

Pomona's new Mayor Tim Sandoval takes office saying city has 'tremendous potential'

Pomona's new Mayor Tim Sandoval told an outdoor late-night audience in front of the entrance to Pomona City Hall last week that there are "great things that are happening in this community but we

know that there's more work to be done."

His first comments as mayor came at ceremonies for the administration of the oath of office for the mayor and three new city councilmembers.

Christmas comes to Pomona as DPOA's Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade ushers in holiday season

'Before the parade passes by' (lyrics from "Hello, Dolly!," performed by Barbra Streisand, 1969, and Carol Channing, 1964), in Pomona, anyway, an estimated 8,000 spectators in Downtown Pomona are delighted each year as the entire community, it seems, joins in the traditional celebration of the Pomona Christmas Parade in floats, bands, car clubs and marching groups.



A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS -- Lights, Christmas trees and snow were all just right for the "Charlie Brown Christmas" float (yep, that's Snoopy up front in a Santa cap), courtesy of Pomona Unified School District's Child Development Resource and Referral Department. The theme of this year's parade was "California Christmas."

And this year was no exception – the Downtown Pomona

Owners Association, organizer each year of the parade that harks back to

memories of Americana parades throughout the country a century or

two ago, this month once again was an overwhelming success.

From small children (and little dogs, too, for that matter) in strollers to big kids and, in the older generation, children at heart, the sidewalks

Pomona Christmas Parade... pg. 14



State Sen. Connie Leyva, at right, administers the oath of office to Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval as his family and supporters join him in front of Pomona City Hall.



Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, center, is sworn in by Pomona City Clerk Eva Buice with the help of her son, Remington Cole, at left.



Former State Senate Majority Leader Richard Polanco, at right, administers oath of office to Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez as his family looks on.



Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres is sworn in by his mom, Congresswoman Norma Torres, at right, as his family looks on.

"It's been a long journey, a long road, and as all of you know, I'm a Pomona boy and I'm proud to be a Pomona boy and I'm really excited for the future of Pomona," Sandoval said. "And I'm really excited to work with my new colleagues, our city council."

"We all know that Pomona has tremendous potential," he said, adding that his vision is to reach that

potential "by all of us working together."

"Our campaign was the 'One Pomona' campaign, and we together as a community are going to continue to do that so that two, four, 10 years from now we're going to say that we were part of the transformation of this city," Sandoval said.

Sandoval was sworn in by State Sen. Connie Leyva, who called it her

"great honor and great pleasure to get to administer the oath of office to your new mayor, a man of the people, for the people and by the people."

Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez
Former State Sen. Majority Leader Richard Polanco (D-Los Angeles) administered the oath of office to newly-elected Councilmember
Pomona... pg. 6



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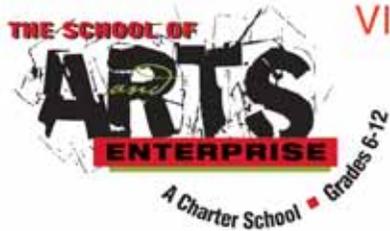


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SANTA VISITS HAYNES -- Santa made his annual stop at the Haynes Family of Programs in La Verne this month during the holiday lights reception (that's his sleigh in the background). Pictured with Santa are Juan Chavez, 4 and his sister, Jalissa, 6, of Upland.



POMONA SCHOOLS SUPT. MARTINEZ RECEIVES CAPE AT 'SUPERHERO AWARD' PRESENTATION IN SAN FRANCISCO -- Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez, at left, tries out his cape as he receives a "Summer Matters Superhero Award" from State Supt. of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson during the California School Boards Association annual education conference in San Francisco this month. Martinez was one of three superintendents from throughout California to receive the award for efforts to support and expand summer learning opportunities for youth in their communities. Also recognized were superintendents from Gilroy Unified and Sausalito Marin City School Districts. The award highlights efforts by superintendents to provide quality programs that help children in low-income and low-resource communities avoid the devastating effects of summer learning loss. For more information, visit the web site at www.summermatters.net.

Police department's 'Citizen's Police Academy' to begin next month

Applications are being accepted for the Pomona Police Department 2017 Citizen's Police Academy with classes scheduled to get under way next month.

The academy is a free nine-week program that provides citizens with the opportunity to learn about the inner workings of the police department.

Topics will include patrol operations, criminal investigations, forensics, canines, SWAT, narcotics and traffic operations.

Classes will be held from 6 to

8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays from Jan. 25 through March 22 and space is limited to 40 approved applicants who must be 18 years of age or older and either live, attend school or work in Pomona.

Applications for those who have not attended past citizen academies are available at the police department front desk, 490 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona, or at the department's crime prevention office in Pomona City Hall.

For more information, call crime prevention at (909) 620-2318.

Pomona's Farrell Chiles to keynote Martin Luther King celebration

Pomona's Farrell Chiles, author and cultural historian, will present the keynote address at next month's 35th annual Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration, sponsored by the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr. Project.

The event is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 600 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

Chiles, a commissioner on the Los Angeles County Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission, retired from both federal civil serv-

ice and the military and was the first recipient of the Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel Warrant Officer of the Year Award.

In 2007, he received the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board's Distinguished Public Service Award.

He has served as board chair-



Farrell Chiles

man of the National Organization of Blacks in Government and as vice president for resource development of the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation.

Chiles is also a member of the NAACP Pomona Valley Branch.

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

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POMONA BOXER TAKES HOME GOLD -- Ernesto "Tito" Mercado, 15, a student at Pomona High School, shows off his championship belt after winning a gold medal this month in Kansas City, Missouri, earning a spot on Team USA and ranking him #1 in the country. The amateur boxer, who trains with Pomona's Gangs 2 Grace Youth Foundation Boxing Club, was crowned in the junior 114 pounds 14-15 year-old category after fighting four days in a row in the 2016 USA Boxing National Championships eliminating fighters from Texas, Arizona, Washington, D.C., and Florida. More than 700 boxers competed and about 50 were crowned winners. Mercado, who has been fighting since he was four, is a 15-time national champion.



POMONA CHAMBER HONORS FIRST RESPONDERS AT ANNUAL 'HOLIDAY FOR HEROES' HOLIDAY LUNCHEON -- Two Pomona police officers and two firefighters were honored last week at the Pomona Chamber of Commerce 'Holiday for Heroes' luncheon at The Avalon at Pomona's Fairplex. Those honored, from left, are Police Corporal Chris Lewis, a member of the SWAT team and a field training officer who navigated the proposal process to bring the "Know Your Limit" program to Pomona in which half of a squad car is marked as a police unit and the other half a taxi cab, part of an education program on the dangers of driving under the influence; Officer Travis Johnson, a field training officer who has served on the major crimes task force and who received the department's life saving medal for pulling an unconscious person out of a burning vehicle; Firefighter Ruben Sanchez of County Fire Station 185, a Pomona resident who was born and raised in Pomona, and who has worked with the Explorer post and is a former Explorer of the Year himself, and who devotes time working for the community; and Capt. Byron Prewett, East Region Pomona Fire Prevention, a 30-year member of the Los Angeles County Fire Department who has served Pomona for eight years ensuring businesses comply with fire code regulations and who was successful this fall in coordinating a multi-agency response that resulted in saving the life of a 14-month-old baby boy who had been choking while attending the L.A. County Fair.

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Pomona... from pg. 1

Rubio Gonzalez.

“The times they have a-changed, the campaigns are over and the work now begins,” Polanco told an enthusiastic crowd of supporters of the four new elected officials.

“So congratulations to your newly-elected body,” Polanco said. “It is because of your effort that this has occurred. Let us remember that we are here to serve the public interest, we are here to serve the community’s interest.”

