



Campaign by Gas Company officials claims California Public Utilities Commission plans to eliminate use of natural gas; PUC says pilot programs would be voluntary

By Jeff Schenkel, Publisher

A high-ranking Gas Company official told La Nueva Voz following a news conference hosted by Pomona's Fairplex last month that a controversial proposal by the California Public Utilities Commission to eliminate the commercial and residential use of natural gas is a "real threat," that it must be dealt with and that the PUC has the ability to follow through with implementation of the plan.

But the Gas Company's position itself, it turns out, is somewhat controversial based on a PUC response to an inquiry from La Nueva Voz following a review of the text

of California Senate Bill 1477, authored by California Sen. Henry Stern (D-Calabasas), the measure that started it all.

La Nueva Voz asked the PUC to clarify after a review of the text included no mention of a mandatory ban on natural gas.

"Senate Bill 1477 will absolutely not eliminate consumer choice," Christopher Chow, a spokesman for



Sharon Tomkins
Gas Co. Vice President

the PUC, said in an e-mail to La Nueva Voz. "The CPUC's draft staff proposal for implementing SB 1477, published on July 16, 2019, says nothing remotely close to calling for a ban on natural gas."

"All of the programs proposed by CPUC staff to fulfill the requirements of SB 1477 are pilot programs that would be entirely voluntary, and this is clear in the staff proposal," Chow added.

He said the staff pro-

posal is available for review on the PUC web site.

Sharon Tomkins, Vice President of Strategy and Engagement for the Gas Company and a resident of Pomona, when pressed by La Nueva Voz, refused to acknowledge that the PUC move – still relatively unheard of in the greater public arena – might be a hollow threat by the PUC to make a point about greenhouse gas emissions that could easily be stopped with a legislative or even a judicial fix.

Her position on what the Gas Company is doing to help reduce

Gas Company campaign... pg. 8

Downtown Pomona Arts Colony celebrates 25th anniversary, sets the bar a little higher for a party in the street

Downtown Pomona celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Arts Colony this month with an amazing turnout and show of support – lots of art, lots of bands, lots of crafts and vendors and, perhaps most important, lots of visitors coming into the revitalized city center.

The event was so much more than the traditional Second Saturday – with people walking, talking, dancing in the street, hanging out, dining al fresco – that it could have

been Downtown Riverside during the Orange Blossom Festival (filling a 30-block area with eight stages and 200,000 visitors) or Old Town Pasadena, well, pretty much on any given weekend.

But nope, it was Downtown Pomona, home sweet home, and the crowds kept coming in long before the sun went down and stayed into the wee hours.

Downtown Pomona Owners Association Executive Director Larry Egan told La Nueva Voz a "nor-

mal" art walk attracts anywhere between 2,000 and 4,000 visitors, depending on the weather.

"Tonight, I would say we get 6,000 to 8,000 – just a guess," he said – and the sun was just beginning to set.

DPOA organized the event, promoted it, **Arts Colony... pg. 2**



CUSTOM-BUILT OUTDOOR GALLERY – A custom-built outdoor art gallery complete with lights was built along the fence on Second Street for this month's 25th anniversary celebration of the Downtown Pomona Arts Colony.



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Arts Colony... from pg. 1

advertised it, brought in the people and, to a large degree, picked up the tab.

There were four actual stages



Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, at left, shows off a few of her moves dancing in the street to the music of "Cold Duck."



Several bands played on a rotating schedule on Shaun Diamond Plaza at the 25th anniversary party this month in Downtown Pomona.

and two more "on the ground" sets for bands, and Ink'd Chronicles on Second Street even had a band inside the tattoo shop – and yes, it was loud in there.

Several bands rotated through the night at Shaun Diamond Plaza, and the band Cold Duck played on a stage with theater style seating –

all in the street on Second Street east of Garey Avenue.

And at 10 o'clock, there was even a rooftop concert on top of the Fox Theater for the 25th Anniversary After Party!

But wait, there's more!

There was an outdoor gallery custom-built complete with lights along the fence on Second Street, and there were live Lucha Libre wrestling matches in a ring set up in the parking lot at Garey and Second.

There was a panel discussion with an open microphone. There was a scavenger hunt. There was a live dance demo, courtesy of Evie Dance Studio. There were 25th Anniversary Cupcakes at Kitty's Café and Bakery. And there was live art coming together right there on the street.

There was a car show. And you could learn about the history of Pomona at the School of Arts and Enterprise Second Street campus.

And there was a brochure with a map and schedule so you could find your way from one event to the next.



Community activists Ron and Susan Vander Molen chat with friends along Second Street during a break in the music as the band "Cold Duck" gets ready for another set.



Renee Barbee, at left, and Chara Swodeck hang out with Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval at the 25th anniversary party.

Second Street was closed to vehicular traffic – and for good reason, since the street was filled with pedestrians for blocks.

Visitors agreed the event took Downtown Pomona, Second Saturday and the Art Walk to the next level, leaving only the question

how long organizers will wait to do it all again.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the process on a job well done!

Arts Colony... pg. 12



MHSA STAKEHOLDER MEETING

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Two different meeting dates and times are available for your convenience!*

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Tuesday - Morning Session
Free Breakfast 9:30 - 10:00 AM
Meeting 10:00 - 12:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 12

Thursday - Evening Session
Free Dinner 5:00 - 5:30 PM
Meeting 5:30 - 7:30 PM

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¡Dos fechas y horarios de reuniones están disponibles para su conveniencia!*

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Martes - Sesión en la Mañana
Desayuno Gratis 9:30 - 10:00 AM
Reunión 10:00 - 12:00 PM

SEPTIEMBRE 12

Jueves - Sesión por la Tarde
Cena Gratis 5:00 - 5:30 PM
Reunión 5:30 - 7:30 PM

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For more information, contact Dana Barford, MHSA Projects Manager
(909) 326-4641 or dbarford@tricitymhs.org

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*Traducción al Español estara disponible

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Cal Poly Pumpkinfest slated to open Oct. 5

Tickets are on sale online for the 27th annual Cal Poly Pomona Pumpkinfest, a month-long festival that kicks off with a two-day opening weekend on Oct 5 and 6 at Cal Poly's AGRIscares Center, next to the Farm Store at Cal Poly.

Featured will be hayrides, two corn mazes, a sunflower maze, an insect fair, pony rides, a petting farm and more. Plus, all pumpkins are still only \$5 for any size.

"The pumpkin festival is a fun, family event," said festival director Craig Walters, "but we also hope that you'll learn something new about farming, which continues to be a major industry in California that offers science and technology-related careers for our students."

The two-day festival will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at AGRIscares, 4102 S. University Drive, Pomona.

