



'Black Lives Matter' movement surfaces in Pomona demonstrations

Protestors of all ages, ethnicities and walks of life participated in a handful of peaceful demonstrations in Pomona beginning late last month, joining other protestors across the country and around the world voicing their objections to police conduct in the wake of the death May 27 of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis.

Pomona's first demonstration – on Saturday, May 30 – was its biggest in terms of crowd size as an estimated 400 protestors marched – most on foot and others in cars and on motorcycles – from Foothill Boulevard and Garey Avenue in the northern part of the city all the way to the



STANDOFF IN FRONT OF POMONA POLICE STATION -- Police officers from Pomona, Claremont and La Verne (Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies were helping out on the perimeter) hold back several hundred "Black Lives Matter" demonstrators last month in front of the Pomona Police Department. Demonstrators -- and a line of police in full tactical gear -- filled all traffic lanes along Mission Boulevard during the protest.

'Drive-through' graduation ceremonies a success at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise

For the 82 graduating seniors at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise – and for that matter, pretty much for seniors everywhere – commencement ceremonies this month were not what they expected when they enrolled in high school four years ago.

But as everyone has learned during COVID-19, students are resilient and adaptable when it comes to new situations.

That certainly was the case at SAE where graduation ceremonies were, well, a little different – from a parade of cars driven by parents through Downtown Pomona to a short walk – one student at a time with everyone wearing face masks – through SAE's middle



DRIVE-THROUGH GRADUATION AT POMONA'S SAE -- School of Arts and Enterprise senior Michelle Bolanos pops out of a sunroof after a brief parade of cars through Downtown Pomona before entering the home stretch in the SAE middle school parking lot. The school received last-minute approval for the drive-through concept which was presented in addition to an hour-long "virtual" graduation ceremony on line.

Pomona Police Department at Mission Boulevard and Park Avenue in the Pomona Civic Center.

Pomona police – with backup support from police in Claremont and La Verne along with sheriff's deputies out of the San Dimas Sheriff's Station – lined up in full riot gear including helmets, face shields and billy clubs in front of the police department itself and briefly held a line across all lanes of traffic on Mission.

But seemingly suddenly, police opened their line to allow protestors through to gather to hear speakers from their group over a portable sound system in front of a memorial water fountain next to the police department parking lot.

Most of the crowd dissipated at that point, although there were reports a smaller group walked to the 71 Freeway after 7 p.m. and managed to close the southbound lanes as they continued their march to the Rio Rancho Road offramp and disbanded in

the Target shopping center.

No arrests were made the day of the demonstration, according to a police spokesperson.

And, while the crowd was orderly, one protestor was arrested three days later for allegedly breaking windows at a Starbucks and the offices of State Sen. Connie Leyva at Mission Boulevard and Garey Avenue.

The suspect, who a police spokesperson said is a Pomona resident, was arrested on suspicion of felony vandalism and booked at the Pomona city jail but was cited and released due to COVID-19.

He reportedly was identified based on cell phone video of the incident that included a license plate number.

According to a spokesperson for the group, the demonstration was organized by a new organization called Pomona Solidarity.

"We've got people from all over Pomona and in solidarity people are here from different walks of life," Pomona resident Claudia Omar Nhawa told La Nueva Voz. "We're here in solidarity of black lives, indigenous lives . . . people of color who

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See 'Project Roomkey in Pomona' story page 2.

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Pomona and Claremont students earn statewide recognition in Directing Change youth film contest... A message from Tri-City Mental Health

The Directing Change Program and Film Contest is part of Each Mind Matters: California's Mental Health Movement. The program is a statewide initiative designed for students and young adults across California to learn about mental health and suicide prevention in an innovative way: through the art of filmmaking. The 2020 program received 1,080 films created by nearly 3,500 youth from 190 schools across California.

We learn through action and our minds begin to change when we apply knowledge. Anyone can read about the signs of suicide or mental illness, but it requires a deeper level of involvement to thoughtfully and respectfully capture these topics in a 60-second film and advocate change. By lending their perspective to the mental health movement, local youth are creating a lasting impact in the minds of others about wellness, suicide prevention and stigma.

