



## Pomona Unified's new school year continues 10-year slide in enrollment, again resulting in reduced state funding

Pomona Unified School District is continuing its 10-year trend of declining enrollment in the new school year and, although the district's funding is directly impacted by a drop in the total number of students, top officials remain confident they can continue to do their job and keep the quality of education on track.

Official "back to school" enrollment figures requested by La Nueva Voz show a drop of 254 students from kindergarten to grade 12 districtwide – a decline from last year's 23,185 students to 22,931 at the start of school this year.

And, since each student generally makes the district eligible for \$11,409 in "ADA" (average daily attendance funding from the state), that means the district will be anticipating decreased ADA funding this year in the amount of \$2,897,886.

The actual cost per student this year, according to district spokesperson Oliver Unaka, is \$14,809. To oversimplify, the difference is made up through other funding sources.

In all, the district's projected expenditures this year total \$309,169,086. In round numbers, that ADA loss this



Photo by Kenny Su, PUSD

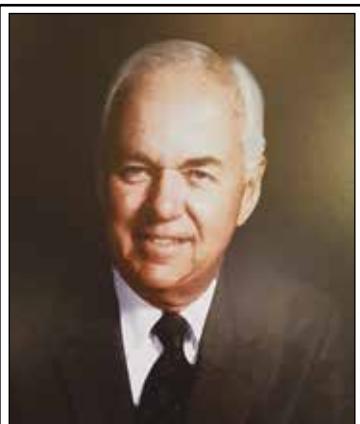
**OFF TO A GOOD START!** -- Students at Pomona's Cortez Math and Science Magnet School line up for their free "Chromebook" computers on the first day of school last month. A Pomona Unified School District spokesman said the last school bond measure approved by voters included a \$50 million "set-aside" for technology, allowing all students in the district to receive the computers, although some schools -- including Cortez -- are still being phased in.

year really works out to only about one percent of the total budget.

"Despite the enrollment decline, we remain optimistic and focused on providing innovative educational support services to all students in Pomona and Diamond Bar," said Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez in a prepared statement in response to inquiries from La Nueva Voz. "We are focused on operating within our means while also redesigning our district to continue to meet the needs for future

**New school year... pg. 4**

## Pomona 'heroes' announced as Pomona Day opens LA County Fair



Services held for former Pomona Mayor and Assemblymember Chuck Bader (see story page 8)

Pomona Day at the Fair activities, as is the tradition, kicked off opening day of the LA County Fair last month with the presentation of five Pomona community "heroes" – from a youth hero to a "super senior" community hero – and an all-out Pomona Day parade through the fairgrounds.

Heading up the list of this year's heroes were Pomona State Farm agent John Forbing, Pomona Planning Commissioner Ron Vander Molen, and Pomona Optimist Club President Lorraine

**Pomona heroes... pg. 2**

**OFFICIALLY OPENING THE LA COUNTY FAIR!** -- Heidi Hanson, of Rain Bird International, Board Chair of the Los Angeles County Fair Association, cuts the ribbon on opening day last month -- which was also "Pomona Day" at the Fair -- to officially let the 97th LA County Fair begin. Pictured, from left, are Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana, Heidi Hanson, Fair Association Board member Mike Driebe, and Suzanne Freehling, whose late husband, Fred Freehling, was a director emeritus of the Fair Association Board. Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board are pictured at rear.



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## Talking about our community . . . A message from Tri-City Mental Health



Recent mass shootings, perpetrated by people who allegedly acquired their assault firearms legally, have led Americans to question the current background checks system. This system permits individuals with a history of mental illness and violence to obtain firearms.

Yet the facts show a "single-minded" focus on mental illness is misguided. Individuals with mental illness are responsible for less than 4 percent of all violent crimes in the United States. In fact, individuals with serious mental illness are more likely to be the victims rather than the perpetrators of violence, and are at a higher risk of suicide. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, two-thirds of gun deaths in this country are from suicide, meaning those with mental illness are more likely to harm themselves than others.

The existing background check system can be improved without perpetuating the stigma of those with serious mental illness or discouraging individuals from seeking mental health treatment.

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## Pomona heroes... from pg. 1

Canales.

This year's youth hero was Kaitlyn Nghi-Hong Nguyen and a special "super senior community hero" award was presented to 93-year-old Mimi Figueroa.

Former Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin introduced "hero" Lorraine Canales as "someone who has given so much... to the community for over 25 years."

A counselor at Pomona's Village Academy High School, she serves as advisor of the Interact Club, the Joy Club, the Village

soccer team, the Village dance team and is credited with bringing the arts to Village Academy, Martin said.

Canales served as Martin's cultural arts commissioner for four years and coordinates "Suits for Success," a student-based fundraiser, along with "Tea for the Soul," Optimist essay and oratorical contests and, as a Rotarian, coordinates "student of the month," another essay contest, a speech contest and more.

She was named educator of the year by Assemblymember Fred-



**STUDENT ART COMPETITION WINNERS** -- Judges sorted through 400 renderings to select four winners of this year's student art competition. Winners, from left, are Maia Tumbokon, an eighth-grader at Cortez Magnet School, "best of show;" Joanna Mejia, Harrison Elementary School, "intermediate winner;" Sarah Zapata, Philadelphia Elementary School, "elementary winner;" and Isaiah Johnson, Pomona High School, "high school winner."

Pomona heroes... pg. 6

## Introducing former Pomona resident Dr. Henry M. Ramirez... Presentando al pasado residente de Pomona, el Dr. Henry M. Ramirez...

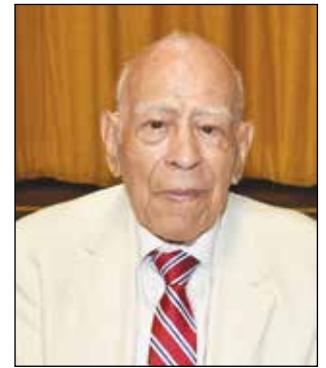
Dr. Henry M. Ramirez Perez invites you to "get to know" WHY two million Mexican Mestizos, Catholic and mostly illiterate, along with a few Criollos, suddenly abandoned, Mexico and went North to find work and freedom of religion. And, When and why did several hundred, if not thousands of the two million, start the barrios of El Arbol Verde in Claremont, El Barrio de Silao and Celaya in Pomona, El Jardin in Corona, La Calle Primera in La Verne, Murphy Ranch and Canta Ranas in Whittier, etc. The Where they came from is predominantly Zacatecas, Guanajuato, Michoacan, Aguascalientes, and Jalisco. I have written two books on the matter and am available at anahuac31@gmail.com.

El Dr. Henry M. Ramirez Pérez le invita a que usted conozca porque dos millones de Mexicanos Mestizos, Católicos principalmente analfabetas, junto con algunos criollos, de repente abandonaron México y se marcharon al Norte para buscar trabajo y libertad de religión. Cuando y porque varios cientos, o quizás miles de los dos millones de personas, empezaron los barrios de El Árbol Verde en la ciudad de Claremont, El Barrio de Silao y Celaya en Pomona, El Jardín en Corona, La Calle Primera en La Verne, el Rancho Murphy y Canta Ranas en Whittier, etc. Llegaron principalmente de Zacatecas, Guanajuato, Michoacán, Aguascalientes, y Jalisco. Yo he escrito dos libros sobre el tema y estoy disponible por correo electrónico: anahuac31@gmail.com.

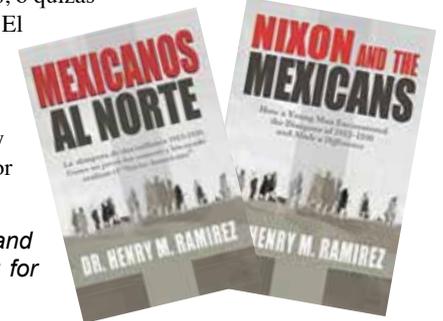
**Special offer:** Autographed copies of "Mexicanos Al Norte" and "Nixon and The Mexicans" both are available from Ramirez for \$12 plus \$3 for shipping.

*Editor's Note:* Dr. Ramirez, who grew up a block away from Pomona's Sacred Heart Church and picked oranges for a living at the age of 15, was appointed by President Nixon to serve as his Cabinet Committee Chairman on Opportunities for Spanish-Speaking People. Today he lives in a small rural village in Maryland on a "ranchito" not far from Washington, D.C., with his wife Ester.

*Nota del editor:* El Dr. Ramirez, se crió a una cuadra de la Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón en Pomona y pizzaba naranjas para mantenerse a la edad de 15 años, fue nombrado por el Presidente Nixon para servir como Presidente del Comité del Gabinete para Oportunidades de la Población Hispanohablante. Actualmente el Dr. Ramirez vive en un pequeño poblado de Maryland en un "ranchito" no muy lejos de Washington, D.C., con su esposa Ester.



Dr. Henry Ramirez



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## New school year... from pg. 1

generations of PUSD students.”

The way the enrollment breaks down is something like this – K-8 this year is 15,857, compared to last year’s 16,176, for a decline of 319 students. The numbers actually went the other way in grades nine through 12 – the district has 7,074 students at the high school level this year compared to 7,009 last year, for a slight increase of 65.

### Understanding trend of declining enrollment

So, the big question would be why the overall decline – not only this year but over the past 10 years.

According to Unaka, two factors are involved – a national trend and the local trend.

He said the national trend is that all-around birth rates are down – people are having fewer babies. And, he pointed out, that trend is impacting not only schools but pretty much every industry there is.

That “big picture” view means there may not even be enough of a labor force in the making to replace retiring baby boomers. If there is a silver lining at all, one

benefit is that there is evidence in the schools of smaller class sizes at all grade levels.

“Locally, what we’re finding is a trend towards individuals moving deeper into the Inland Empire,” Unaka said, explaining that Pomona is a “gateway” and the last of a few cities before leaving Los Angeles County where rising rents and costs of real estate are resulting in people moving further into the Inland Empire to be able to maintain the same quality of life they once enjoyed here when it wasn’t as expensive.

All in all, Unaka said, the enrollment decline has been a “consistent slide” over the past decade.

And, as the numbers confirmed, the biggest part of that “slide” has been at the elementary school level with fewer students coming in, forcing reduced enrollments to filter up to the higher grades.

Unaka said the trend has been confirmed by birth statistics at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.

### Teachers’ view of resulting smaller class sizes

Historically, of course, teachers everywhere advocate for smaller

class sizes in their contract negotiations every year. Now teachers in Pomona are getting them but at a cost of a loss of about \$3 million in ADA.

Then is that a good thing or a bad thing?

La Nueva Voz reached out to Dorothy Kim-Perez, president of the Associated Pomona Teachers, the bargaining organization for teachers in the district, and learned, as with many things, it is not that simple.

