performances at Pomona's Fox Theater in Downtown Pomona. The event, produced by the Fox Community Culture Fund in partnership with Tradicion Dance Company of Pomona, is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. La Nueva Voz is a sponsor of the event. Pictured, from left, are Vera Mora, general manager of the Fox Theater; Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Robles; Vincente Soto, Dora Castro and Iso Nakasato of Athens; Downtown Pomona Owners Association (DPOA) Board President Cathy Tessier of Arteco Partners; Manny Vizcarra, founder of Tradicion Dance Company; Marco Argote, Arteco marketing director; Heidi Ortega of CPOA; Rachel Boel, Fox Theater talent acquisitions; Valente Fondacaro and Eric Hernandez, Arteco marketing staff; and Carlos Cardona of Athens. Vizcarra, Argote, and Alejandra Tessier all were founders of the annual event.



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‘Zero-emission’ vehicles displayed in Pomona, show the future is here now

Some 71 “zero-emissions” vehicles were on display this month at Pomona’s Fairplex for a one-day “Zero-emissions Showcase, ride and drive” event sponsored by the California Air Resources Board and CAL-START to show guests that the future of clean energy vehicles is here and ready to go.

A total of 685 guests attended the event which included both medium- and heavy-duty trucks, transit buses, garbage trucks and delivery vans.

Also included were the latest state-of-the-art heavy-duty, off-road excavators, forklifts, tractors and more.

The event provided an opportunity for owners and operators – including cities, counties, manufacturers, distributors and others – to test drive the vehicles, learn about the charging infrastructure, and find out about funding incentives to add zero-emissions vehicles and equipment to their fleet.

Organizers said the goal was to “help fleet operators discover why now is the time to buy these vehicles featuring cutting-edge technologies that will help meet California’s ambitious zero-emissions goals.”

“The Zero-Emissions Showcase + Ride & Drive is a great chance to see the future of transportation up close,” said Jack Kitowski, Division Chief, Mobile Source Control Division, California Air Resources Board. “It’s not just about trucks and equipment – it’s about zero-



TESTING THE EQUIPMENT -- Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz tries out the equipment at a “Zero-emissions Showcase” event this month at Pomona’s Fairplex, sponsored by the California Air Resources Board and CALSTART. Barbee is seated at left on a SoCal JCB “mini” excavator that sells for about \$60,000 and takes eight hours to fully charge for four hours of run time with 110 volt power (a little less on 220 volts). It has expandable and retractable tracks to fit through a back gate and can run a dozer blade, an auger system and more. Need one for around the house? Call Ignacio Verduzco, Southern California territory manager out of the Fontana office, at (909) 450-3756. And at right, she’s up in the cab of a full-sized Tesla semi, all ready to hook up a trailer and head out across the country. The dashboard was remarkably simple -- two computer monitors and nothing more. And the specs say it does 0 to 60 in 20 seconds and has a range of 500 miles.

emissions technology contributing to cleaner air and healthier communities.”

He added that the event demonstrated first hand that zero-emissions technology is here and operating in California.

The traveling “road show” has exhibited the latest in zero-emissions vehicles around the state over the past two years.

For more information, visit zeroemissiontrucks.org.

Editor’s Note: La Nueva Voz



Publisher Jeff Schenkel, a public information team member at the South Coast Air Quality Management District from 1977 to 1985, produced what may have been Southern California’s first electric vehicle show

in Pasadena for the SCAQMD in the early 1980s at a time that state-of-the-art vehicles were prototypes like Chevrolet Corvairs with eight standard (and heavy) automobile batteries linked together.

California undocumented student groups worry about incoming Trump administration

By Suzanne Potter
California News Service

As President-elect Donald Trump announced immigration hard-liners as his deputy chief of staff and border czar, groups supporting undocumented college students in California were vowing to stand up for people’s rights.

Golden State colleges serve 83,000 undocumented students, according to the Higher Ed Immigration Portal.

Jessie Ryan, executive director of the Campaign for College Opportunity, part of the California Undocumented Higher Education Coalition, expressed the mounting concerns.

“We got a glimpse into some of what might be done in Project 2025 statements,” Ryan explained, “looking at things like mass deportation, including ending pathways to citizenship.”

There is also concern the Trump administration might pull DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) work authorization from the so-called Dreamers, people brought to the U.S. as children. People can find a map of resources broken down by campus on the website of the California Undocumented Coalition for Higher Education.

Ryan hopes California’s sanctuary state law will deter any immigration raids on college campuses but there is no guarantee.

“The mood is very somber, both with the coalition and with our students and families,” Ryan observed. “Many of our students and families are feeling fearful and uncertain of what their futures will be and whether or not college remains accessible to them, or if they’re even valued as part of the campus communities.” Gov. Gavin Newsom already called a special session of the legislature and established a legal fund to challenge efforts to undo protections for vulnerable populations.