The 8th annual Awards Ceremony, normally held at the Ace Theatre in Downtown Los Angeles, was streamed virtually to announce the statewide 2020 contest winners. This year was a sweeping success for students in Pomona and Claremont who earned wins and honorable mentions in several film categories. Claremont High School students won first place in *Mental Health Matters*. Students at the School of Arts and Enterprise won first place in *SanaMente*, a Spanish-language category to promote mental health, and second place in *Mental Health Matters*. Mountain View Elementary School and Marshall Middle School students also won second and third place in the middle school category, *Walk in Our Shoes*. You can watch these award-winning short films at www.directingchange.org and help spread mental health awareness.

For those who need support, Tri-City is here to help. Call us at (866) 623-9500 or visit www.tricitymhs.org for resources and free wellness webinars.

- Call our Navigator team at (888) 436-3246 for community resources.
- Call our Wellness Center at (888) 593-4448 for weekly virtual support groups.
- Join our free virtual wellness roundtable *Proud to Be Me* on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. in support of Pride Month. Contact jphang@tricitymhs.org to sign-up.



Homeless housing COVID program ‘Project Roomkey’ opens at Pomona Motel 6

“Project Roomkey,” a temporary housing program to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population and the same program that has caused protests and litigation in nearly a dozen Southern California communities, opened a facility in Pomona without fanfare last month in the Motel 6 on South Garey Avenue.

The agency in charge of the program reported that participating motels and hotels generally operate on an initial three-month contract, but a spokesman for that same agency refused to acknowledge the Pomona motel was even a part of the program – despite the fact that Motel 6 was already identified as part of the program on the City of Pomona web site.

That same spokesman said his agency’s attempt at confidentiality was out of concern for the safety of the hotel guests.

He declined to comment when La Nueva Voz asked if that confidentiality effort was based at least in part on concerns over local pro-

tests and litigation.

And, whether for security purposes or political reasons, all Motel 6 “branding” at the Pomona location has been removed or, in the case of the two street signs, hidden with large blue vinyl covers.

A spokesperson for Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis

told La Nueva Voz the confidentiality requirement actually is handed down by the state.

(Even so, Los Angeles County officials themselves have provided dozens of pictures produced by county photographers of other Project Roomkey locations, two of which appeared in last month’s



A security guard chats with La Nueva Voz outside Pomona’s Motel 6 on South Garey Avenue. The facility has been converted into one of Los Angeles County’s “Project Roomkey” locations, temporary housing sites designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population.



The two Motel 6 signs at the Garey Avenue motel – now part of “Project Roomkey” to house homeless individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic – a street level monument sign and a pole-mounted sign visible from the 60 Freeway – have been covered with large blue vinyl bag-like material while the motel is contracting with the state on the program.

La Nueva Voz – with the city identified by the county.)

Safe isolation for the homeless

Launched by Gov. Newsom in early April, Project Roomkey was designed to provide safe isolation capacity for tens of thousands of people experiencing homelessness in California in order to protect them and the state from COVID-19.

La Nueva Voz first reported plans to open a Project Roomkey motel at the Motel 6, located at 2470 S. Garey Ave., in its May issue based on information from two sources who preferred not to be named.

As reported last month, California became the first state in the nation to secure approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the program with a goal of securing up to 15,000 rooms for this purpose.

The housing program is for homeless individuals who are not symptomatic and have not been exposed but are seniors or

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‘Shooting for the moon’ works well for Diamond Ranch High School valedictorian

Sometimes a 4.95 grade point average and a list of extracurricular activities as long as your arm makes it easy to make a selection for a scholarship winner.

And, oh, did we mention she was both valedictorian and senior class president this year at Pomona’s Diamond Ranch High School?

It was all of this and more for Amara Henry, 18, who told La Nueva Voz she already knows where her next step is taking her – she’s going to UCLA in the fall to major in political science and plans to become a lawyer – something she’s wanted to do since a debate in her sixth grade class.

She was selected to receive \$1,500 in scholarships recently, presented during a “virtual” presentation by the National College Resources Foundation in Diamond Bar.

Dr. Theresa Price, executive director and founder of Black College Expo and National College Resources Foundation, recommended Henry for the honor which she received during a national “rites of passage” ceremony.

A \$1,000 scholarship was presented by actor Kel Mitchell of the film “Good Burger” fame, and another \$500 scholarship was presented by Corey and Chase Price of Foundation Clothing Co. in Diamond Bar.

Henry was one of seven students hon-



Amara Henry

ored – three of them from Pomona – during the presentation with scholarships totaling near \$4,000.