First, she said, smaller class size is not something that is happening districtwide. While the district is contractually bound to agreed-upon maximums (ranging from a 24 to 1 ratio in kindergarten up to 35 to one in high school), only a handful of the district’s 39 schools don’t get up to the maximums.

Plus, she said, there are a lot of combination classes this year – more than last year – in which teachers are required to teach two grade levels, something she said is difficult for both the teacher and the student.

In the long term, at least in theory, the district could be forced to lay off teachers, although Kim-Perez said Pomona Unified hasn’t had to do that in about 10 years – they’ve been adjusting through attrition as teachers retire.

Naturally, it concerns the teachers’ union that the district is losing students, especially if it is due to

increasing housing costs.

“I’ve talked to families whose landlords are raising their rents every few months (and) end up driving them out of the district,” she said.

The trend could result in too many schools for too few students, and Kim-Perez said only this year district administrators and school board members started to address this. The district has even created housing (district facilities) and budget advisory committees to review these trends.

Kim-Perez said the district will be looking into reorganizing or restructuring some of the schools.

“From all the research we’ve done we have approximately 10 schools that have from 300 to 400 students... and that’s costing the district a lot of money,” she said.

The district has elementary schools down the street from each other, both with very low enrollment.

“It doesn’t make any fiscal sense to have both of those schools open if their enrollment is that low,” she added.

Instead, she said, the district could close schools and use them for community school resource centers or an academy for kindergarten.

“We can do things that are innovative and different and entice families to stay,” she said.

Kim-Perez, who is in her nine-

teenth year with the district, taught kindergarten but now serves as a full-time association president. She is in her third year as president and will term out at the end of her second two-year term next year.

She said teachers are still negotiating last year’s contract, which means they are a year behind – working without an agreement for the second year. In fact, she stepped out of negotiations for a brief telephone interview when La Nueva Voz called.

But her bottom line was that the whole “smaller class size” issue will always be important to teachers since educators “believe smaller class size helps to foster a better learning environment, (allows for) more time with individual students, and helps with building trusting relationships because you get to know each child individually.”

For now, the 10-year trend, Unaka added, is becoming the “lens through which we look at everything we do, every decision that is made.”

And that extends to those new housing and budget advisory councils that are looking at the entire educational and budget process and will be looking at present day realities along with how best to plan for education in Pomona and Diamond Bar for the next five to 10 years.

**Jorge Valles**  
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**CLEAN TRANSPORTATION** -- Dr. Kyle D. Brown, a professor of landscape architecture at Cal Poly University Pomona and formerly director of the Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies and Interim Dean of the College of Environmental Design, speaks on clean transportation and clean housing at a meeting this month of the College, Career and Workforce Development Task Force.



Hill. About 75 participants attended the meeting which was believed to be the biggest crowd ever. Dr. Enrique Medina, head of the Pomona Unified Adult School and chair of the task force, is pictured at far right.



**BUS TRANSPORTATION** -- Linda Apodaca, manager of community engagement for Foothill Transit, explains mass transit issues to the College, Career and Workforce Development Task Force. She said two key concerns are that ridership is down and fares are increasing.

Photos by Renee Barbee

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## Pomona Hope to hold annual gala on theme 'City of Love'

Pomona Hope, a local non-profit organization that serves Pomona students and their families with everything from an after-school program to a community garden, will hold its annual fundraising and awareness gala on the theme "City of Love" next month at Cal Poly's Kellogg West Conference Center.

One of Pomona's up-and-coming jewels, the organization was founded 16 years ago by Pomona residents who wanted to make a long-lasting, positive change in the city.

Originally a tutoring program for elementary school students, Pomona Hope has expanded into a flourishing community center that serves K-12 students and their families with an after-school program, a summer enrichment program, a parent group and the community garden.

The organization builds relationships with students and families over the course of many years and provides a safe place for people of all ages to learn and grow together.

Its mission, as a community-driven, faith-based non-profit, is to empower people of all backgrounds, particularly at-risk youth and their families, to work together

er toward personal and community transformation.

Pomona Hope is located at 401 N. Gibbs St., in the heart of Pomona between Holt and Mission Avenues and between Garey and Towne Avenues – a densely populated urban neighborhood with many challenges, according to the organization's web site.

For example, according to recent U.S. Census data, only 66 percent of the residents of this neighborhood are U.S. citizens, only 27 percent of adults in the area have a high school education, and 52 percent of the households live at or below the poverty level.

The majority of those who are employed are hourly-rate and mostly non-union workers in industry (42 percent) or service (22 percent) jobs.

Seventy-three percent rent while only 28 percent own or are purchasing their home.

Residents struggle daily with



**POMONA HOPE** -- Pomona neighborhood kids participate in an after-school program and work in the community garden at Pomona Hope, a non-profit founded 16 years ago to make a positive change in the community. The organization is holding its annual fundraising and awareness gala next month.



economic insecurity, crime, broken families and troubled schools.

Pomona Hope is strategically located to work with and serve its neighbors in addressing these problems.

Individual tickets to next month's gala are \$65 and table sponsorships are available. The event gets under way at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12.

Interested in doing more?

The organization also invites community members to become involved in financial or in-kind donations, volunteering weekly with students, tutoring students and assisting in extracurricular

workshops.

For information on corporate sponsorships, contact Executive Director Jeff Johannsen directly at (909) 921-3618, ext. 3, or by e-

mail at [jeff@pomonahope.org](mailto:jeff@pomonahope.org).

And for additional information, visit the web site at [pomonahope.org](http://pomonahope.org) or e-mail [info@pomonahope.org](mailto:info@pomonahope.org).

### Pomona looking for official poet – might have one and not know it

"Oh what a wondrous world 'twould be, if I could write a poem like thee."

OK, sorry, but that's just our way of telling you that the City of Pomona is looking for a "Poet Laureate."

So, if you are an emerging or established poet living in Pomona or know one, applications and nominations are being accepted by the City of Pomona Board of Library Trustees.

The honorary position will be for a two-year period beginning Jan. 1 and ending Dec. 31, 2021.

Eligible poets will write and present original poetry at selected events and lead occasional workshops and seminars to engage residents about the value of poetry and the written word.

The call for applications is being initiated by the Library Board in consultation with the Cultural Arts Commission.

An annual honorarium of \$1,000 will be provided by the Pomona Public Library Foundation.

The program was established by the city council by resolution approved last month.

Deadline for applications and nominations is 6 p.m. Thursday,

Oct. 31.

To learn more and download an application, go to [www.pomonalibraryfoundation.org/poet-laureate-search](http://www.pomonalibraryfoundation.org/poet-laureate-search).

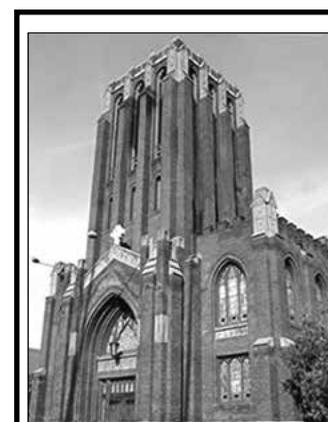


**AMBASSADORS OF THE MONTH** -- Leo Arredondo, owner of Pomona's Upper Cuts Barber Shop, was named Pomona Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Month for July and Milton Drake, marketing representative for ProActive Work Health Services in Pomona, was named Ambassador of the Month for August at this month's "Networking at Noon" chamber luncheon. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, Arredondo, Drake, American Legion Post 30 Commander Howard Hernandez and Post 30 First Vice Commander Roberto Arnold.



**NEW RESTAURANT DOWNTOWN** -- Pomona developer John Pena opened La Reina Cantina last month, another new restaurant in Downtown Pomona, this one specializing in a full Mexican menu -- from tacos and tostadas to mariscos -- and a full bar featuring specialty drinks. Pictured at the opening, from left, are owners David Cardenas, Jerry Najarro and John Pena. The restaurant is located at 184 W. Third St., Pomona, in what previously had been Vive Lounge and Nightclub for the past 10 years.

Do you have a news story? We want to hear from you or your organization. Send your news tips to: [reneebarbee7@gmail.com](mailto:reneebarbee7@gmail.com)



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## Pomona heroes... from pg. 2

die Rodriguez, and received the Community Award at the Mayor's Gala.

Pomona Committee Chair Jeff Vaniman, a Pomona chiropractor, introduced "hero" Ron Vander Molen as a resident of Pomona for 35 years who is very involved in the community and worked tirelessly bringing a new leadership to Pomona by promoting a new mayor and new councilmembers.

He is currently serving his second term on the Pomona Planning Commission, having served as chair and now vice-chair. He also works on the Pomona beautification project each Tuesday to help clean up the city.

Vander Molen is past president of the Pomona Heritage Old Homes Tour, president of the Ganesha Hills Homeowners Association, served on the Fox Theater board, and is a member of both Pomona Rotary and Eagles.

He has served as a member of the Los Angeles County Fair Association since 2003 and serves on the Fairplex Friends board. And he has been involved in the

### Second early childhood community summit slated for Oct. 9

Pomona's Promise and Pomona Unified School District will be convening a second Pomona Community Summit on Early Childhood Well-Being on Oct. 9.

This summit will report back on the input received at the first such summit held on May 1, at which five priority areas of concern emerged: universal preschool, safe and attractive parks, access to healthcare and mental health care, support for parents and families, and awareness of community resources.

These summits take a cross-sector approach to improving outcomes for children and families, and thus for the whole community, so all

### Segunda cumbre sobre el bienestar infantil el 9 de Octubre

Pomona's Promise y el Distrito Escolar de Pomona patrocinarán una segunda Cumbre de la comunidad sobre el bienestar infantil el 9 de octubre. Respondiendo a las prioridades que surgieron durante la primera cumbre el 1° de mayo, el evento se enfocará en el cuidado universal de niños infantiles, parques seguros y atractivos, acceso al cuidado médico y salud mental, apoyo para padres y familias, e información sobre recursos en la comunidad. Para asistir,

Fairplex Neighborhood Advisory Committee and as a Fair ambassador.

Roxanne Vaniman introduced John Forbing as the 2019 "senior citizen" hero, adding that while a senior he is doing more now than what most people achieve in a lifetime.

A native of Port Angeles, Washington, Forbing graduated from Seattle Pacific University and moved to California where he married his late wife Dianne.

He has served on the board and as president of the Diamond Bar Improvement Association, editor of the Diamond Bar Windmill, President of the Diamond Bar Breakfast Lions Club, chairman of the first fundraising drive to build the Diamond Bar-Walnut YMCA, board member and president of the Walnut Valley Unified School District, city councilmember on Diamond Bar's first city council and served as the city's third mayor.