Editor’s Note: Support for this reporting was provided by Lumina Foundation.

Annual ‘Christmas Marketplace’ set for next month at Pilgrim Congregational Church

The annual Christmas Marketplace will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15, at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 600 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

Vendors will display Christmas items, jewelry, handcrafted items and much more. Luncheon items will also be available for purchase.

For further details and vendor information, please contact Bonnie Seath at (909) 953-2577.

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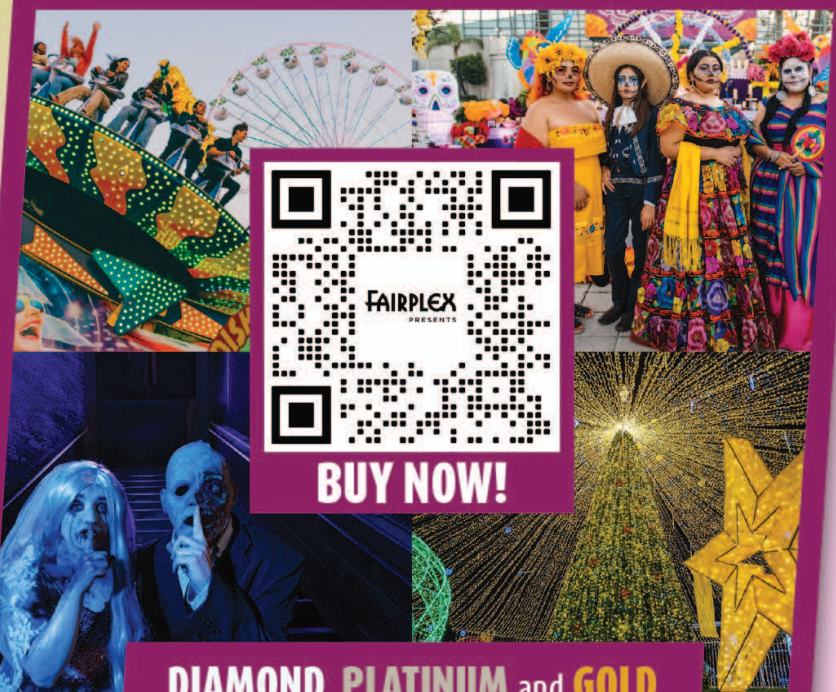
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Prince of Peace Church marched the streets of the city this month to pray for Pomona. "As part of this community, we feel an obligation to intercede in prayer for our neighborhood," said Pastor Oscar Villafaña. "Jeremiah 29:7 says to seek the peace and prosperity of the city and to pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, then we too will prosper." Prince of Peace church is located at E. 7th St. and is open to all for fellowship. Services are held on Sundays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 7:30 p.m. For further information, please call 909-750-0331.



Photos by Renee Barbee
MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JEFF HODGE -- A memorial service -- complete with full military honors including both a flag folding ceremony and a 21-gun salute under the direction of Post 30's Bob Radcliff -- was held last week at Pomona's Post 30 American Legion for Jeff Hodge, who died in September at his home in Pomona at the age of 78. Hodge, long an active member of Post 30, also was a huge collector -- everything from automobiles to salt shakers -- and he left his entire estate -- from the cars to the house to the collections -- to the Historical Society of Pomona Valley. Most of the Historical Society board members were present at the service, and more than 50 guests were encouraged to take as keepsakes something from a small sampling of Hodge's collection, much of which is based on the history of Pomona. He also was a long-time member of the Pomona Eagles and many Eagles members attended the service, as well. Hodge graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in mechanical engineering and worked for the U.S. Navy Shipyard in Long Beach but later enlisted in the U.S. Army when the nation's draft lottery went into effect during the Vietnam War.



Assemblymember Rodriguez, State Sen. Susan Rubio recognize first responders for quick work fighting fire, saving Pomona's Ebell Museum

Lifelong first responder advocate Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez convened a special recognition ceremony last month to express gratitude from the community for Los Angeles County firemen and Pomona police officers who responded immediately and prevented major damage when fire broke out in September at Pomona's historic Ebell Museum.

Even with the quick response, and while for the most part the contents of the museum were unharmed, the fire caused an estimated \$500,000 in damage according to a spokesperson for the Historical Society of Pomona Valley, owner of the building.

Rodriguez thanked firemen and police officers "for your extraordinary bravery and commitment to protecting our community and preserving the City of Pomona's history."

He told nearly 80 first responders, elected officials and friends assembled in the Ebell's front yard that firefighters were there in less than a minute, saved the building and made it possible for repairs and upgrades currently under way to continue using the \$3 million in funds he was able to obtain from the state.

Rodriguez, who serves on the Assembly Committee on Emergency Management that focuses on public safety and emergency preparedness, said that the Historical Society fire serves as a reminder of the risks firefighters take and the critical role they play in the community.

