

Pomona's own Alejandro places second but wins the hearts of millions at 'American Idol!'

There was no joy in Mudville. Alejandro Aranda came in second in the final competition for American Idol Sunday night. Eighteen-year-old Laine Hardy of Livingston, Louisiana, won first place.

Hardy, who was born on the bayou, was voted the nation's rock star.

Pomona native Aranda didn't win the competition. But he won the hearts of Pomona and the world.

That much was clear when it was Alejandro Aranda Day in Pomona last week as several thousand music fans converged in the downtown area to see Pomona's most popular celebrity waving to the crowds in a hometown parade and performing in a free concert in the street in a general celebration for a local hero who

ended up placing second out of the thousands who started the journey in this year's "American Idol" competition.

The seemingly bashful and soft-spoken 24-year-old musician remained true to his music – much of it original – and to himself on Sunday night's broadcast as the final three – and then the final two – performed on the show for the last time.

But perhaps the more genuine excitement was in Downtown Pomona as Aranda appeared before his supporters last week – most from Pomona but some from as far south as San Diego and as far east as



Pomona's own American Idol finalist Alejandro Aranda, at right, opens his free concert in the street in front of the Fox Theater with his friend, singer-songwriter Ben Harper, also a Pomona native and a three-time Grammy winner. The marquee in front of the Fox reads "Welcome Home Alejandro."

Photo by Jeff Schenkel

Elected officials tell Pomona Chamber local opportunities abound

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis told the Pomona Chamber of Commerce the county does \$6 billion in business each year and she's working to keep that money in the region – to benefit local business and provide more jobs.

"We have \$6 billion worth of business that the county does – we want to try to get that money to stay in our region, and our goal is also to provide 25 percent procurement opportunities for our overall budget for the County of Los Angeles,"

Local opportunities abound... pg. 4



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis makes a point in response to a question at last month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce annual legislative luncheon. Pictured, from left, are guests State Sen. Connie Leyva, Solis and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.

The parade, produced by the Downtown Pomona Owners Association and the "American Idol" team, ended at the Fox Theater where Aranda disappeared briefly before walking out for an appearance on top of the historic theater's marquee to wave to the crowd for the American Idol crew videotaping everything for use on the show.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, standing on a stage erected in the street outside the Fox, introduced Aranda to a crowd that was pressing into a railing in front of the stage and overflowing into the Chase Bank parking lot and all the way out into Garey Avenue which was closed to traffic for the afternoon.

"You've given me and so many millions of people goosebumps and on behalf of the City of Pomona we have something special for you – we proclaim Alejandro Aranda Day in the City of Pomona," Sandoval said, adding that since he already has the key to the city, he presented Aranda with his own Golden Mic award.

"I just want to say like honestly,

Pomona's own... pg. 2

Washington, D.C.

First up was Aranda's special performance for a small group of kids inside Pomona's Fox Theater (apparently he liked the idea that they sang a song for him that he had written – he told their parents seated in the balcony to continue to encourage their kids to sing), followed by a parade through Downtown Pomona led by the Garey High School marching band, with Aranda riding in a classic Chevy convertible that was one of a half dozen lowriders in the parade.

Pomona Unified School District announces the sponsorship of the Seamless Summer Feeding Program (SSFO).
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Summer Meal Program

DATES AND TIMES OF SERVICE
FECHAS Y HORARIO DE SERVICIO

Elementary Schools June 4 - July 1, 2019:
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Alcott, Cortez, Golden Springs, Harrison, Kellogg, Kingsley, Lexington, Lincoln, San Jose, Vejar

Elementary Schools June 5 - June 21, 2019:
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Allison, La Verne, Lopez, Madison, Montvue, Philadelphia, Ranch Hills, San Antonio, Washington, Westmont

Middle Schools June 4 - July 3, 2019:
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Emerson, Lorbeer, Marshall

High Schools June 4 - July 3, 2019: 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Diamond Ranch HS, Fremont Academy, Ganesha HS, Garey HS, Palomares Academy, Pomona HS, Village Academy, Adult Transition

Pomona's own... from pg. 1

from the bottom of my heart," Aranda said, obviously impressed with the attention. "You know I used to play at DBA256 (Bar and Gallery in Downtown Pomona)—I was playing there, and I was playing songs, I was trying to figure out what I want to do in my life."

"And when I was here, like we're just working and we're trying to be better people, we're trying to better ourselves and just live life to the fullest and be happy," he said.

"Show or no show, this right here, our community, the love . . . I just want to say from the bottom of my heart if there's anybody that feels like they can't do anything, especially like me growing up, you're going to face rejection, people are going to say no, people are not going to like what you're doing, you've just got to be yourself, you've got to ignore it," he told the crowd. "And you've got to just keep being yourself."

"I just want to say thank you and thank you everybody for coming

out," he added. "I love you."

Aranda returned to the stage a short time later for an opening duet with his friend, singer-songwriter Ben Harper, also a Pomona native, and a three-time Grammy Award winner who has released a dozen studio albums and toured internationally.

"It's such an honor and such a privilege to get to witness his growth as a supremely talented artist, a once in a generation artist, and the fact that he's from the 909, come on, you all,"

Harper said.

While the sound crew was working on an audio problem with Harper's guitar, someone in the crowd shouted "D.C."

"You flew from Washington?"



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at left, presents Pomona's own American Idol finalist Alejandro Aranda with his own "Golden Mic" award in brief ceremonies on stage in the middle of Third Street in front of the Fox Theater. Aranda presented a free concert after his "welcome home" parade for about an hour to several thousand fans filling the entire downtown area.



Alejandro t-shirts were in vogue last week on Alejandro Aranda Day in Pomona as is evidenced by wardrobe selections of five Pomona City Councilmembers. Pictured, from left, are Councilmembers Rubio Gonzalez and Steve Lustro, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, and Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Robert Torres.



Pomona's favorite leader of the parade Mary Prendergast, center, leads the parade carrying the Alejandro banner with the help of employees of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association.



It was almost time for the parade to start but the crowd was already crowding in on Third Street across the street from the concert stage in front of the Fox Theater.



Pomona's finest turned out to help keep things as close to "orderly" as possible and, for that matter, to share in the excitement of the day. Pictured, at right, is Pomona Police Capt. Christian Hsu, head of Operation Services, with Traffic Officer Jorge Aleman on the motorcycle.

Beautiful," Aranda said.

Harper and Aranda then performed "There will be a light," the song they sang as a duet on American Idol, before Aranda went on to perform a half dozen songs on his own.

The entire Downtown Pomona was completely transformed for the event with signs and banners everywhere – handheld signs, posters in business windows, banners hanging off of building tops and more.

And t-shirts displaying Aranda's picture appeared to be the order of the day – with styles ranging from homemade to shirts produced



Long-time La Nueva Voz friend Marco Argote, creative director at the Fox Theater, poses for the camera while helping coordinate activities and shooting a little video on his iPhone.



Wait, is that girl waving at the La Nueva Voz camera instead of Channel 7? We like a young lady who has her priorities straight.

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Event location and dates / Lugares y fechas de evento

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AutoZone	501 E. Holt Ave. Pomona, Ca	Saturday June 29th	9:00 am to 12:00 pm

*Residents may receive up to 2 new filters in exchange for 2 used filters.
(While supplies last)

*Los residentes pueden recibir hasta 2 filtros nuevos a cambio de 2 filtros usados.
(Mientras duren las reservas)

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COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES 2019



Fremont Academy

Wednesday, May 29
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Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



Adult & Career Education

Wednesday, May 29
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Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



*Palomares
Academy of Health Sciences*

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

Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



*Village Academy
High School*

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

Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



Garey High School

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

Garey High School
Football Stadium



Pomona High School

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

Pomona High School
Football Stadium



*School of Extended
Educational Options*

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

Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



Park West High School

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

Sheraton Conference
Center, Pomona



Ganesha High School

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

Ganesha High School
Football Stadium



*Diamond Ranch
High School*

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

Diamond Ranch HS
Football Stadium

Local opportunities abound... from pg. 1

Solis said.

Her comments came last month at the Pomona Chamber's annual legislative luncheon, held this year at DoubleTree by Hilton in Pomona. Nearly 200 chamber members and guests attended the event.

"That will result in many jobs," Solis added. "We also have a proposal to establish a micro loan lending program, first of its kind in the county, that would actually help small businesses, especially minority and women owned, and disabled and veteran owned businesses."

She called the program "kind of a test tube experiment... because if it takes hold and does well, then we predict that we'll be able to expand it throughout the county."

Solis said the program will get under way in East Los Angeles in an office that will service the San Gabriel Valley.

Her answer was a response to the opening question at the event, tossed out by Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, asking panelists what they have in the hopper that will impact the Pomona business community in either a positive or negative way.

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez cited a bill last year introduced by State Sen. Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) providing protections at the state level for sidewalk vendors or street cart vendors selling food on the sidewalk.

He said the measure would allow vendors to work with officials of local jurisdictions.

And he mentioned another bill, co-authored by State Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), that he said was an outgrowth of the "me too" movement and sexual harassment issues that would require public corporations to include more women on their boards.

"We need better representation," Rodriguez said. "And businesses and industries are all male dominated but I think we're living in a day and age where things are changing so now we'll be able to have more women on those boards (and) get a better direction on these businesses and what they do in investments or in

the community."

A third measure he cited that is working its way through the legislative process was introduced by Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) and would "go after" crimes in the underground economy where businesses are not paying their taxes or selling counterfeit goods.

State Sen. Connie Leyva highlighted Senate Bill 291 which she authored this year



State Sen. Connie Leyva



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez



Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares



Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana asks L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis a question.



Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board member Luis Cetina, at left, of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, facilitator of the Chamber's legislative luncheon panel discussion, confers with Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval on the next question.



L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis

State Sen. Tom Umberg (D-Santa Ana) that would help Pomona's Fairplex and other large venues, increasing their ability to advertise and bring events into California and help boost the state's economy.

Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana asked Solis for an update on getting the Gold Line to the Fairplex campus, adding that she was involved in advocating for the light rail line to make its way all the way to the San Bernardino County line.

"We hope that we can continue to get continued funding for the Gold Line," Solis said. "Right now, we estimate that there may be a shortfall of about \$230 million and that's after we went back with the (Foothill Gold Line Construc-

have cost savings, each (parking) lot costs \$60,000," she said, adding that if motorists can be encouraged to use other less polluting transportation or shuttle services, money that is saved can go toward filling the gaps.

"I really want our cities to think very closely what your footprint will look like and how we can all work together to make sure that we're not overspending in the old mode of thinking," she said, explaining that people now are not just building big parking lots, they are building for more economy and incorporating different modes of transportation.

"We have to think outside the box," she said. "We have a governor who I think would be well worth our while if we have him come and travel the Gold Line and be able to see what we offer and the potential for economic development and for housing that would take place around La Verne and Pomona, and hopefully work in coordination with Metrolink."

Leyva pointed out that she joined with Solis and Rodriguez advocating for funding to complete the Gold Line to the Inland Empire.

And, she said, they were able to secure \$97 million to "keep the project going . . . when it was costing far more than they thought it would to extend the Gold Line."

"When we collaborate together and when we don't care who gets the credit, we can really make a difference," Leyva said. "So I would just say it's really great that we have a group of people (referring to Solis and Rodriguez as well as herself) who are willing to work together."

Rodriguez added that Gold Line funding originally was available, but construction bids came in significantly higher "so now we've had to scale back that program (to) get it to Pomona."

"But I think we're all committed to making sure that it not only gets to Pomona, but it gets to Montclair and beyond and I think our whole vision is to get it to the (Ontario International) airport," he said.

"This would require smog checks of big diesel trucks, which are the ones that pollute the most," she said. "They don't have to do smog checks now."

She said the final bill that will be developed should be "fair to our lungs and the trucking industry."

In addition, the measure would help to regulate trucks from out of state "because that is part of the problem."

Leyva also described a new measure just introduced by

tion) authority and Metro to see how we could squeeze out more cost savings."

"And what's happening right now, there's so much competition for these jobs for construction in this

industry and so we're having to compete and of course the costs overall are going up," she added. "So it's a tremendous challenge for us."

Solis said she wants to see it go "as far as we can get," adding that would be hopefully to Montclair but at least to Pomona.

She pointed out a lot of people are using Uber and Lyft and even bicycles and other means of transportation for short term travel less than a mile.

"If we can re-think how to

Fairplex Specific Plan effort close to getting under way

The City of Pomona appears to be closer to hiring a consultant – at the expense of Fairplex – who would spend the next three years developing a proposed Fairplex Specific Plan that will serve as a guideline for the type and frequency of activities to be held at the 500-acre campus.

That plan – and an accompanying environmental impact report with opportunities for full community input – also would focus on crowd, traffic and noise management issues that have been a concern in recent years of residents living near Fairplex.

But first the city council would need to formally take action to

proceed with a process to develop a specific plan.

City staff members explained the land use regulation process during this month's joint meeting of the city council and its planning commission in a public study session across the street from Fairplex in the Ganesha Park Community Center.

Members of the public, who were given an opportunity to speak before the presentation, reminded commissioners of both noise issues in the neighborhood along with difficulty getting into and out of their street during some Fairplex events.

Eunice Russell, a resident of



Miguel Santana

the area since the early 1980s, asked officials to “be mindful” of what residents have to deal with when crowds of 30,000 to 40,000 people come into the area.

City staff said the area currently falls under a special “F-Zone” for land use regulation, part of the city’s zoning code, while the anticipated specific plan would include more detailed policies and regulations and still ensure the timely provision of essential public services and promote a “harmonious variety” of housing choices and commercial and industrial activities.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval projected that in three years Fairplex should be a lot closer to reaching the full potential of the property, and he commended members of the community – and their diverse opinions – for their participation in the planning process to this point.

City staff members said Fair-

plex would formally apply for a specific plan, the city would hire a consultant, and the consultant would develop a timeline, perform a comprehensive environmental impact review, provide for community engagement and then bring a completed plan back to the planning commission and then to the city council for adoption.

Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana told the group that Fairplex only last year unveiled its own “strategic plan,” a comprehensive document developed at the urging of the Fairplex board to incorporate many of the same concerns of the community.

Santana, who took the helm at Fairplex two and a half years ago, said one of his first tasks was to begin work on the development of that plan which involved a broad cross-section of the community and was produced over a period of a year.

It looked at wide-ranging questions regarding the future of the non-profit organization from “who does Fairplex serve and why” to

Fairplex effort under way... pg. 18

Pomona library foundation to present second annual ‘Mayor’s Gala’

The Pomona Public Library Foundation is holding its second annual Mayor’s Gala on the theme “Discovering Pomona’s Treasures” next month and hopes the event will help fill up slots on a new donor’s board its members installed inside the front door of the library this month.

“We’re now in the position where we’re getting donations, we’ve got a lot of community support and it’s finally time to do our recognition of our donors,” Foundation President John Clifford said at the unveiling of the donor board.

The donor board itself, fashioned to look like a pre-computer library card catalog by Pomona artist Ron Estrada, lists each donor in an individual “drawer,” with spaces for 180 donors. Estrada donated his work on the project.

And with about 80 of the spaces filled, Clifford said foundation members hope most of the remaining spots will be used after next month’s gala and that hopefully the library will need another board.

“In the little drawer pulls we have an amount – it will say \$1,000 plus, or \$5,000 plus or \$10,000 plus or hopefully we’ll have some \$25,000 people,” Clifford said at the unveiling.

It took Estrada two years to complete the project.

This year’s gala will be held



Photo by Renee Barbee

Pomona Public Library Foundation President John Clifford, at left, poses with Pomona artist Ron Estrada at the unveiling of a new library foundation donor board that was unveiled in ceremonies this month at the library. Estrada created the board for the foundation.

at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 13, at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center.

The black-tie event will include cocktails, dinner and a silent auction. Tickets and sponsorships, starting at \$125, can be purchased on line at www.PomonaLibraryFoundation.org/gala2019.

“The opportunity to support our library draws every segment of our community together like nothing else,” Clifford said.

State Sen. Connie Leyva will receive the Mayor’s Award and the foundation will honor the legacy of author Ray Bradbury and his special relationship to the Pomona Public Library.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Cal Poly University Pomona

President Soraya Coley, Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center President and CEO Rich Yochum, Western University of Health Sciences President Dan Wilson, Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare President and CEO Felice Loverso and Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana make up this year’s host committee.

The library foundation formed in 2012 and donations to the foundation have provided help for young patrons doing homework at the foundation’s homework club, exciting summer excursions, updates to furnishings at the library, additional library materials and more.



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Earth Day 2019 celebrated at Cal Poly's Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies

More than 300 people participating in last month's Earth Day observance at Cal Poly Pomona University learned about how they can "get back to the earth" through Native American foods and healing techniques.

Doug Kent, an adjunct professor of regenerative studies, led a team of organizers to produce the event as part of a "499" senior class project – on a total budget of \$400 – relying on the resources and skills of undergraduate and graduate regenerative studies students.

And that was an appropriate team to produce the event, which was held at Cal Poly's Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies, atop the back side of the old Spadra Landfill and a long-time demonstration project of creating a self-sustaining lifestyle.

"All we do is focus on the fundamentals of regenerating the resources we need to sustain humans," Kent told La Nueva Voz after the Earth Day event. "So we work on energy systems like those big solar panels, all the wind stuff

we do, we do bio-energy, thermal energy, we do all our food systems, we have active systems, passive systems, and then super-passive systems, we do architecture, how to house people without huge energy imports so low air conditioning, low heating costs."

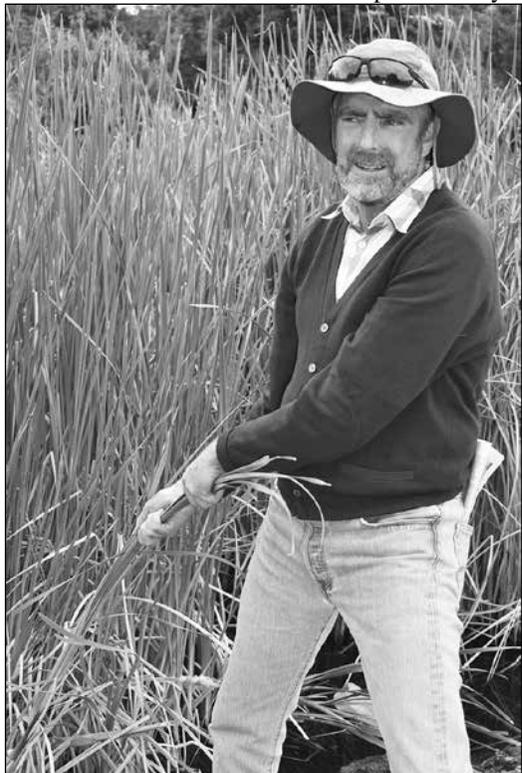
The facility even provides housing for about 20 students, and they are not even all regenerative studies students. Cal Poly offers both a minor and a master's program in regenerative studies, with about 60 undergraduate students and between eight and 15 graduate students enrolled each year, Kent said.

Then how did this whole Earth

Day program fit in? Very well, it appears, since Earth Day is an annual effort each year, now billed as the world's largest environmental movement, to try to do something to improve the environment.

In fact, the first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970 when 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies.

With that kind of a mission, what better backdrop than the Lyle



Doug Kent, adjunct professor of regenerative studies at Cal Poly University Pomona, harvests a few cattails growing wild at the Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies at Cal Poly. He told La Nueva Voz the roots will be used for preparing a meal for students in one of his classes, adding that snails would be the appetizer. If any of our readers are interested in adding something like this to your diet, we're pretty sure we can help you get enrolled in a class over there.

Center at Cal Poly.