Forbing also was involved in the Pomona Jaycees, served on the board of the Pomona Val-

ley Council of the American Red Cross, and is a long-time board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Pomona Valley, now known as the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley, where he served as president twice.

He has served on the board of Western University of Health Sciences for more than 15 years, on the Cal Poly Association Athletics board, and as an elder teaching Sunday school at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Diamond Bar. He is a member and past president of Pomona Rotary.

Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez said when the Pomona Committee was asked to identify a youth leader "one stood out because this young lady not only does the great work at school supporting her classmates, her peers, not only the schools that surround her school at Village Academy High School, but she also does programs that help the homeless, helping everyone across the system, so her thinking, her time, her effort, her energy goes way beyond her books, way beyond herself."

Martinez introduced youth "hero" Kaitlyn Nghi-Hong Nguyen as the "ideal person" who, while a resident of nearby Montclair, "spends about 14 hours of her day in Pomona supporting Pomona efforts."

And a special "super senior" hero award was presented to Mimi Figueroa, who Vaniman said was

community members are invited to attend, a spokesperson said. To register, visit the web site at [pomona-communitysummit.eventbrite.com](http://pomona-communitysummit.eventbrite.com). Also on the agenda are a presentation and discussion of the newly-released results of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) and a presentation on Footsteps2Brilliance, an early literacy program available in English and Spanish free of charge to all residents of Pomona.

The event will take place at the Conference Center at the Village at Indian Hill, 1460 E. Holt Avenue, Pomona, Entrance #1, from 4 to 7 p.m.

regístrese (gratis) aquí: [pomona-communitysummit.eventbrite.com](http://pomona-communitysummit.eventbrite.com).

Se presentarán los resultados de una encuesta sobre la preparación de niños en Kinder, y el programa bilingüe de alfabetización Footsteps-2Brilliance, disponible gratis a todos los residentes de Pomona.

El evento se llevará a cabo en el Conference Center en Village @ Indian Hill, 1460 E. Holt Avenue, Pomona, Entrada #1, a las 4:00 hasta las 7:00 p.m.



**YOUTH HERO** -- Kaitlyn Nghi-Hong Nguyen, fifth from right, receives this year's Pomona "Youth Hero" award at last month's Pomona Day activities at the LA County Fair. She was introduced by Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez, second from left.

ley Council of the American Red Cross, and is a long-time board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Pomona Valley, now known as the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley, where he served as president twice.

He has served on the board of Western University of Health Sciences for more than 15 years, on the Cal Poly Association Athletics board, and as an elder teaching Sunday school at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Diamond Bar. He is a member and past president of Pomona Rotary.

Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez said when the Pomona Committee was asked to identify a youth leader "one stood out because this young lady not only does the great work at school supporting her classmates, her peers, not only the schools that surround her school at Village Academy High School, but she also does programs that help the homeless, helping everyone across the system, so her thinking, her time, her effort, her energy goes way beyond her books, way beyond herself."

Martinez introduced youth "hero" Kaitlyn Nghi-Hong Nguyen as the "ideal person" who, while a resident of nearby Montclair, "spends about 14 hours of her day in Pomona supporting Pomona efforts."

And a special "super senior" hero award was presented to Mimi Figueroa, who Vaniman said was



**POMONA COMMUNITY HERO** -- Lorraine Canales, at center, displays her "Pomona Community Hero" award at Pomona Day ceremonies at the fair. She was introduced by former Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin, pictured to her right.



**SPECIAL 'SUPER HERO' AWARD** -- Mimi Figueroa, age 93, at center, receives a special "super senior" hero award on Pomona Day at the Fair. She was introduced by Pomona Committee Chair Jeff Vaniman, pictured to her right.



**SENIOR HERO AWARD** -- John Forbing, at center, shows off his "Senior Citizen Community Hero" award on Pomona Day. He was introduced by Roxanne Vaniman, pictured to Forbing's left.

## University of La Verne students help clean up Pomona's American Legion Post 30

A busload of 23 students from the University of La Verne pulled up in front of Pomona's American Legion Post 30 this month and went to work – everywhere – cleaning up, moving old furniture out, painting and pulling weeds – in the first cleanup project new post Commander Howard Hernandez has coordinated during his term in office.

The students were part of the university's seventh annual Community Engagement Day and they took their jobs seriously – working on weeds on the sidewalk outside the post, painting new lines on spaces in the parking lot, cleaning out old furniture in the kitchen and meeting room in the basement,

and generally fixing up, cleaning up and removing old furniture upstairs in the auditorium.

The event started at 9:15 a.m. on a Saturday and continued until noon.

Hernandez himself arrived on the scene at 8 a.m.

"I was downstairs just separating a lot of stuff that we need to have here and that which we've accumulated we can go ahead and donate (to charity)," Hernandez said. "We just have excess – we need to have the room."

He said a hidden closet along the length of the building downstairs now can be used to store chairs.

Hernandez added that Post 30 First Vice Commander Roberto



**CLEAN UP AT AMERICAN LEGION** -- A busload of 23 University of La Verne students showed up at Pomona's American Legion Post 30 this month to help clean up and paint up the post headquarters. Pictured moving out some old furniture on its way to being donated to charity are, from left, Caroline Scholte of Beaumont and Zane Mularski of Spokane, both freshmen, and Post 30 House Committee Member Samuel Cafierro.

### Pomona heroes... from pg. 6

born in Argentina, lived in Paris where she joined the ballet, and by the age of 14 joined the Ringling Brothers Circus where over the course of a 25-year career

she traveled the world as contortionist, riding on the backs of elephants, and on the shoulders of a man riding around the ring on two horses.



**FAIR BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN POMONA DAY ACTIVITIES** -- Eight of the 11 members of the Los Angeles County Fair Association Board of Directors turned out for Pomona Day ceremonies on opening day of the LA County Fair this year to show their support. Pictured, from left, are John Landherr, Board Chair Heidi Hanson, Kiana Webb, Ed Tessier, Tina Loza, Mike Driebe and Cid Pinedo. Not pictured is Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez who is on the board and was at the event but in another area at the time of this photo. **Pomona heroes... pg. 21**



**OBSERVING 9/11 ANNIVERSARY AT AMERICAN LEGION** -- Pomona American Legion Post 30 Commander Howard Hernandez, at left, welcomes Pomona Police Department Capt. Mike Ellis to a special Pomona Chamber of Commerce "Networking at Noon" luncheon this month at Post 30 in memory of the veterans and first responders lost in the 9/11 attacks in 2001.

**Pomona veteran Farrell Chiles, at left, presents a flag commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War to Pomona American Legion Post 30 Commander Howard Hernandez at this month's special 9/11 observance at Post 30.**

Arnold reached out to the University of La Verne to make the arrangements.

"We want to establish a working relationship with all the universities and colleges in the area," Hernandez said, "and extend an invitation to them, also, because I realize that some of these students will not be going home for Thanksgiving and we'd like to invite them here and be a part of our post."

He said as long as they are vol-

unteering to work, "they're more than welcome to."

"And that goes for the instructors and whoever else may be involved," he added.

Pomona Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Jo Ann Camelat of Kaleo Real Estate in La Verne supervised a four-student team outside Post 30 on the sidewalk, sweeping and pulling weeds.

"They've done a fantastic job with helping us out and we have

cleaned for about two hours here," Camelat said. "It's been pretty grueling (on a hot day) but they've done a wonderful job. It's been quite an experience."

Julissa Espinoza, director for the office of civic and community engagement at the University of La Verne, coordinates similar student projects throughout the various communities surrounding the La Verne campus.

**Students help with clean up... pg 18**

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## Former Secretary of State calls Bader someone who ‘stood out’ with honesty and integrity

Former California Secretary of State Bill Jones eulogized former Pomona Mayor and Assembly-member Charles “Chuck” Bader this month as someone who “stood out with his plain-spoken honesty and integrity.”

Jones made his comments to several hundred community leaders, family and friends at a near-capacity Pilgrim Congregational Church in Pomona at funeral services for Bader, who died last month. He was 79.

Jones said Bader worked hard on local government issues in the legislature and became well-respected on the Assembly floor and through-

out the capitol.

“When Chuck spoke on the Assembly floor, people listened,” Jones said, adding that he called Bader for advice years after his time in public office.

“The community has lost a friend and a leader,” he said.

And former State Sen. Jim Brulte, who said he never served with Bader but followed him and eventually became his chief of staff, said Bader “was trustworthy, he was a class act, he was always courteous.”

Brulte also said former Congressman Dave Dreier, who was unable to attend, called Bader “one

of the nicest people he ever met who served in public office.”

And Brulte joked that when people hear these things from Republicans and Democrats, “you know it’s true.”

“None was more the type of person I wanted to emulate than Chuck Bader,” he said.

Bader, who became the youngest councilmember in Pomona’s history when he was elected in 1971 and after six years on the council was elected mayor in 1977 and again in 1979, “was interested in public service for all the right reasons,” Brulte said.

“He wanted to fix our school

system, the workers comp system, I never heard him raise his voice or get angry in the two and a half years I worked for him,” he added.

Bader’s son Ron Bader said family was always first with his dad and that he loved his five grandkids.

And his granddaughter Caitlin Bader wrote a letter to her grandfather.

“Thank you for teaching me to never give up and always fight for what I believe in,” she said, reading from the letter.

Pilgrim Pastor Dr. Lowell Linden officiated at the services, along with Rev. Eric Strom, Pastor of Rock of the Foothills Lutheran Church, where Chuck and Rosanne Bader worshipped.

Strom said words that come to mind describing Bader are character and integrity.

“Those were things he wanted as part of his life,” Strom said.

He said he believed Bader subscribed to the old adage that people should “live in such a way that when you die even Democrats come to your funeral.”

Bader was born in Los Angeles and was raised in Pomona where he graduated from Pomona High School in 1958. He graduated from UCLA in 1963 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. It was while at UCLA he met Rosanne Mystrom. The two were married for 56 years.

After serving on the city council in Pomona, Bader was elected to the Assembly where he served until 1990.

He ran a real estate business and was active in government affairs after leaving politics.

Bader was an avid supporter of Mt. San Antonio College where his wife Rosanne has long been a board member.

Bader served in the U.S. Navy, reaching the rank of Lieutenant, and both “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” and “Eternal Father, Strong to Save,” also known as “The Navy Hymn,” were part of the service.

In addition to Rosanne, Bader is survived by sons Ron of Folsom, Stephen of Aliso Viejo, grandchildren Caitlin, Cade, Cameron, Blake and Carson, sister Nancy Rogers and eight nephews and nieces, along with his grandnieces and grandnephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Foundation or Mt. San Antonio College Foundation.