"The cooperation that exists among our first responders showcases the professionalism and dedication," he said. "Thanks to



HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS -- Recognizing some of the Los Angeles County fire fighters (at rear) who quickly contained a fire in September at Pomona's Ebell Museum are, from left, Historical Society of Pomona Valley Board members Mike Schowalter, John Clifford, and Donna Manzanarez Otero, Pomona City Manager Anita Scott, Historical Board member Jay Munns, Eva Thiel-Maiz of L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis' office, Historical Board President Deborah Clifford, State Sen. Susan Rubio, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, Historical Board member Renee Barbee, L.A. County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone, and Historical Board members Alice Gomez and Benny Ayala.

them, the valuable artifacts and records were saved to ensure future generations can learn and appreciate our heritage."

Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone acknowledged the "remarkable firefighters who quickly responded to the fire."

"The triumph that we are celebrating today certainly could have been a tragedy had it not been for the men and women that you see before you of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department," he said.

"The Historical Society is a cherished pillar of the City of Pomona's heritage and a beloved symbol of local community history with great value," Marrone said. "Taking care of the City of Pomona is our number one priority."

"We are also thankful that there were no injuries, which is a testament to the exceptional skills and commitment of our firefighting

team," Marrone added.

State Sen. Susan Rubio told the first responders that "this is another great opportunity . . . to say thank you, and to really thank you for your personal sacrifice."

Pomona City Manager Anita Scott told the group that the Ebell was built in 1910.

"How miraculous it is still standing – the building is structurally sound," she said, adding that "there's hope on the horizon" due to the state funding Rodriguez was able to obtain.

Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, also congratulated firemen "for doing such a courageous job."

"To respond so quickly and to save this building is truly amazing and a miracle," she said.

Historical Society President Deborah Clifford thanked the firemen for moving furniture and covering items

with plastic.

"We did lose some things . . . but the list of what you saved is much, much longer," she said. "The Historical Society of Pomona thanks you very, very much for helping us save such a gift."

Firefighters responding to the fire included units from Pomona, Claremont, San Dimas, Walnut, Glendora and Diamond Bar.

The Ebell, originally built at Pearl Street and Garey Avenue in Pomona, was moved to its present location in 1919 where the two-story auditorium was constructed



L. A. County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone

and completed in 1924.

The early-morning fire, believed to be of electrical origin, caused damage that was primarily contained in the very front of the office area of the building.

First built as the home of the former Ebell Women's Club, the Craftsman-style building is located at 585 E. Holt Ave.



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Area non-profit, local volunteers make ‘blankets for vets’ for winter

Representatives of the veterans support non-profit “Thundar, Lightning and Peace” – and a dozen volunteers – spent a day at Pomona’s American Legion Post 30 last month to crank out more than 50 blankets that will be handed out to bring a little warmth to homeless veterans and veterans organizations this winter.

The “Blankets for Vets” project was part of the group’s work toward its goal of completing 500 blankets by the end of the year, said spokesperson Arely Moreno, whose daughter, Samantha Moreno, founded the non-profit three years ago when she was 16.

Samantha, currently a pre-med student at UC Berkeley, is studying to become an orthopedic trauma surgeon for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Her mom said she was motivated by trauma she experienced herself in the course of four surgeries.

And, her mom pointed out, her daughter is a sophomore now but expects to graduate next year after only three years.

She also comes from a military family – Arely, a resident of Rancho Cucamonga and an Army Reserve veteran, served six years at Joint Forces Training Base at Los Alamitos before becoming a higher education professor at the University of La Verne, Chapman

University and Azusa Pacific University.

Meanwhile, Samantha organizes four major events for the non-profit each year and flies in from San Francisco to coordinate the volunteers.

She became aware of the numbers of veterans with post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) suicide and wanted to try to do something about it through the blankets program.

“The more she learned about it, the more she wanted to attack it,” Arely said.

Volunteers will distribute the blankets in January and February.

Students from Pomona’s Village Academy High School, Garey High School and Mt. SAC were on hand to help make the blankets last month.

For more information on “Thundar, Lightning and Peace – Aiding Veterans with Trauma,”



Lorraine Canales, at left, and friends tie up some loose ends to make a new blanket last month at Pomona’s American Legion Post 30 as part of the veterans support non-profit “Thundar, Lightning and Peace.” A total of 500 blankets will be distributed as part of the “Blankets for Vets” project by the end of the year.

or to donate or volunteer, visit the web site at www.thundarlp.org.



THE FINISHED PRODUCT -- Workers show off the finished product in “Blankets for Vets” at Pomona’s American Legion Post 30. Volunteers from left, back row, are Village Academy High School math teacher Laura Pahler (at rear), Lorraine Canales, Ruby Jung, Alex Avilez, and “Thundar, Lightning and Peace” spokesperson Arely Moreno, Tami Bell of the Chino American Legion Auxilliary, along with other student volunteers from Village Academy High School, Garey High School and Mt. SAC.