“And I am proud to have been given the opportunity this evening to conduct the oath of office to a young man who worked hard, who carried his message to you, who demonstrated his commitment to people and community,” he added.

Gonzalez told the audience that the Bible he selected to use in the ceremony was from his collection of antique books and was printed in 1843. The rosary he used, given to him by a friend, was purchased at the Vatican and was blessed by the priest at Sacred Heart Church where he attended as a child.

Councilmember Robert Torres

Congresswoman Norma Torres, a former Pomona city councilmember and mayor herself, administered the oath of office to her son, newly-elected Councilmember Robert Torres.

“Thank you Pomona,” Councilmember Torres said. “We are in a historic place right now for the City of Pomona.”

“Pomona is in a unique position to start a clean slate and new beginning and I’m very honored to work with the new mayor, the new councilmembers,” Torres added. “I do want to thank the former council, Councilmember (Debra) Martin,

Councilmember (Paula) Lantz, Mayor (Elliott) Rothman for their many years of service in the community but now we’re moving forward.”

“We have new leadership here in the city,” he said. “Many folks said this day would never come but now is the time for us to unify, to build a culture based on collaboration and I really thank each and every one of you here.”

Councilmember

Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole

Newly-elected City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole was sworn into office by Pomona City Clerk Eva Buice.

“This is an honor, this was something that was meant to be, I prayed about it, and I received it and I will be fighting for the City of Pomona,” Cole said.

She added that the purpose of the city council is to hear the voice of the people.

“And I will do everything I can to bring back Pomona,” she added.

Nearly 300 supporters of the newly-elected officials waited in cool temperatures outside Pomona City Hall for some three hours, at times growing restless, while another 200 residents, businessmen and city staff members filled the City Council Chambers as the outgoing City Council presented awards to their appointed commissioners and made often emotional outgoing comments to the audience and to each other.

Outgoing Mayor Elliott Rothman, in his own comments, said Pomona was able to survive the recession and has money in the bank.

“The city’s doing great,” he said, adding that the city will be “in great hands” going forward.



Photos by Eric Jung

POMONA OPTIMIST CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SPREE -- Pomona Optimists, Walmart, Pomona Police Explorers, Pomona City Councilmembers, Pomona Unified School District officials and others -- a total of 98 volunteers -- were on hand early in the morning this month for the 16th annual Pomona Breakfast Optimist Club's Christmas Shopping Spree at Pomona's Rio Rancho Walmart. Some 40 Pomona students were invited to the event after their parents or guardians created a wish list of up to \$125 for clothing and footwear. Each child was greeted by a personal shopper who was one of the volunteers from the community and, after breakfast at McDonald's in the store, went on a personal shopping spree. Pictured are several of the kids, a mom and, representing the Pomona Police Department, from left, Police Explorer Yesenia Ramirez, Officer Adrian Rodriguez, an advisor for the Explorer program, and Police Explorer Crystal Bejarano.



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

V.P. of Advertising Sales & Operations: Renee Barbee

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Layout and Design/Translations: Dora Cruz

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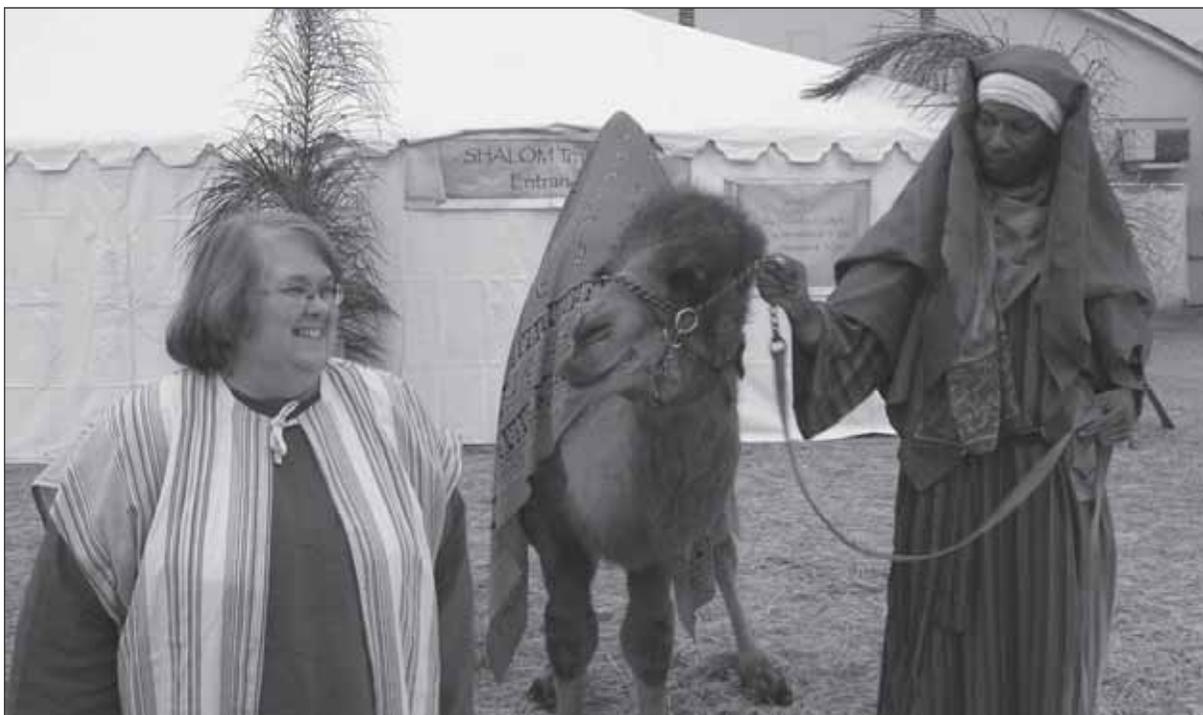


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GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE CAMEL -- Nancy Matarrita, of Pomona's Purpose Church, at left, gets a little too close for comfort to the camel as she plays the role of a money changer during the annual "Journey to Bethlehem" presented by the church. The three-day event, presented each year in the south parking lot on the church campus, is a "living history" presentation providing a glimpse into what life may have been like more than 2,000 years ago. Visitors had an opportunity to sign the census, avoid the Roman soldiers, and interact with the potter, weaver, carpenter and other merchants. They spent a few shekels, visited with the animals and made their way under the giant star as they relived the story of Christmas. Even the food was right out of the original script -- lentil stew, beef kabobs and citrus punch.

Congresswoman Torres hosts roundtable with 'dreamers' on possible changes to DACA

Congresswoman Norma Torres hosted a roundtable meeting with local "dreamers" at the University of La Verne Law School this month bringing immigration advocates and faith groups together to discuss concerns regarding possible changes to the DACA (Deferred Action for

Childhood Arrivals) program.

"In recent weeks many of my constituents have expressed fear in how the incoming administration's policies will impact DACA recipients and their families," Torres said. "It is my responsibility to protect the rights and well-being of all individuals in

our district – regardless of their immigration status."

She added the recent election and anti-immigrant rhetoric of the presidential campaign have led to growing fear and anxiety within the immigrant community.

"Dreamers in particular gave much of their information to the government and underwent background checks, all believing that they would be protected from deportation," Torres said. "Now they are more vulnerable than ever, and it falls on all of us to help keep them safe."

Torres has recently signed several letters to the Obama administration asking for relief for DACA recipients.



LOCAL TAEKWONDO CHAMP -- Eduardo Baltazar, 6, of Pomona, poses with Frank Gonzales, Jr., President and Director of Pomona's U.S.A. Fit Force Taekwondo, after winning a gold medal recently at the 24th annual Jimmy Kim Invitational Taekwondo Championship held each year at Cal State University Long Beach. Baltazar placed second in Poomsae forms for a silver medal and took first place for the gold medal in Kyuugi sparring. Jimmy Kim was the U.S. 1988 Olympics gold medalist champion.