### Correction

Orlando Ward, executive director of external affairs for Volunteers of America Los Angeles, operators of Pomona’s “Hope for Home” homeless center, was pictured in last month’s La Nueva Voz receiving the “non-profit of the year” award from Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez at his sixth annual summer barbecue and open house. Ward received the award on behalf of Reggie Clark, manager of the Pomona facility, who was not able to attend.

## Pomona Unified Superintendent commends adult school head for redesigning program to keep it in business

“When it comes to leadership . . . it comes with the work and how you bring together and how you move people and groups along to change systems.”

Pomona Unified School Supt. Richard Martinez used that summary comment just to begin his description of Dr. Enrique Medina, head of the district’s adult school, who Martinez said jumped into action in 2009 when budget reductions began “decimating” the Pomona adult school and others throughout the state.

“We were talking about redesigning this — he never said, ‘let’s just get rid of it and be done with it’ . . . other districts did that,” Martinez said, as some decided to keep the money and use it for other purposes.

“He said ‘we’re not doing that, I will rebuild this, I will do this with the support of the community, we’ll make this happen,’” Martinez added. “So sure, enough we are now becoming what we used to be and then some — he redesigned the whole thing.”

And, he said, today it is no longer only for adults — programs are in place at elementary schools.

“Thank you, sir, for leading us,” Martinez said.

The superintendent’s comments came at last month’s accreditation visiting committee reception at the



**ACCREDITATION TIME** -- Members of the accreditation visiting committee spent three days at Pomona Unified School District’s adult school last month to gather information for their recommendation on re-accreditation -- a process that happens every five years. Paul Hudak, director of operations for Pomona’s non-profit Just Us 4 Youth, had a chance to chat with the reviewers during the luncheon reception. Pictured, clockwise from left, are Carl Jordon, Council on Occupational Education assistant team leader and director of operations for Pro Way Hair School in Stone Mountain, Georgia; Carolyn Vang-Walker, Western Association of Schools and Colleges team member and director/principal at Ventura Adult and Continuing Education; Paul Hudak; Lee Chayes, Council on Occupational Education team member and CEO at International Business College in El Paso; and John Hodgson, Council on Occupational Education team leader and vice president of Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Jackson, Tennessee.

adult school for the Council on Occupational Education and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges — all part of a re-accreditation process that happens every five years.

Several dozen educators and community members attended the event to show their support of the local program.

Western Association team member Carolyn Vang-Walker, director and principal of Ventura (California) Adult and Continuing Education, agreed.

“I remember what happened years ago when the adult schools

were going through a tough time but here their programs are thriving,” she said, pointing to leadership in the district as the explanation.

Council on Occupational Education team leader John Hodgson, Vice President of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Jackson, Tennessee, also spoke highly of the Pomona program.

“We’re training every day American workers who can compete anywhere in the world and it all starts here with you all,” he said.

The accreditation team continued their visit at the adult school for two days following the reception.

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## Former Pomona educator whose career goes from picking oranges to Nixon cabinet committee visits his home town

A 93-year-old educator who grew up a block away from Pomona's Sacred Heart Church and went on to become President Nixon's Cabinet Committee Chairman on Opportunities for Spanish-Speaking People returned home to Pomona this month to visit with friends and autograph copies of his third book.

Dr. Henry Ramirez visited with about 75 friends and family members – and even his Southwest flight attendant he met on the way out to California – in an impromptu reception at Pomona Unified School District's Mendoza Center, a facility named after his late friend and former Pomona Unified Board member Cande Mendoza, who founded the old La Voz newspaper some 38 years ago.

(Ramirez told La Nueva Voz Mendoza actually was a very close friend of his wife, Ester's, brother.)

Ramirez was born in 1929 in Walnut but his parents moved a couple of months later to a house on Gordon Street between the Southern Pacific tracks and the Union Pacific tracks in Pomona.

He lived there for 10 years until his parents bought property in south Pomona, near Sacred Heart, although he attended school at St. Joseph Elementary School at St. Joseph Catholic Church for grades one through eight.

Ramirez then went to Los Angeles for high school and college before going to Camarillo for four years to study to be a priest.

Did he become a priest?

"I became a good guy but not a priest," he told La Nueva Voz. "I had to leave because I had a disagreement with the cardinal because (community organizer) Saul Alinsky at that time was getting involved with the Mexicans, with Cesar Chavez . . . the cardinal was concerned that I would become involved with Saul Alinsky but he didn't know that I was a little bit smarter than that."

So after a background of picking oranges, lemons and grapefruit in the fields of Southern California (at the age of 15) to teaching school in Whittier (by coincidence Nixon's home town), Ramirez was recruited by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to go to Washington, D.C., where he was appointed chief of the Mexican-American Studies Division in 1967.

It was while he was there that his old friend Roy Day, publisher of

the old Pomona Progress Bulletin, recommended Ramirez to Nixon for the cabinet position, although Ramirez didn't know that until he met with Day on his next trip to Los Angeles.

Ramirez recounted the story in his book, "Nixon and the Mexicans," how Nixon mentioned at a poker game that he needed a conservative Mexican-American to fill the position.

"The man you want is here in Washington – he works but a few blocks away from the White House at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights – get him," Day said he told Nixon.

"Nixon said you and I are going to change the life of the Mexicans and we're going to bring the American dream to the children," Ramirez told La Nueva Voz.

(In the book, Ramirez pointed out that Nixon, growing up in a poor family, also once picked oranges working alongside the Mexicans and Ramirez and Nixon once joked about how many boxes of oranges they each picked in a day.)

Perhaps his most significant accomplishment working in the White House was the creation of the 8(a) Business Development Program, a business assistance program for small businesses that are owned and controlled at least 51 percent by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

Charles Elias, Ramirez' nephew, is now owner of Greenway, a solid waste and recycling company in Montclair.

"When I was a little kid and he'd (Ramirez) come to my mom's house, his sister, my mom, I'd be under the table listening to them talk," Elias said. "All I heard was government this and government that so when I got my own business, I got into the 8A program," a program his uncle helped Nixon create.

And, Elias said, he still takes advantage of the program today bidding his work through the program.

"He's been very influential in many business people's lives to help them get off the ground and learn how to do business on the federal level," Elias said.

Ramirez said he started working for Nixon on Aug. 5, 1971.

"And when the Democrats lynched him, I left too, 1974, August," he added.

"I'm the only one that did not hire a lawyer during Watergate," he said.



Dr. Henry Ramirez, accompanied by his wife, Ester, autographs a copy of his new book, "Nixon and the Mexicans," during his visit to Pomona this month.

"Hillary (Clinton, then an attorney with the House Judiciary Committee's Watergate investigation) came with six lawyers to try to find something that I had done wrong so she could put me in jail," Ramirez said. "And I went up to her face in my office. I had done nothing wrong, I knew that."

He said the two today "are still enemies."

Then what about Nixon's resig-

nation from office?

"It's simple – the law firms in Washington were all Democrats. Congress was all Democrats. The Senate was all Democrats. The universities, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, all Democrats. You were not going to get justice in that town if you were Republican."

Ramirez spent five hours before a grand jury telling his story of beginning as a migrant worker, mov-

ing up to the Commission on Civil Rights and then the White House.

"So, when the lawyers finally got tired of questioning me, the blacks stood up and clapped... to congratulate me," he said.

Then does he think Nixon made a mistake in stepping down?

"Hell no, because he was a Republican," Ramirez said. "The Democrats were out to lynch him, the same thing that they're doing now with our President – this is a conspiracy to kick him out."

Meanwhile, Ramirez continues to tell the story of the Mexican Diaspora (the dispersion of a people from their original homeland) because of the onset of communism in 1913.

"The world does not know why two million Mexicans from 1913 to 1930, poor illiterate peasants, left the corn fields... in the middle of Mexico... overnight," he said. "They said goodbye to their parents and their uncles and their cousins and they came to Pomona, Ontario, Chino, East L.A., Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Chicago . . . the world doesn't know why they came suddenly."

As Ramirez said in his book,

Home town... pg. 16





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**Season schedule announced by Claremont Symphony**

The 68th season of the Claremont Symphony Orchestra gets under way on Sunday, Oct. 20, with selections by Wagner, Elgar and Schumann.

Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 1, Handel's "Messiah" is set for Sunday, Dec. 22, and Copland's "A Lincoln Portrait" (narrator to be

announced) is set for Saturday, Jan. 26.

Verdi's "La forza del destino" overture, Falla's "Noches en los jardines de Espana" and Vaughan Williams' "Norfolk Rhapsody No. 1" are set for Sunday, March 15, and Liszt's "Les preludes" and Dvorak's "Symphony No. 8" will be performed on Sunday, April 26.

Gershwin's "A Cuban Overture" is scheduled for Sunday, June 7.

All concerts are free, and all begin at 3:30 p.m. with the exception of the Messiah, with two performances – 1:30 and 4 p.m.

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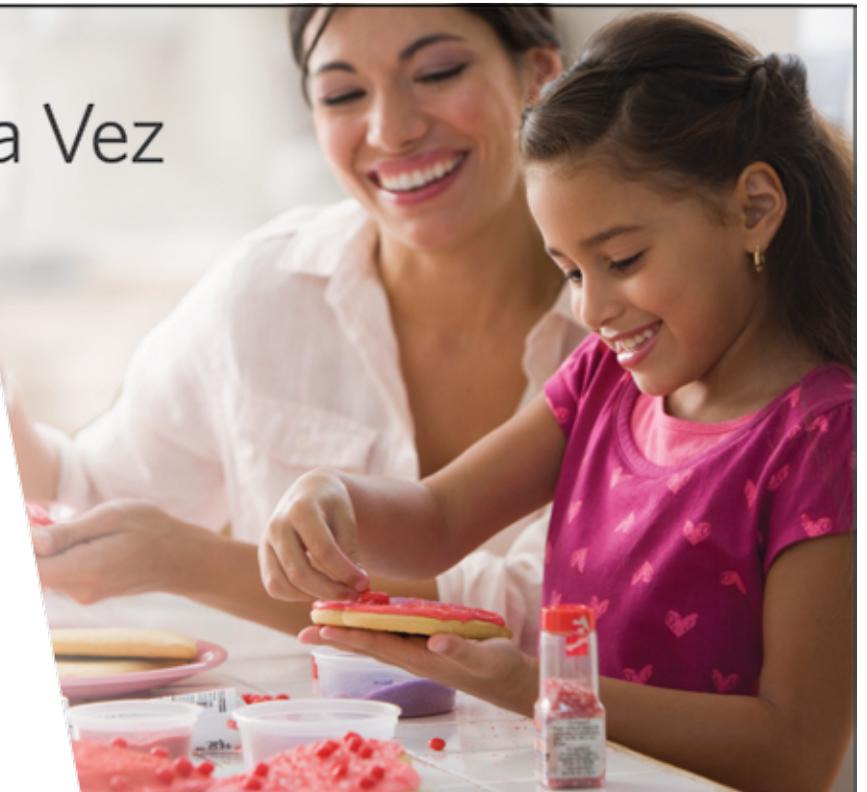
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## Pomona turns out on the floats and on the ground to represent city in Pomona Day at the LA County Fair ‘Pomona Day’ traditionally comes on opening day at the Fair



Always a popular entry in the Pomona Day Parade at the Fair is the official U.S. Forest Service pack mule and his two caretakers (and yes, both caretakers have a very important job in the parade).