Visitors will also have a chance to see animal training demonstrations, cow-milking, soap-making and blacksmithing dem-

onstrations.

And, of course, there will be games, pumpkin pie-eating contests and seed-spitting contests.

Live music is scheduled, along with face painting, a costume contest and a children's garden.

Advance tickets purchased online are \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. Cal Poly students, faculty and staff can buy tickets for \$3 with Bronco ID at AGRIscares, ASI Games Room or at the gate.

Tickets purchased the day of the event are \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. Kids under 2 are free.

The pumpkin patch will be open from Tuesday to Sunday starting Oct. 8 through the end of the month and admission is free.

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*They say make Lemonade
And that is what we do
We take the sour with the sweet
And mix it through and through
Then swallow, smile
And change our point of view!*

A Steg McElwain



Photo by Dave Meye
Amy McElwain

Editor's Note: David McElwain, immediate past Board Chair of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and recently retired from the Los Angeles County Office of Education GAIN job services, Pomona Office, has been diagnosed with stage 4 stomach cancer and is receiving treatment at the City of Hope in Duarte. The above original poem was written by his wife, Amy, and submitted to La Nueva Voz.

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Tri City hits home run with ‘Diversity and Wellness Fair’

Last month was “Minority Mental Health Month” and Tri City Wellness Center in Pomona took the opportunity to open their doors and host a “Community Inclusion, Diversity and Wellness Fair” – all to provide information and services to nearly 100 members of “underserved” minorities in the community.

“We made sure to incorporate booths with mental health, mental well being and a variety of our underserved minorities in the community,” said Jennifer Phang, a well being supervisor at Tri City.

“And so we have our Hispanic heritage table, we have a senior socialization table to share all about the senior citizens centers around in our cities, and then we have our transitional age youth, and then we also have our Filipino table,” Phang told La Nueva Voz at the event.

She said employment and vocational services also were on hand to provide information, along with “courageous mind” speakers talking about stigma reduction.

Tri City’s “Power to be Me” group, one of the many on-going groups at the Wellness Center, also was on hand representing the LG-

BTQ community.

Phang, who serves as chair of Tri City’s Cultural Confidence Committee, organizers of the event, said the program was a success with a lot of people just coming in and looking at the exhibits.

She added that her committee currently is made up primarily of Tri City staff although it will be reaching out to the community to include non-employees.

“The main purpose is community togetherness and focusing on mental health, mental well being and being able to come collectively as staff, as community, as consumers and enjoying each other’s company and learning about each other as well,” Phang said.

Tri City wellness advocate Douglas Hughett and Tri City peer mentor Greg Alcala staffed the LGBTQ booth at the event, helping to match the LGBTQ term with the definition – just as they do as co-facilitators in a weekly hour-long group at the Wellness Center.

Hughett said the group typically attracts between five and 10 participants each week, working to support the mental health community.

Then what is the biggest issue

facing them?

According to Hughett, it is the stigma against mental health.

Then is the stigma against mental health a bigger issue than the stigma against LGBTQ?

Hughett said it is probably about the same for each.

LaDonya Milner, a long-time community participant in the Wellness Center program and a stakeholder in the community, supports a lot of the Wellness Center activities and is an advocate for mental health.

She is a resident of Pomona and has a son with a disability.

Dana Barford, a Tri City Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Projects Manager, said Milner is “one of our wonderful champions for mental health first aid and for mental health in general.”

Milner said she even advocates for mental health in her church, Mt. Zion in Ontario, where the church offers a mental health ministry.

Then what value does she see to Wellness Center programs like the Minority Men-



LaDonya Milner
Mental health advocate



“POWER TO BE ME” GROUP -- Organizers of last month’s “Community Inclusion, Diversity and Wellness Fair” at the Tri City Wellness Center in Pomona stopped by the “Power to be Me” group table, which includes members of the LGBTQ community from throughout Pomona, Claremont and La Verne. Pictured from left, are Dana Barford, a Tri City Mental Health Services Act Projects Manager; Jennifer Phang, a well being supervisor at Tri City and chair of its Cultural Confidence Committee which organized the event; Tri City peer mentor Greg Alcala; and Tri City wellness advocate Douglas Hughett. Alcala and Hughett co-facilitate the LGBTQ group at the wellness center.

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Gas Company campaign... from pg. 1

greenhouse gas emissions was the subject of a paid “advertorial” which first appeared in the June issue of La Nueva Voz (available at www.lanuevavoz.net, click on “past issues” for June and scroll down to page 14).

“I would say that the Public Utilities Commission’s current rulemaking is a real threat and they are looking to eliminate natural gas from all homes in California and all businesses in California, and they have the ability to do it,” Tomkins said. “So I think from that perspective the threat is very real and I think it will happen without anybody knowing it.”

“So when you go to buy an appliance maybe it’s five, maybe in 10 years from now, you won’t have the option of a natural gas appliance,” she added. “If you’re buying a new house, you won’t have the option of having natural gas in it.”

“How we then fix it and how long it takes to actually have everybody change out their homes is an open question,” she said. “It’s not a very quick solution because over 13 or 14 million people would have to change out their existing infrastructure at considerable cost,” she said.

The news conference, which was really more of a staged presentation or even a political “pep rally” by representatives of some of the 17 cities – including Pomona – that have taken official action siding with the Gas Company in opposition, was held at Avalon at Fairplex before an audience of about 100 public officials and perhaps three local newspaper reporters.

Only La Nueva Voz attempted to ask a question at the end of the news conference but nothing other than “one on one” interviews were permitted at the conclusion of the event. Gas Company officials had pitched the news conference to the media in advance, but the presentation ended up being billed as a briefing by the group “Californians for Balanced Energy Solutions.”

Jon Switalski, executive director of the group he said includes more than 500 supporters including rep-

resentatives of business, industry, local government and non-profit organizations, said his goal is to educate Californians about natural and renewable gas and to support balanced energy policies and “common sense” policies.

He added the group “was founded on the core principle that clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy is critical to California’s economic and environmental well-being.”



Mayor Pro Tem Tony Wu
West Covina



City Councilmember Liz Reilly
Duarte



Bill Manis, CEO, San Gabriel Valley
Economic Partnership



Miguel Santana, Fairplex
President and CEO



Jon Switalski, Executive
Director, Californians for
Balanced Energy Solutions

“We can all agree that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is an important and worthy goal,” he said. “As a former state legislator in the state of Michigan, I led the charge to adopt clean energy policies.”

But he said “common sense, balanced policies” are needed.

In California, he suggested the PUC should be going after the larger source, the transportation sector, where “those dirty diesel trucks”

represent about 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. Instead, he said, the PUC has chosen to go after the building sector which represents only about 10 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions.