Native Americans – including Dr. James Adams, a Chumash healer and associate professor of pharmacology at USC – helped develop the theme this year, working with plants and, well, weeds already on hand at the 16-acre Lyle site.

"They taught us how to use the local plants to heal ourselves for first aid, for pain relief, for skin lesions, all kinds of stuff," Kent said. "(Visitors) got all kinds of health care remedies that you can just pull right from your garden, they got all kinds of foraging tips, they got health care."

"We were showing how to



EARTH DAY ORGANIZERS AT CAL POLY -- Pictured in a garden at the Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies at Cal Poly University Pomona are the organizers of last month's Earth Day event at the facility. From left are Doug Kent, adjunct professor of regenerative studies and team leader for the event, and student volunteers Krishna Grace Vallejos, Wendy Martinez, Ben Benjamin, Roxanne Raygoza, Molley York and Calvin Sly. Not pictured is Ketsia Ellis.

prepare acorns, how to do black walnuts, how to make dyes, how to upcycle stuff, it was really just trying to get back to the earth," he said, "just showcasing what you can do with all the local vegetation."

He said visitors learned that acorns were used as a staple for Native Americans, "like our wheat bread."

"They just used it for everything," he added.

How'd he like it?

"I like it – you put enough garlic

in anything, and everything tastes great," he said, adding that he ends all of his classes with a meal.

When La Nueva Voz stopped by, Kent was preparing a meal for class based on the roots of cattails that grow in several ponds at the Lyle Center.

"We'll be harvesting these plants and eating their roots, we'll be harvesting the snails and eating snails, and we'll be eating the crawdads from the ponds over there," he said.

Sound pretty good? (Except

maybe for that snails part?)

If you are interested, Kent said the public is invited to drop by any time during daylight hours – he said it is all public property and the public is always welcome to take advantage of it and "wander around" – just don't harvest any of the fruit.

But the wildlife and fresh air are free.

The Lyle Center is at 4105 S. University Drive, Pomona (off of Temple Avenue), just up the hill from the Farm Store at Cal Poly.



MAKING MOVIES IN DOWNTOWN POMONA -- It was lights, camera, action in Downtown Pomona this month as Brink Films held its official Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting and grand opening. Owner and director Artie Delgado, who said he performed 20 years ago in "The Grove" in the same building, is coming "back to my old home." "My goal is to be part of an urban culture," he said, adding that he wants to make an impact with the films he produces. Pictured, from left, are Pomona State Farm agent John Forbing, a Pomona Chamber member; Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Victor Preciado; Pomona Chamber Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Eric Vasquez, an associate of Delgado and founder and CEO of Just Us 4 Youth, a mentoring organization; Delgado; Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares; Pomona Chamber member Victor Caceres, of the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley; Pomona Chamber Board member Michael Thomas, of Pomona Valley America's Job Center; and Chamber member JoAnn Calmelat, of Kaleo Real Estate Company in La Verne. The new video company is located at 158 W. 3rd St., in Downtown Pomona, (951) 218-1514.



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Fall Session begins August 12, 2019**

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El semestre de otoño empieza el 12 de Agosto.

Hundreds turn out to fix up Pomona on 13th annual 'Beautification Day'

About three dozen project locations were cleaned up, painted up, spruced up, planted and otherwise improved last month as what seemed like the entire city of Pomona came together on a Saturday morning for the 13th annual Pomona Beautification Day.

Project sites ranged from an early Pomona cemetery to red curb painting, and from a residential alley to one of Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval's all-time favorites, cleaning up along Pomona's Holt Avenue.

Hundreds of volunteers were involved – from the 7 a.m. kick-off in the Pomona Civic Center to the traditional noon picnic and celebration after a hard morning's work, again back in the Civic Center.

Volunteers included individual residents, businesses, schools, health professionals, city employees, faith-based groups, non-profits, service clubs and more – or, as the organizers put it, it was a day for "anybody and everybody that lives, works or plays in Pomona to come together on one day to spruce up and celebrate the city of Pomona."

This year's event was chaired by Christina Jimenez and Alfredo Camacho-Gonzalez.

Perhaps one of the largest projects was coordinated by the American Red Cross which rounded up about 350 volunteers, installed 1,022 free smoke alarms, and educated 1,413 Pomona residents on home fire prevention and safety at 335 homes in the southern portion of Pomona in what is known as a "Sound the Alarm" event.

And about 70 of those volunteers came in through the Pomona Beautification Day sign-up web site.

Each team was given a red Red Cross backpack filled with tools and smoke alarms, along with a step stool for use in mounting the smoke detectors to the ceiling.

Guillermo Sanchez, preparedness manager for the Red Cross Los Angeles Region, said many of the volunteers were from Po-



American Red Cross communications experts Marilyn Jimenez Davila, at left, and Marium Mohiuddin pose for the camera after chatting with La Nueva Voz about the morning's smoke detector installation project in Pomona.

mona.

He explained the Red Cross offers free smoke detectors in projects year-round.

"However, for this one, we do try and get the local community to come out and we really do hyper-focus on the volunteers of the area," he said.

Red Cross media specialist Marilyn Jimenez Davila said the program is designed not only to install the smoke detectors and protect the community but also to communicate the message that the smoke detectors are important.

"It's very important," she said. "The Red Cross responds to an emergency nationwide every eight minutes. However, about 90 percent of those emergencies are home fires."

Red Cross regional communications director Marium Mohiuddin added that "having a smoke alarm helps to stop half of those (fires) or helps to get people out the door faster half the time."

According to a follow-up Red Cross news release, about seven people nationwide are killed in fires every day, and most of these deaths occur in homes lacking working smoke alarms.

The Red Cross volunteers held their own picnic after the event on the south lawn of the Civic Center, just across from the Pomona Beautification Day event.

And while the Pomona event was the kick-off event, the Red Cross conducted similar events this month in Panorama City,

Long Beach and East Los Angeles.

The Red Cross launched its home fire campaign in 2014 to reduce fire deaths and injuries. So far, it has reached more than 1.7 million people and saved more than 500 lives nationwide.

In the Los Angeles region alone, in 2018, the organization installed 10,400 smoke alarms, reached more than 8,600 youth, and visited more than 3,350 homes.

Things were a little more on the quiet side over at Spadra Cemetery on Pomona Boulevard – an historic cemetery that includes, among others, the graves of early Pomona businessman Louis Phillips (1830-1900), believed to be the wealthiest resi-

dent of Los Angeles County at the time, and his wife, Esther Phillips (1849-1918) where volunteers under the direction of Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia were cleaning up brush, broken glass, beverage cans and more – so much that they needed a John Deere bulldozer and a roll-off trash container to handle it all.

And that wasn't too bad, considering there were only about a dozen volunteers on that particular clean-up site.

The hard-working group included representatives of Pomona's Pony United Youth Baseball, the Historical Society of Pomona Valley, the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps and

the Pomona Chamber of Commerce.

Historical Society member Jim Gallivan, the official cemetery director and principle gatekeeper, was among the volunteers but was the only one who really keeps chipping away at the cemetery all year round.

"I've been coming out here, working, maintaining it," he said, for the past 22 years – from repairing broken locks to removing graffiti.

Also on hand to volunteer was Deborah Clifford, President of the Historical Society, who helped organize the clean-up effort and directed people to where they needed to work. The road into the cemetery is owned by



American Red Cross volunteers line up for their own lunch in the Pomona Civic Center after a morning installing free smoke alarms in homes in the southern part of Pomona. Many of their volunteers signed up as a part of Pomona Beautification Day to make the Red Cross effort a companion project (but the Red Cross volunteers had pizza for lunch).

Beautification Day... pg. 20



NEW SUSHI PLACE IN DOWNTOWN -- Looking for that perfect sushi place? John Pena of the JP Group based in Pomona just opened a new Senior Sushi in the Mission Promenade and held an official Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting to get it off to a good start. Pictured, at center with scissors, is Pena with his wife, Maria Cortez, along with Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares. The restaurant and El Jefe next door were Pena's latest additions to the handful of restaurants and nightclubs he owns in Downtown Pomona. They are located at 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona.

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Pomona's own... from pg. 2

in Pomona to shirts purchased on-line.

Supporters in the audience shouted "We love you Alejandro" and other words of encouragement.

A former dishwasher, Aranda has been playing music for four years. The "American Idol" talent search for singers reality series has aired on the ABC network since the 2017-2018 season following a 15-season run on the Fox network.

And, of course, many show business careers have been made possible by the show – and not only for the top finishers.

In Aranda's own words, "show or no show," his career in the entertainment industry is under way.



Alejandro fans were on hand in all sizes as can be seen in this shot of an American Idol cameraman focusing on a girl in the street. Another version of the t-shirt of the day can be seen behind her.



So if you are going to have a parade in honor of American Idol finalist Alejandro Aranda, who are you going to call? Why, those high steppers in Pomona's Gary High School marching band, of course. And they looked -- and sounded -- great as always. La Nueva Voz was impressed to see Gary Principal Dr. Marco Sanchez marching along the entire route with the band.



A Channel 7 television cameraman moved in for a close-up on the sidewalk along Third Street while waiting for the end of the Alejandro parade and, of course, his concert in the street. Signs reading "You got this home" and "We want U home" were typical of signs that were visible everywhere in Downtown Pomona. Pomona Planning Commissioner Ron Vander Molen can be seen looking in from the rear.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval is interviewed by Channel 7 entertainment reporter George Pennacchio before Alejandro Aranda's free concert in the street.



Representatives of both the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Pomona Valley team up to support Alejandro. That's Pomona Chamber President and CEO

Monique Manzaneres, holding up the banner at left, and assistant Dorothy Cruz holding up the center section of the banner.



Signs, banners and posters were everywhere -- handheld, in windows of merchants and hanging from buildings. This one was hanging from the top of the building next to Pomona's Fox Theater.