Claremont Chorale ‘Christmas Classique’ set for Dec. 7

The Claremont Chorale and artistic director Alan Wellman will present “Christmas Classique,” a festive repertoire of choral music to welcome the Christmas season, on Saturday, Dec. 7, in Claremont.

The concert begins at 4 p.m. at Claremont Presbyterian Church, 1111 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont.

Opening the program will be “Magnificat” by Pergolesi/Durante for choir, soloists and chamber orchestra, followed by a set of

three “Glorias” by Vivaldi, Mozart and Schubert.

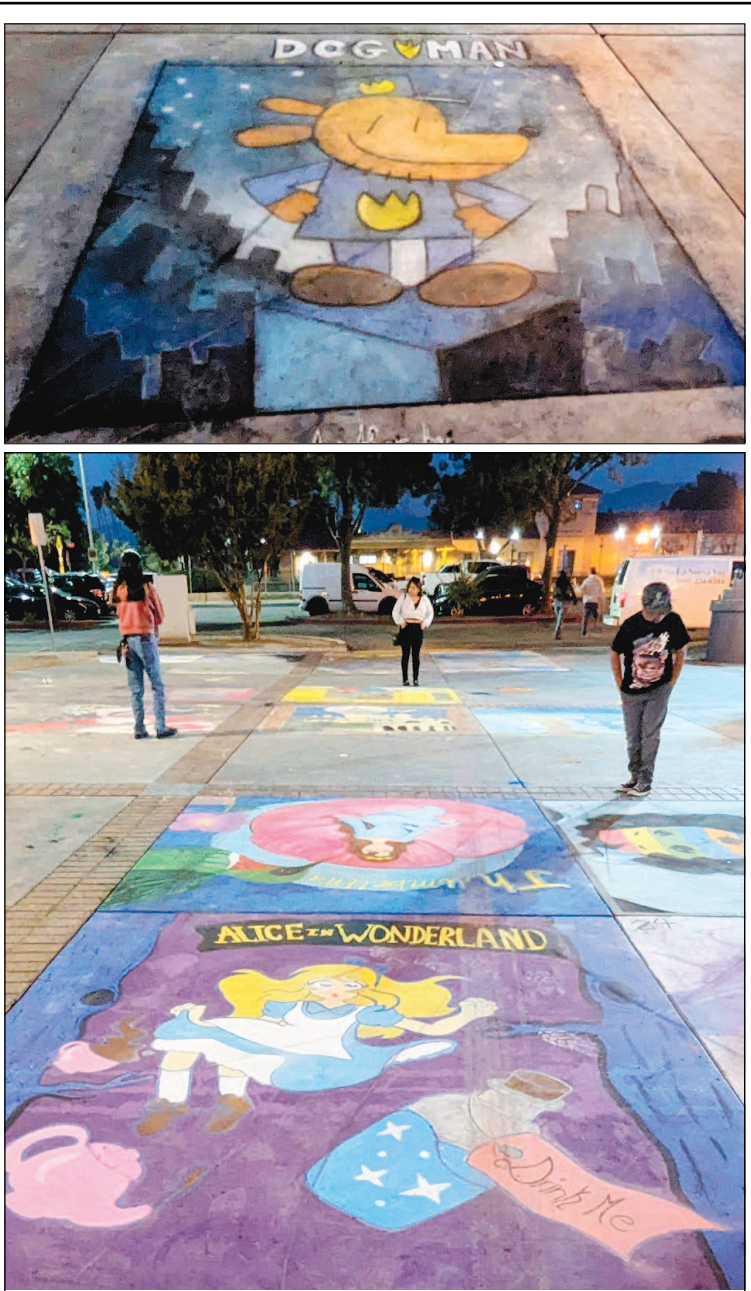
The centerpiece of the program is “Christmas Classique,” a suite compiled by Joseph Martin, in which traditional Christmas texts are set to melodies from familiar hymns and carols as well as works by Pachelbel, Handel, Mozart, Bach and Chopin.

The Chorale’s pianist Dr. Matthew Swartz will perform solos, and a sing-along with the audience of favorite carols will conclude the

concert.

Tickets range in price from \$15 to \$25 and are available at the door or on line at www.claremontchorale.org. Children age 5 and under are free.

Founded in 1968, The Claremont Chorale is a community of singers from the greater Claremont area in residence at the Claremont Community School of Music. Future performances include Mozart’s “Requiem” on March 22 and “Motown Madness!” on June 7.



Visitors admire several of the outstanding entries lining Shaun Diamond Plaza at the end of the day following hours of work by a lot of artists in the Downtown Pomona chalk art festival on Second Street this month.