“And those come from working class families heating their homes, cooking dinner for their children and taking hot showers,” he said. “And the PUC unfortunately seems to think it’s a good idea to remove affordable natural and renewable gas.”

“What the PUC is doing is asking those in our community to bear more of a burden, those who can of-

Gas Company campaign... pg. 14

Happy Labor Day Feliz Día del Trabajo



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www.HildaLSolis.org

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On behalf of LA County and the First District, it is my pleasure to celebrate the hard-working women and men who fuel our regional economy. United, we will continue to work towards a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

De parte del Condado de Los Ángeles y del Primer Distrito, es un placer celebrar a las mujeres y los hombres que trabajan duro y que son la fuente de nuestra economía regional. Unidos, continuaremos trabajando hacia un futuro donde todos tengan la oportunidad de prosperar.





Photo by Renee Barbee

Members of the Pomona Library Board of Trustees, Pomona city council members, library and city employees and others joined this month with long-time library services manager Muriel Spill to celebrate her retirement. She plans to move back to the east coast to be closer to family. Spill, who worked for the library for more than 31 years, has been instrumental in keeping the library afloat before and during the implementation of the library's current staffing model.



CONNIE COMES TO POMONA! -- State Sen. Connie Leyva officially moved her office from Chino to Pomona this month, making good on a promise to her staff that if she won reelection she'd relocate to Pomona. Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval told a crowd of about 200 attending the grand opening that he had never seen so many people assembled on the patio outside Leyva's new office in the Mission Promenade. And Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez called it a "historic day." "We could not be more excited on Team Leyva to be here in the City of Pomona," Leyva said, adding that there are so many activists in Pomona who are working to better their community. She thanked her mom and dad, both of whom were present at the event, and called them "the people who really made me the person I am." She said they both attended school in Pomona and Leyva herself lived in Pomona for the first couple of years of her life. "We feel very connected to Pomona," Leyva said. "You all have a great champion in the senator," said California Supt. of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, a former assemblymember. "She's making a statement about investment in a community that is on the rise. And that can not happen without investment, without people, without great schools, and without jobs where people can earn a decent living to support their families." Representatives of city councils, school boards, water boards, law enforcement agencies and others throughout Leyva's 20th district attended the event. Pictured cutting the ribbon, from left, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares, Albert and Connie Leyva, and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez. Leyva's new office is located at 101 W. Mission Blvd, Suite 111, Pomona.



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Knights of Columbus car show set for October

The annual Knights of Columbus car show, complete with food, drinks and live music by the band "Dudes got Blues," has been scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pomona.

Billed as a family friendly

event, the show will include a 50-50 raffle along with classics, hot rods, low riders, trucks, muscle cars and motorcycles.

Pre-registration deadline is Oct. 5.

St. Joseph Church is located at 1150 W. Holt Ave., Pomona.

For more information, call (909) 263-1243 or e-mail koc.877.pomona1@gmail.com.

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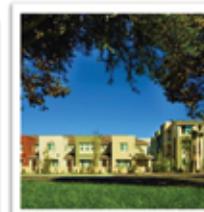
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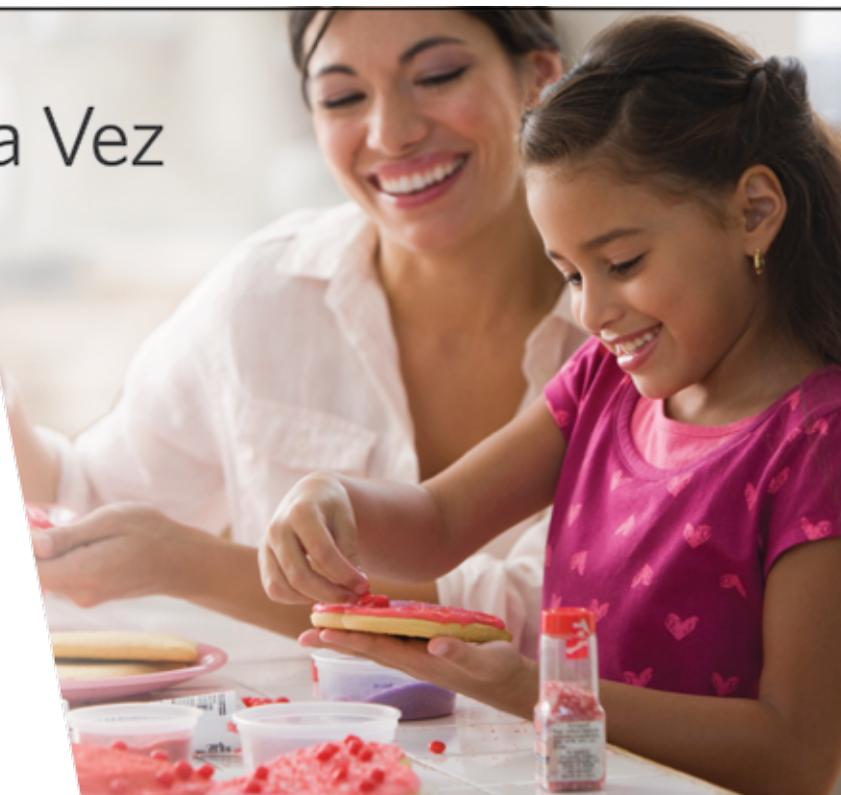
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Dramatic three-week trip to Antarctica topic of retired teachers luncheon

Retired teacher and videographer Lydia Carswell will speak on her 23-day Antarctic “adventure” – which included 30-foot waves, 100 mile per hour winds and remote islands with penguins as far as the eye can see, all on a small boat with only 109 passengers – at next month’s lunch meeting of the California Retired Teachers Association Division 13 in La Verne.

It was the last of Carswell’s trips covering all seven conti-

nents.

Carswell, who also served as a principal and district administrator, now serves as a consultant for local school districts.

The meeting is set for 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, at Hillcrest, 2705 Mountain View Drive, La Verne.

The retired teachers organization is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

Cost is \$19. For reservations, call (626) 963-6242.

I THOUGHT WE WERE OLD BACK THEN! -- La Nueva Voz friends Susie and Angel Perales dug out this old photo of a June 2004 eighth grade graduation of the grandkids at Pomona’s Lorbeer Middle School. Pictured, from left, are Angel, Susie, Alysa, Steven (at rear), Brian and Jackie Perales. All four graduated on the same day at Lorbeer (Steven and Brian are twins). All are 29 years old now.