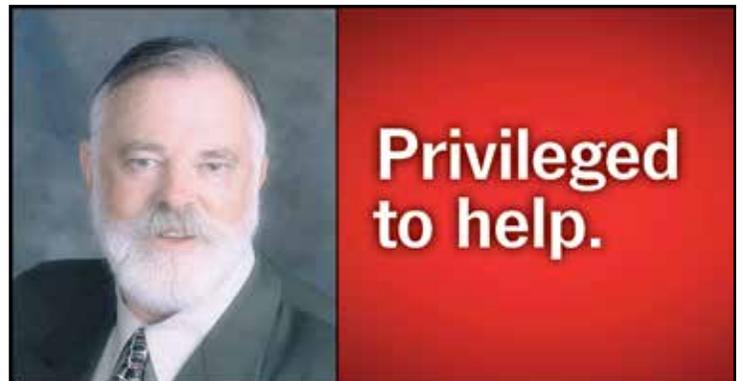
The man of the hour, Alejandro Aranda, rides along Thomas Street in a classic Chevy convertible in the home stretch of his hometown parade in Downtown Pomona just moments before the beginning of his concert in the street.



Carol Channing was famous for singing "Before the parade passes by" in the original Broadway production of the musical "Hello Dolly," which ran from 1964 to 1970 at the St. James Theatre. (Sorry, sometimes you just have to humor La Nueva Voz a little bit.) Well, this is what it looked like in Downtown Pomona AFTER the parade passed by with Alejandro riding in a low-rider convertible. Pictured, from left, are La Nueva Voz designer (and La Voz before that) Dora Cruz, Pomona State Farm agent John Forbing and La Nueva Voz V.P. of Advertising and Operations Renee Barbee, pictured in front of Pomona's Masonic Temple.

For some reason, the sound levels jumped up a few decibels every time that American Idol video crew came around.

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Pomona Unified to continue free breakfast, lunch program next year

Pomona Unified School District officials will continue the policy of serving meals to students under the National School Lunch / School Breakfast programs during the 2019-2020 school year. Both breakfast and lunch again will be offered at no cost to all K-12 students daily at all

district schools.

Meal applications will not be required for current or newly enrolled students.

For more information, contact the district's food and nutrition services department, (909) 397-4711, ext. 21100.

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Historic restoration developer Ray Adamyk, owner of Pomona's vintage YMCA building, shows off the results of a year's worth of clean up and painting on the front of the building during a tour this month following a Pomona Chamber of Commerce networking luncheon held in the building's main gymnasium. Adamyk, who broke ground on what he said would be a two year project in February 2018, told La Nueva Voz he is still on schedule for completing the project next year in time for the 100th anniversary of the beginning of construction on the 80,000 square foot structure. Adamyk is the owner of Spectra Company, which has refurbished buildings including the Bradbury Building and the Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles, along with Hearst Castle in San Simeon. He purchased the YMCA building for \$2.65 million. It is located at 350 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

YMCA building owner Ray Adamyk, speaking to the Pomona Chamber of Commerce this month during the chamber's networking luncheon in the building's gymnasium, described his progress revitalizing the structure. He told the chamber that "Pomona's the next Pasadena," explaining it was very similar to where Pomona is today when he looked around Pasadena 30 or 40 years ago, "and everything just transformed to what it is today." He said the transformation is visible today, including projects like a development of 38 townhomes under way behind the YMCA, the new Fuller Seminary project coming to Pomona from Pasadena, a new movie theater and other projects. The completed YMCA project will include office space and residential and facilities for community groups. It will also house Adamyk's Spectra Company offices.



'For the Love of Cars' car show returns to Village at Indian Hill

The second annual "For the Love of Cars" car show will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 8, at the Village at Indian Hill with proceeds to benefit the Historical Society of Pomona Valley.

The free family-friendly event, presented by Pomona City

Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, will include classic cars, motorcycles and music.

Food, arts and crafts vendors and raffles will be available.

For more information, call (909) 623-2198 or visit the web site at www.pomonahistorical.org/ftlc.

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Tobacco control grades high statewide but Pomona still needs work

The latest American Lung Association State of Tobacco Control 2019 report handed out top grades to California as a whole recently, giving the state an “A” for smoke free air policies. Grade “B” was given statewide for funding for state tobacco prevention programs, level of state tobacco taxes, coverage and access to services to quit tobacco and minimum age of sale for tobacco products to 21.

Scores for Pomona, unfortunately, missed the mark – the city received an “F” grade, logging only two points for smoke free outdoor air for recreation areas.

Pomona received no points for outdoor air practices in dining areas, at public events, sidewalks and worksites, or for such things as smoke free housing, tobacco retailer licensing and sale of tobacco products in pharmacies.

By comparison, Los Angeles Tobacco control... pg. 19

School district supporters honored with community service awards

A total of 129 individuals and groups were honored for their contributions to the Pomona Unified School District last month – and another 27 were recognized for their monetary contributions – at the school district’s annual community service awards recognition ceremony held at the district’s conference center at the Village at Indian Hill.

School board President Frank Guzman said the district is “thankful for each and every one of you” for their efforts, their hours of volunteer work and for their financial contributions – “whatever it is that you do.”

“We couldn’t be more happy or more proud,” he said.

“Thank you, thank you, thank you,” said school board member Dr. Roberta Perlman. “Give yourselves a big round of applause.”

“Educating our children is a big, big, big job and we could not do it without your help,” she added.

Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez told the capacity crowd conference center that April is the month of compassion based on a Pomona City Council



POMONA UNIFIED HONORS COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS -- The Pomona Unified School District recognized 129 individuals and groups for their contributions to schools and the school district last month, and another 27 were honored for their monetary contributions at the district’s annual community service awards recognition ceremony held at the conference center at the Village at Indian Hill. Pictured on the risers is the first group of honorees posing for an official photo by school district photographer Kenny Su, at left, as public information officer Oliver Unaka, at far left, looks on. Joining the honorees in the photo are Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez, at far left, school board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, second from right, and school board President Frank Guzman, at far right. Included among the honorees are, back row, from left, beginning at second from left, Dr. Kyle D. Brown, professor of landscape architecture and former director of the Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies at Cal Poly University Pomona; Dr. Alison Baski, Dean of the College of Science at Cal Poly; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; and Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado. Pictured in the front row, from left, beginning at second from left, are Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez; Alcott Elementary School PTA President Laura Rojo and Vice President Lucia Mendoza; and M. Joyce Bakersmith, of the Willie White Park Focus Group.

resolution.

“You get to practice it, everyone in this room, you don’t wait for the month of April for that to happen, you are doing it every day,” he said.

And Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said that “(people serving by) helping teachers, helping administrators, you see it happening with our historic preservation community, you see it happening with people who are trying to reimagine our parks, you see it with people like Councilmember (Victor) Preciado working on organizing the third annual 5k... how we

create trails in the Westmont-Phillips Ranch area, every single day there are people who are serving and giving back to this community.”

“So as mayor I want to express my sincere thanks to all of you because there is no way we could do what we do without you,” he added.



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ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA HONORS SIX YOUNG WOMEN

-- More than 200 family members, friends and supporters were on hand last month at DoubleTree by Hilton Pomona as the Epsilon Eta Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority observed the debuts of six young women during an evening entitled "Precious Pearls with Poise and Purpose" at its 2019 Scholarship Debutante Cotillion Ball. The young ladies prepared for the event during months of community service and workshops designed for leadership development, social etiquette, financial planning, college awareness, spiritual guidance, job preparation and more. Pictured,



Photo courtesy of Irene Murray, Emma Jacqueline Photography

from top to bottom, are Yasmeen King, a senior at John F. Kennedy Middle College High School, escorted by Jalen Milton Love; Kaley Chambers, a senior at Etiwanda High School, escorted by Phillip Carter Hanna; Adriana Jones, a senior at Chino Hills High School, escorted by Jordan Sam Love; Makayla Turner, a junior at AB Miller High School, escorted by Peter Cole Lee; Aniyah Meadows, a senior at Ayala High School, escorted by Kenneth Alexander Nowling; and Kelsey Chambers, a junior at Etiwanda High School, escorted by Jaifin Keoni Davis. The young ladies were awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships through PEARLS of Service, Inc., the charitable arm of the sorority. Chair of the event was Cheryl Mayhorn and Endy Farrow and Cecelia Huggins were co-chairs.

Traveling exhibit of paintings honors service members killed in Iraq

Eight full-sized emotion-packed paintings were on display at Chaffey College for a week last month as a non-profit organization's traveling exhibit crossing the country to express gratitude for the sacrifice of 22 U.S. Marines and one U.S. Navy Corpsman who died in service to their country while deployed in Iraq in 2005.

The group, "The Eyes of Freedom," brought its "Traveling Salute to Service" to Southern California to honor the Marines in a Marine reserve unit from Ohio, along with a Navy Corpsman, of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment. All are depicted in the paintings.

Traveling with the exhibit were Mike Strahle, the group's public affairs director, and Sean Flaherty. Strahle served in Lima Company alongside those who died.

He said Lima Company's mission was successful until the first day they had casualties in May of 2005 while deployed in western Iraq near Syria.

"We had two very large roadside bombs that in total took 20 of our guys," he told La Nueva Voz. One was three months into the operation and the other six or seven months in toward the end of an eight-month deployment.

Honoring service members... pg. 17



Eyes of Freedom representatives Mike Strahle, at left, and Sean Flaherty are pictured in front of one of the group's life sized paintings depicting service members lost in action in Iraq. The youngest of the 23 lost in action was Christopher Dixon, Private First Class, United States Marine Corps. He was 18. The resident of Obetz, Ohio, was killed in action on May 11, 2005, by an IED (improvised explosive device). He is pictured at left in the mural at left.



Pictured in this painting, at left, is U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Anthony Goodwin, platoon commander, who was killed with small arms fire on Mother's Day, May 8, 2005, in Iraq. He was 33 and was the oldest of the 23 lost in action in the group. He was a resident of Shirley, Massachusetts. For their bravery and their service -- and because of this exhibit -- all 23 will be remembered.