'Trailblazer' Capt. Joann Guzek retires after 29 years with Pomona Police Department

Pomona Police Capt. Joann Guzek retired this month after 29 years of service to the City of Pomona, according to a police department news release.

Guzek, the department's first female officer to attain the rank of captain, was recently awarded the prestigious California Police Chiefs "Trailblazer" award, which is given to women working in law enforcement who have made outstanding contributions to their profession.

She most recently served as the Operations Division commander, overseeing patrol and the department's aero bureau.

During her career, she worked in the department's detective bureau, the vice unit, the major crimes task force, the hostage negotiations unit, the mounted unit,



Capt. Joann Guzek

internal affairs, dispatch and has served as the department's public information officer.

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Annual Santa Cop Toy Drive give-away a success!



Emily Avila, 6, at left, a student at San Antonio Elementary School, stops by the gift-wrapping table on the way out of the annual Santa Cop Toy Drive event in Pomona this month to have that special gift for mom and dad wrapped just so. She appeared to think the volunteers were doing a good job.



First stop inside Pomona City Hall at the annual Santa Cop Toy Drive was under the city's Christmas tree for a "photo op" with Santa, played again this year by police volunteer John Schmidt.

Pomona Police Explorer Monica Ruvalcaba, a student at Mt. SAC, hands out a package of pre-selected gifts to the next family in line at this month's annual Santa Cop Toy Drive give-away in Pomona City Hall, sponsored by the Pomona Police Department and the City of Pomona. Gifts were donated by businesses, through fundraisers, at drop boxes and more. In all, more than 500 kids and 150 families received gifts through the program this year.





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Kids and their parents lined up outside Pomona City Hall this month to check in so they could go inside and receive their gifts from the city and the police department in the annual Santa Cop Toy Drive. Pictured, from left, are volunteers Clara Piedra, of the police department's records department, and La Nueva Voz friend and Pomona Community Engagement Group volunteer Virginia Madrigal.

Pomona Police Officer Sean Gonzalez, at left, helps three young ladies pick out "just the right" surprise Christmas gift for their parents at the annual Santa Cop Toy Drive.



Miguel Santana leaves City of Los Angeles post to become President, CEO of Los Angeles County Fair Association

Miguel Santana, City Administrative Officer for the City of Los Angeles, has been named President and CEO of the Los Angeles County Fair Association, the private non-profit association that manages the 487-acre Fairplex in Pomona.

Fair Association Board Chair Mike Ortiz hailed Santana's appointment as a "game changer" for the association, coming after an extensive executive search and as the non-profit begins the countdown to the L.A. County Fair's 100th anniversary in 2022.

"We are gratified to have found someone with Miguel's vision, management expertise and history of dedicated public service," Ortiz said. "During his 24-year career in county and city government, Miguel has tackled some of the region's most intractable problems with amazing results."

Santana said he sees his selection as an opportunity to guide the future development and management of one of the largest public assets in Los Angeles County.

"This is 500 acres of pure potential," said Santana, 47. "My hope is that by forging even closer ties with nearby communities, local educational institutions and county, federal, state and local public officials, we will transform the mission of Fairplex into a lifestyle – one that creates a 21st century sustainable community and economic engine grounded in its agricultural roots, from the micro-sourcing of our food and craftsmanship to culinary entrepreneurship."

Santana spent 16 years in Los Angeles County government, where he rose to become a deputy chief executive officer overseeing several social service agencies whose annual budgets exceeded \$9 billion a year.

He was recruited to the city in 2009 by former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and as City Administrative Officer helped successfully restore the city's finances.

Santana was reappointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti in 2013. Since then, he has worked to strengthen the city's bond rating and developed a comprehensive strategy, in coordination with the county, to address the region's homeless



Miguel Santana, at left, and Mike Ortiz

crisis.

He developed the effort that won overwhelming voter approval for Proposition HHH, a \$1.2 million bond issue to build housing for the city's homeless population, one of the largest in the nation.

Santana's selection comes at an important time in the relationship between the fair association and the county, its landlord, as recent audits have suggested an evaluation of the association's lease agreement. Santana, who has a 20-year working relationship with Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and long-term ties countywide, is looking forward to hitting the reset button on the fair association's nearly 80-year partnership with the county, bringing a renewed sense of trust and mutual respect, according to a Fairplex news release.

Santana earned a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in sociology and Latin American studies from Whittier College.

He serves on the boards of the United Way of Los Angeles, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), Discovery Cube Los Angeles and LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes.

Only \$43 remains locally when customers shop at corporate chains.

Teamsters Local 1932 is asking San Bernardino County businesses to participate in the program at no cost and will offer participating businesses free advertising on their website and in social media.

"It is our responsibility to care for our community," said Randy Korgan, general manager of the local based in San Bernardino. "This... program (will) provide our citizens with better jobs and opportunities rather than be redirected elsewhere."

Teamsters union launches program to keep tax dollars at home

Teamsters Local 1932 has launched a program to improve the local tax base in San Bernardino County by having members commit to shopping locally, according to a news release.

The program, called "Teamster Advantage," offers a discount to members who patronize participating local businesses that have the "Teamster Advantage" decal in the window.

Studies have shown that of every \$100 spent in local businesses, \$68 stays in the local tax and resource base when shopping at locally owned establishments.

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INTER VALLEY ENROLLMENT MEETINGS: **Tues, Jan 10 @ 10 am & 3 pm (English) / Tues, Jan 24 @ 10 am & 3 pm (Spanish)**

RIVERSIDE: Lincoln Plaza 2995 Van Buren Blvd (at Lincoln) Ste A-13

MEDICARE STEP BY STEP MEETINGS (Educational): **Wed, Jan 18 @ 10 am / Tues, Jan 31 @ 1 pm (English) / Tues, Jan 31 @ 4 pm (Spanish)**

INTER VALLEY ENROLLMENT MEETINGS: **Tues, Jan 10 @ 2 pm / Thurs, Jan 12 @ 10 am / Tues, Jan 24 @ 10 am / Wed, Jan 25 @ 5 pm / Thurs, Jan 26 @ 5 pm (Spanish) / Tuesday, Jan 31 @ 2 pm**

Inter Valley Health Plan is a not-for-profit HMO with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Inter Valley Health Plan depends on contract renewal. Anyone entitled to Part A and enrolled in Part B may apply, including those under the age of 65 entitled to Medicare on the basis of Social Security disability benefits. Members must continue to pay Medicare Part B premium. *This information is not a complete description of benefits. Contact the Plan for more information. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1, of each year. A licensed sales person will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call the number above. No obligation to join. This is an advertisement. Inter Valley Health Plan complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Inter Valley Health Plan cumple con las leyes federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo. Inter Valley Health Plan 遵守適用的聯邦民權法律規定，不因種族、膚色、民族血統、年齡、殘障或性別而歧視任何人。ATTENTION: This information and language assistance services are available to you free of charge. Call 1-800-251-8191 (TTY: 711). ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-251-8191 (TTY: 711). 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 H0545_FUY2016_82B Accepted 12/08/2015 MKS02352MA 12/15 1-800-251-8191(TTY 711)。

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A La Nueva Voz special "pull out" section: The 2016 Pomona Christmas Parade

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Parade Grand Marshal Larry Wilmore



Parade VIP Adrian Morales, this year's "Youth of the Year" at the Boys and Girls Club of Pomona Valley, rides in the parade.