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George Lopez Monday, Sept. 2

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Kelsea Ballerini & Hunter Hayes Saturday, Sept. 7

Juanes Sunday, Sept. 8

38 Special, The Marshall Tucker Band and Outlaws Friday, Sept. 13

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Charlie Wilson with Montell Jordan Friday, Sept. 20

Old Dominion Saturday, Sept. 21

Chicago Sunday, Sept. 22

Go to LACountyFair.com for tickets and updates

Acts begin at 7:30 p.m. and are subject to change without notice.

San Antonio ROP

San Antonio Regional Occupational Program Adult (SAROP) fee-based classes:

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- Crossover - Cosmetology to Barbering
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- Certified Nurse Assistant
- Home Health Aid
- Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid
- ServSafe Certification

Call **909-397-4711 ext. 21567** for more information and start dates of classes.

The San Antonio Regional Occupational Program provides Career and Technical Education in the surrounding high schools of Bonita and Pomona Unified school districts and at the Fairplex, Pomona. Courses are offered to students in grades 11 through 12 who live in Bonita Unified (San Dimas and La Verne) and Pomona Unified School Districts. Career and Technical, ROP courses provide students with job readiness and soft skills, career guidance and industry experience to help students become career ready, productive citizens and participants in a diverse society and global economy. Fee-based classes are available to adult graduate students only.

El Programa Regional de Oficios San Antonio ofrece Educación Técnica y Profesiones en las escuelas secundarias de los Distritos Escolares Bonita y Pomona y en Fairplex. Los cursos se ofrecen a alumnos del 11 al 12 grado que residen en los Distritos Escolares de Bonita (San Dimas y La Verne) y Pomona. Cursos por parte del Programa Regional de Oficios en Carreras Tecnicas ofrece capacitación para la preparación laboral y social, guianza para profesiones y la experiencia industrial para ayudar a los estudiantes a ser ciudadanos productivos y participar en la economía global y la sociedad diversa. Se ofrece clases de paga para alumnos adultos solamente para aquellos que se han graduado.

San Antonio Regional Occupational Program

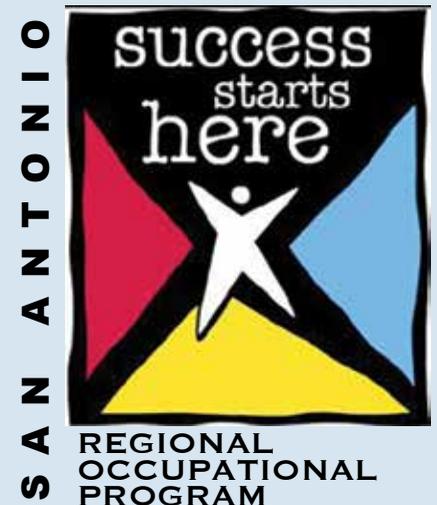
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- Resucitación Cardiopulmonar y Primeros Auxilios
- Certificación ServSafe

Llame al **909-397-4711 ext. 21567** para más información y empiezo de las primeras clases.



Arts Colony ... from pg. 2



AL FRESCO DINING -- Community volunteers John and Deborah Clifford, at rear, enjoy a little al fresco dining with friends on Second Street as the band "Cold Duck" performs perhaps 20 or 30 feet away on a stage in the street. And Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman chats with a friend, at left rear.

There was even a band inside the Ink'd Chronicles tattoo studio at the Arts Colony anniversary party and fans were packing the place and spilling out onto the street.



The Pomona Arts Colony 25th anniversary party was a good time to try out those bubble machines like you get at the LA County Fair -- just as long as those bubbles don't land on the detail jobs of those classic cars in the car show in the middle of Second Street.

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SHOWING WHAT THEY'VE GOT -- Two Lucha Libre wrestlers pose for photographers in the crowd in a ring set up in a parking lot at Garey Avenue and Second Street.

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The Band "Cold Duck" was popular at the Arts Colony anniversary party this month, performing on a stage in the middle of Second Street with a set list ranging from the songs of "Chicago" to Johnny Cash.

Luau set for Saturday at Pomona's American Legion

Pomona's American Legion Ave., Pomona. Post 30 will hold its annual luau featuring a roasted pig, live entertainment and raffle prizes at noon Saturday, Aug. 24, at Post 30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona. Included will be a best dressed contest, drink specials, door prizes and more. For more information, call (909) 620-0943.

L.A. County Supervisor Solis holds third annual Veterans Expo

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis opened her third annual Los Angeles Veterans Resource Expo at Fairplex last month telling an audience of several hundred exhibitors that “no service member should ever have to come home to homelessness or unemployment.”

“And that’s the very reason why we’re here today to bring about these resources in a one-stop shop atmosphere, with workforce and training programs,” Solis added.

She cited U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs figures that show there are approximately 350,000 veterans living in Los Angeles County.

“This makes L.A. County the home of the largest population in the country,” Solis said.

At the same time, she said the 2019 Los Angeles County homeless count showed there are about 3,875 recorded homeless veterans in the county including 948 in her first supervisorial district alone.

Solis said that represents a seven percent decrease from last year, which she said is “a step in the right direction.”

“All veterans that return home are faced with immense challenges with finding employment and housing,” she said. “Veterans . . . are the fastest growing population and their needs come with certain unique challenges.”

“I’m proud to be an advocate for veterans and for their families and I want to make sure that they get all

the resources they are able to ascertain,” she said, and “make sure that we close that gap of housing for homeless veterans.”

“Today is . . . a day of giving back to you, to our veterans, our current service members and, yes, their families,” Solis said. “As a result of your sacrifice, your commitment, your unselfishness and courage to serve something greater than yourself, our communities are safe and continue to thrive.”

Her third annual event, which she termed a partnership and a collaboration, attracted 3,000 visitors this year, according to the supervisor’s spokesperson. An estimated 1,000 attended in 2017 and 1,500 attended last year.

Solis told the group Los Angeles County currently has 18 veterans field offices, including a veteran’s service officer in county offices in Pomona.

Joe Leal, founder and executive director of Vet Hunters Project, told the group that many of the visitors



POMONA VETERAN AT EXPO -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at left, chats with Pomona veteran Michael Thomas at last month’s third annual Los Angeles Veterans Resource Expo at Fairplex. Thomas, who is a staff member at Pomona Valley America’s Job Center in Pomona, is also a Board member of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce. He staffed the America’s Job Center booth at the event working to get jobs for veterans.

ters of American veterans,” he added.

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Board member John Landherr, a former major in the U.S. Marine Corps, told the group that many who leave the military come home and look for an opportunity to serve.

“This expo is a great way for you to find a way to continue to serve your community,” he said. “You may not be in uniform anymore, but you can continue to serve the public and your communities.”