She said while she grew up in Pomona, she recently moved to La Verne where she lives with her parents.

“It was really hard telling my family as valedictorian I didn’t get any money for anything,” she said. “This is super relieving” to her parents.

Henry, who said she is not the first African American valedictorian at Diamond Ranch but apparently is the second, attended Ranch Hills Elementary School in

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have been suffering from this colonial mind state from militarism.”

La Nueva Voz learned organizers were three girls who currently attend high schools in Claremont and La Verne but were born and raised in Pomona and attended elementary school here.

Protestors – who were walking or riding in vehicles in the street – essentially blocked traffic for up to 20 minutes or more as they passed, holding up placards as they walked or leaning out of car windows and shouting “What do you want, justice, when do you



It was nose to nose and skateboard to billy club at the Black Lives Matter demonstration in Pomona last month. But the unidentified protestor holding the skateboard is keeping his eye on the Pomona police officer's billy club just in case.



A conversation in close quarters was taking place between an unidentified protestor and a Pomona police officer as police held marchers at bay in front of the Pomona Police Department.

want it, now” which has become the slogan of the movement nationwide.

Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis, who told La Nueva Voz his department organized its response on only several days' notice, coordinated an effort that included

positioned themselves on all four corners of the busy intersection to shout their message to those in passing cars.

Mike Suarez, a spokesperson for the group, said the protest was organized by “Police Oversight Starts Today” (POST),



Of course, signs were everywhere during last month's Black Lives Matter demonstration in Pomona. These protestors paused for a breather across the street from the Pomona Police Department after a long walk down Garey Avenue from Foothill Boulevard.

closing the entire Pomona Civic Center area to vehicular traffic and positioning emergency equipment including at least one fire engine behind the Pomona Superior Court building.

Ellis had officially been on the job as Pomona's 22nd police chief for five weeks when the incident occurred.

The Pomona demonstration was held the same day as similar protests in New York, Newark, N.J., Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and others.

a group he said was formed two years ago.

“We've been trying to make sure that people know that we need police oversight in the City of Pomona where millions of dollars are being given out to people being beaten and killed at the hands of the Pomona Police Department,” Suarez said.

He cited the case of Christian Aguilar, 16, who was attending the LA County Fair in 2015 when, Suarez said, he was beaten severely by Pomona police.

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Sri Gorty, MD
President of the PVHMC Medical Staff

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Most of the protestors at this month's demonstration, however, were shouting "Black Lives Matter" slogans associated with the George Floyd death in Minneapolis.

La Nueva Voz asked Suarez what POST's position was on the Floyd incident.

"That's the same thing," he said. "The police have to understand that you've got to treat people like people, and they are not a dominant force."

Protestors passed out flyers with a message calling for "Justice for Christian Aguilar and all other survivors and victims of police brutality."

A spokesperson for the group said they planned to march to the home of Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and to offices of the Pomona Peace Officers' Association.

Several smaller demonstrations also were held in Pomona this month.



Corporal Ernesto Rios, at right in foreground, Pomona Police Department's crime prevention officer, wears a different hat at last month's Black Lives Matter demonstration outside the department headquarters -- a helmet with face shield and full tactical gear, as he oversees fellow officers holding protestors at bay. Officers were equipped with gas masks clipped to their belts in case tear gas was deployed. It was not.



Photo by Renee Barbee
Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis, at right, answers questions from La Nueva Voz publisher Jeff Schenkel regarding logistics during last month's Black Lives Matter demonstration. Ellis was checking status with his officers at the southern edge of the perimeter at the time of this photo but was moving around in a hands-on, on the ground approach throughout the protest.



Some of the protestors continue their march down Garey Avenue from Foothill Boulevard shouting slogans and holding up signs along the way. Pictured is a group across the street from Pilgrim Congregational Church.



Demonstrators riding in their cars blowing horns, shouting slogans and displaying signs followed marchers down Garey Avenue in Pomona to the civic center. Pictured are the cars approaching Pilgrim Congregational Church.

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Graduation ceremonies a success... from pg. 1

school parking lot (the location best suited of the school's three campus sites) to receive a diploma, shake hands with administrators and have a photo taken in cap and gown.

SAE Executive Director Jon Gundry, who replaced Lucille Berger when she retired, has been on board for two graduation ceremonies.

However, "it's the first one we've had outdoors in the midst of a pandemic," he said.