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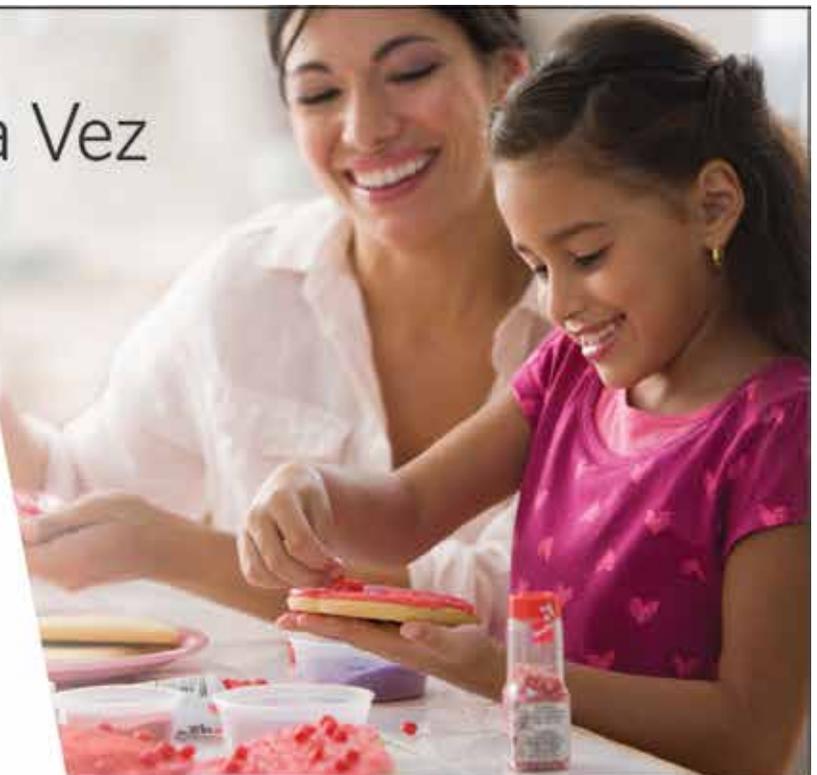
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Stephan Manzanares takes an 89-year look back into Pomona history

By Jose Bermudez

In this age, how often does a birth happen at home? Who lives in one town, on the same block for most of their lives? How far do your family roots go back in this country? These are some of the questions I thought of while talking to Stephen Manzanares. He is a lifelong resident of Pomona, except for his stint in the U.S. Army. He has had and continues to lead an active life with his family and community.

Stephen was born in Pomona on Dec. 26, 1929 at home on 11th Street. He has lived in the same house or one a few doors down for most of his life. His parents raised five children: two girls and three boys. Two brothers served in military service: one in the U.S. Navy and the other in the U.S. Marines during the Korean conflict. He attended Hamilton Elementary and Emerson High School. Stephen's family from his father's side came from Abiquiu, New Mexico, in the 1850s. His father's grandfather was Jose Antonio Perez, who was ranch foreman for the Ricardo Vejar Ranch which then became Louis Phillips Ranch (originally, Rancho San Jose). Stephen's mother has Kizh Gabrielinos and Ohlone indigenous American lineage and his father has Kizh Gabrielinos and Commanche lineage. They also have Mexican lineage.

Stephan served in the U.S. Army Air Force (as it was known at the time) and the U.S. Army Infantry Airborne from 1946 to 1949. Since then he has remained active with the 82nd Airborne Service Division Association Honor Guard, Mexican American Paratrooper Division and other military organizations by participating in gatherings and commemorative events. During his enlistment, Stephen performed 44 parachute jumps. After leaving the Army, in 1974 he parachuted while nursing a compound fracture of one leg. In 2015, he was recognized as Veteran of the Year by the state Assembly.

Memories of Stephen's youth include the Ham and Egg Circus and having milk delivered at home in glass bottles by a dairy delivery truck. He remembers growing up with his brothers and sisters and playing outside all day

when not in school until it got dark. The Ham and Eggs Circus, formerly known as the Martello Brothers Circus, opened in Pomona on July 21, 1939 to a packed house. At the time, the circus was being financed and publicized by the Retirement Life Payment Association of Long Beach. They provided a retirement plan for their members that was known as the Ham and Egg Plan, which resulted in the Ham and Egg Circus name.

Stephen's father began working at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds in 1922 – the first year of the L.A. County Fair. Stephen started working at the Fairgrounds later before joining the Army and then resumed his employment when he returned. He remembers the red trolley cars, the old Pacific Electric Railway Co. Red Cars, operating between La Verne, San Bernardino, and as far South as Long Beach. At the time, Garey Avenue was Highway 71, and Foothill Boulevard was Route 66.

During World War II, rationing of food included meat, sugar, butter, cheese, coffee, and dried and processed foods. Gasoline was also rationed, limited to four gallons a week for cars, and one and a half gallons a week for motor scooters. Farmers were allowed more fuel to operate farm equipment on their property. Adults and kids collected tin cans, paper, scrap metal, and other recycling materials for the war effort. Stephen's father was the air raid warden for their block. Many business transactions involving food or services were conducted through bartering to avoid rationing or racist businesses.

While living in Pomona and well into the 1950s, Stephen remembers unacceptable practices in the community and throughout the country. Fridays was the only day of the week that Mexicans and people of color could swim in public swimming pools. If students were not fluent in English or were considered different, they were put in what were called Mexican classes. Restaurants and bars did not allow Mexicans or Indians to enter – there were signs to keep them out. The exception was when a soldier was wearing a uniform. North of Holt Avenue



Photo by Eric Jung
Stephen Manzanares

in Pomona, Mexicans were not allowed to buy a house. While in the Army, a rope noose was hung by Stephen's living quarters door where he and two other Mexican American soldiers were lodging. The perpetrator was punished by the Army.

In 1942, Stephen remembers that many Japanese Americans (more than 5,000) were detained for three months at the Pomona Fairgrounds before being transferred to permanent detention camps. Italian and German prisoners of war also were detained at the Fairgrounds in 1945. Many Japanese Americans served in the military, despite the treatment that was given to their families. Throughout the war, the Army used the Fairgrounds for training and ordnance function, in addition to detention. Additionally, he remembers that what is now Mt. San Antonio College was used as an Army camp before the community college opened in 1946, and Cal Poly University Pomona trained horses and trained the white horse for Emperor Hirohito of Japan. In 1948, after the war ended, the Fairgrounds and Fair operation resumed.

Several permanent exposition halls and the fine arts building were constructed at the Fairgrounds by the Work Projects Administration after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt enacted the executive order in 1935 to create jobs for millions of unemployed Americans during the Great Depression. He also signed into law the Social Security Act. Both Social Security and Work Projects Administration were part of FDR's New Deal.

Stephen was employed at the

Fairgrounds for 44 years and became grounds foreman. While there, he met many celebrities including Tom Mix, Lucille Ball, Sammy Davis Jr., Freddie Fender, Ricky Nelson, and Casey Duane Tibbs.

And many young summer Fair workers off from high school or college who Stephen supervised would later go on to become doctors, judges, dentists, lawyers, and community leaders.

At the time of the Fair, C.B. Aflerbaugh, the first paid Fair manager, would make certain that all rides were inspected and tested a day before the annual Fair was opened. Stephen really appreciated this practice.

Today, Stephen Manzanares is involved in the community and has a growing family. He has eight children, 16 grandchildren, and 39 great grandchildren. Stephen and his late wife, Dora, were blessed with a large family. Stephen has done well for himself, his family and his country.

Editor's Note: Jose Bermudez, a safety professional for nearly 40 years and normally the "safety" columnist for La Nueva Voz with his "Safety First" column, sat down again this month for an interview with another long-time Pomona resident, Stephen Manzanares. The column is presented as a public service. Bermudez can be contacted at jsbrmdz8@gmail.com.

Denny Mosier elected president of Pomona Lions

Denny Mosier was recently elected president of the Pomona Host Lions Club for a one-year term beginning next month.

Other members of the new board of directors are Jack Lightfoot, first vice president; Carmen Morris, second vice president; Jackie Allen, secretary; Gil Smith, treasurer; George Kopiloff, operations; WendyAnn Stuard, community services; and Ricky Ortiz, membership.

In addition, Andrea Morris will handle membership, activation, retention and visitations; Anne Henderson will serve as immediate past president; Steve Lustro and Arlene Simmonds will serve as lion tamers; and Steve Storbakken and Beverly Sugerman will serve as tail twisters.

The new officers will take office at an installation dinner next month.

Pomona Lions meet at 12:10 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month for lunch at the Pomona Valley Mining Company. Members of the public are invited to visit to see if they are interested in joining.

Service projects include feeding the homeless, providing eyeglasses to the impoverished and giving free books to first-grade students.

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- LaunderLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



Honoring service members... from pg. 15

“It became a national news spectacle with all these reservists,” he said, explaining that the best thing that came from the news media attention was the incident grabbed the attention of artist Anita Miller of Ohio.

“When she saw all these thumbnail photos on the front page (of the Columbus Dispatch), her heart broke – not as a patriot but as a

linen.

They were unveiled on Memorial Day 2008 in the Capitol building rotunda in Columbus, Ohio.

“The Eyes of Freedom” formed in 2007 as a non-profit to govern and exhibit the paintings nationwide, and today Strahle and Flaherty visit 30 to 40 cities each year. Included along with the paintings is a more recent addition, a bronze

Fallen Men of Lima Company

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Nicholas William Baart Bloem
William Brett Wightman
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Christopher R. Dixon
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Wesley G. Davids
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David Kenneth John Kreuter

Kendall H. Ivy II
David N. Wimberg
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Jourdan Lin Grez
Grant B. Fraser
Aaron H. Reed
Anthony L. Goodwin
Christopher P. Lyons
Eric J. Bernholtz
Dustin A. Derga
Nicholas B. Erdy

mother,” Strahle said. “Two or three months later after seeing all the news... she had a very clear vision of these life-sized portraits that she eventually put into fruition.”