Parade sponsor Valley Vista Services lights up the entire parade viewing area with this year's float built on a miniature waste collection truck. The company has been providing environmentally responsible services for 56 years.



Pomona Chamber of Commerce Past President Jill Reiff, of Valley Vista Services, rides shotgun in sponsor Valley Vista Services' entry.



Pomona Unified School District Board member Frank Guzman.



Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman and her husband, Dr. Ron Hensen.



Mt. San Antonio College Board member Laura Santos waves to the La Nueva Voz camera.



Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez and his wife, Elva, pose for the La Nueva Voz camera.



Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board Member Carlos Goytia, representing South Pomona on the water board, walked the entire parade route this year.



The staff of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis with Pomona's favorite Rachel Barbosa, field representative in the Pomona district office, at far right.



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and his wife Michelle.



Pictured are supporters of the Pomona Public Library. In all, four groups were represented in this year's parade -- the trustees, "Save our Pomona Public Library," Friends and the Foundation.



Congresswoman Norma Torres



State Sen. Connie Leyva and her husband, Al Leyva.



Special Valley Vista Services "pull out" section -- The 2016 Pomona Christmas Parade



Newly-elected Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval is interviewed at the parade reviewing stand by Larry Egan, Executive Director of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association.



Newly-elected Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole.



Newly-elected Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, at left, and outgoing Councilmember John Nolte.



Pomona City Councilmember Ginna Escobar.



Outgoing Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin, carrying an "I love my gay kids" sign, marches in the parade with Pomona Pride LGBTQ in support of "love trumps hate," in memory of the shooting in Orlando.



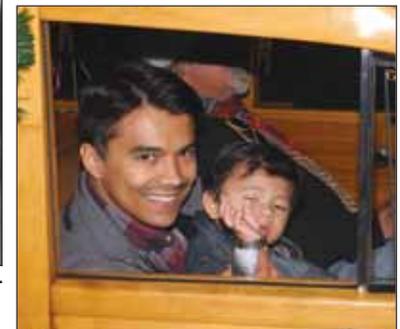
Pomona City Councilmember Adriana Robledo, center.



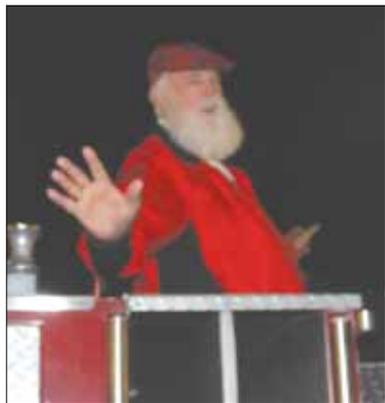
Outgoing Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz.



Pomona Police Chief Paul Capraro, at left, and his wife, Judi, at right, walked the parade route handing out police badge stickers for the kids.



Newly-elected Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres with his son Julian, 2, riding in the parade in a "woodie."



Pomona's own State Farm agent John Forbing on top of the State Farm fire truck.



A singer and dancers from Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise. The school won the parade's Community Youth Award.



Members of Pomona's own Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe walk the parade route and promote the annual "Big Time" Gathering and Pow Wow held the last weekend in April in Pomona's Tony Cerda Park.



That's Pomona's favorite State Farm agent Nona Tirre of Claremont riding shotgun in the State Farm fire truck. Jason Cortez, also a Pomona State Farm agent, was also on board but the fire truck was faster than the La Nueva Voz camera.



Frank Gonzales of Pomona's USA Fit Force Taekwondo and his students walked the entire parade route.



Pomona Unified School District special education teacher Selina Barela, at left, dressed as Belle from "Beauty and the Beast," and Lauren Barela, her sister, as Peter Pan, studying to become a speech pathologist, get in the holiday spirit for the Pomona Christmas Parade. The two were representing "Pop Expo," which specializes in collectibles and comic books.



Sylvia Barkley waves to the La Nueva Voz camera as her husband Walt, Pomona's favorite cop, make their way down the parade route with an "oldies" police patrol car.



Valley Vista Services and Pomona Valley Transfer Station Wish all of the Residents and Businesses of the City of Pomona a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





Representatives of Pomona's Tri City Wellness Center.



Manuel Castillejos, a Pomona Day "hero" at the L.A. County Fair this year and assistant director with the Pomona Youth Orchestra, belts out his own rendition of "The Girl from Ipanema" with the orchestra during Holiday at the Plaza festivities before the parade got under way.



Holiday greetings from Day One!



Performers from Ballet Folklorico at Pomona's Lincoln Elementary School.



Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School marching band.



Megan Samaniego, volunteer coordinator at Cal Poly University Pomona's Center for Community Engagement, adjusts the stroller for her daughter, Sage Helen, 13 months, with her husband, James -- just in time for the beginning of the Pomona Christmas Parade.



Merry Christmas from Pomona's Eagles!



Miss Costa Rica USA Natalie Carmen Guerrero, 25, at left, and Mrs. Costa Rica USA Nancy Matarrita, 33, a Pomona native, show off their crowns in the Pomona Christmas Parade. The pageant, held each year in the fall, is open to all Costa Rica-American women.

The Farm Store at Cal Poly Pomona University wishes Pomona Happy Holidays again this year! (That's Farm Store Manager Dawn Taccone in the red gloves waving to the La Nueva Voz camera.)



Members of Pomona's Ganesha High School Army Junior ROTC marched in good form in the parade.



Pomona's favorite newspaper photo model Mary Brooks, at left, hasn't been in La Nueva Voz for several months so we thought the Pomona Christmas Parade section would be a good time to get her back in, riding in the back of a pickup truck with Pomona Rotary. Riding with her is Kalyn Taylor, also a Rotarian, formerly of The Learning Centers at Fairplex but now with the UC Irvine Medical Center.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12034 of La Verne, "Band of Brothers," were represented in the parade.

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Representatives of Pomona's Kennedy Austin Foundation with founder Ethel Gardner at rear in center.

Pomona's American Legion Post 30 provided this year's Color Guard for the Pomona Christmas Parade. Looking good as always, guys!



Pomona Christmas Parade... from pg. 1

were filled before the opening entries – Pomona Police Department motorcycles, followed by Pomona's own Boy Scout Troop 101 (at 106 years old, the oldest Boy Scout troop west of the Mississippi) carrying the parade banner.

The spectators were there to cheer on the entire parade – all the way to the end of the 90-minute parade when Santa passed perched atop the traditional fire truck, followed by more than 100 parade volunteers walking at the end to bring up the rear.

Pomona's parade, this year on the theme "California Christmas" celebrating the many traditions of Christmas, was a nighttime parade for the second year this year, staging once

again at Third and Gibbs Streets, marching down Second Street and wrapping around Park Avenue and back on Fourth Street and Garey Avenue back to the beginning.

(Before last year, the last time the Pomona parade was held at night was in 1967. And the parade came back to Downtown Pomona in 2009 after more than 40 years of parades along Holt Avenue.)

Even the weather was right on the money – not a cloud in sight and not quite cool enough to zip up your jacket.

(Miss the parade? You can see a 15-minute video of the parade on the La Nueva Voz Facebook site and YouTube – search for Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade).

All the regulars were there with one notable exception – the famous Pomona City Hall Drill Team dancers were missed this year because organizer Andrea Rico (also known as "Superstar" since her performance last year at a YMCA fundraiser portraying Mary Katherine Gallagher's character from Saturday Night Live) was out on medical leave (but she's back now). Welcome back, Andrea!

Grand Marshal this year was Emmy Award winner Larry Wilmore, who grew up in Pomona and has been a television producer, actor, comedian and writer for more than 25 years.