Landherr, also a Board member of the Los Angeles County Fair Association, said the LA County Fair is a big supporter

of veterans and offers a “Week of Heroes,” which this year will be held Sept. 4 through Sept. 8. During that week, he said, veterans and active duty military and their guests will be admitted to the fair for \$2.



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis stopped by the “211 LA County” table as she toured exhibitors at the Veterans Resource Expo at Fairplex. “211 LA County” provides a 24 hour a day, seven days a week telephone line offering free, confidential, multi-lingual information on Los Angeles County services and more. Pictured, from left, are “211” staff member Ana Hollander, Solis and Maria Belen Pena, also a “211” staff member.

walking through the doors of the expo were attending as a “last resort.”

“They come here because they need their lives changed – you get to make that possible,” Leal said. “We honor the fallen by serving the living.”

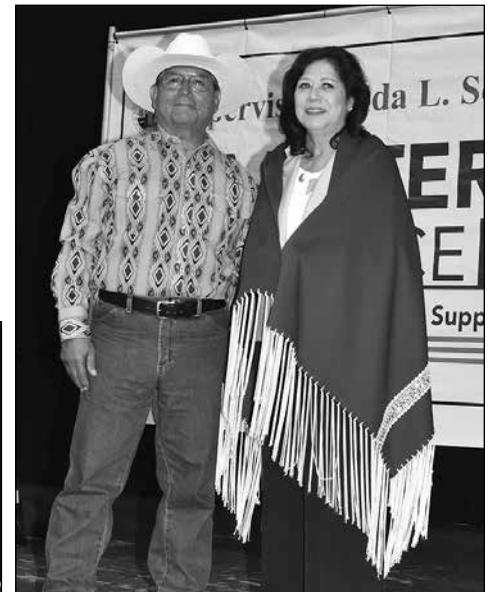
“Today we get the band together and we get to serve those that have served us, we get to thank the backbone of the military, and that’s the families, we get to thank and serve the sons and daugh-



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis opens her third annual Los Angeles Veterans Resource Expo at Pomona’s Fairplex.



Fairplex Board member John Landherr



Roy Two Bears De La Rosa, of the Native Americans Veterans Association, presents Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis with a Native American honor shawl before delivering the invocation at the Veterans Resource Expo. “Each knot that you’ll see when you see the fringe is tied with a prayer,” he told Solis. “May this shawl protect you all your days.”



Joe Leal
Founder and Executive Director
Vet Hunters Project



Dr. Manuel Baca, at left, a U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam veteran and a Board member of Mt. San Antonio College, salutes during the singing of the national anthem at the Veterans Resource Expo at Fairplex.

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Publisher: Jeff Schenkel

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

V.P. of Advertising & Operations: Renee Barbee

909-762-1446 • reneebarbee7@gmail.com

Layout and Design/Translations: Dora Cruz

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Gas Company campaign... from pg. 8

tentimes least afford it," he said.

"Today, all California households can choose the type of energy that meets their specific needs," he said, and surveys show they want to keep it that way.

He cited a survey last year that concluded more than 80 percent of Californians "overwhelmingly" support their ability to choose which energy they use, were opposed to eliminating the use of natural gas and were "extremely concerned" about their skyrocketing utility bills if they were forced to go all electric.

He said instead, the PUC is operating under pressure from environmental activists to eliminate natural gas – something that would impact

90 percent of homeowners, renters, thousands of small businesses and do harm for the manufacturing industry and food service providers.

The organization plans to send a letter to Gov. Newsom urging him to support and promote "common sense balanced energy policies."

Bill Manis, CEO of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, told the group the average homeowner would have to spend \$7,300 to update appliances, wiring and panels, and the average energy cost each year would go up about \$388.

Diamond Bar Mayor Pro Tem Steve Tye said his council unanimously approved a resolution in April to oppose "single energy."

"My colleagues and I believe that switching to electricity only and eliminating natural gas as an energy source that you can use in your home as the California Public Utilities Commission is pushing for will lead to many more problems for our constituents, problems the commission seems to be ignoring," Tye said.

For example, he said, the city would be more vulnerable in a natural or man-made disaster like wildfires or during a power shutdown.

And, he added, looking at the statewide impact, he said he is concerned whether the state's electric grid would be able to support an increase in demand for energy.

"We don't need the California Public Utilities Commission dictating to us and limiting our options," he said.

Duarte City Councilmember Liz Reilly said her council was the first to pass the resolution.

"As Vice Chair of the San Gabriel Valley COG (Council of Governments) energy environment and natural resources committee, I know we must act on climate change and we all want to do that but we must do that responsibly and in a way that

doesn't cause additional burden to our communities," she said.

And, she added, residents who want to switch can switch now.

"You don't need somebody to tell you that you can switch," she said.

Mayor Pro Tem Tony Wu of West Covina said his city wants natural gas and does not want everything controlled by Sacramento.

Even Miguel Santana, President and CEO of Fairplex, pointed out that food vendors at the LA County Fair and all fairs argue that "central to their survival is the use of gas in their cooking."

"Sustainability is one of our most important values here at Fairplex," he said, but that "any decision that's made regarding this issue has to involve small businesses, has to involve local communities . . . so that there's buy-in across the board and everybody can do their part for sustainable California."

Tomkins told the group the Gas Company has committed to "replacing our natural gas supply with 20 percent renewable natural gas," which she explained is produced from garbage from farms, kitchens and sewers.

Tri City... from pg. 7

pression, so this is the hub for the community," Milner said.

Milner also serves as an executive board member for the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI).

The Tri City Wellness Center was created nine years ago through funding from the California Mental Health Services Act to promote recovery, resiliency and wellness for people confronting mental health issues.

Staff members provide a range of culturally competent person-centered and family-centered groups, workshops and socialization activities designed to promote increasing independence and wellness for people of all ages.

It is located at 1403 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

For more information, contact jphang@tricitymhs.org or call (909) 326-4648.

Kennedy Austin founder launches weekly radio talk show

Ethel Gardner, founder and executive director of Pomona's Kennedy Austin Foundation, is hosting her own weekly radio talk show "A Mother's Cry with Ethel Gardner," airing on topics ranging from homelessness and mental illness to domestic violence and anger management.

The half-hour program, which is taped on Tuesdays, is broadcast at 1 a.m. Sunday over radio station KKLA 99.5 FM, a religious and talk radio format station based in Glendale. The show reaches the entire Greater Los Angeles area.

The show got its start this month with Gardner appearing solo at the microphone, although she said she would be bringing guests in on specific topics.

In addition, a live "call in" format will be possible on the pro-

gram beginning next month. Gardner told La Nueva Voz much of what she expects to cover in the program will be based on events that have happened in the Pomona, Claremont and La Verne area.