Pomona Police Chief Mike Olivieri, at rear, rides with the Pomona Police Explorers in the Pomona Day Parade.



Los Angeles County firemen from Pomona fire stations 182 and 184 were in good form and waving to the crowd in the Pomona Day at the Fair parade.



Singer Megan Winsor strums and sings -- both classics and some of her own -- at Mi Poco LA outside the Millard Sheets Art Center at the LA County Fair.



Pomona community heroes John Forbing, at left, and Lorraine Canales, standing just inside the hula hoop, ride in the Pomona Day Parade at the LA County Fair. And that's Mary and Ryan Prendergast at far right getting their handful of beads out to the crowd.



The girls from Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School were in competition form at the Pomona Day at the Fair parade.



The girls from Pomona Catholic toss a few beads to the crowd in last month's Pomona Day Parade at the LA County Fair.



GIRL SCOUTS TIME! -- Keeping up the pace in fine form all the way through the Pomona Day Parade are the Girl Scouts of Pomona, under the watchful eye and direction of Chara Swodeck, at left.



### Second Pomona Community Summit On Early Childhood Well-Being SEGUNDA CUMBRE DE LA COMUNIDAD SOBRE EL BIENESTAR INFANTIL

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### Applications available for California Retired Teachers annual teacher grants program

The California Retired Teachers Association Pomona Valley Division 13 is distributing applications to area school districts for teacher grants ranging from \$50 to \$200.

The organization has been granting teacher "wishes" for the past six years and last year gave out 30 teacher grants that were used to purchase books and science equipment, games and flexible seating.

Members support the organization's mission of supporting public education

in their communities by working with 10 school districts – including Pomona Unified School District – from Azusa to Claremont.

Grant applications are being distributed to each district through the superintendents' offices. Once completed by teachers, the applications go to the chairman of the grant committee for consideration.

As many as 175 to 200 applications are received each year.

For more information, contact Robbie Cendejas by e-mail at [salrobi@ca.rr.com](mailto:salrobi@ca.rr.com).



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# Your Voice Counts! ¡Tu Voz Cuenta!

The City is conducting a survey that will assist in the development of the 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan, which outlines spending for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant funds on housing, human services, public infrastructure and community development activities for low/moderate-income persons. We need your input.

The City will also be hosting a series of community meetings to provide several opportunities for public input. Join us at one of the following meetings to learn more and share your experiences.



*La Ciudad está llevando a cabo una encuesta importante cual ayudara en el desarrollo del Plan de Acción Anual 2020-2021. Se planean objetivos y estrategias que guiara la forma en cual utilizaran los fondos en viviendas, servicios humanos, fraccionamiento y desarrollo de actividades para la comunidad para personas de bajos e moderados ingresos. Necesitamos sus sugerencias.*

*La Ciudad estará organizando una serie de reuniones comunitarias para brindar varias oportunidades para el aporte del público. Únase a nosotros en uno de las siguientes reuniones para aprender más y compartir sus experiencias.*



**Location / Lugar**  
**Pomona Council Chambers**  
**505 S. Garey Ave.**  
**Pomona, CA 91769**

**Dates:**

- Tuesday, October 15, 2019 .....Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Tuesday, November 12, 2019.....Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Tuesday, December 3, 2019 ....Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Tuesday, January 14, 2020.....Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30pm

**Fechas:**

- Martes, 15 de Octubre 2019..... Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30pm
- Martes, 12 de Noviembre 2019 ..... Reunion de la comunidad @ 6:30pm
- Martes, 3 de Diciembre 2019..... Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30pm
- Martes, 14 de Enero 2020..... Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30pm



Please take a moment to complete the surveys found on the City's Website at:

[www.ci.pomona.ca.us](http://www.ci.pomona.ca.us)  
Community Needs Survey

"Hardcopies are available at all community centers"

*Por favor, tome un momento para completar las encuestas que se encuentran en el sitio web de la Ciudad en:*

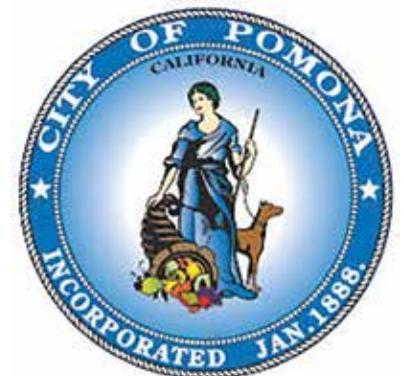
[www.ci.pomona.ca.us](http://www.ci.pomona.ca.us)

Encuesta de Necesidades Comunitarias

*"Copias impresas están disponibles en todos los Centros Comunitarios"*

**Responses are due by: Thursday, January 30, 2020**

**El plazo para entregar sus sugerencias es el: Jueves, 30 de Enero de 2020**



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Pomona Community Youth Hero Kaitlyn Nghi-Hong Nguyen, at left, catches a ride on a float in the Pomona Day Parade at the Fair with Pomona Unified School District's Monica Principe, director of secondary curriculum and instruction, seated next to her and waving to the crowd. At rear is Lilia Fuentes, Pomona Unified's assistant superintendent of educational services.

Now this band just looks good – the Pomona High School marching band was in fine form in the Pomona Day Parade.



Always looking and sounding good are the members of Pomona's Garey High School marching band.

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\*Pólizas sólo en inglés. Ahorros promedio están basados en la información reportada a nivel nacional por clientes automotrices de Allstate por las pólizas escritas en el 2013. Ahorros actuales varían. Allstate Indemnity Co. Northbrook, IL. © 2014 Allstate Insurance Co.

## Cal Poly's 2020 Rose Float to celebrate life's unexpected rewards

Three giant turtles and an octopus lead a submarine on a fantastic journey on the 2020 Rose Parade float of the Cal Poly Universities on the parade theme "The Power of Hope."

Cal Poly's float "Aquatic Aspirations" imagines an optimistic submarine crew looking for lost treasure but instead finding a breath-taking underwater paradise thriving among the pieces of a sunken ship.

The Rose Float team is already at work building the float.



Pomona Community Hero Ron Vander Molen and his wife Susan, at left, ride in the Pomona Day Parade with Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, at rear, and Pomona Cultural Arts Commission Chairman Joshua Swodeck and former Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa, at right.

Pomona Host Lions Club President Denny Mosier rides in the convertible in the Pomona Day Parade with former Pomona Councilmember Paula Lantz driving. And that's Past President Anne Henderson waving from behind the sun visor (sorry, Anne!).



OK, Pomona had its Pomona Day Parade at the Fair. Now if we could only get Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana to get down off of his high horse. (Just kidding, Miguel!) From left are Andrea Rico, City of Pomona youth and family services manager; Pomona City Council-



members Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Nora Garcia; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Benny Ayala of State Sen. Connie Leyva's office; and Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lustro. And Miguel Santana is at rear -- you know, up there on his high horse.



Maybe it was the luck of the draw but Pomona's Ganesha High School girls were out front leading the Pomona Day Parade at the Fair.

Back with more deals and choices!



OCTOBER 4 - 20, 2019

## DIAMOND BAR RESTAURANT WEEK

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See website for details.

Enter receipts from participating eateries for a chance to win prizes!

SHARE YOUR FAVORITE DISHES #DBRW

Participating locations will offer specially priced menu offerings for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and snack, dessert or specialty drink deals.



Sign up to receive notices of newly added restaurants and deals!

The fourth annual DBRW event is co-sponsored by the City of Diamond Bar and the Regional Chamber of Commerce-SGV

## Home town... from pg. 9

“The President, Richard M. Nixon himself, had chosen me to be his right-hand man on all matters dealing with Mexican-Americans and later, by extension, with other Spanish-speaking groups.”

“The President would now meet the needs of the children of the diaspora,” he said.

Then what message does Ramirez have for residents of Pomona, especially the Hispanic community, in terms of what the future can hold for them?

“Students must learn how to read. Teachers must learn how to teach students to read,” he said.

### Pomona Optimists hold first annual

#### ‘Sip and Paint’ to raise money for Pomona kids

The first annual “Sip and Paint” fundraiser on the theme “For the Love of our Pomona Youth” will be held next month in Downtown Pomona, sponsored by the Pomona Optimist Club.

Mimosas (including both alcoholic and non-alcoholic versions), coffee and desserts along with a light lunch will be served at the event as a professional artist teaches participants the basics of how to paint as everyone creates their own piece of art.

“Number two – people have got to remember – all people – that we live in a Christian civilization – not communist civilization... the principles of the founding fathers of this country are the principles of a Christian civilization,” Ramirez said. “So people have got to choose between just having pleasure without God... (and having) God... there in the middle of their lives. Then society will follow the rules that God gave us, the Ten Commandments.”

Today, Ramirez lives in a small rural village in Maryland not far from Washington, D.C., with his wife Ester.

The event will be held in two sessions – from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 to 4 p.m. – on Sunday, Oct. 6, at the dA Center for the Arts, 252 S. Main St., Suite D, Pomona.

Tickets are \$35 and include one free raffle ticket.

All proceeds go toward Pomona Optimist Club youth programs and scholarships.

For tickets, visit the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pg/pomonabreakfastoptimistclub/](http://www.facebook.com/pg/pomonabreakfastoptimistclub/) or e-mail [love2shop.lc@gmail.com](mailto:love2shop.lc@gmail.com).

## Governor Newsom appoints Cal Poly’s Soraya Coley to new statewide ‘Future of Work’ commission

Gov. Gavin Newsom has named Cal Poly University Pomona President Dr. Soraya Coley to the newly

formed state “Future of Work” commission tasked with shaping “an equitable, sustainable, inclusive economy of the future.”

“For so many Californians, having a job is about more than just getting a paycheck – it’s about belonging,” Newsom said last May when he signed an executive order creating the commission. “It’s about understanding that you fit into a broader picture and that you provide value to others. As California builds the economy of tomorrow, we must prioritize our workers and strengthen pathways for Californians to find meaning through work.”

According to a Cal Poly news release, the 21-member commission over the coming year will make



Dr. Soraya Coley

recommendations about harnessing technology, innovation and lifelong learning to promote better jobs, wages and working conditions, and to ensure that prosperity remains within reach throughout society.