"We're really happy we were able to do this because up until just less than two weeks ago we were told that we couldn't do anything like this in person," Gundry added. "So, we had to pivot very quickly, and so the staff did a really great job of planning all this in just a couple of days."

Then how did the students react to the experience?

"We've gotten some very positive feedback," he said. "Before we planned this drive-through



Dr. Brianna Nix, assistant principal (grades 6 through 12) at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise, at left, and Johnny Anderson, principal, pose for the La Nueva Voz camera between students at this month's drive-through graduation ceremony.

graduation, we had some kids who were pretty unhappy about just a virtual graduation."

"But when we were given a green light on this type of graduation, we got some very appreciative e-mails from kids and parents," he said. "We didn't get any complaints after that."

SAE — founded in 2003 as a tuition-free, donation-dependent State Board of Edu-



Marianna Aceves, this year's valedictorian at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise, "marches" -- from her parents' car to receive her diploma -- during the school's drive-through graduation ceremony in Downtown Pomona this month.



For this photo, it's all in the cap since this student's mortarboard message makes it clear she is a member of the Class of 2020. (And those balloons were there for good measure in case you missed the cap.) The photo was taken after the drive-through graduation at the School of Arts and Enterprise.

cation authorized public charter high school — is one school where celebrating graduation day is important — Gundry said the graduation rate is near 100

percent and, typically, more than 90 percent of the students go on to college.

"We have a very high college-going rate at the school," he said.

Judging from the excitement among students, parents, teachers and staff, the drive-through concept worked just fine — from the cheers as each car drove in to the parking lot to the personal photos after the ceremony with students and family members in front of the school — just like a graduation is supposed to be

with all the pomp and circumstance it deserves.

Plus, a virtual graduation ceremony, too!

Of course, with the talent available at SAE, and because the drive-through ceremony was not a sure thing until later, students had their own "virtual" graduation, as well.

And, in SAE style, it was an amazing production — an hour and 17 minutes long, and containing more than 700 unique parts, it was produced in three weeks, according to SAE's artistic director Phil Miller.

Miller said the first five minutes alone required more than 120 man-hours to produce.

Included in addition to a virtual choir were special messages from Gundry, Principal Johnny Anderson, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and Miller, who directed the production for broadcast.

Keynote speaker was recording artist Shoshana Bean, who performed for students and members of the community in March at Pomona's Fox Theater.

In her two-minute commencement address, she shared with the students what she called the top five things she wished she had known when she graduated from high school.

Number one was "stay present . . . take it all in, don't miss it," she said, because "life happens so very fast."

Two, she said, it is important to give generously.

"Live your life always asking the question what can I give as opposed to what can I get" in a mindset of being of service.

Three, she encouraged the students to take chances.

"You will only regret the chances that you did not take" so "be brave, be bold, take those chances and remember that you will learn more from the losses than you do from the wins," she said.

Four, Bean told the students to stay "uncomfortable."

"It is in the challenges, it is in the discomfort that you are growing, that you are becoming who you are . . . a life well-lived is not always an easy one," she said.

Finally, she told students that "who you are is enough."

Graduation ceremonies... pg. 6



Graduating senior Helena Mitchell poses for a photograph in front of a balloon arch during drive-through graduation ceremonies at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise.



A school friend takes a family photo following drive-through graduation ceremonies this month at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise.



School of Arts and Enterprise teachers make sure the graduating seniors see their signs of congratulations as they drive out of the drive-through graduation ceremonies this month.

Project Roomkey... from pg. 2

medically vulnerable, according to a spokesman for Los Angeles County.

Included are security guards, meals and “social services,” according to a spokesman.

And, while a spokesman for the agency handling Project Roomkey said hotel contracts generally are for a period of three months, there are rumblings in Sacramento that Gov. Newsom plans to keep the program alive on a permanent basis to help reduce homelessness.

Sarah Ardalani, a spokesperson for the county’s COVID-19 emergency operations joint information center, told La Nueva Voz last month the program protects the most vulnerable in the community and prevents a surge on the county’s healthcare system to ensure that quality care is available to everyone who needs it.

Those served, she added, do not have a place to isolate at home and are at higher risk for infection and subsequent hospitalization.

Although other hotels are participating in the program, Bay City News reported a total of 47 Motel 6 properties are contracting with the state with locations in 19 California counties.