Wilmore studied theater at Cal Poly University Pomona before going on to pursue acting and stand-up comedy. He is perhaps best known for his role as host of Comedy Central's "The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore."

Wilmore hosted the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner in Washington, D.C., last April.

This year's parade attracted about 100 entries, including such notables from out of the area as the Academy for Academic Excellence Marching Knights High School Band from Apple Valley, the 300th Army Band, Kranz Intermediate School from El Monte, Rim of the World High School Marching Band from Lake Arrowhead, Barstow Junior High School Marching Band, and the Garden Grove High School Argonaut Marching Band.

Up front with Pomona Chamber of Commerce Past President Jill Reiff was parade sponsor Valley Vista Services, San Gabriel Valley's family-owned and operated solid waste collection and recycling company which has provided environmentally responsible services for 56 years.



Dancers from Pomona's G-Diva Productions, under the guidance of studio owner Pomona City Councilmember Ginna Escobar, marched and danced along the parade route in brilliant costumes made even more brilliant by holiday lights.



Pomona's Ganesha High School marching band.



Pomona's Garey High School marching band.



Pomona's Girl Scouts filled their float in uniform and decked out in Christmas lights.

Two heads are better than one.



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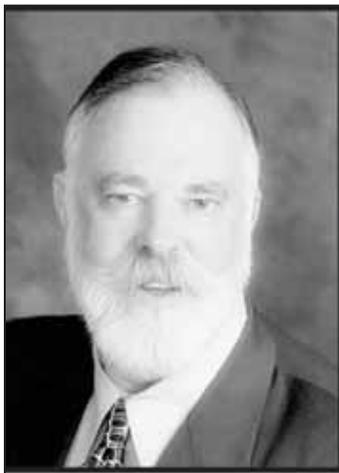
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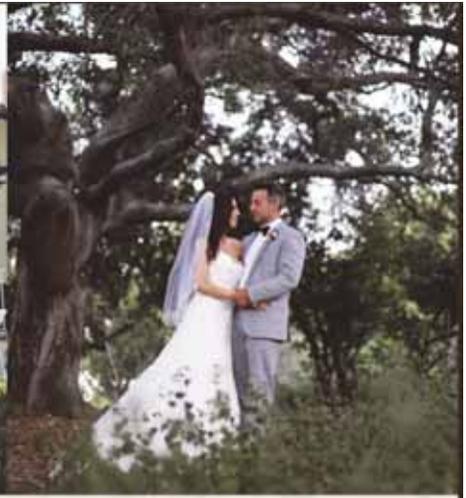
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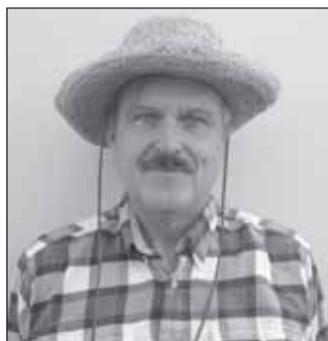


THE WEEKEND GARDENER by Leif Green

Work in the garden is never done

"Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with the dream." - Josephine Nuese

January is a time when we believe gardening slows down since plants grow slower in the cool weather. It doesn't get cold enough for trees and shrubs to truly go dormant so there is always something to do. It is also a time to get a good jump on spring garden activities. To help do this, I've put together a short checklist of things you may want to do in January.



Leif Green

PRUNE: With the cool weather, now is the time to prune the roses and trim the shrubs. In the cool weather, cutting is not as shocking to the plant and you'll be rewarded in the spring and summer.

TRANSPLANT: If anything needs to be moved, this is the time to do it. Again, it is not as shocking to the plant to transplant in the cool weather.

BUY SEEDS: If you are going to grow anything from seeds, now is the time to buy. Many garden shops run specials in the winter when demand is low and it's always nice to save money.

PLANT BULBS: Most bulbs require a period of cold weather in order to sprout properly. Daffodils are a good choice; they're easy to grow and they are usually the first sign that warmer weather is right around the corner.

DON'T USE HERBICIDES: Plants are growing slower in January which means that their uptake of nutrients and any herbicides will be slower. The herbicide will be less effective and most of the spray will simply wash off into the environment. If you have a weed issue, try covering them with a thick layer of grass cuttings.

COMPOST: Hopefully this is a year-round practice. Continuing to compost during the winter months ensures you will have an adequate supply during the spring and summer. And best of all, it's free!

ADD SOIL AMENDMENTS: Now is a good time to mix in fertilizer, potting mix or other soil amendments to your soil. It will aerate the soil and break up any compacted clay which is present in most of our soils. The release of nutrients will also be in progress when it comes time for planting.

DON'T OVERDO IT: Don't spend too much time on this checklist. Although working in the garden can be enjoyable, it is football season after all. Enough said.

Editor's Note: Leif Green, the author's pen name, grew up in Pomona and graduated from Cal Poly University Pomona with a master's degree in biology. Gardening has always been his hobby and his column is presented as a public service.

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GOALS ARE SAFETY, IMPROVED SERVICE AND FASTER TRAVEL TIMES -- Metro Project Manager Jay Fuhrman explains a proposed "double track" Metrolink project at an informational meeting in La Verne last month where he assured residents Metro's goals on the effort would be safety, improved service and faster travel times. The double track eliminates the need for one train to wait for another train to pass. All 12 crossings along the 3.9 mile route will be designed to "quiet zone ready" standards in which trains are not required to sound their horns at crossings. The Metro San Bernardino line is the busiest line in the Metrolink system which is made up of seven lines. The San Bernardino line averages about 10,000 weekday boardings and about 4,000 boardings on Saturdays and Sundays. There are currently 38 weekday Metrolink trains and up to four Union Pacific Railroad trains on the line which is 70 percent single track at this point and 30 percent double track.



METROLINK 'DOUBLE TRACK' PROJECT MAY HEAD TOWARD POMONA -- Two "community open house" informational events -- one in San Dimas and one in La Verne last month -- provided a preliminary look at a project being evaluated by Metro that will add a second mainline track along the Metrolink San Bernardino Line in the cities of San Dimas and La Verne. The proposed 3.9 mile double track segment would be located between Lone Hill Avenue in San Dimas and White Avenue in La Verne, where it would connect with existing double track making its way through Pomona. And based on a show of hands at the meeting in La Verne City Hall, the biggest concern among residents of the area is noise. Officials said the project would be built "quiet zone ready" with improvements in place in the event city policymakers enact quiet zone requirements along the way. Also based on a show of hands, only several of the residents in an audience of about 100 ride the Metrolink regularly. Pictured are residents reviewing plans for the project prior to the presentation.



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Hope & Hurdles

By Evy Schuman



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

Pomona Christmas Parade photos... from pg. 14



Miss Pomona (second from right) Kaia Partlow and her court.



Nancy Matarrita, parade announcer again this year, at right, shuffles paper with the volunteers at the reviewing stand.



Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, insisted she'd been good all year when she stopped for a chat with Santa, played by police volunteer John Schmidt. Mrs. Claus was played by Darlene Duenas, a city employee at Pomona's Palomares Senior Center.



Jeanette Royston, President of the NAACP of Pomona Valley, at left, promotes the civil rights organization's membership campaign in the Pomona Christmas Parade.



Pomona Catholic's Homecoming Queen and members of her court were looking sharp riding the route in this year's Pomona Christmas parade.



The brass section of the Pomona High School Red Devils marching band.



The Pomona Optimist Club float, with Past President M. Joyce Bakersmith waving to the crowd, featured kids from Pomona's La Verne Science and Technology Charter School and their teachers. The kids are holding up posters they created on their own interpretations of a "California Christmas," the parade theme this year.

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Family members of victims show how to fight back when it comes to cancer on this year's Relay for Life float in the parade.