President of Cal Poly Pomona since 2015, Coley has overseen a period of historic growth in enrollment and progress in promoting student success. In addition to strengthening Cal Poly Pomona’s standing as a national leader in promoting social mobility, Coley has made preparing students for the future of work a campus priority.

“Dr. Coley is uniquely qualified for membership in this commission,” the Los Angeles County Business Federation said in a letter

of support. “During her tenure as president, Cal Poly Pomona has continued to grow its legacy as the most diverse polytechnic university in the country and as a national leader in promoting social and economic mobility.”

California State University Chancellor Tim White cited Coley’s experience as a thought leader in higher education, calling her a visionary in understanding and preparing students for the future of work. He also noted that her personal journey – growing up in segregated North Carolina leading to a career committed to expanding opportunity and eliminating inequities – has given her a perspective that will enhance the commission’s work.

And State Sen. Connie Leyva said Cal Poly Pomona is creating a robust and actionable campus-wide vision for preparing students for the future of work and human and civic engagement.

“Dr. Coley recognizes the transformative power of higher education in the lives of students, their families and communities,” said Leyva who chairs the Senate Education Committee.

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez congratulated Coley on the appointment, adding that she will provide a strong voice on issues of opportunity.

“She will bring an experienced voice to the commission as someone who has worked tirelessly to make California prosperous for all,” Rodriguez said.

The commission will report on its progress by May 1.

### SGV Conservation Corps event to mark 16th anniversary

The San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps will hold its 16th anniversary fundraiser in El Monte next month to pay tribute to individuals who have played a key role in the organization’s success and to celebrate the accomplishments of youth who have worked in the program.

It is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, in the Grace Black Community Center, 3130 Tyler Ave., El Monte.

“At SGVCC, we are fully cognizant of the fact that none of our success would have been possible without the support, encouragement and assistance of generous donors, businesses and

government agencies that are vested in the San Gabriel Valley,” said Danny Oaxaca, founder and executive director.

The dinner event each year raises funds for the organization’s programs and services which are accessed by underserved youth in the San Gabriel Valley to receive academic, vocational and leadership development training while being employed and providing valuable services to improve their communities.

For sponsorship opportunities, call (626) 579-2484 or e-mail [event@sgvcc.org](mailto:event@sgvcc.org).

Individual tickets are \$75.




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## Father whose son was killed in gang shooting, who helped get the killer out of jail and plans to give him a job, works to help make Pomona nation's first 'restorative practice' city

A Sufi Muslim who spoke at a "Pomona Reawakening Conference" in February, impressed with the city's religious and cultural diversity, believes Pomona has the potential to become the first "Restorative Practice City" in the country and is working with a local church to help make it happen.

Azim Khamisa, a dedicated mediator, speaker and author whose son was killed in an apparent gang shooting, appeared again in Pomona this month at a "Restorative Practices and Forgiveness" fundraiser at Temple Berth Israel with an audience of nearly 100.

"While over the last 20 plus years I've given over 700 keynotes, I do not ever remember seeing such an inclusive audience (as he saw in February) which gave me much hope for creating a unified community much like Baghdad in the ninth century," Khamisa told the audience.

Khamisa, a naturalized citizen who was born in Kenya, moved to the United States because he thought his children would be safer here – in Kenya they were being targeted as a minority.

"How did we create a society where children kill children," said the former international investment banker who now teaches non-violence.

The back story is that following February's conference, seven major city leaders attended a four-day restorative practices training this summer in El Segundo, sponsored by the International Institute of Restorative Practices.

### 11th annual 'Tattoos for the Cure' to raise money to fight cancer

The 11th annual "Tattoos for the Cure," a cancer charity fundraiser presented each year by Pomona's Ink'd Chronicles, will be held from noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19, on Second Street in Downtown Pomona.

Participants are invited to get a tattoo or purchase one for a loved one. All proceeds this year will be donated to the City of Hope.

Tattoos start at \$80 for a cancer ribbon in any color. Other designs are available up to \$150 (adding a name, date or other information costs an additional \$25).

And piercings are available for \$30 to \$40.

Appointments are recommend-

A second two-day training by the same organization was held two weeks later for some 45 teachers, staff, administrators and community members, sponsored by Pomona Unified School District and Tri City Mental Health.

"As a spiritual leader, I cannot help but recognize the work of the divine in this shift," said Rev. Jan Chase of Unity Church of Pomona who is spearheading the effort. "It feels like we are moving into a new paradigm of higher consciousness where the golden rule of all our faith traditions is honored, understood and practiced at a deeper level."

Her church, which describes itself as a "new thought" interfaith community, was founded in Pomona in 1932. It is engaged in "promoting peace and understanding through spiritual practices, study and service."

"After years of working with both the interfaith community and the greater community, we find ourselves a leader in the compassionate cities movement and in the growing restorative practices exploration," Chase said.

Khamisa, who Chase credits with bringing restorative practices to the Pomona Valley, said his life changed when his 20-year-old son Tariq was killed in San Diego 24 years ago – while delivering pizza as a part time job while in college – by a 14-year-old gang member, who was sentenced to 25 years to life. Yet Khamisa appeared at a parole hearing and spoke in favor of the alleged shooter. The shooter was released



**SOUND OF THE SHOFAR** -- Cantor Paul Buch, at left, and Rabbi Jonathan Kupetz blow the traditional shofar, a trumpet-like instrument made from a ram's horn, to sound "a call to wake us from our moral slumber before a presentation on "restorative practices and forgiveness." The shofar traditionally is blown as a call to the congregation at the Jewish high holidays -- the Jewish New Year and the Day of Atonement.

and today is in transitional housing in Escondido. Now 39 years old, he will be released next month.

And Khamisa has offered him a job at the foundation he created, speaking to youth on how he "wished he could turn the clock back" – all to help discourage other 11-year-olds from joining a gang.



**Azim Khamisa . . .**  
... teacher of non-violence

Khamisa believed there were "victims on both ends of the gun" and vowed to "stop kids from killing kids."

The shooter was the first 14-year-

old tried as an adult in California, although the law was reversed and defendants now have to be 16 or older.

He said between eight and 12 percent of today's youth are on the "slippery slope" like his son's killer was, becoming involved in gangs and crime.

Khamisa reached out to the alleged shooter's guardian grandfather and together they created the Tariq Khamisa Foundation which has been credited with having a huge impact on schools in the San Diego area through a safe schools program.

According to Chase, one of the powerful components of the program is "restorative circles," which has been adopted by Pomona Unified School District and is believed to have resulted in both eliminating expulsions from schools last year and bringing about an 80 percent drop in negative behavior.

Chase said the focus is on helping cities "shift their mindsets through this work to create a new culture of true unity, solving problems together."

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

Pete Rose was asked if he thought he would be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame the first year he was eligible. Pete said he was rather certain he would be. Then he went on to say that there should just be one vote. He thought that if a player did not make it the first year he was voted upon that there should not be another vote. After all, Pete reasoned, you do not get any better after you retire.

I would agree with that. After you retire your record does not get any better. But there are many of us who think the same is true about our lives. We feel trapped with a record that is not as good as we would like it to be. We know our failures and our shortcomings. We would like to have another vote.

The Apostle Paul reminds when Jesus Christ is our Lord we are new creatures in Him. The old has passed away and all things are new. We are able to start again. We are able to overcome our past and think about our future with hope and with a sense of excitement.



**Rev. Dr. Lowell W. Linden**

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## Students help with clean up... from pg. 7

The volunteer program is actually part of a required one semester class all first year new incoming students take.

“They engage in community engagement to build community with their classmates, their instructors and their peers,” she told La Nueva Voz.

“It’s part of our DNA, it’s part of who we are as our values, our civic and community engagement, it’s one of our four core values of the university,” Espinoza said, “so we want to make sure that the students through their trajectory in La Verne . . . give back.”

The university had an incoming freshman class of 800 this year, she added.

Espinoza said she always tells the students the class gives them an opportunity to build a community with their classmates and to get to understand the surrounding community and see who they are.

“I think more importantly nowadays it’s an opportunity for students to network and develop skills that will prepare them for their future careers and prepare them for a successful transition into the workplace,” she said.

Espinoza, who is in her fourth year in the position, said volunteering in community service is important to her.

“I consider myself a public servant, I love having an opportunity to share especially because I am now a Pomona resident,” she said. “The surrounding commu-



Cleaning up the sidewalk outside Pomona’s American Legion Post 30 -- under the professional direction of Pomona Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Jo Ann Camelat of Kaleo Real Estate in La Verne -- is a four-person team of freshmen from the University of La Verne. From left are Ethan Williams of Fontana, Maia Todirita of Tucson, Camelat, Bryan Konrad of Chicago, and Alicia Aguirre of Rancho Cucamonga.

nity here, the entire La Verne, Pomona, all the communities have something to offer. That means a lot to me that the students are able to come back to these communities, they are able to see themselves in these communities. Everybody has something to bring to the table.”



New American Legion Post 30 Commander Howard Hernandez, at left, chats with a student volunteer, at right, at this month’s clean-up project at Post 30 in Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Hernandez, University of La Verne Director, Office of Civic and Community Engagement Julissa Espinoza, and Roberto Arnold, First Vice Commander at Post 30. Arnold reached out to the University of La Verne for their assistance in the project.

bring to the table.”

“I know that these students have great hearts and minds,” she said.

## 16th annual d’Aztlán exhibit open at dA Center through Nov. 24

The 16th annual exhibit d’Aztlán: El Movimiento currently at the dA Center for the Arts in Downtown Pomona will continue through Nov. 24.

Renowned and touring poet Matt Sedillo is serving as this year’s guest curator.

This year’s exhibit is a celebration of the past “as we fight in the present to better ensure a brighter and fuller future,” according to a news release.

“This year is a celebration of the necessity of struggle, the strength of memory and the promise of tomorrow,” the release continued.

Four “timelines” have been crafted this year by educators, theater directors and others to enable viewing the “movimiento” through the lens of labor, education, music and theater/literature.

A mural created by members of

the Pomona Latina Club is also on display at the front of the dA depicting the various movements in history defining El Movimiento.

“In this time of monstrous attack against nuestra gente, it is important that we recall both the struggles and victories of the past,” Sedillo said. “The world does not arrive all at once. The present is a link in a chain that stretches generations before and after us and the future as always has yet to be won.”

## Congresswoman Torres announces grant to Cal Poly to recruit low-income STEM students

Congresswoman Norma Torres this month announced that the National Science Foundation has awarded a \$279,000 grant to Cal Poly University Pomona to increase the retention of low-income students in graduate-level mathematics programs.