The program is being funded by a combination of state funds and federal funds through FEMA, a program spokesman reported.

According to the City of Pomona web site, the city is not directly involved in the Project Roomkey

operation.

State’s emergency powers bypass review of program by City of Pomona

“The state asked hotel/motel operators if they wanted to participate,” the web site’s frequently asked questions on the topic said. “The state then contracted with the operators who have discretion on whether they will participate in the program.”

In addition, the city does not have the authority to stop operators from contracting with the state, according to the site.

“While staff will work with the county to identify Project Roomkey locations, the city does not have the power to veto the locations,” the site said. “During this COVID-19 public health emergency, the state and county have extraordinary powers to make these decisions.”

Hotel and motel operators still are required to pay taxes to the city while participating in the program.

Also, according to the city, “walk-ups” are not permitted at Project Roomkey facilities. Residents are screened and given a medical check up before they become a resident and then twice a day after that. Personal belongings are put into a “hot box” which sanitizes the belongings, according to the city’s site.

And if symptoms develop, residents are moved into quarantine sites that are equipped to provide

medical support.

Agency in charge operating 34 sites throughout Los Angeles County

Ahmad Chapman, communications director for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority in Los Angeles, the agency administering Project Roomkey, said the program currently is operating at 34 sites in Los Angeles County. His agency’s web site shows the program is now providing a total of 3,387 contracted rooms and serving 3,684 “clients.”

As of deadline week at La Nueva Voz, it has served a total of 4,363 clients and distributed 277,296 meals.

“Generally, we place one person experiencing homelessness in a room unless they are a part of a couple,” Chapman said. “In that case, the couple can be placed in one room, at the discretion of the homeless service provider who is in charge of running the hotel.”

“Clients in Project Roomkey are allowed entry and exit (at) the hotel as long as the nursing staff is on-site,” Chapman added. “The hours can vary from site to site, but usually, nurses are on-site from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.”

Homeless Services Authority under fire

Confidentiality issues and governmental transparency issues aside, the Homeless Services Authority already has had its share of problems and has been under fire – and for more issues than simply opening Project Roomkey sites in local communities and having a

fear of possible backlash in those communities over concerns of where the homeless facilities are to be located.

The Los Angeles Times in March wrote that the agency, created in 1993, currently is the subject of review by Los Angeles officials who, according to the Times headline, “are getting serious about overhauling this top homeless services agency.”

One issue is that the agency is viewed by many as a “one-stop shop” for solving the county’s homelessness crisis.

But the Times pointed out that it is the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services that handles the physical ailments of people on the streets and the Department of Mental Health that serves mentally ill homeless people.

And, in the case of the City of Los Angeles, it is the city that has taken the responsibility of building permanent supportive housing and it is the county that funds the services.

So the agency itself really doesn’t control many of the tools that help people get off the streets and into housing, according to the Times report.

Miguel Santana of Fairplex questions if Homeless Services Authority is best approach

Even Pomona’s Miguel Santana, President and CEO at Fairplex, was quoted in the story.

Santana, the former City of Los Angeles administrative officer, was responsible for developing

the city’s homeless plan.

“Is this the best system?” Santana was quoted as saying in the Times article. “What are the outcomes that we’re collectively monitoring and trying to achieve?”

Staff turnover at the Homeless Services Authority also appears to be part of the problem.

Communications director Chapman told La Nueva Voz he has been on board at the agency since September and his assistant Christopher Yee, formerly a reporter for the Pasadena Star-News, has been on board for only the past six months.

And the agency’s top manager, Executive Director Heidi Marston, started her job just this month after a stint as interim director after her predecessor, Peter Lynn, resigned at the end of last year after serving for the past five years.

He told the Times at the time he decided to leave following a two-month absence caused by an automobile accident in August which, he said, provided a fresh perspective.

Marston joined the agency last year as chief program officer, according to an agency news release announcing her appointment to the top job.

Members of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission, which controls the agency, actually a joint powers authority, are appointed by Los Angeles city and county elected officials.

Impact of COVID in Pomona based on Sheraton Fairplex daily occupancy continues to increase

Keeping track of COVID-19 in Pomona?

La Nueva Voz last month took a look at the daily occupancy rate at the Pomona Sheraton Fairplex Hotel which on deadline day May 22 topped out at 70 patients – the highest number in the 244-room hotel since it opened its doors to COVID patients on March 25.