Photos by Renee Barbee

Photos by Renee Barbee

Pomona Unified School District Board President Arturo Jimenez, at left, and State Sen. Susan Rubio were handing out turkeys to 1,000 drive-through customers at Pomona's Ganesha High School Sunday, helping area residents in need get ready for Thanksgiving. Also helping out were Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, staff members and volunteers from Pomona's God's Pantry and, in the traffic control department, officers from both the California Highway Patrol and the Pomona Police Department. A spokesperson for Rubio, who organized the event, said it was the senator's first "Operation Gobble" event in Pomona since her district lines were re-drawn in redistricting, although she has done similar events in other areas in the past. In all, volunteers handed out 1,000 turkeys and 1,000 grocery bags filled with Thanksgiving "sides." Other partners for the three-hour event included Pomona Unified School District, Ganesha High School, volunteers from various women's clubs and service organizations and others. Cars began lining up for the 9 a.m. event as early as 5 a.m.



Photos by Renee Barbee

VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY OF POMONA VALLEY FREE THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON --

The Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley on Sunday provided what has become an annual event offering dozens of free Thanksgiving lunches to Pomona's unhoused population at the Hope for Home shelter. Pictured at Hope for Home is Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley, at left, with Reggie Clark, program manager for Volunteers of America, the organization that operates Hope for Home, offering holiday greetings to guests. Also pictured is Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis, who volunteered for the event, chatting with another volunteer as other volunteers get ready to hand out the lunches.



Treating lymphedema (or swelling)

By Kathy San Martino, PT, CLT-LANA
Outpatient Clinical Coordinator

Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

Swelling issues of the limbs or other body parts can cause significant medical, functional and cosmetic problems. Lymphedema and edema are often used interchangeably as a diagnosis, although they are different in terms of the underlying cause of the swelling.

“Lymphedema” occurs when lymph nodes and lymphatic vessels are removed or damaged in the treatment for cancers. This creates a blockade in the lymphatic system. (Occasionally we will see patients who have lymphedema because they were born with an insufficient/underdeveloped lymphatic system.) “Edema” occurs when there is congestion or a blockade in the venous system. Edema can be caused by a number of factors including inactivity, prolonged standing, medications, and obesity. When there is a congestion in the vessels (lymphatic or venous), this pressure causes the vessels to leak fluid and protein into the tissue surrounding the vessels causing visible swelling.

If left untreated, the swelling can continue to progress, thereby increasing the weight of the limb, decreasing the mobility of the limb, and adversely affecting the health of the limb. Swelling can cause wounds to develop on the limb. The individual is also at risk for recurring cellulitis infections.

An essential part of our treatment is applying compression to the swollen limb. This changes the pressure gradient in the limb. When compression is applied, the tissue surrounding the vessels has more pressure than the vessels, driving the fluid, protein, etc., back into the vessels. It is essential that an evaluation is performed to



Kathy San Martino, PT, CLT-LANA

determine if compression bandaging or a Velcro® adjustable compression garment is required prior to using compression stockings. Too often, individuals are placed in compression stockings too soon with resulting discomfort, skin breakdown and general failure of the treatment.

Treatment may also consist of a light massage known as manual lymph drainage, exercise and skin care. This treatment approach is known as complete or complex decongestive therapy and should be provided by a certified lymphedema therapist.

Just like hypertension, diabetes, and other physiological disorders of the body, we are not fixing the cause of the lymphedema. Through the above outlined treatment, however, we can attain an excellent degree of control over the problem. Some people require 23-hour compression on their limb to maintain ideal control. Other people may attain sufficient control with compression just applied during the day. Lymphedema treatment requires a great deal of commitment on the part of the patient, but the results are highly rewarding.

To learn more, call (909) 596-7733, ext. 3500.

Local Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries open new ‘Home of Love’ in Philippines



NEW ‘HOME OF LOVE’ IN PHILIPPINES -- Father Aristotle Miguel Arceo, a Carmelite priest from Bari, Italy, working in the Philippines, is pictured, at center, with young former human trafficking victims (faces blocked to protect identities) living at a new “Home of Love” operated by Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries Sister Clare Pedoche and Sister Bridget Abing. The group works to help transition the young ladies, some with children of their own, into a new life after their rescue from a life of prostitution. The missionaries, who also operate two group residences here in the San Gabriel Valley, have been working with Pomona and Claremont officials on finding solutions to human trafficking locally.

A group of as many as 100 young ladies – some of them mothers as young as 15 due to their former situations as young victims of human trafficking – has moved into a new “Home of Love” in the Province of Cebu in the Philippines where sisters of the Mary Queen of Heaven Missionaries are caring for the girls and, in some cases, their children.