The grant will help recruit and support students pursuing master’s degrees and encourage them to continue with their doctoral studies.

“As one of the top universities for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math)



**DANCE LESSONS AT ‘HOT AUGUST NIGHT’** -- Mary Prendergast, all duded up western style for Pomona Rotary’s eighth annual ‘Hot August Night’ fundraiser this year on a cowboy theme, teaches a little line dancing to a pretty good-sized class last month at the event to raise money for Pomona student scholarships. It was held at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center. “By encouraging the students of Pomona, we are making a difference in the lives of our young people, our community and our world,” said Pomona Rotary President Daryl Beans.



**DANCE CONTEST WINNER** -- Everybody’s favorite cowboy John Forbing shows off a few moves after learning he was winner of the line-dancing contest at last month’s Pomona Rotary ‘Hot August Night.’

## 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.

careers, Cal Poly Pomona is known for its commitment to ensuring equity in the success and education of all students,” Torres said. “This grant will help academically promising low-income students access higher education and economic

mobility while strengthening diversity and representation in STEM.”

Torres is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for making decisions regarding federal spending.

## Pumpkin festival returns to Cal Poly

The Cal Poly Pomona 27th annual Pumpkin Festival – a Pomona Valley tradition with thousands of pumpkins for only \$5 each – returns with a huge opening weekend Oct. 5 and 6 at Cal Poly’s AGRIScapes Center, 4102 S. University Drive, Pomona.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days for the event which includes entertainment, hayrides, two corn mazes, a sunflower patch, an insect fair, pony rides, the petting farm and animal training demonstrations.

Other activities include cow-milking, soap-making and blacksmithing demonstrations, a bee-keeping exhibit, rag doll making and, for the sports enthusiasts, a rubber duck race.

There will be games at student-run booths, a pumpkin pie eating contest and a seed spitting contest,

and a farmers’ market will feature student-grown fruits and vegetables.

Plus, live musical performances are lined up and a fabulous food court will be on hand with a variety of vendors.

Children can visit the children’s garden, get their faces painted, decorate pumpkins, compete in a costume contest, crawl through squash tunnels or pick small pumpkins at the kid’s patch.

“The pumpkin festival is a fun, family event,” said Craig Walters, the festival’s director. “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.”

Advance tickets can be purchased online at [pumpkinfestival.cpp.edu](http://pumpkinfestival.cpp.edu)

for \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. Tickets purchased at the gate will be \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. Kids under 2 are free.

Cal Poly students, faculty and staff can buy tickets for \$3 with Bronco ID at the AGRIScapes office, ASI games room or at the gate.

Parking is included with admission.

For group tickets or to purchase pumpkins in bulk, visit [agriscapesinfo@cpp.edu](mailto:agriscapesinfo@cpp.edu).

The pumpkin fun continues Oct. 8 through Halloween (except Mondays). The patch and some of the special activities will be open Tuesdays through Sundays. Check the web site for details on times and activities each weekend.



So many pumpkins, so little time!

Admission to the patch is free during this period but some activities will have a small fee and free parking will be limited.

Most pumpkins will still be \$5 with larger pumpkins priced at

\$6 and “gigantic” pumpkins even higher.

Proceeds help support the Huntley College of Agriculture’s farm operations, student clubs and outreach activities.

## Second annual ‘Indigenous People’s Day’ set for Ganesha Park

Labor leader and community activist Dolores Huerta will be a guest speaker in Pomona next month as the Rumsen Am: a Tur:ataj Ohlone and the Kizh Nation: Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians host the second annual Indigenous People’s Day celebration at the Kizh ancestral village of Toibingna, now known as Ganesha Park in Pomona.

Scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, the event will open with a blessing of the land by Chief Ernie Salas of the Kizh Nation and a welcome song by the Kizh Nation and Rumsen Ohlone, followed by a historical account of the village and its inhabitants by Tribal Chairman Andy Salas.

Featured will be various indigenous song, dance and drum groups

from throughout California, along with food booths and craft booths featuring native American handmade crafted items.

A red teepee honoring missing or murdered indigenous people will be brought to Southern California for the first time for the event, allowing families who have lost loved ones to place a memorial handprint and their loved one’s

name on the teepee.

Guest speakers will include Dolores Huerta, who co-founded the National Farmworkers Association with Cesar Chavez; American Indian Movement chapter director Wal-

ter “Graywolf” Ruiz; and Brown Conscious Fabian Pavon.

For more information or booth space, contact Dee Dee Manzanera Ybarra at (760) 403-1756 or [donnaotero11@gmail.com](mailto:donnaotero11@gmail.com).

## LA County Fair goes “Pop!” was this year’s theme -- and pop culture was everywhere!



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA POP CULTURE AT THE FAIR** -- This year’s LA County Fair -- on the theme “LA County Fair goes Pop!” -- made it possible to take in all of Southern California right there in one visit to the Fair. You could see Angels Flight in Los Angeles, then you can walk over to the beach, you could see scenes from the Pasadena Tournament of Roses and you could even stop by the famous Santa Monica Pier. (This photo of Renee Barbee at the pier, by the way, is the same shot we took at the REAL pier last year -- and she was holding an LA County Fair bag on her arm in that shot, as well.)

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SAFETY FIRST By Jose Bermudez, Certified Safety Professional

## Apprenticeships – opportunity knocking

Apprenticeships are a valuable and much needed career option for young people, veterans, women, and anyone searching for a structured, defined route to earn a good income. When the baby boomers were in high school, including me, we were able to enroll in shop classes such as metal shop, print shop, auto shop, and machine shop, among others. Throughout U.S. history, high school students were taught vocational and job ready skills along with reading, writing and arithmetic. Over time, as educators and schools focused on college, among other reasons, vocational education funding was reduced, shop classes and preparation for the trades went out of use.

Going further back in time, four thousand years ago, the Babylonian Code of Hammurabi allowed for artisans to share their crafts with youth. Similarly, the records of Egypt, Greece, and Rome from earliest times reveal that trade skills were being passed onto their descendants. When youth in those days achieved the status of craft workers, they became important members of society. Their prestige in England centuries ago is reflected in a dialog from the Red Book of Hergest, a 14th-century Welsh Bardic manuscript: “Open the door!” “I will not open it.” “Wherefore not?” “The knife is in the meat, and the drink is in the horn, and there is revelry in Arthur’s Hall; and none may enter therein but the son of a King of a privileged country, or a craftsman bringing his craft.” (Washington State Department of Industries website)

Presently, the need for skilled craft workers is great in construction and manufacturing. Other career paths have a need for skilled workers and provide for apprenticeships to learn their respective trade. These occupations include: avionics technician, camera operator, communications technician,

culinarian (cook), pastry cook, and food safety technician, to name a few. Contact information and other details can be accessed through the State of California Department of Industrial Relations Apprenticeships website: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/databases/das/aigstart.asp>

Returning to the construction and manufacturing trades, there is a renewed interest and focus from educators (including the Pomona Unified School District and San Antonio Regional Occupational Program), industry, the government, and the general public for apprenticeships because many craft positions are going begging due to lack of skilled candidates for these trades. With the need for construction and maintenance of infrastructure – roads, bridges, dams, water treatment plants, wastewater facilities, sewer systems, and the electric power transmission grid – the urgency in training and providing a skilled workforce will only grow as these projects are funded and developed. This work does not consider the ever-present need for craft workers in home and building construction. Other important factors to consider are the ongoing need for skilled workers as manufacturing and other industries with technology develop and grow, while the aging workforce – baby boomers – retire.

I reached out to the several local apprenticeship organizations. If there is an interest, Southern California apprenticeship programs that are looking for candidates include:

1. Carpenter Union Apprenticeship Training Center: <https://www.swcarpenters.org/training-centers/>

2. Department of Water Resources Apprenticeships: <https://water.ca.gov/About/Careers/Apprentice-Program>

3. International Union of Painters and Allied Trades: <https://www.dc36apprenticeship.org>

4. Laborers Union Apprenticeship Training Center: <https://www.scdcl.org/training>

5. Non-Destructive Testing Apprenticeship Training Center: <http://www.aatatraining.org/apprenticeships>

6. Operating Engineers Apprenticeship Training Center: <https://www.oett.net/training-sites>

7. Plumbers and Steamfitters Union Apprenticeship Training Center: <https://local398.org/members-apprenticeship/>

8. Sheet Metal Workers Apprenticeship Training Center: <https://www.socalsma.org/app.htm>

Anyone looking for a new opportunity and a fresh start should consider the choices available through a paid apprenticeship program. Candidates will need a high school diploma or GED, be 18 years old or 17.5 with parental consent, and have a vehicle to get to work locations. Even if you complete the program, work in the trade for a while, and then decide that it is not for you, the skills and discipline gained from acquiring that trade will only make you more marketable and employable in the future for other career options. Opportunity is knocking – think about it. Contact me if I can be of help.

*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](mailto:jsbrmdz8@gmail.com).*

## Pomona Valley Hospital offers \$50 mammogram screenings in October

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center is offering its annual \$50 mammogram screenings during “Breast Cancer Awareness Month” throughout the month of October.

No physician order is needed. Women are eligible if they

are over 40, have no breast implants, have no history of breast cancer in the last five years and are asymptomatic (no breast problems).

The special offer will be available at the Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer

Care Center in Pomona, Pomona Valley Imaging Center in Chino Hills, Pomona Valley Health Center in Claremont and Pomona Valley Health Center in La Verne.

To take advantage of this opportunity, call (909) 469-9395.

## Third annual Pomona 5K set for Saturday, Oct. 12

The third annual Pomona 5K – this year with the addition of a 10K option – will be held in the streets of Downtown Pomona next month, kicking off at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12 with hundreds of runners and walkers expected.

Also added this year will be a “Toddler Trot” option for participants ages 0 to 5.

More than 600 participants and hundreds of spectators filled Shaun Diamond Plaza and the Downtown Pomona area last year.

“We are extremely excited for the third annual Pomona 5K,” said Pomona resident Alfredo Camacho, a member of both Pomona Valley Runners and the Pomona 5K organizing committee.

He said the addition of the 10K option and the Toddler Trot were based on comments from runners over the past two years.

“I hope that everyone participates and challenges others to participate and get excited about exercise and physical activity,” Camacho said.

Fairplex is the presenting sponsor for the event, although the organizing committee is still accepting volunteers, sponsors and

booths.

“The third annual Pomona 5K is a great outlet to celebrate the existing partnership we have with Pomona,” said Fanelly Millan, also a member of the organizing committee. “I hope that all participants in the Pomona 5K gain confidence in knowing they have control over making positive life changes through exercise.”

Organizers of the event include community members, members of Pomona Valley Runners and Day One, a non-profit whose mission is to build vibrant, healthy cities by advancing public health, empowering youth and igniting change, according to a news release.