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Human trafficking is a growing regional problem and every family is at risk, expert says

Every family with a child who uses social media is at risk of becoming a victim of sexual exploitation – and the problem is becoming more challenging for both parents and police.

Opal Singleton, President and CEO of the Riverside-based all-volunteer non-profit Million Kids, said one problem is the predator never looks like a predator.

“They’ll come on, they’ll be friendly, they’ll send an instant message, then the young person responds, they text, they tweet, they send an Instagram, they share Facebook, they do a YouTube,” Singleton said. “And mom and dad are saying don’t talk to strangers on there but he’s not a stranger.”

She added that the same kind of thing happens with young men.

“They’re playing a video game, they’re talking in a chat room, they get a new friend, they develop that friendship, that trust, and then one day they send a naked photo and they want one back, and pretty soon that kid feels obligated, they send a photo, and the minute they do they are blackmailed,” Singleton said.

Much of the work of her eight-year-old organization, she said, is to educate the parents and the kids about how to stay safe from predators.

Singleton was at the AM/PM Arco service station at 2488 S. Reservoir St., Pomona (at the 60 Freeway) last month to receive a donation totaling just more than \$2,000 from employees and customers at several area AM/PM stores in Corona and Elsinore as well as Pomona.

The donations came from fundraisers in which Coca-Cola pro-

vided incentives for the fundraiser in a collaborative effort.

Singleton said she was pleased to receive the donations from the Pomona area, particularly because of the human trafficking problem in Pomona.

“It’s very much an issue, especially from Pomona but the whole surrounding Inland Empire area,” she added.

Singleton is the author of “Seduced – The Grooming of America’s Teenagers” (available on Amazon.com or directly from www.millionkids.org), which was published last year in paperback.

Wrote book because Pomona High student got her attention

She said she wrote the book because a student at Pomona High School got her attention.

“It isn’t just the fact that it’s here in Pomona because if a kid is recruited here in Pomona they’ll often take them over to Los Angeles or Long Beach or take them out to Rialto or Corona or Riverside,” Singleton said.

And while her organization helps locate kids who have run away, “there is no Amber Alert for a runaway child.”

“Historically, what will happen is this guy will build trust with her and one day she sneaks off, gets in a car and poof, she’s gone,” she said.

The problem becomes even more complicated because gangs are playing a role in all of this.

“(The victim) will get a girlfriend on line without realizing the girl is connected to a gang,” Singleton said, and her new “friend” will sell her into a human trafficking situation.

“Human trafficking is the fastest

growing crime in America,” she added. “In California, it’s the number one state.”

She said three out of four victims are U.S. citizens. And it is not only human trafficking for prostitution.

“Sextortion is an issue that is very seldom talked about,” she said, in which a man pretends to be a girl, as an example, and someone gets sucked into sending a naked photo.

“The minute they do they start being blackmailed for more photos or destroying them if they don’t get into prostitution or they’ll want money,” she said.

Trains law enforcement throughout California and beyond

Singleton, who was on a panel that wrote the human trafficking curriculum for law enforcement throughout California, regularly appears at training programs for chiefs of police at the University of Southern California and is an instructor for fire chiefs at the Los Angeles County Fire Training Academy.

She recently returned to Southern California after training state troopers in Alaska.

“My forte though is doing everything I can for prevention and intervention,” Singleton said. “Once you see how violated these kids are, you’ll do anything. Once you sit with a parent that’s missing a child, you’ll do whatever you can do to keep that kid from running away.”

But is the problem getting any better?

“I think it’s getting more challenging,” she said. “We’re seeing a larger number of gang members coming across the border with the border kids and they’re spreading out and developing gang cells and gangs are very much involved in



COMMUNITY SUPPORTS WORK OF NON-PROFIT 'MILLION KIDS' IN COMBATING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION -- Opal Singleton, President and CEO of the Riverside-based all-volunteer non-profit Million Kids, receives checks from area AM/PM fundraisers supporting the work of her organization. Singleton said every family with a child using social media is at risk of becoming a victim. Pictured, from left, are Tom and Christina Kim, owners of the Pomona AM/PM at S. Reservoir Street and the 60 Freeway; Singleton; and Lisa Wood, account manager with Coca-Cola, who helped provide incentives for the fundraiser.

this.”

“On top of it, technology is changing in such a way that it makes it very, very difficult,” she added. “For instance, (we now have) live streaming of these events (which makes it difficult) if you don’t happen to be there when that’s happening.”

In addition, social media is becoming encrypted, which means parents and police won’t be able to see what is being said as was the case with the now-famous encrypted cell phone that was used last year in the San Bernardino mass shooting and attempted bombing at the Inland Regional Center.

Singleton said criminal investigations become difficult if the money cannot be traced, the victim is too violated to talk and police cannot check the cell phone.

Even so, she had kind words for law enforcement throughout California.

“They do not get enough credit on this crime,” she said. “Anybody who sells another person’s body, especially a child, is the worst of the worst. These guys (police) are putting their lives on the line to go up against some of the nastiest gang members you ever met and they’re doing it at all hours of the day and

Human trafficking... pg. 20



RIBBON-CUTTING FOR NEW PHARMACY -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and city officials helped “officially” open Pomona’s newest drug store, Royalty Pharmacy, last month inside the medical building at 1902 Royalty Drive (Suite 110), Pomona. The grand opening included everything from catered tacos to raffle prizes. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber Ambassadors Richard and Luz Mason of Primavera; Pharmacist in Charge Dr. Christine Patel; Pharmacist and owner Brian Garner; Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman; Pomona Chamber Ambassadors Frank and Vita Gonzales of USA Fit Force Taekwondo; Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; Pomona Chamber Board members Jill Reiff of Valley Vista Services and Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; and Pomona Chamber Ambassador Gus Arias of Pomona’s Inter Valley Health Plan. Pharmacy hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call (909) 620-8008 or e-mail info@royaltypharmacy.com.



THE CHIMNEY WITH CARE -- Sandie Chin, of Claremont, a volunteer at the Haynes Family of Programs in La Verne, shows Jenae Dominguez, 8, of Victorville the finer points of creating her own stocking for Christmas during the annual holiday lighting event at Haynes this month. A variety of crafts, games and treats were on hand for the kids.



DANCERS OF ALL SIZES -- Pomona City Councilmember Ginna Escobar's G-Diva Productions provided the entertainment again this year for the city's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony during a break from a city council meeting on the steps of City Hall. And the dancers came in all sizes, with the younger group performing a dance on a teddy bear theme (their bears are lined up in front of them).



LIGHTING THE TREE -- Members of the Pomona City Council pass the microphone and share their own holiday greetings with the public during a break from a city council meeting this month. Pictured, from left, are Councilmembers Cristina Carrizosa, Paula Lantz and Debra Martin, Mayor Elliott Rothman, and Councilmembers Adriana Robledo, Ginna Escobar and John Nolte.

Inter Valley Health Plan sets series of events in January

Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan has scheduled a series of classes and events in January, beginning with "High Cholesterol and You," set for 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 12.

"Be an Organ Donor" is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, and "Medicare Step by Step" is scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25 and 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28.

A "Vision Bucket and Craft Class" is set for 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, putting together the "bucket list" and the "vision board" to create a list for the New Year.

"Real Connections Village" is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, to discuss remaining in your home as you age, and "Empower Your Health" is set for 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31 to review preventive screenings and better communication with your physician.

All events are scheduled for the Inter Valley Health Plan Medicare Information and Vitality Center in the Pomona Valley Health Center Building, 1601 Monte Vista Ave., Suite 275, Claremont.

To RSVP, call (800) 251-8191, ext. 625.