The missionaries, who opened a new rescue and rehabilitation center last year locally, are based in both Covina and the Philippines. They have been working with Pomona and Claremont officials on finding solutions to human trafficking here.

Rescued young ladies celebrate Holy Mass and recite the rosary daily to find peace and all are finding friendship and hope as they pursue a journey to a future of happiness, according to a spokesperson.

“Once acclimated to their new surroundings and hopeful future, the trauma begins to subside as the new residents experience an environment of safety and stability,” the spokesperson said. “Under the watch-

ful eyes of psychologists, teachers, mentors and existing residents, caring and understanding are healing remedies surrounded by a steady routine of inclusiveness.”

The missionaries, working with the former trafficking victims and their “children of children” to help with what they call “rebuilding a lost life,” have opened two “Home of Love USA” facilities locally, including one in La Puente, one that can accommodate 50 and children and another with a capacity of 20.

Their efforts include everything

from providing medical attention and education to livelihood skills training.

Altogether, the order includes 17 missionaries plus hundreds of civilian “mission partners” worldwide.

For more information, contact Sister Isabel at (818) 261-6212 or srisabel@mqhm.org or visit the web site for information or to donate at mqhm.org.

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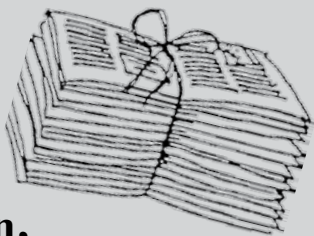
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State Sen. Bob Archuleta, in Veterans Day message, says politics don't matter in helping veterans

State Sen. Bob Archuleta, a U.S. Army combat veteran and former paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, told a San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce Veterans Day luncheon this month that when it comes to veterans, politics don't matter.

"We fight for the laws to protect our veterans, we fight for the rights of our veterans," he said. "That's what we are trying to do here is to honor the veterans who have given so much and have taken the step up to go ahead and serve the country."

"The veterans that I serve and represent, they don't care either (about political party)," Archuleta said. "And I don't want you to care on Veterans Day about anybody's affiliation."

"All I want you to care about is God and country, and I want you to care about this beautiful flag that we all represent," he added. "And I want you to care about the sacrifice that these



Veterans representing an impressive cross-section of American history line up to receive special commendations from the State of California for Veterans Day from State Sen. Bob Archuleta, fourth from right.

"It is America who produced these types of men and women to serve this country," he said.

Archuleta, who chairs the State Senate Military and Veterans Committee, travels around the country to visit military bases where he regularly sees diversity – "men, women, all backgrounds, all different languages, all different countries – that's what America is all about."

"That's why we're celebrating this beautiful day called Veterans Day, because it's our day, it's your day, it's America's day when we say 'thank you' to our sons and grandmothers and uncles and moms and dads and everybody

who have served – and they came home to build this beautiful country," he said. "This is what America is."

"We want veteran-owned businesses to thrive, we want veterans to be part of the community," he added. "That's why the chamber is so important."

Retired U.S. Navy Lt. Salim Rahemtulla, who later became an employee of both the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps and now President and CEO of PowerTap Hydrogen Fueling Corp. in Aliso Viejo, told the group that President Obama

once said Veterans Day often follows a hard-fought political campaign – "an exercise in the free speech and self-government that you (veterans) fought for."

"The American instinct has never been to find isolation in opposite corners – it is to find strength in our common creed to forge unity from our great diversity to sustain that strength and unity even when it is hard," he quoted Obama as saying. "And when the election is over . . . we search for ways to come together to reconnect with one another . . . (with the) principles that are more enduring than transitory politics."

"Some of our best examples are the men and women we salute on Veterans Day," Rahemtulla said, adding that veterans bring the values of "duty, honor and sacrifice to our everyday lives . . . enhancing our society in countless ways" because their service did not end when they hung up the uniform.

Rahemtulla served in the first Gulf War in the U.S. Navy and served for 15 years as a civilian with both the Navy and Marine Corps.

For more information on the San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, visit the web site at ccsgv.com.



State Sen. Bob Archuleta



Retired U.S. Navy
Lt. Salim Rahemtulla

young men and women that are doing right now serving all over the world."

"And when veterans all line up, we line up with honor and dignity and pride that we wore the uniform," he said.

Archuleta told 200 guests at Diamond Bar Golf Course that he has two sons – both United States Military Academy West Point graduates – who are serving right now.

He said he told his five children to work hard, study and become part of the American dream.

Do you have a news story?

**Send your news tips to:
reneebarbee7@gmail.com**

We are on facebook, Instagram, Linked In and Yelp.

**A new La Nueva Voz publishes each month
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- Pomona Chamber of Commerce, 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Western University of Health Sciences Patient Care Center
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center maternity, lobby, outpatient services, emergency room
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaunderLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



Pomona Hope... from pg. 8

round activities.