The numbers continued to climb gradually, with several dips along the way, reaching 78 on June 5, 81 on June 12, 87 on June 17, 97 on June 18 and a new peak of 109 on June 19, deadline day for this issue.

The continuing trend appears to indicate that the impact of COVID is continuing to climb in Pomona.

La Nueva Voz began tracking the hotel’s occupancy rate in last month’s issue using official Los Angeles County numbers as an indicator of how COVID-19 is doing in Pomona.

In addition, generally, more patients are continuing to be placed in the Pomona hotel than in any of the other hotels in the county system.

Pomona’s Sheraton Fairplex Hotel was the first hotel in Los Angeles County to be placed in service for temporary housing of possible coronavirus patients.

It has been used as a “safe haven” for first responders, members of the region’s homeless population and others with no other place to go during treatment or self-quarantine.

Graduation ceremonies... from pg. 5

“What makes you different is what makes you special,” she said.

The entire ceremony is available for viewing at thesae2020.com.

SAE serves students in grades six through 12 and embraces and encourages artistic creativity and academic excellence.

The school’s web site calls it “a place for aspiring young artists to refine their skills and flourish and for budding entrepreneurs to develop their expertise.”

Its three campuses are located in the Downtown Pomona arts colony.

Katherine “Kat” Mendez receives her diploma from Johnny Anderson, principal of Pomona’s School of Arts and Enterprise, during drive-through graduation ceremonies this month as her mom grabs an official family photo out of the sunroof of the family car (over the shoulder of the official school photographer) following a seniors parade through Downtown Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Anderson, Mendez, Maria Cuadros-Solis, associate principal, and Jon Gundry, executive director of the school.



Katherine “Kat” Mendez receives her diploma from Johnny Anderson, principal of Pomona’s School of Arts and Enterprise, during drive-through graduation ceremonies this month as her mom grabs an official family photo out of the sunroof of the family car (over the shoulder of the official school photographer) following a seniors parade through Downtown Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Anderson, Mendez, Maria Cuadros-Solis, associate principal, and Jon Gundry, executive director of the school.

Black Lives Matter... from pg. 4



All four corners of Arrow and Towne were filled with protestors for this month's demonstration but the busiest corner was the southwest corner, as seen in this photo from the center divider in the middle of Arrow Highway.



An unidentified protestor leads the chants at Towne and Arrow in Pomona holding a bullhorn microphone in one hand and a Black Lives Matter banner in the other.



Pomona's Lorraine Canales, at left, and Debra Martin were on hand at Arrow and Towne to lend their support to the effort.



P O S T
spokesperson Mike Suarez, an organizer of the demonstration, at left, chats with Duane Smith, also a spokesperson for the group, before handing out water bottles to the crowd.



A protestor at the Towne and Arrow demonstration holds up an "I can't breathe" sign, representing the slogan well known as the last words of George Floyd, who died at the hands of police in Minneapolis last month.



Pomona activist and volunteer Yesenia Miranda Meza holds up a sign in each hand during this month's demonstration at Arrow Highway and Towne Avenue in Pomona. The protest was organized by the group "Police Oversight Starts Today."

Pomona Library Foundation sets 'Zoom' summer programs for kids

The Pomona Public Library Foundation has announced topics of this summer's Homework Club sessions, this year on the theme "Readers to Leaders Online Summer Academy."

Participants will make a virtual visit to New York City on July 1, reading a book about Maxi the taxi dog with a real New Yorker, visiting the Statue of Liberty and making their own torch.

On July 8, readers will become a storm watcher and learn about storms, thunder and lightning and receive a recipe to make their own "Thundercake."

Readers will go to Mexico on July 15, reading "Dreamers" and learning facts about Mexico. They will visit pyramids and make their

own maracas. On July 22, participants will read "The Dance of the Violin" and learn to drum to the beat.

The July 29 session is a camping trip and participants will make their own tents and learn about the mountains, trees and animals of Yellowstone National Park.

And on Aug. 5, readers will learn what it takes to belong to a community reading "Here We Are" and learning how kids get to school around the world.

All classes will be held via Zoom from 3 to 4:15 p.m. every Wednesday. The Zoom information will be e-mailed two days prior to class.

For information, call or text Sandra at (301) 661-4543 or Crystal at (909) 837-0477.