He said Miller worked with the families of the men to recruit photos and learn more about them, eventually spending two and a half years working with the parents to complete the paintings using oil on

sculpture of “Silent Battle,” which depicts a service member and represents all those who return home suffering from post-traumatic stress.

The group, which is supported entirely by donations and major sponsors, is working on arrangements to bring the exhibit back to Pomona in connection with local veterans events in coming months.

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

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It's a fun way to improve reading skills.
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Info on student group program at AGRIsCAPES:
www.agriscapes.cpp.edu
4102 S. University Drive, Pomona (next to the Farm Store)



Photo by Mark Gluba

REMEMBERING THE FALL OF SAIGON -- Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, a Pomona physician and President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley, pictured at center with microphone, is surrounded by members of the Pomona City Council and members of the regional Vietnamese community at a city council meeting this month as he receives a “Black April Memorial Day” proclamation from the city council. The annual observance is in honor of the Fall of Saigon to communism on April 30, 1975. More than half a million combined U.S. and South Vietnamese servicemen and women were killed during the Vietnam War and another 800,000 troops were wounded in combat. After the Fall of Saigon, from the late 1970s to the mid-1980s, millions of Vietnamese and their families fled Vietnam to surrounding areas, often in perilous journeys by small wooden boat, the proclamation said. Today, more than 580,000 Vietnamese live in California, which is the largest concentration of Vietnamese residents found outside of Vietnam. Many live in the Pomona Valley area. The proclamation urged Pomona residents to remember soldiers, medical personnel and civilians “who died during the Vietnam War in pursuit of freedom and democracy.” Vo has recently been appointed Overseas Co-Chairman of the United Council of Vietnamese Homeland and Overseas, a national organization.

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STEAM... from pg. 7

market as of 2018 for STEAM careers.”

“This vehicle here is to just give you that push and also bring all the different curricula,” said Price, who told the group her two sons attended Golden Springs Elementary and completed their education in Pomona Unified School District schools. “It’s all about you – it is about our young, you guys are our future, you guys are going to prepare, you’re going to change.”

“We’re working on a program to have the first student launch a rocket into space, we’re working with Cal Poly, Cal State Long Beach, San Diego State, UC San Diego, UCLA, UC Riverside,” she said. “You guys are superstars, so I want you guys to know.”

Veronica Kummerfeldt, director of operations for the foundation, told the group that sixth graders at the school already have had an opportunity to “enjoy this STEAM mobile,” working with the basics

of graphic arts. She said the other curricula will be incorporated into the program when students return to school next fall.

“This is exciting for not just your kids but also for the next generation,” she told the parents, adding that she attended Golden Springs Elementary as a child.

Price told the parents the foundation can’t donate a \$250,000 vehicle to everyone.

“But when we were asked where, how, what we wanted to do to make an impact... Pomona Unified School District cares about your kids. I was a witness, I was a parent,” she said. “I know my sons have graduated from college . . . but that all came with the make up of this district. You are an amazing district.”

“We wanted to do something to give back to this district,” she said.

“We’re all here for the purpose of creating options for our students in science, engineering, math, arts

and technology and this bus provides us that opportunity to share with our students new experiences that are outside the regular classroom setting,” said Interim Principal Alan Pantanini.

The mobile unit was designed to be used only in the Pomona Unified School District. The nonprofit foundation, which serves underserved and under-represented youth nationwide in an effort to curtail the high school dropout rate and increase degree and/or certificate enrollment, previously placed an identical unit in the Lynwood Unified School District.

The STEAM program is the foundation’s primary focus today, adding an exponent “to the fourth power” to the “A” to include arts, agriculture, aerospace and aviation.

The foundation also donated a 40-foot trailer to Cal Poly University Pomona for use in its aerospace division.

Fairplex effort under way... from pg. 5

“what impact does Fairplex desire to have” and “what change does Fairplex want to affect.”

Santana told officials his organization’s mission statement defines success as “helping create memories,” something he said Fairplex does in three ways – by serving as a community partner, by providing an “economic engine” for the region, and by being a “presenter of the best of Southern California.”

He said the goal is to become a model destination of art, culture and entertainment.

Santana told officials that during his own planning process, he learned “we need to breathe new life into the Fair.”

And he also reviewed measures Fairplex already has taken in areas of crowd and traffic management.

In addition, he pointed to other Fairplex activities such as the child development center, an on-site day-care center for children, and a variety of vocational training activities based on the Fairplex campus.

He said his recently audited financials showed Fairplex ended the year in 2018 in the black after several years of operating at a loss.

Santana said he was excited about partnering with the city and the county to develop a set of

guidelines rather than “piecemealing” what he termed a “roadmap” and a “blueprint” of what can happen at Fairplex.

Planning Commissioner Ron Vander Molen, a resident of the neighborhood surrounding Fairplex, urged his colleagues to keep this type of communication open between the neighborhood and the city council throughout the process.

While much of the information presented at the hour-long discussion was not new, city staff explained it was an attempt to update both the city council and the planning commission, especially for the benefit of the new members of both panels.

A staff report from the city pointed out that the city already has in place a state-mandated general plan (including a 2014 Comprehensive General Plan Update), a zoning ordinance, a “Corridors Specific Plan” focusing on the Holt, Mission, Garey and Foothill “corridors,” and previously adopted specific plans in areas including Downtown Pomona, Mission 71 Business Park, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Phillips Ranch and others.

According to the staff report, the city originally had considered

amending the existing F-Zone to address the future regulation of Fairplex.

But Fairplex requested that the city instead undertake the more comprehensive and more collaborative approach of developing and considering a specific plan.

The staff report pointed out that the city council has not yet taken action on that request, and this month’s workshop was a prerequisite to taking action.

Staff already has negotiated a proposal in which Fairplex would not host any raves or cannabis-related events and would obtain permits for any music events which would be conditioned to minimize noise, traffic and other impacts on the community.

The city council will consider at an upcoming council meeting whether to approve a letter agreement that commits the Fairplex to certain restrictions while the city processes a specific plan instead of amendments to the F-Zone.

If approved, Fairplex would initiate an application for a specific plan.

Fairplex exists in a public-private partnership with the County of Los Angeles and is home of the LA County Fair and more than 500 year-round events.

Local opportunities abound... from pg. 4

“This whole area needs it... all three of us are ready to go to work,” he said.

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Board member Ron Vera said the hospital has seen a labor shortage and asked Leyva how state funding that appears earmarked for a medical school in Northern California can be directed here to help with the labor shortage.

Leyva said California first needs to look to the community colleges where nursing and other certificate programs are available.

“If we don’t change the way we do community colleges, our young people and our not so young people won’t have the opportunity to fill those vacancies to get that education because we do know there’s a health care shortage,” she said.

Rodriguez pointed out that in addition to the hospital, Pomona

also is home to Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, as well as Western University of Health Sciences.

He said Pomona needs to fight for some of that money.

“Health care careers have never gone down, even when we were going through our great recession,” Solis said. “Those jobs were stable but now they are just skyrocketing. We need different levels and stepping stones at every level of health care whether it’s an in-home health care service provider, whether it’s an RN, an LVN, a nurse practitioner, a pediatrician, a specialist, and including research dollars that will go in to attract the top level of scientists and researchers to make those investments here.”

“All of that will help with economic development, and Pomona can be a shining example of what can be for our future,” Solis added.

Orange County jazz singer to perform at retired teachers meeting

Jazz singer Debbie Ebert will perform next month at a meeting of the California Retired Teachers Association Division 13 in La Verne.

Ebert was a founding member of the Orange County Black Actors’ Theatre and has appeared in their touring productions of “Ain’t Misbehavin’” and others and appeared in “Showboat” and other productions for Fullerton Civic Light Opera.

The meeting will be held at 11:15 a.m. on June 12 at Hillcrest Retirement Community, 2705 Mountain View Drive, La Verne, and will include an update on the recent state convention and installation of officers.

The group is celebrating the 90th anniversary of the statewide organization, which was founded in 1929 by Laura Settle, a Pasadena teacher who fought to raise the annual teacher retirement from \$41.70 a month.

For lunch reservations, call (626) 963-6242 by Friday, June 7. Cost is \$19.



**Debbi Ebert . . .
... to perform for retired teachers**

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Pomona’s Promise holds first of series of community ‘summits’ on childhood well-being

Research shows the conditions that surround young children up to age 5 – their neighborhood, their family and their city – have a most profound influence on their trajectory through life.

So the responsibility for improving outcomes for young children lies with everyone – it’s not just the city’s responsibility, it’s not just the school district’s responsibility, it’s not just the family’s responsibility to create conditions in Pomona that allow young children to thrive, parents and community members were told at this month’s Pomona Community Summit on Early Childhood Well-being at the conference center at the Village at Indian Hill.

Community volunteer Stephanie Campbell, an organizer of the event, produced by the collaborative organization Pomona’s Promise and Pomona Unified School District, said the event got off to a great start.

“The first half we had some experts presenting on some of the issues including our (Pomona Unified School District) Supt. of Schools Richard Martinez who shared his own personal story,” Campbell said. “He actually had a very stressful childhood and because of the intervention of some very caring adults in his life he has made a very good life for himself and for all of the thousands of kids he influences.”

During the second half of the program, the group of about 150 broke into discussion groups on specific questions under the direction of a professional facilitator.

“This event is all about having a community conversation about what are the assets of a community such as Pomona that can best lead to positive outcomes for our very youngest children ages zero



Community volunteer Anne Henderson, at right, leads a discussion group at this month’s Community Summit on Early Childhood Well-being at the Village at Indian Hill conference center. Henderson was a speaker at the event.

to 5 where so much fundamental brain development takes place,” Campbell added.

She said the group would look at “what are we good at, what do we need to do more of, what are the assets we have... and what can we change and how each of us

as individuals or representatives of an agency make a difference and make this one of those communities that people will say ‘this is a great place to raise a family.’”