“While we recognize the incredible importance of a child’s academic career, we also know the importance of their character development, their health and their spiritual growth,” Johannsen said. “Through our partnerships with churches, universities and other local organizations, we now offer classes in the arts, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), leadership and college success.”

The group even maintains a Center Street community garden across the street, where “students are learning how delicious vegetables can be when you grow and tend to them yourself.”

Johannsen said today’s students continue to support the program when they are in high school and they function largely as volunteers, “giving back to the program that they grew up in.”

He said they work with younger students on their homework, playing sports or leading an enrichment workshop.

Pomona Hope is a community-driven, faith-based non-profit working to empower people of all backgrounds, particularly at-risk youth and their families, to work together toward personal and community transformation.

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

The following public service ads are courtesy of La Nueva Voz

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Info on student group programs at AGRIsCAPes:

www.agriscapes.cpp.edu

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La Nueva Voz is a proud member of PUSD’s Literacy Collaborative.

Pomona Valley Hospital named one of America’s ‘100 Best’ for joint replacement

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center has been named one of America’s “100 Best Hospitals for Joint Replacement,” according to research released by Healthgrades, the leading marketplace connecting doctors and patients.

The hospital also was rated five stars for three services – total knee replacement, total hip replacement and hip fracture treatment, according to a news release.

The achievement reflects the hospital’s outstanding clinical outcomes for orthopedic surgery and places the hospital in the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide for joint replacement two years in a row, a spokesperson said.

“We are proud to rank among the nation’s top hospitals for joint replacement and this recognition demonstrates the high level of expertise of our dedicated team of doctors, nurses and staff,” said hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum. “From diagnosis (and) surgery to physical therapy, our multidisciplinary team works together to treat some of the most advanced orthopedic conditions to help our patients heal and return to their active lifestyles.”

The hospital’s Orthopedic Institute offers a wide range of services, such as minimally invasive procedures, sports medicine, physical therapy and more. Using a comprehensive, team-based approach, the hospital provides advanced treatments and coordinated and personalized care, designed to help patients experience the best possible outcomes.

<p>ANNOUNCEMENT</p> <p>Switch and Save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information call 1-844-908-0605</p>	<p>FINANCIAL SERVICES</p> <p>Struggling with debt? If you have over \$10,000 in debt we help you be debt free in as little as 24-48 months. Pay nothing to enroll. Call Now: 1-877-435-4860.</p>	<p>\$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-888-989-5749</p>	<p>JACK Flea/Tick, Mane Dandruff, and Allergy control. AT TRACTOR SUPPLY (www.happyjackinc.com)</p>
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CAREER DAY AT VILLAGE AT INDIAN HILL -- Members of the Pomona Unified School District Board and staff were hanging out at the La Nueva Voz booth this month during a College and Career Community Day featuring more than some 120 exhibitors from trade schools, colleges, universities, community outreach programs and even La Nueva Voz, and more than 300 students, including adult learners, plus hundreds of parents and community members who were thinking about a future or different career. And Renee Barbee and Jeff Schenkel of La Nueva Voz accepted the invitation to come down, set up shop and spend half a day on a Saturday talking about careers in newspapers. The event was designed to "provide invaluable guidance to our students as they explore their future career and education options." An "on the spot" scholarship for \$500 that was randomly selected was awarded by event partner National College Resources Foundation to Michael Angelo Pabor, a 12th grader at Village Academy High School. From left are Pomona Unified School District Board members Lorena Gonzalez and Dr. Roberta Perlman, Renee Barbee, Pomona Unified School Supt. Darren Knowles, PUSD Board member Patty Tye, San Antonio Regional Occupational Program Administrator Monique Cardenas and PUSD Adult and Career Education Director Luis Rodriguez.



THREE VALLEYS
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KEEP IT COOL AND SAVE WATER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

As the seasons change and the holidays approach, Three Valleys would like to remind the community to adjust their water-wise habits accordingly. Avoid wasting water by following these helpful water tips:

- Check toilets for leaks before holiday guests arrive and make necessary repairs.
- Consider installing faucet aerators, low flow shower heads, and high efficiency toilets.
- Water your lawn less and avoid frost on plants by watering mid-morning.
- Defrost meals in the refrigerator instead of running water over them.

www.threevalleys.com



RIBBON-CUTTING AT NEW LOCATION OF GALAN CULTURAL CENTER -- City and Pomona Chamber of Commerce officials gathered last month to officially open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony the new home of the Galan Cultural Center and welcome Galan as a new Chamber member. Galan is now located at 2243 N. Garey Ave., Pomona. Galan, one of Pomona's leading centers for dance, music and more, encourages residents to "get active, get involved and be proud of your heritage!" Pictured, from left, are Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, Chamber Ambassadors Frank and Domenica Carrillo of "On Time Photo Booth Rentals," Galan Board members Esther Ornelas, Selene Sosa and Nory Ruiz, Galan Board President Goretty Ornelas, Pomona City Councilmembers Nora Garcia and Victor Preciado, and Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz.