Her first guest, appearing on the program which airs Sunday morning, will be her daughter, Linda Jones Edwards, who works with her at Kennedy Austin. The topic will be anger management.

Gardner said KKLA reached out to her to propose the program after learning of Kennedy Austin's work with a program addressing childhood trauma and adversity.

Kennedy Austin reaches out to residents who have experienced tragedy to provide grief counseling and support.

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

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4102 S. University Drive, Pomona (next to the Farm Store)




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‘National Night Out’ in Pomona brings community closer to law enforcement



An impressive group backs up Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri during Pomona’s National Night Out festivities this month in the Pomona Civic Center. Pictured, from left, are Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lustro, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Olivieri, and Pomona Community Life Commissioners Donna Houston, Tamela Hutchinson, Regina Wang and Christina Jimenez. The event is held by law enforcement in more than 15,000 communities in all 50 states with some 37 million people coming together to help improve communication between the community and police and to help prevent crime and drug use. Pomona’s Community Life Commission is charged with fostering improved city-citizen relations by focusing on how people interact with critical government services and improving the human relations aspect of these services.

lanthe Sanchez, at right, is all set to enjoy her snow cone at National Night Out, courtesy of the volunteers at the booth of Pomona’s Knights of Columbus Chapter 877 (based at Pomona’s St. Joseph Catholic Church). Pictured, from left, are members Adrian Morelos, Freddie Pacheco, James Sanchez, Rudy Fernandez, and Sanchez, 11, a student at Westmont Elementary School in Pomona.



Now these Pomona Kiwanis cooks have done this before. Pictured grilling hamburgers at National Night Out are, from left, former Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin; Pomona Public Works Director Rene Guerrero; Pomona City Manager Linda Lowry; and Ismael Arias, of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association.



Some of the ladies attending this month’s Pomona National Night Out couldn’t resist getting up and out on the plaza to dance to a little live music. Pictured, at center, is Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lustro’s wife Sharon Lustro.



Pomona State Farm agent John Forbing poses for La Nueva Voz with four “Young Marines” who just happened to stop by the State Farm booth at Pomona’s National Night Out. And yes, that’s State Farm agent Nona Tirre of Claremont (formerly of Pomona) photo-bombing in the background.

Pomona’s Alice Gomez wins a gift certificate to Corky’s Kitchen and Bakery in Pomona during the raffle drawing at this month’s 36th annual National Night Out in the Pomona Civic Center. Pictured, from left, are Corporal Ernesto Rios, head of the Pomona Police Department crime prevention office; Community Service Officer Norma Macy; and Gomez. The event is coordinated each year by the crime prevention office.



Lining up for some of those world famous Kiwanis burgers is the Quinones family, one of Pomona’s favorite families. Pictured are Norma and Andy Quinones with La Nueva Voz friends Aziél, 1-1/2, at left, and Andrés, 3.



Community volunteer Virginia Madrigal, at left, chats with Sharon Lustro, Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lustro’s wife, at Pomona’s National Night Out.



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SAFETY FIRST By Jose Bermudez, Certified Safety Professional

Young driver safety

High school students, as they arrive at completing high school, look forward to getting their driver's license, a car, a part time job in order to achieve more independence in their pathway to adulthood. Unfortunately, many teens are not properly trained and qualified to drive their family car or their own vehicle. Consequently, many teens experience accidents that result in injuries and fatalities. We will review the history and causes of accidents, then address how to enhance driver safety.

Driver education classes were taught in high schools throughout the U.S. for many years. The subject was first taught in 1934 at a high school in State College, Pennsylvania. Over time, due to budget cuts, high schools have done away with driver training. California passed its Graduated Driver License (GDL) law in 1997, which limits when a teen may drive and who he or she can ride with. The law also specifies driver education, training, permit and licensing requirements. The purpose of GDL is to cut down on

the number of teen car crashes and number of teens who are injured or killed in California each year. This "YouTube" link will connect you to a brief video that covers the GDL's California requirements: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9WupY_rgwo

More detailed information can be obtained from California DMV at their website.

Teen car crashes are their number one killer. In 2016, according to Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 2,433 teens in the United States ages 16-19 were killed and 292,742 were treated in emergency rooms for injuries suffered in motor vehicle crashes. In other words, six teens ages 16-19 died every day as a result of motor vehicle accidents and hundreds more were injured.

Additionally, in 2016, young people ages 15-19 were 6.5 percent of the U.S. population. These teens accounted for an estimated \$13.6 billion (8.4 percent) of the total costs of motor vehicle injuries. The monetary cost cannot be compared to pain and suffering

experienced by the families and loved ones of the young people who were injured or killed.

According to AAA, three factors that commonly result in deadly crashes for teen drivers are:

- **Distraction:** Distraction plays a role in nearly six out of 10 teen crashes, four times as many as official estimates based on police reports. The top distractions for teens include talking to other passengers in the vehicle and interacting with a smart phone.

- **Not buckling up:** In 2015, the latest data available, 60 percent of teen drivers killed in a crash were not wearing a safety belt. Teens who buckle up significantly reduce their risk of dying or being seriously injured in a crash.

- **Speeding:** Speeding is a factor in nearly 30 percent of fatal crashes involving teen drivers. A recent AAA survey of driving instructors found that speeding is one of the top three mistakes teens make when learning to drive.

The underlying cause of most teen accidents is inexperience which is most evident in visual

scanning and working with spacing and time. This refers to distance between vehicles, braking distance and time needed to stop.

Strategies to improve driving and maintain safety include:

- **Setting a good example** by reminding and requiring everyone to buckle up before starting the vehicle.

- **Making a family rule** covering cell phone use and texting and other distractions including carrying young passengers that may encourage drivers to take risks.

- **Speeding** is a main cause of fatalities which can be prevented by setting a good example including strict rules on obeying the speed limits, defensive driving and speed based on weather conditions and not rushing at any time.

- **Setting a zero policy** on alcohol use before and when driving.

In order for teens to improve their driving and safety, they need to learn to become successful drivers: know the rules of the road, ex-

ecute safe operating procedures, and know the consequences of not adhering to them. And they need to understand that what they know and do will affect their safety and their ability to control the car, handle an emergency, and recognize potential hazards in time to avoid them. Parents, guardians, older siblings, and relatives need to set the example as good drivers and mentors to young drivers.

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

Beatles tribute concert set for Pomona Civic Center park

The third in Pomona's series of Summer Concerts in the Park will be a "Sgt. Peppers Beatles Tribute" scheduled for Saturday, September 21, in the Pomona Civic Center plaza.