Registration closes on Oct. 10 and opens back up for “same day” registration. A registration fee (\$40 for adults and \$15 for 17 and under for the 5K, \$60 for adults and \$15 for 17 and under for the 10K) includes a finisher medal, event t-shirt, chip timing, a closed course with security and emergency medical services, water stations and eligibility to compete in age division awards.

For more information, visit the web site at [www.pomona5K.com](http://www.pomona5K.com).

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

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Sexual Assault and  
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[www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org](http://www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org)

**HOUSE OF RUTH**  
Abused by your partner  
and need help?  
24-hour hotline:  
**(909) 988-5559 or toll  
free at (877) 988-5559**

**Pomona Public Library Hours**  
Mon., Tues., Wed. Thurs.:  
1 to 7 p.m.  
Sat.:  
Noon to 5 p.m.  
Fri., Sun.:  
Closed

### Info on student group programs at AGRIsCapes:

[www.agriscapes.cpp.edu](http://www.agriscapes.cpp.edu)

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

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It’s a fun way to improve reading skills.

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

**Downtown Pomona called ‘island of well-managed success’**

Downtown Pomona Owners Association (DPOA) Board member Ed Tessier called the downtown area “an island of well-managed success” that is setting a “high bar” as other cities look to Pomona as an example for their own downtown development projects.



**Carolyn Hemming**  
DPOA President

“It’s the place most people point to . . . (and say) ‘why can’t we do things the way it’s done in Downtown Pomona,’” he said at last month’s annual meeting of the DPOA.

“There’s a lot that’s here to be proud of,” Tessier said.

He mentioned Spectra Company’s on-going restoration of the old YMCA building, Pomona’s School of Arts and Enterprise and other projects as “wonderful milestones” in Downtown Pomona.

And, he said, he often reflects on how difficult it was 15 years ago when the DPOA was getting started.

“It really is remarkable, it is one of the things that Pomona should be proud of, and I think it can get nothing but better from here,” he said.

A brief video played at the meeting, narrated by DPOA Executive

**New ‘Pomona Pride Center’ set to open, receives nonprofit status**

The new Pomona Pride Center, which will officially open its doors with an open house and celebration next week, has announced it has secured its nonprofit tax-exempt status, making it eligible for government and foundation grants – all to fund improved safe spaces that foster exclusivity for all residents.

The center will provide an array of activities for people of all ages and walks of life, according to a news release.

“Obtaining 501(c)(3) status allows the center to provide the Pomona community with a network of opportunities, health and wellness programs, support classes and social events, thereby benefiting the LGBTQ community, their families, and local students lacking the support to be who they are,” said Frank Guzman, president of the center. “The granting of a nonprofit status to the center marks a major milestone for the organization and the queer community and we are excited to provide a safe and inclusive space for everyone.”

“The center will provide access to resources, support services, educational programming, social gatherings and special events for the community,” the release said.

A kick-off celebration is scheduled for 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at 242 E. Alvarado St., Pomona.

For more information, visit the web site at [www.pomonapridecenter.org](http://www.pomonapridecenter.org).

Director Larry Egan, said DPOA works with an annual budget of \$1.4 million to continue to make Downtown Pomona a safe, clean, desirable and vibrant place to live, work and play with more than 1.5 million visitors a year.

And, he added, not only does the downtown attract visitors but people invest in businesses, take up residency and support businesses – whether professional, retail, cultural, arts and entertainment venues.

He said residential vacancies are at an all time low and property values at an all time high “and that’s no small achievement.”

Egan said the DPOA focuses on quality of life issues like security, maintenance, marketing and community advocacy for the benefit of all downtown.

The security program alone – with two full-time Pomona police officers who patrol the downtown area plus private security patrolling and with state-of-the-art cameras – all helps to ensure that Downtown Pomona continues to be one of the safest districts in the state.

Guzman, who also serves as president of the Pomona Unified School District Board, is a lifelong resident of Pomona. According to the news release, he has struggled with his own identity for most of his life.

As a school board member, Guzman has sought to establish a safe space for all students, but he also wanted to be able to provide resources to families struggling to understand their children and their identities, the release said.

“The mission and purpose of the Pomona Pride Center is to support LGBTQ+ people to thrive as healthy, equal and complete individuals while creating a safe and inclusive community,” the release added.

The center will provide access to resources, support services, educational programming, social gatherings and special events for the community, the release said.

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For more information, visit the web site at [www.pomonapridecenter.org](http://www.pomonapridecenter.org).



**COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED** -- Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis recognized team members from Squad 87/Fire Station 87 in the City of Industry this month for their first year of providing paramedic services to the unincorporated communities of Avocado Heights, Bassett, City of Industry and La Puente. Solis said the station now has two additional firefighter paramedics on duty who staff the paramedic squad 24 hours a day providing immediate response times and reducing the number of calls of other paramedic squads in the area. “What that means for us, folks, is they are reducing costs and they are saving lives,” Solis said. Pictured from left are Division VIII Assistant Fire Chief Jim Robinson, County Firemen Lorenzo Chaidez, Jayson Mendoza and Mark Lopez, Capt. Larry Duran, and Chief Deputy David R. Richardson, Jr.



**SHERIFF’S DEPUTIES RECOGNIZED** -- Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis honored two members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s Homeless Outreach Service Team (HOST) on Los Angeles County Day at the LA County Fair. Solis explained the full HOST team was funded full time in 2017 and consists of a lieutenant, a sergeant and 14 deputies, all with a mission of positively impacting the homeless crisis in Los Angeles County while improving public safety and preserving the rights and dignity of people experiencing homelessness. Pictured, from left, are Lt. William Kitchin and Deputy Michael Tadrus.



**Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis speaks to representatives of communities in her first supervisorial district at Los Angeles County Day activities on “Picnic Hill” at the LA County Fair. County “heroes” receiving awards at the event also participated in a community day parade through the fairgrounds.**

**Pomona heroes... from pg. 7**

She settled in La Puente but after a couple of years moved to Pomona to raise her son. She became involved with the city’s cultural arts commission, a foundation for the prevention of child abuse, and she co-founded “Kaboom” at Fairplex.

She was also instrumental in the formation of Concerts in the Park. She continues to work at the Farm at Fairplex today.

Fairplex Board member Ed Tessier welcomed representatives of the Pomona community to the opening day reception at the 97th annual LA County Fair, calling it the world’s largest county fair..

“The Fair is such an important part of our community – it brings together over a million guests to our city of Pomona every year and I think every family has a Fair story about... how this institution



**COMMUNITY HERO** -- Ron Vander Molen, fourth from right, is named Pomona “Community Hero” at last month’s Pomona Day ceremonies at the LA County Fair. He was introduced by Pomona Committee Chair Jeff Vaniman, pictured behind the podium.

has been interwoven into their lives,” Tessier said. “I know in my case, my father, this was the first job he had here on the fairgrounds

after leaving the family farm. It is the place I remember most from my childhood. My wife became a citizen just a couple of halls over.”



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**'NEW' CAR GIVEAWAY** -- Gloria Benitez, a Pomona mother of three who has taken six buses every day to go to school in El Monte, received a free rebuilt car from Ben Clymer's Auto Collision Specialists this month in the company's fifth annual "Benevolence Car" presentation. Benitez, 30, who grew up in the foster care system and has been on her own since the age of 13, has earned her GED going to school in the mornings and working nights cleaning a university. Her children are ages 12, 10 and 3. Her application was submitted through her worker at the Los Angeles County Office of Education GAIN program (Greater Avenues for Independence), a job training organization where she is studying in an office occupations class taught by Pomona Chamber of Commerce member Carlos Garcia, an Upland-based computer consultant. Recipients of the vehicles each year are selected based on their willingness to better themselves. "I am very happy, I am so grateful for this, this is going to be such a big blessing for me and my family," Benitez told La Nueva Voz. "This is going to be such a big help for me." Pictured is Benitez moments after receiving the keys to her "new" fully loaded charcoal gray metallic 2018 Nissan Sentra. The Clymer family has presented 39 free vehicles in the past 10 years. Body shop employees donate their time to rebuild the cars each year. The company's Pomona facility is located at 2607 N. Towne Ave.



**Be 'Water-Aware'. Fall is nearly here. Days are shorter.**

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- **Check your sprinklerheads.**
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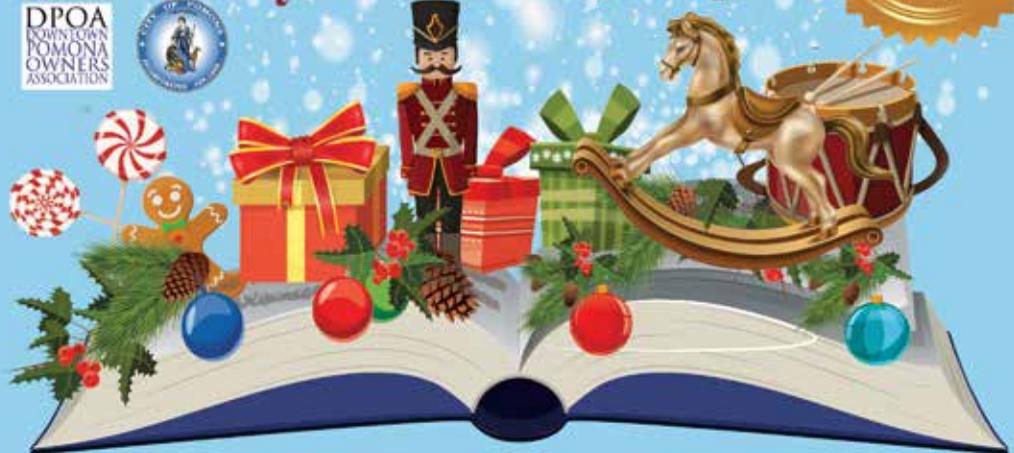
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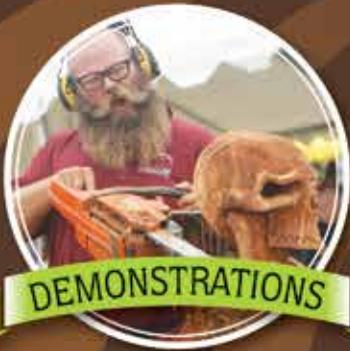


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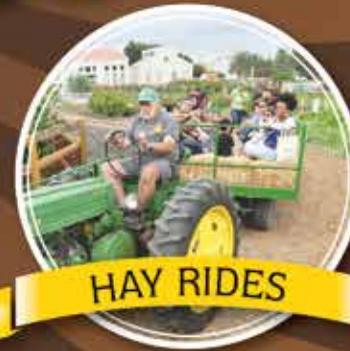
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