Marilyn Hokanson, an early literacy resource teacher with Pomona Unified and another organizer of the community summit, said the event was designed to look for creativity and innovation – “every person’s voice counts here.”

“It’s not expert sharing, it’s everybody in the community that comes with their expertise and you know Pomona’s Promise has been in the making for many years,” she added. “And what we’re doing is we’re carrying it deeper into the community and we want this to not just be something we talk about, we’re taking action.”

She said the goal of the event was to prioritize the first steps to action based on what people think.

“We want to all come together



Stephanie Campbell, at left, and Marilyn Hokanson, two of the organizers of this month’s Community Summit on Early Childhood Well-being, presented by Pomona’s Promise, pose for the La Nueva Voz camera.

and know what one another is doing in the city and how we can strengthen the well-being of every child,” Hokanson said. “It’s not just looking after our children but it’s taking an interest in every child in the community.”

Campbell said the group hopes to continue the conversation with an entire series of events discussing these issues.

“We’re going to ask people to bring a friend, bring a neighbor,” Hokanson said. “We want our families involved, our teachers involved, the business community—we need everybody.”

The five areas of Pomona’s Promise – which were developed through a communitywide collective impact process – are education and career readiness, health (both medical and emotional), economic development, community safety and community engagement.

Michael Nelson succeeds Ron Bolding at Inter Valley Health Plan

Health care veteran Michael Nelson has been appointed interim President and CEO of Pomona’s Inter Valley Health Plan to replace Ron Bolding who retired last year after leading the not for profit health plan for 12 years.

Nelson has served for the past 39 years at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center where he remains as executive vice president. During his tenure with the hospital, he served as acting President and CEO of Inter Valley Health Plan from 1998 to 2006.

He has also served on the health plan’s board of directors since 1985.

Nelson also worked as controller at West Anaheim Community Hospital, was a senior accountant at Arthur Young & Company, and served as an artillery officer with the United States Marine Corps.

He holds an MBA in accounting from Cal State University Los Angeles and is a certified public accountant.

During Bolding’s leadership, the

health plan grew in membership from 12,000 to 22,500 and annual revenue increased from \$130 to \$290 million.

Bolding also was responsible for expanding the organization’s territory and expanding goals to include social awareness and community outreach.

Programs in this category included the “For Health and Living Vitality Program” focusing on health education and an annual “Helping Hands Week” in which company employees volunteer and donate their time to support local organizations such as food banks, senior shelters, retirement homes and others.

Inter Valley Health Plan is a not for profit, community-based health plan, focused on continuous improvement of the health status and health care network support of its membership. It is contracted with Medicare to serve communities in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties.



Michael Nelson

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Tobacco control... from pg. 14

County cities receiving an A grade were Manhattan Beach with 13 overall points and Pasadena with 12 overall points.

Other “F” grades went to Monrovia, Norwalk, Palos Verdes Estates, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates.

Los Angeles received a “C.”

According to the news release, the rankings reveal that “California again leads the nation in efforts to reduce and prevent tobacco use, though much work remains to be done.”

“The study reminds us that tobacco use remains the nation’s leading cause of preventable death and disease, taking an estimated 480,000 lives every year,” the release continued.

See past issues at
www.lanuevavoz.net



ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNERS -- Winners of this year's Pomona Optimist Club oratorical contest were announced this month at a club meeting at Mr. D's Diner in Pomona. Pictured, at left, is second place winner Reece Sorensen, a senior at Village Academy High School who plans to major in animal science at Cal Poly University Pomona, and, at right, is first place winner, Miriam Landaverde, a junior at Ganesha High School who plans to major in communications in college. Not pictured is third place winner Gerardo Martinez, a student at Diamond Ranch High School. Topic this year was "Is there a fine line between optimism and reality?" In addition, Marlin Abundez-Alvizo, a student at Pomona's Village Academy High School, was named the club's youth appreciation volunteer of the year honoree.



OPTIMIST ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS -- Awards were handed out at last month's Pomona Optimist Club meeting at Mr. D's Diner in Pomona for winners of the club's annual essay contest, this year on the topic "When all the world's problems are solved, is optimism still necessary?" Four winners, all high school seniors, were selected from a total of 30 entries. Pictured, from left, are Optimist member Dr. Roberta Perlman, member of the Pomona Unified School District board; Nicolas Meza, a student at Village Academy High School and Palomares Academy of Health Sciences, 2nd place; Marlin Abundez, a student at Village Academy High School, tied for 3rd place; Optimist Club President Lorraine Canales; Emerson Elias, a student at Village Academy, tied for 3rd place; Reece Sorensen, a student at Village Academy, 1st place; and Fernando Meza, Optimist Club treasurer and assistant superintendent for Pomona Unified School District.

Beautification Day... from pg. 9

the Historical Society.

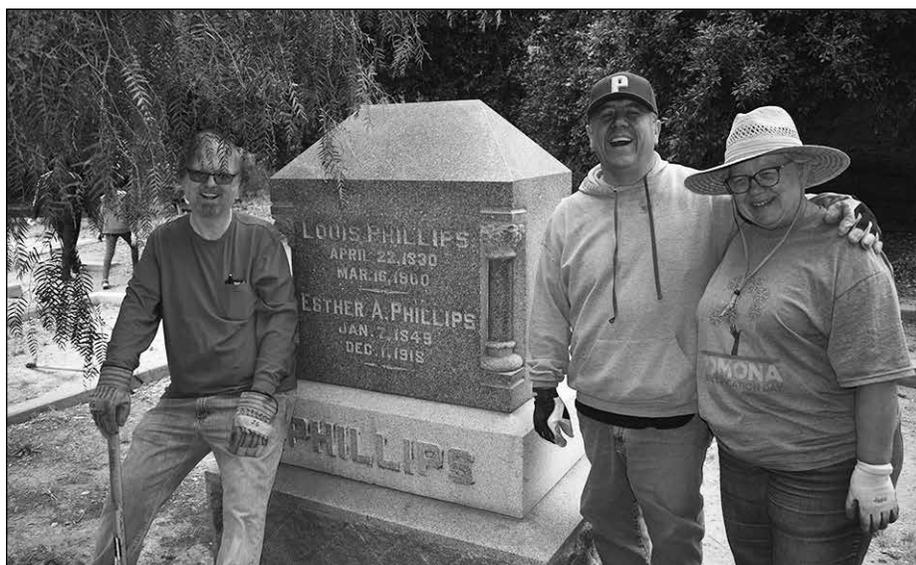
But it was Goytia who said the cemetery has been literally a part of his life.

"As a life-long resident (of Pomona), I grew up in the neighborhood right here, right across from the train tracks (near Cesar Chavez Park)," Goytia told La Nueva Voz. "This place was actually a place to meditate and come and we'd hike the hills."

"We accomplished so much to make this hidden gem in our city look so much better for our residents to visit and enjoy the peace and tranquility of this historic site," he said later in a Facebook post.



Volunteer Catalina Goytia -- work gloves and all -- demonstrates her talent at handling a wheelbarrow at the Pomona Beautification Day clean-up at Spadra Cemetery.



BEAUTIFICATION DAY VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP CEMETERY -- A Pomona Beautification Day clean-up crew under the direction of team leader Carlos Goytia, a Board member of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District, spent the morning last month fixing up and cleaning up Pomona's historic Spadra Cemetery. Pictured at the grave site of early Pomona residents Louis and Esther Phillips are, from left, Historical Society of Pomona Valley member Jim Gallivan, the year-round cemetery director; Goytia; and Historical Society President Debra Clifford.



BACK IN BUSINESS -- American Pacific Mortgage is back in business at its original location after a fire in the building a couple of years ago forced the company to relocate to temporary offices in the Phillips Ranch area. Pictured cutting the ribbon this month at center, from left, are Marcos Granda, lender; Marisol Granda, administrator; and Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares. Chamber member John Forbing, a Pomona State Farm agent, is pictured at rear, and Pomona Chamber Board Member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, is pictured fourth from right. The company, which has 15 employees and has been in business for the past 12 years, is located at 1740 Gillette Road, Suite 105-G, Pomona, (323) 547-5896.



Community volunteer Paulette Young, at left, grabs a sandwich from Pomona Beautification Day volunteer Marlene Soto, a student at Pomona High School, at the annual picnic and celebration after a morning of volunteering throughout the city.

Send your news tips to: reneebarbee7@gmail.com

Students win cash prizes in first annual ‘Heroes of Pomona’ speech contest

Nine Pomona students have been awarded top prizes in a city-wide competition for their ability to do something most people generally would rather not do – public speaking.

The “Heroes of Pomona” contest was presented by the City of Pomona Community Services Parks and Recreation Department and included contestants from all of the city’s community center after school programs, according to spokesperson Florycell Valenzuela.

She said regional competitions were held at the Palomares Park and Westmont Community Centers before final competition this month in the City Council chambers.

Florycell said city staff members have been working with the kids since last October teaching them their public speaking skills in recreation programs – without them ever knowing they were learning them.

For example, they learned how to make a toast at Thanksgiving time, something that actually taught them some of the basics of public speaking.

Speeches were on topics like who is a Pomona hero, who helped them along the way, and who helped the community.

And it turned out that five of those selected for speeches were some of the recreation workers themselves who work closely with the kids at the various city parks.

Florycell said the competition will continue on an annual basis.

High school winners received \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place and \$250 for third place.

Middle school students received \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$100 for third place.

And elementary school students received \$250 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for third place.



Faith Demby
High School Third Place Winner
Representing Phillips Ranch Park Community Center



Frida Verdugo
High School First Place Winner
Representing La Casita Teen Center



Michelle Hernandez
High School Second Place Winner
Representing Philadelphia Park Community Center

Prizes and costs of the competition were made possible through a “Community Wellbeing Grant”

from Tri-City Mental Health Services. The grant program is designed to help communities build

their own capacity to strengthen the wellbeing of people ages 0 to 25 in the community.