Sponsored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and members of the Pomona City Council, the concert gets under way at 7 p.m.

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

Much has been said and written about Amelia Earhart, the famous aviatrix, who was lost some place in the Pacific Ocean. The last words she radioed from her plane in 1937 were: "Position doubtful."

There is not much safety when that happens to any of us. These are the dreadful words, "position doubtful." Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by Me." When we take those words seriously and begin to know what they mean for us, then our position is no longer doubtful. He is the one who is able to let us know where we are and where we should be. With Jesus Christ we can know our position and that banishes the fog of doubt. We are able to radio that we are with Christ and we know where we are.

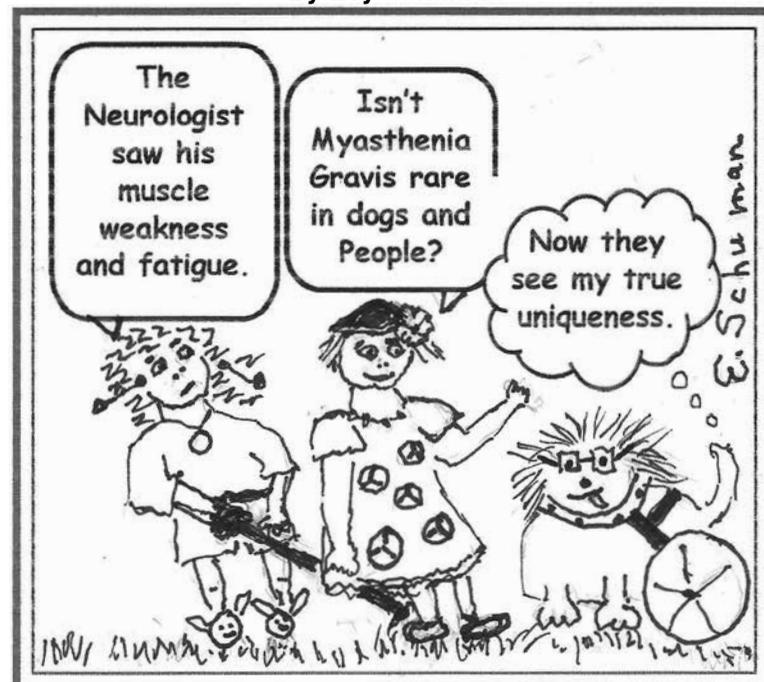


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Hope & Hurdles

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 has co-facilitated at Pomona's Tri-City Wellness Center.

OBITUARY

‘Celebration of Life’ to be held for Pomona volunteer Helen Mosier

Helen Weinberg Mosier has died from complications of early onset Alzheimer’s disease. She was 70 and had been suffering from the disease for several years.

Born in The Bronx in the shadow of Yankee Stadium, she moved to California at six months old along with her parents and older sister. She grew up in Alhambra, graduating from Mark Keppel High School in 1966.



Helen Weinberg Mosier

She was a highly educated woman, receiving an associate degree from Los Angeles City College, a bachelor’s degree from Whittier College, a teaching credential from Cal State University Los Angeles, a master’s degree in early childhood development from Cal State University Northridge and a master of business administration degree from Pepperdine University. That’s where she met her husband of nearly 36 years, Denny, in 1982 in a statistics class.

She was extremely talented in managing money. She had a career as a pre-school teacher, a project control analyst for Hughes Communications and as an entrepreneur running a home-based word processing business in the 1990s. Later, she was a tax preparer with H&R Block.

She and her family lived in Long Beach in their first home from 1985 to 2000, and then in

El Dorado Estates in Long Beach from 2000 to 2005. She and her husband have lived in the Phillips Ranch area of Pomona since 2005.

Helen was active in Little League and ice hockey with her and Denny’s son, Scott Mosier, serving as team mom. Helen was active in the Pomona community, helping several candidates get elected by making thousands of calls to voters. She served as a City of Pomona Library Trustee from 2010 to 2014. She was always sweet, but she was also strong. She was a great wife, mom and grandmother.

Along with her husband, Helen had been active in the Pomona Host Lions Club, serving as secretary from 2015-2016. She and Denny were also members of the Save and Support Our Pomona Public Library.

She died July 30 at Montclair Royale, an assisted living and memory care facility in Montclair, where she had lived since June 24, 2018.

She is survived by her husband, their son, Scott, daughter-in-law Ruth, grandson Carter and Helen’s nieces, Kim and Mandi and Mandi’s husband, Daniel, and their children Emma and Trevor.

A celebration of her life is planned for late September or early October. She will be missed by many.

Funeral services held for Ernie Barbosa

More than 1,000 people – including a large contingent of uniformed Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Deputies and Los Angeles County firemen presenting a full honors ceremony – attended funeral services last week in Hacienda Heights for City of Industry Sheriff’s Sergeant Ernie Barbosa who died earlier this month. He was 54.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva and a large group representing Pomona attended the services at St. John Vianney Catholic Church. Barbosa’s wife, Rachel Barbosa, represented Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis in Pomona before leaving to take a position in South El Monte, where she now serves as interim city manager.

Words of tribute were offered by Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Capt. Bobby Wyche, head of the Industry Sheriff’s



Rachel and Ernie Barbosa

Station, along with Barbosa’s nephew, Richard Segovia, and his son, Jake Barbosa, among others.

Burial was at Forest Lawn Covina Hills.



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In Memory of a Pomona Friend

“I will always remember you as a pure and kind human being. Thank you for all the years and dedication to our community. Pomona has lost a beautiful soul and you will be missed.”

Helen Weinberg Mosier
R.I.P. 2019

-- Jacqueline Elizalde

Editor’s Note: Jacqueline Elizalde and Helen Mosier served together for four years from 2011 to 2014 as Pomona Public Library Board of Trustees Commissioners.



Pictured are Helen Mosier, at left, and Jacqueline Elizalde.

A Fundraiser for Unity Church of Pomona

Sunday 2-5 pm, September 8, 2019

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A Healing Formula for Relationships and Cities



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Our financial goal is \$12,000

10 % of our proceeds will go to fund Restorative Practice Training for Pomona.

Unity Church of Pomona, a Community Interfaith Leader and a Compassionate City Leader, is proud to invite you to the next step of our Community’s Reawakening through “Restorative Practices and Forgiveness of Self Others”. In this disjointed political climate, something within us yearns to heal the wounds of separation and judgement in our individual lives and in our communities and come together in circles of compassion and forgiveness. Yet most of us need tools to do this powerful healing work.