A message from John Mendoza, Board Member, Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Be assured your water supply is safe to drink. All wholesale water Three Valleys Municipal Water District delivers and supplies to local municipal water systems operated by our 24 member agencies is treated to disinfect and kill all pathogens and viruses including COVID-19.

Our water supply is tested regularly in laboratories at the nearby Weymouth Treatment Plant in La Verne and in our own laboratory in Claremont. We are proud that we have always been able to meet and exceed all state and federal water quality standards.

Much has changed over the years since Juan Nepomuceno Alvarado conveyed all his rights to a ditch and water to Ignacio Palomares in 1853. These facts were established in a lawsuit brought by A.R. Meserve and others in a lawsuit 1876 concerning water rights in the San Antonio Canyon. The water rights were transferred to American colonists after being held by Ignacio Palomares and N. Alvarado. Both these men dug ditches from San Antonio Creek. One of the earliest water districts established in the era was Pomona Land and Water Company dating back to 1887. Water ever since has been a cornerstone of the City of Pomona economic development -- clean, safe drinking water even in this time of COVID-19.



John Mendoza

John Mendoza
Certified Water Operator (California)
Representing Division VI
North Pomona

Un mensaje de John Mendoza, Miembro Mesa Directiva, Distrito del Agua Municipal Tres Valles

Tengan por seguro que el suministro de agua es potable. Todo el agua al por mayor del Distrito del Agua Municipal Tres Valles entrega y suministra a sistemas locales de agua municipal operados por nuestras agencias compuestas por 24 miembros y es tratada para desinfectar y matar todo tipo de patógenos y virus incluyendo COVID-19.

Nuestro suministro de agua es examinado regularmente en laboratorios en la cercana Planta de Tratamiento Weymouth en La Verne y en nuestro propio laboratorio en Claremont. Estamos orgullosos que siempre hemos podido alcanzar y superar todas las normas de calidad del agua estatal y federal.

Mucho ha cambiado a través de los años desde que Juan Nepomuceno Alvarado trasladó todos sus derechos a una zanja y agua a Ignacio Palomares en el 1853. Estos hechos fueron establecidos en una demanda presentada por A.R. Meserve y otros en una acción legal en 1876 con respecto a los derechos del agua en el Cañón San Antonio. Los derechos del agua fueron traspasados a los colonizadores Americanos después de haber sido retenidos por Ignacio Palomares y N. Alvarado. Ambos excavaron zanjas del Arroyo San Antonio. Uno de los primeros distritos del agua establecidos en la era fue la Compañía de Tierra y Agua de Pomona desde 1887. Desde entonces, el agua ha sido el pilar fundamental del desarrollo económico de la Ciudad de Pomona -- agua limpia y segura aun en estos tiempos del COVID-19.

John Mendoza
Agente Certificado del Agua (California)
Representando la División VI
Norte de Pomona

Jack Lightfoot named Pomona Host Lions president for coming year

Long-time Pomona Host Lions Club member Jack Lightfoot was installed as president for the 2020-2021 year at a recent “virtual” installation and awards meeting.

Carmen Morris will serve as first vice president, Jackie Allen will be second vice president, Denny Mosier will serve as secretary and Gil Smith will be treasurer.

Directors installed were George Carter and Steve Storbakken, tail twisters; Jo Fulton, membership activation and retention; Anne Henderson, membership; George Kopiloff, operations; Steve Lustro and Bob Stuard, Lion tamers; Ben Selters, financial secretary; and



Jack Lightfoot

WendyAnn Stuard, community services.

Anne Henderson was named Lion of the Year for last year, and WendyAnn Stuard won a Melvin Jones fellowship, her second such award.

Guests attending the installation on Zoom were Lions District 4-L4 Governor Mark Piva and First Vice Governor

Steve Lacey.

The district includes the 33 Lions Clubs in Orange County and the Foothill Zone.

Pomona Host Lions will celebrate their 100th anniversary in March 2021. There are more than 1.2 million Lions in more than 200 countries.



Photo by Renee Barbee

Pomona's Fox Theater got into the graduation spirit this month with a special message to local graduates.

Activist Dolores Huerta turns 90th birthday event into fundraiser for COVID relief fund

Members of the Dolores Huerta Foundation threw their “fearless leader one epic virtual bash” last month in honor of her 90th birthday.

The virtual birthday celebration was streamed on the foundation's social media platforms and money raised went to benefit the Dolores Huerta Foundation's COVID-19 relief fund.