Girls decked out in full make-up and wardrobe right in the middle of the Dia de los Muertos celebration have their picture taken in front of an amazing life-like backdrop. Photos were provided by Pomona Chamber member On Time Photo Booth Rentals.



A Dia de los Muertos altar was on display in the parking lot at the grand re-opening of Pomona's Galan Cultural Center.



DIA DE MUERTOS CELEBRATION -- Members of the Latino and Latina Roundtable held their annual Dia de Muertos celebration this month at Pomona's Lopez Urban Farm, complete with an impressive altar for placing special memories and photos, and a program featuring Ballet Folklorico y Canto by Galan Center, the Yankuititl Aztec Dancers from Pasadena, music, food, patting the goats and more.



Farmer Stephen Yorba, creator of Pomona's Lopez Urban Farm, a partnership with the Pomona Unified School District, welcomes members of the Latino and Latina Roundtable and residents of Pomona to Dia de Muertos. "Four years ago we told the school district that if you allowed us access to this property we would build you an urban farm, and we have," Yorba said, adding that the arrangement makes it possible to host events like this "because this really is a place for the community." From left are Roundtable Board member Alicia Rodriguez, Farmer Stephen, and Karina Leon, also a Roundtable Board member.



Members of the Yankuititl Aztec Dancers of Pasadena performed at this month's Dia de Muertos celebration at Lopez Urban Farm.



Latino and Latina Roundtable Executive Director Lina Mira, organizer of the Dia de Muertos event, pauses for a moment for the camera at this month's celebration at Pomona's Lopez Urban Farm.



Pomona City Councilmember-elect Lorraine Canales, at left, practices her face painting skills at this month's Dia de Muertos at Lopez Urban Farm with the help of eight volunteers from Alpha Pi Sigma, a Latina sorority at Cal Poly Pomona.



NEW COFFEE SHOP RIBBON CUTTING -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce made it official last week opening Cavice Cafe and More, a new coffee shop right in the middle of Downtown Pomona. The new coffee shop, under the management of owner Andy Rosillo and co-owner John Pena, is right across the street from Pomona City Hall in the Mission Promenade center in the former location of Starbucks, at 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona, (562) 762-8530. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Robles, Heidi Ortega and Marco Argote of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, Andy Rosillo, Cavice General Manager Abigail Labunski, Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, John Pena, Chamber Board member Ron Garner of Inland Empire Fence and Construction, and Chamber Ambassadors Essence Guss and Tracy Evanson of Healed Women Heal. For information, visit cavicecompany.com.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE POMONA POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024 Community Academy Class #25! -- About 40 members of the community graduated last month from the Pomona Police Department's 25th "Community Academy Class," a program of weekly classes over a two-month period designed to create a safer community by building an understanding and partnership between community members and the Pomona Police Department. Participants dedicated their time to learning about the role of law enforcement and how police and members of the community work together to keep the community safe. "Congratulations to all the graduates -- we look forward to seeing how you continue to uplift our city -- please be our advocate," said Community Services Unit Corporal Jeff Hayward at the graduation ceremonies. "We will only get better with more of you involved. You are part of something better. You are an ambassador of this experience to make this city safer." Pictured above students learn about the Pomona Police Department "Air One" helicopter hangar at Brackett Field Airport in La Verne. Graduation took place at the Conference Center at Village at Indian Hill. From left are Community Service Officer Denise Hernandez, Corporal Hayward, Operations Division Capt. Ryan Rodriguez, new academy graduate Dora Cruz of La Nueva Voz, Police Chief Mike Ellis, and Investigative Services Capt. Todd Samuels.

Pomona Concert Band announces 2024 'Holiday Concert'

The Pomona Concert Band will present its annual holiday concert "Sounds of Christmas Joy" next month in Pomona's Palomares Park Community Center.

The free concert is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 and is sponsored by the City of Pomona.

It will be directed by artistic director and conductor Linda Taylor and assistant conductor Kerry Kline. Master of ceremonies for the evening will be Paula Lantz.

Included will be "Christmas Winds" and "A Holst Christmas," both arranged by Douglas Wagner, "Celtic Carol" arranged by Robert Smith, "Sounds of Christmas Joy" and "I'll be home for Christmas," arranged by James Swearingen, and more.

Pomona Concert Band members represent Pomona and more than 20 surrounding communities. The band was organized in 1947 by former Pomona Mayor G. Stanton Selby.

Palomares Park Community Center is located at 499 E. Arrow Highway in Pomona.

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IT IS AN HONOR TO CONTINUE
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I LOOK FORWARD TO
HEARING FROM YOU!