Azim Khamisa saw the Interfaith and Compassionate work our area has done and shared his vision for Pomona to be the Center of Restorative Practices for our region at our Pomona Reawakening Conference in February. Unity Church of Pomona is Excited to bring Azim back so we can all experience his remarkable energy and wisdom and be led into the next phase of this paradigm shift in which we find ourselves. Azim’s remarkable action for societal transformation comes after the senseless murder of his 20-year old son Tariq while delivering pizzas in January 1995 by Tony Hicks, a 14-year-old gang member. Out of unspeakable grief and despair, Khamisa was inspired to transform his loss through the miraculous power of forgiveness.

Unity is a Global Spiritual Movement that works to Co-Create a World that Works for All by being Centered in the Divine. We have been active in Pomona since 1932 honoring the Truth that runs through all spiritual traditions. By focusing on the Sacred within Ourselves and throughout Creation, we work to bring healing and wholeness to individuals and to the greater community and the world.

Unity of Pomona is honored to host monthly Compassionate Cities meetings. We offer 10:30 am Sunday Services followed by potluck lunch, Weekly and longer Monthly Meditation and Prayer Services including Mindfulness, Classes on many Spiritual Topics, Expressions of Spiritual Art and Music, Community Drumming, and Forward Progress’s Re-entry Services for those returning to their respective communities.

*Book Signing, Light Refreshments, and Networking Opportunities- (bring business cards)



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Pomona Unified School District annual backpack give-away signals end of summer, back to school!

It is always exciting to get that brand new backpack filled with supplies and all set to take back to school for a new year -- just ask these kids and their families. Patti Azevedo, of the district's family support services team and who coordinated organizers for the event this month, said Pomona Unified School District gave away 3,000 backpacks this year and the kids and their families started lining up as early as 5 a.m. It was a little different this year with piped-in music and organizers changed up the line a little bit to make it flow a little better, but the bright eyes and smiles were pretty much the same as always. The new school year started on Aug. 12.



Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman and Supt. Richard Martinez chat with volunteers at the district's Family Support and Resource Center, which works to eliminate barriers that stand in the way of school success for homeless children and, generally provide services to help families improve the quality of their lives. From left are volunteer Ana Garcia, Dalea Castro of the district's Department of Pupil and Community Services, Perlman and Martinez.



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'Pomona Day' tickets to fair offered for \$1

"Pomona Day at the Fair," always on opening day of the LA County Fair, is scheduled this year for Friday, Aug. 30, with tickets only \$1 for Pomona residents.

To claim your \$1 admission, visit lacountyfair.com/pomonaday and select up to two tickets.

The password is POMONA, and it is case sensitive. Tickets must be purchased before Aug. 29.

Your insert here! Call (909) 629-2292

Pomona Council begins new practice of honoring veterans

Five Pomona veterans were honored by the Pomona City Council this month as councilmembers launched a new practice of recognition, as Mayor Tim Sandoval explained, “because we know that we have so many men

Moore.

Hernandez, who served in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1972 and now serves as a veterans’ advocate on a variety of boards and commissions, said veterans typically take off one uniform and put

U.S. Army from 1965 to 1968 including a year in Vietnam followed by 10 years in the National Guard, thanked councilmembers “on behalf of all Vietnam veterans especially since we didn’t get a thank you when we got home,”

Verne, told councilmembers he is working to bring a VFW post back to Pomona.

Espinoza served in the U.S. Army from 1975 to 1980, and Moore has served in the U.S. Army since 1994 including some time in Operation Desert Storm and Somalia.

Certificates presented to the

veterans thanked them for their “dedicated years of service to our country in the United States military. As a veteran you are a cherished member of our community.”

Names of veterans to be honored can be passed on to city councilmembers or the Pomona city manager’s office.



Photo courtesy of City of Pomona

COUNCIL HONORS VETERANS -- U.S. military veterans honored by the Pomona City Council this month, pictured with members of the council, are, from left, Pastor Allen Espinoza, Pete Garcia (with the microphone), Howard Hernandez, Jess Gomez and Lee Moore.

and women who have sacrificed to serve in the U.S. military.”

Honored this month were new Pomona Post 30 American Legion Commander Howard Hernandez, Jess Gomez, Pete Garcia, Pastor Allen Espinoza and Lee

and women who have sacrificed to serve their communities.

“We’re now active community members who promote everything American within our communities,” he said.

Jess Gomez, who served in the

although he said they are receiving thanks now.

Pete Garcia, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1971 to 1982 including some time in Vietnam, and who is active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in La

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Assemblymember Rodriguez names former Councilmember Carrizosa 'Woman of the Year' at annual 52nd District open house

Former Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa, the first Mexican-born woman to hold office in Pomona, was named "Woman of the Year for the City of Pomona" last month at Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez' sixth annual summer barbecue and open house.

Rodriguez presented the award to Carrizosa based on her 21 years of service on the council and her work on the Pomona Library Board of Trustees, the Philadelphia Bilingual Advisory Committee, the Garey High School Advisory Committee and others.

A resident of Pomona since 1963, she earned a bachelor's and master's degree from Cal Poly University Pomona and served as a teacher at Philadelphia Elementary School.

Women of the Year for cities in the 52nd Assembly District are selected for "going above and beyond" to make their communities a better place.

Reggie Clark, program manager for Pomona's "Hope for Home" year-round homeless

shelter through his Volunteers of America, Los Angeles non-profit, was named Pomona's "Non-profit of the Year" for the impact his organization has made tackling the homelessness issue in the city.

Rodriguez also recognized the Diamond Ranch High School girls' basketball team, the Panthers, as an athletic team that has gone above and beyond.

The team recently won the CIF championships in girls' basketball.

And the "Everybody Loves Raymond" scholarship was awarded to Edith Sandoval, a Garey High School student who was part of AVID and the associated student body, in addition to volunteering for the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade, the Holiday Half Marathon and in Garey High School's beautification day.

She will be attending Cal Poly



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presents his annual 'Woman of the Year' award to former Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa.

gram when he was killed in a drive-by shooting.

And Pomona's "Small Business of the Year" award went to Spikes Bakery Shop as a business that has played a crucial role in providing a vibrant and successful economy.

The business has operated in Pomona for the past 20 years and often donates baked goods to churches in Pomona.

Pomona's "Veteran of the Year" award went to Ms. Catrina Morning who enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1991 and, during her service, was awarded several decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons.

After her service in the Army, she was assigned to the USAR Control Group with the remainder of her time in an Army Reserve unit. She is engaged in the community and serves as an active member of Pomona's American Legion Post 30.

University Pomona in the fall and hopes to study either biology or engineering.

The scholarship was named in honor of Raymond Garcia, a senior at Garey High School and part of the school's football pro-



Homeless advocate Reggie Clark receives 'Non-profit of the Year' award from Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.

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