CHRISTMAS IN POMONA -- Prince of Peace Church in Pomona celebrated Christmas this month with an evangelistic gathering to share a message of salvation with the neighboring community. The audience enjoyed a Christmas performance of the birth of Christ and a lunch with roasted chicken and all the trimmings. All are welcome to join the church family at the church, located at 895 E. 7th St., Pomona. For more information, "like" Prince of Peace Church on Facebook at Principe de Paz.



Photos by Cesia Flores

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L.A. County Supervisor Solis hosts second annual turkey give-away in Pomona for local non-profits

Thanksgiving came to Pomona a week early last month when Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis visited a local food bank for her second annual turkey give-away – with stops throughout her First District resulting in distributing a total of 850 turkeys to 46 organizations.

The event, held the Thursday before Thanksgiving at Inland Valley Hope Partners' Beta Center Food Bank in Pomona, provided participating organizations in Pomona and surrounding communities turkeys, vegetables and everything else for

the Thanksgiving meal so they could serve families in need in their own areas.

Solis also provided a \$500 check to select centers to help provide hot thanksgiving meals to those in need.

Other stops on her tour of the district included Southeast Los Angeles, East Los Angeles and Bassett Park.

State Sen. Connie Leyva joined Solis at the Pomona distribution event which was the first time Solis partnered with Inland Valley Hope Partners.

"All of you who are going to

serve these meals and turkeys to those among us that just can't make ends meet, we really truly appreciate all your work," Wytse Visser, President and CEO of Inter Valley Health Partners, said in introducing Solis.

Solis wished leaders of the non-profits a happy Thanksgiving and thanked Leyva for participating at the event.

"She is a good partner of Los Angeles County and my office," Solis said.

"With all the things that go on in the world . . . there's so much for us to think about but

so many positive things that unite us," Solis said. "And these are one of those kinds of opportunities I think that bring us all together, regardless of where you live, where you come from, what you look like, who you love and your religion."

"We are all children and families, families that come together and we unify, and we help those that are powerless in many ways and sometimes they just need assistance and a helping hand," she added.

"And that's what we're doing today," she said. "So I'm really



LOADING UP THE CARS -- Loading the turkeys and more into a line of cars that were helping distribute the food are, from left, State Sen. Connie Leyva; Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; Pomona Mayor-elect Tim Sandoval; NAACP of Pomona Valley President Jeanette Royston; Inter Valley Health Partners President and CEO Wytse Visser; and John Payne of Pomona.



THANKSGIVING CAME TO POMONA -- Thanksgiving came to Pomona early last month courtesy of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis who partnered with Inland Valley Hope Partners and State Sen. Connie Leyva to distribute turkeys and vegetables to those in need working through some 46 non-profit organizations that helped 850 turkeys and more get to area families. Pictured is Solis wishing happy holidays to representatives of all the non-profits.

Human Trafficking... from pg. 18

night under very difficult circumstances."

Forcing kids into prostitution is big business

And it is big business, forcing kids into prostitution and selling their nude photos into a large-scale child pornography ring.

"It's huge money and you're going to see a lot more of it," she said.

Christina Kim, who owns the Pomona AM/PM with her husband Tom Kim, said she went to a seminar on human trafficking at her church in Rancho Cucamonga and, because she has two girls ages 4 and 5, it hit home.

"I was just really touched by it, you know, what she was doing," Kim said.

"We are making this conscious effort not only with just my own kids but it's everybody's kids," she

added.

Singleton pointed out that Kim took the "creative initiative" to make the fundraiser happen.

"She decided to do something about it," she said.

According to Million Kids literature, some 1.3 million kids run away from home each year. And statistics indicate that one out of three will become a victim of exploitation in the first 48 hours.

Million Kids is a 501(c)3 non-profit that is dedicated to mobilizing and educating the public and serving victims of human trafficking throughout Southern California and around the world.

To help find missing kids, visit the group's web site at www.millionkids.org and sign up to receive photos of local missing teens.

Singleton hosts the weekly interactive internet training program "Exploited!" which can be seen at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursdays Pacific time on voiceamerica.com.

For more information, to volunteer as a trainer or to book a presentation, call (951) 323-0298.



CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN! -- La Nueva Voz friend John Forbing, Pomona's biggest State Farm agent, reported by Facebook that last month he made his first hole in one -- and he's been playing golf for 58 years! The accomplishment, recorded in perpetuity in this Facebook photo, occurred on Hole 4 at Palm Lake Golf Course in Pomona. Congrats from Jeff and Renee!

very, very proud that my staff worked hard to put this together in partnership with Inland Valley Hope Partners, so I really want to say thank you."

"It isn't just one office, it isn't just my office, it's all of us working together," Solis said. "And we say it in Spanish, we say 'mano a mano,' that means hand in hand, we are holding each other up when we need to be held up, holding each other to get a hug . . . to show love and affection and also empowerment. And those are things that I really believe in that make us all strong."

She told members of the non-profits she is challenging them "because we want you to help us do more."

"And I think that's the beauty of being involved in public service – working with the community, identifying the needs that come from the

grass roots level and up and then having those needs addressed by policy makers, by our senate representatives, by our city councils, by your county Board of Supervisors, it's all of us working together to accomplish a goal," she said.

"It really is a labor of love working with all of you," she added.

Solis told Pomona Mayor-Elect Tim Sandoval that she looks forward "to working with you to combat homelessness and poverty and educational opportunities for our young people and better services for our seniors and all of our residents."

Other city councilmembers were on hand at the event representing Walnut and Claremont, the Azusa Unified School District board, Pomona Unified School District Board and the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, based in Pomona.

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Pomona's Salvation Army hosts annual Thanksgiving community meal



Pomona Kiwanis member Gino Elias grabs a plate from the kitchen to serve to a guest at last month's Thanksgiving community meal at the Salvation Army. Kellogg West Catering at Cal Poly University Pomona cooked all the turkeys, 33 total, and prepared all the sides as they have done for the past eight years. Calvary Church of San Dimas brought in the clean-up crew and the Pomona Salvation Army church family did all the "behind the scenes" work.



Guests enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner and all the trimmings at the annual community meal hosted by the Pomona Salvation Army. Tables were set for about 100 but a total of 300 guests were served a meal by about 80 volunteers. Salvation Army Band music was provided by The Crusaders Youth/Adult Brass Band.



Kiwanis member Danny Holznecht poses for La Nueva Voz between assignments serving dinner plates at the Salvation Army Thanksgiving community dinner. The Salvation Army also held its 5th annual Kettle Kick Off Breakfast last month to raise funds to buy food and toys at Christmas for 600 families, toys and clothing for 1,500 children, 14,000 lunch meals each year for the children and more.



Outgoing Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman reads the winning raffle ticket number for a free turkey at Pomona's Salvation Army's 12th annual Thanksgiving community meal held the night before Thanksgiving. Left holding the basket is Lieutenant John Kim, Corps Officer, of the Pomona Salvation Army.



Diane Elias is hard at work in the kitchen serving meals for guests at the annual Salvation Army community meal.



Boy Scout volunteers help with the drinks and, of course, that pumpkin pie at the Salvation Army Thanksgiving community meal. The pumpkin pies were donated by outgoing Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman. Boy Scouts volunteering at the event were from troops 655, 614 and 720 in Alta Loma with a total of 32 kids helping out.

Pomona Valley Hospital opens expanded 73-bed emergency department

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center opened its expanded 73-bed Emergency Services Department last month to improve emergency services in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

The 23-bed expansion is expected to both reduce wait times for patients and improve their emergency care experience.