Middle school students winning the City of Pomona’s public speaking competition this month were, from left, David Molinar-Medrano, Middle School Third Place Winner, representing Ralph Welch Park Community Center; Felix Gil, Middle School Second Place Winner, representing Philadelphia Park Community Center; and Carimel Valenzuela, Middle School First Place Winner, representing Garfield Neighborhood Center.



Elementary school students winning the City of Pomona’s public speaking competition were, from left, Jairo Lucas, Elementary School Third Place Winner, representing Garfield Neighborhood Center; April Hernandez, Elementary School Second Place Winner, representing Philadelphia Park Community Center; and Maraya Rodriguez, Elementary School First Place Winner, representing Washington Park Community Center.



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES AT CAL POLY -- Cal Poly University Pomona’s 63rd commencement ceremonies awarded degrees to about 6,070 students in eight ceremonies over the weekend. High profile speakers included Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis and State Sen. Connie Leyva. Pictured is Catherine Kavianian presenting the class gift to Cal Poly President Soraya Coley at Saturday night’s Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture commencement. The gift will fund one student scholarship for one semester. Kavianian served as the president of the College of Agriculture’s student council.

Grupo Catrinas dancers perform the traditional Flor de Pina dance (dance of the flower of the pineapple) during Cinco de Mayo activities in Downtown Pomona. The dance had its origins as the representative dance of Tuxtepec, the principle city of Oaxaca, Mexico’s, northeast Papaloapan region. It represents the Guelaguetza fiesta, celebrated in Oaxaca City each July to honor Centeoti, the indigenous goddess of corn. The dancers offer the pineapples on their shoulders as gifts and their long braids and represent purity, while their bare feet show their connections to the Earth.

Ellie Hernandez, an 11th grader at Pomona’s School of Arts and Enterprise, at right, sings a traditional Mexican song during Cinco de Mayo activities in Downtown Pomona.



Felipe Orozco y su Show de Caballos performs on the stage at Downtown Pomona’s Shaun Diamond Plaza during Cinco de Mayo activities sponsored by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Pomona Valley.



Minerva Hernandez, at left, President of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Pomona Valley, poses for a photo with Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz at the Hispanic Chamber booth during Cinco de Mayo activities this month at Shaun Diamond Plaza in Downtown Pomona.

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IPoly High School: Innovative college prep high School at Cal Poly Pomona

By Heather Nichols, IPoly Outreach and Admissions Coordinator

International Polytechnic (IPoly) High School is a tuition-free specialized public college preparatory high school, located on the campus of Cal Poly Pomona University. Run by Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), IPoly serves approximately 550 students from the surrounding Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

IPoly's program centers on project-based learning (PBL). The core curriculum is integrated into semester-long projects. As students work in teams, they develop skills such as interpersonal communication, public speaking, time management, conflict resolution, and personal accountability.

The mission of IPoly is to prepare graduates to perform significant roles in their community, the nation, and the world. Students become global citizens, contributing to society through required community service hours.

With only 550 students, IPoly provides a family-like environment. Students and families are



IPoly students are pictured hard at work on the sidewalk in front of the school on the Cal Poly University Pomona campus. The school's program is based on project-based learning and students work in teams on semester-long projects.

given customized support and guidance to get into their college of choice. One hundred percent of IPoly seniors graduate and 98 percent go directly to post secondary education following graduation.

Students are encouraged to get a head start on college credits by taking concurrent college courses. IPoly offers three dual enrollment options that allow students to take

college classes in the 11th and 12th grade (at Cal Poly Pomona, local community colleges and on IPoly's campus with Mt. SAC professors)—earning transferable general education credits at the cost of only \$10 per semester. Nearly 90 percent of IPoly's juniors and seniors participate in the early college enrollment program.

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IPoly has received numerous honors since its founding in 1993 including the prestigious Golden Bell Award in the category of "Innovation in High Schools" from the California School Boards Association. Most recently, IPoly was named a 2019 California Distinguished School, validating the

school's excellent teaching methods, learning and collaboration, and positive school climate.

To attend, students must apply for admission and pass an entrance exam. Eighth graders should apply to attend as freshmen. Students already in high school may submit transcripts to determine eligibility

prior to applying. Applications are currently being accepted for Fall 2019, and may be downloaded at www.ipolyhighschool.org.

Four requests and questions should be directed to the admissions office at 909-839-2331. IPoly's office will be open throughout the summer.

Art works from local artists on display at Latino Art Museum

"Frida Kahlo – Symbolism and Iconography," a show displaying art works from 23 local artists from several countries, will continue through the end of May at the Latino Art Museum in Downtown Pomona.

Included will be a live repre-

sentation of Frida, painting in her studio with music.

The Latino Art Museum is located at 281 S. Thomas St., Suite 105/104, Pomona.

For more information, call (909) 484-2618 or visit the web site at www.latinoartmuseum.com.



NEW RESTAURANT IN DOWNTOWN POMONA -- John Pena, founder of the JP Group based in Pomona, a dining, hospitality and entertainment management company, hit another home run with the opening of another restaurant in Downtown Pomona -- El Jefe Cocina Mexicana & Cantina officially opened with a Pomona Chamber of Commerce and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Pomona Valley ribbon-cutting last month. Pictured, at center with the scissors is Pena with his wife, Maria Cortez, with Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares. Minerva Hernandez, President of the Hispanic Chamber, is pictured at far left. The restaurant is located at 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona, in the Mission Promenade. Fifteen percent senior discounts on food are available Monday through Wednesday.

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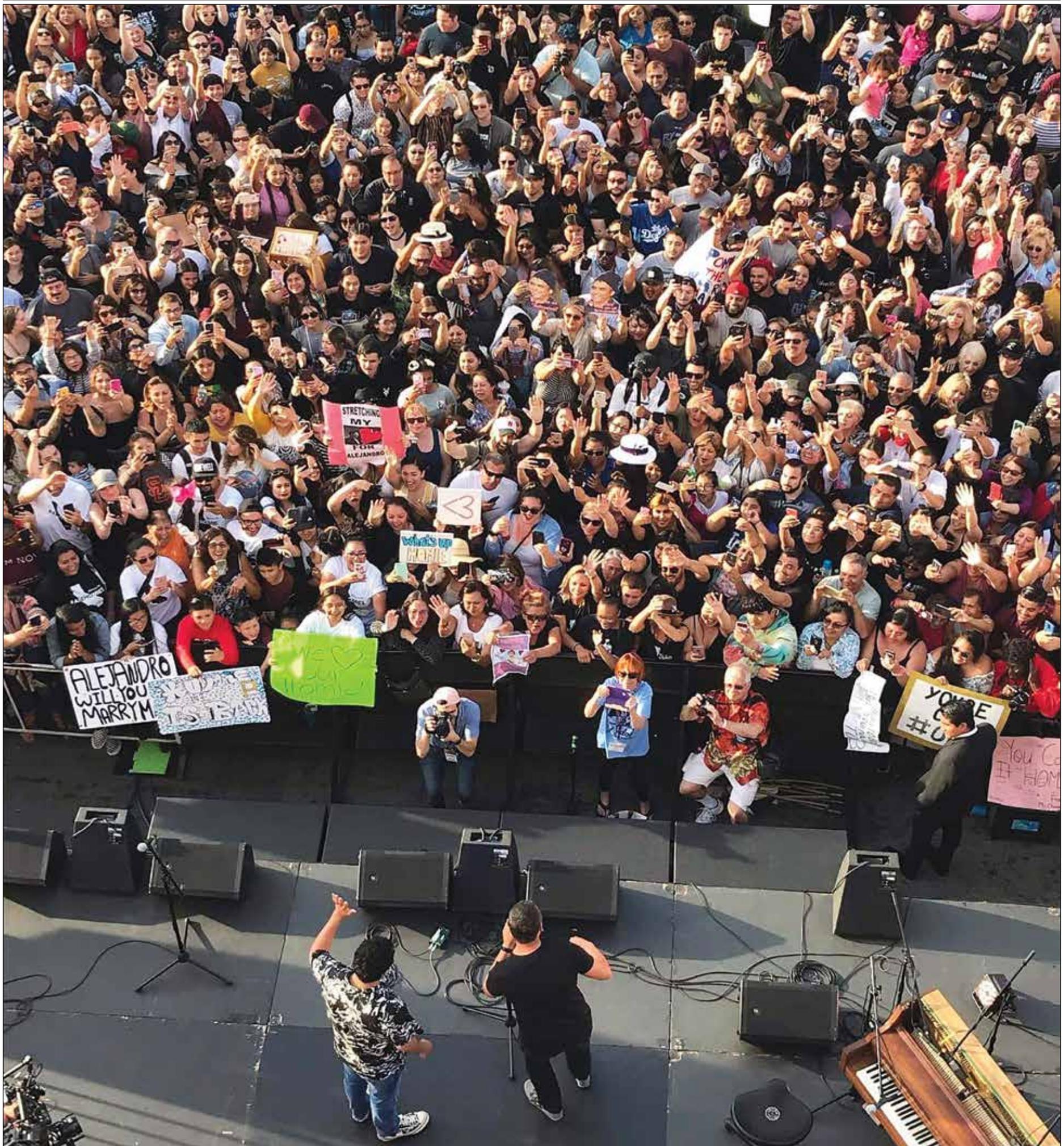


Photo by Mary Prendergast

THE CROWD CROWDS IN -- Pictured is a view from the top of the Fox Theater as Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval introduces American Idol star (and now Pomona ambassador to the world) Alejandro Aranda on the stage in the middle of Third Street just in front of the Fox -- only moments before Alejandro's live concert in the street. And yes, that's the La Nueva Voz team of Renee Barbee shooting video and Jeff Schenkel shooting stills from the front row just inside the security rail. The La Nueva Voz team learned the group just behind them was from San Diego and streaming a live Facebook video feed back to a couple of hundred friends back home. Of course, Renee was doing the same thing here. La Nueva Voz broke the story on the local contestant in its March issue.