The emergency department, open 24-hours a day, seven days a week, offers immediate medical evaluation and treatment that serves more than 100,000 patients each year. The department's dedicated staff is trained in emergency medicine to offer prompt and accurate diagnoses and medical treatment.

The medical team includes board-certified emergency physicians and nationally-certified nurses, physician's assistants, emergency medical technicians and respiratory therapists, in addition to other support staff.

Included is a paramedic base station, a disaster resource center, a primary stroke receiving center, an ST-elevation myocardial infarction or heart attack receiving center for Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties and a facility approved for pediatrics.

The expansion project received generous gifts from physicians, foundations and community members. In addition, physicians on the hospital's foundation board and medical executive committee recently approved a transfer of \$1.6 million from the George Brown Society Endowment to support the expansion project.

"More than 30 years ago, (the hospital's) foundation board members with the encouragement of the hospital's medical staff created the George Brown Society to raise funds from the medical staff for an endowment that could be used by the hospital in the 21st century, said Dr. D.P. Reddy, the hospital's chief of medical staff.

"That time has come and I am honored to be a part of the physician group that has decided to use those funds for such an important project,"

he added. "The expansion helps us better serve the critical needs of our community."

Additional gifts include \$500,000 from The Ahmanson Foundation, \$150,000 from the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation and \$100,000 from California Emergency Physicians.

The hospital foundation also raised \$1,050,000 from the community for the emergency room expansion.

The project is a component to prepare for the upcoming Level II Trauma Center designation at the hospital. Other components will include a parking structure with a helipad, upgrading equipment and adding a 12-bed intensive care unit before the designation is final, probably early next year.

Fairplex 'Learning Centers,' CTEC students off to Europe to study art

A dream of a trip to Europe has become a reality for 10 students enrolled in The Learning Centers at Fairplex and the Career and Technical Education Center, thanks to the Reed Fine Art program.

The Ruth and Joseph C. Reed Education Abroad Scholarship awarded full scholarships to students enrolled in either Fairplex program with the opportunity to travel to the Netherlands for 10 days to study art, architecture and art history.

"For many students the opportunity to travel outside of the state, let alone the country, is something they've never even considered a possibility at this stage in their life," said Art Center manager Thomas Canavan.

The tour, scheduled for July, is led by San Dimas High School painting and drawing instructor Dominic Black who over the past six years has escorted more than 44 students on art study trips through Europe.



Photos by Tom Zasadzinski/Cal Poly Pomona COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE NAMED IN HIS HONOR -- Cal Poly University Pomona College of Agriculture graduate Don Huntley, seated in front, poses last month with faculty and staff of what is now the Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture in his honor. Huntley graduated in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry. He has pledged his 475-acre San Joaquin Valley pistachio farm to the university and the Cal State University Board of Trustees voted in favor of naming the college in his honor last September. Huntley, a longtime donor, has given to other programs at Cal Poly including research projects for agriculture and science colleges, the creation of the Huntley Vineyard and the Native American Pipeline and Pathways to Graduation program. He was awarded an honorary doctorate of science in 2009. "Don has never forgotten his alma mater," said Mary Holz-Clause, dean of the College of Agriculture. "In many ways, he is a role model for the kind of partnership our college hopes to create with industry and donors."

CHATTING WITH THE PRESIDENT -- Cal Poly University Pomona alumnus Don Huntley chats with Cal Poly President Soraya Coley last month during a celebration of the newly-named Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture. Coley and College of Agriculture Dean Mary Holz-Clause surprised Huntley, an avid collector of Western-themed art, with a western-themed portrait of himself painted by Mian Situ, one of Huntley's favorite artists.



GOOD FOR THE SOLE! -- Pomona Rotary Club this month held its eighth annual "Leslie Lewis Good for the Sole" shoe drive, which was created by Pomona Rotary member Leslie Lewis who died in 2014. Some 134 elementary school students selected by Pomona Unified School District officials based on need lined up for two hours outside a local sporting goods store to try on shoes and walk out with a brand new pair. Pictured helping select just the right pair of shoes are, from left, volunteer Claire Beyke of Claremont, a sophomore at Pomona Catholic; Bianca Martinez, a fifth grader at Pomona's Kellogg Elementary School; and volunteer Alicia Zorrilla of Montclair, also a sophomore at Pomona Catholic.

Fairplex automotive program receives gift to enable scholarships at proposed welding lab

The Alex Xydias Center for Automotive Arts at The Learning Centers at Fairplex is receiving a gift of \$196,000 from patron Saralee Baldwin that will enable the center to offer scholarships to 14 students of

a future welding lab.

The gift was in memory of Baldwin's late husband, Keith Baldwin, who was one of Xydias' first customers at SO-CAL Speed Shop.

Fairplex's Technical Education Center developed its automotive program in collaboration with automotive business owners and classic car enthusiasts from the Inland Valley. The two-year program allows students to gain the knowledge and experience needed to enter the automotive industry right out of high school.

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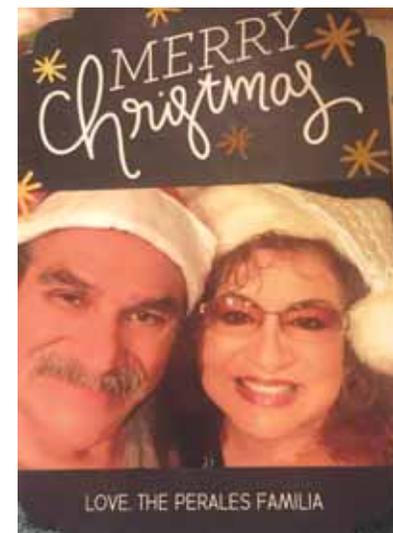
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FELIZ NAVIDAD -- Merry Christmas from Angel and Susie Perales of Pomona who celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary this month (and the second anniversary, also this month, of Susie and Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz becoming "BFF's"). Angel and Susie both once worked for Pomona Unified School District and Susie contributed to the old La Voz, the predecessor of this newspaper.

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COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AT POMONA'S CESAR CHAVEZ PARK -- The community turned out last month for the third annual neighborhood pot-luck, mural restoration, clean-up and celebration at Pomona's Cesar Chavez Park (2720 Barjud Avenue) as community artist Paul Botello coordinated an effort to restore five murals in the park depicting various periods in the life of labor leader and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez. Pictured putting finishing touches on a painting of a young Cesar Chavez are, from left, Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez; former Councilmember John Nolte; Cesar Chavez Park Community Committee members Miranda Meza and Yesenia Miranda, committee president; Paul Botello; NAACP of Pomona Valley President Jeanette Royston; and San Gabriel Valley Latina/Latino Roundtable President Jose Calderon. Calderon told La Nueva Voz \$6.2 million in Measure A parks funding is earmarked for the construction of a community center at the park. Artist Botello, who taught Chicano studies at the Claremont colleges, said he considers himself a social activist using art as an educational tool. He painted three murals on the campus of the colleges although his biggest mural, 72 feet by 120 feet, is in West Berlin. It is a multi-cultural global chess board symbolizing the different nations coming together.

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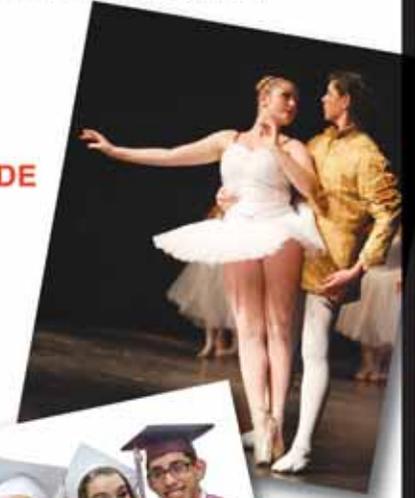
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