Her actual birthday was April 10.

Kirk Whisler, executive editor of the Hispanic Marketing 101 newsletter, said he is “constantly impressed as she continues to out-think and out-perform people half her age.”

“When she left the leadership of the United Farm Workers, she founded the Dolores Huerta Foundation to take her community empowerment efforts to new heights,” he said. “Dolores is using her birthday once again to help support the

many efforts of the foundation.”

Participants in the celebration included Edward James Olmos, Zoe Saldana, Jane Fonda, Eva Longoria, George Lopez, Salma Hayek, Rosario Dawson and America Ferrera, among others.

With a background in teaching and a passion for equality, Huerta is an activist and labor organizer best known for founding the Agricultural Workers Association and co-founding the National Farm Workers Association with Cesar Chavez.

She also championed the Agricultural Labor Relations Act and helped organize the Delano Grape

Phillips Ranch and Lorbeer Middle School in Diamond Bar.

So how did that 4.95 grade point average make it to that level? Henry said she took five advanced placement classes in both her junior and senior year to make that possible. Those classes average in differently since they are considered a college course.

Some of the credit, she said, goes to her teachers.

“There are some amazing teachers in the Pomona Unified School District,” Henry said, adding that it has always been easy to make connections with them.

She said she even considered them friends and still reaches out to some of her teachers at Ranch Hills.

“Having a close connection with teachers, it really fueled me to do well in that class,” she said, “just knowing that they are another supporter in your life teaching the class.”

And, while that sixth-grade debate helped her decide her career path, she said a government class in high school also was helpful and solidified her career choice.

Then how does it feel to be graduating in the middle of a worldwide pandemic?

“These past couple of months have been extremely hard on me,” she said. “Being valedictorian, my family has been talking about this speech for months.”

She said more than 15 people wanted to attend her “real” graduation which, of course, was only

Strike of 1965, both considered pivotal moments in the farmworkers' rights movement.

And her history of working in positions usually held by white men led Huerta to the women's rights movement, where she and Gloria Steinem advocated for intersectionality in activism to interconnect social categories such as race, class, gender and socioeconomic status.

She continues to advocate for equality today and was a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

For more information, contact the foundation online at doloreshuerta.org.

Shooting for the moon... from pg. 2

virtual.

“So when this happened, it was a tough pill to swallow,” she said.

But Pomona Unified did the best they could with the virtual graduation, she said.

“I was pleased,” she added.

Henry told La Nueva Voz her commencement speech made the point that “our class has a persistent spirit.”

“We had it throughout the last four years, but it kept us united through this pandemic,” she said.

“We made it but we're going to continue to make it” was the theme of her address.

Does she have advice for students still working their way through the school system?

“No goal is too high,” she said, adding that the Norman Vincent Peale (author of “The Power of Positive Thinking”) quote “Shoot for the moon – even if you miss, you'll land among the stars” has been with her for her entire life.

In fact, as far back as the sixth grade, she told her parents she wanted to become a lawyer but was getting discouraged. It was her parents who used that quote to give her words of motivation.

The legal business is already a part of the family – Henry has an aunt with her own law firm in Downtown Los Angeles.

Her dad Marc Henry is a regional vice president for an insurance company and her mom Corianne handles employee training for a medical supplier.

“They could not be more proud of me and I couldn't have done it without them,” she said of her parents.

She also has two brothers, 14-year-old Collin who just told her she'd “set an impossible bar” and four-year-old Jalen.

During her four years of high school, of course, Henry has been doing more than just hanging out – she played basketball for her first two years, was in the debate club for a couple of years, and held two jobs in high school – as a math tutor and as scorekeeper and manager of statistics for players in a basketball league in Walnut.

She also volunteered with an organization called Ability First where she works with kids with disabilities, and she was a member of a high school club in which she essentially volunteered in the community.

In addition to everything else, she was a member of the Associated Student Body for five years and, of course, served this year as senior class president.

The National College Resources Foundation donated a \$250,000 S.T.E.A.M. “classroom on wheels” to Pomona Unified School District last year to help students become more excited about science, technology, engineering, arts and math (see page 7, La Nueva Voz, May 2019 issue at www.lanuevavoz.net).

The specially equipped trailer filled with computers is located at Golden Springs Elementary School in Diamond Bar.

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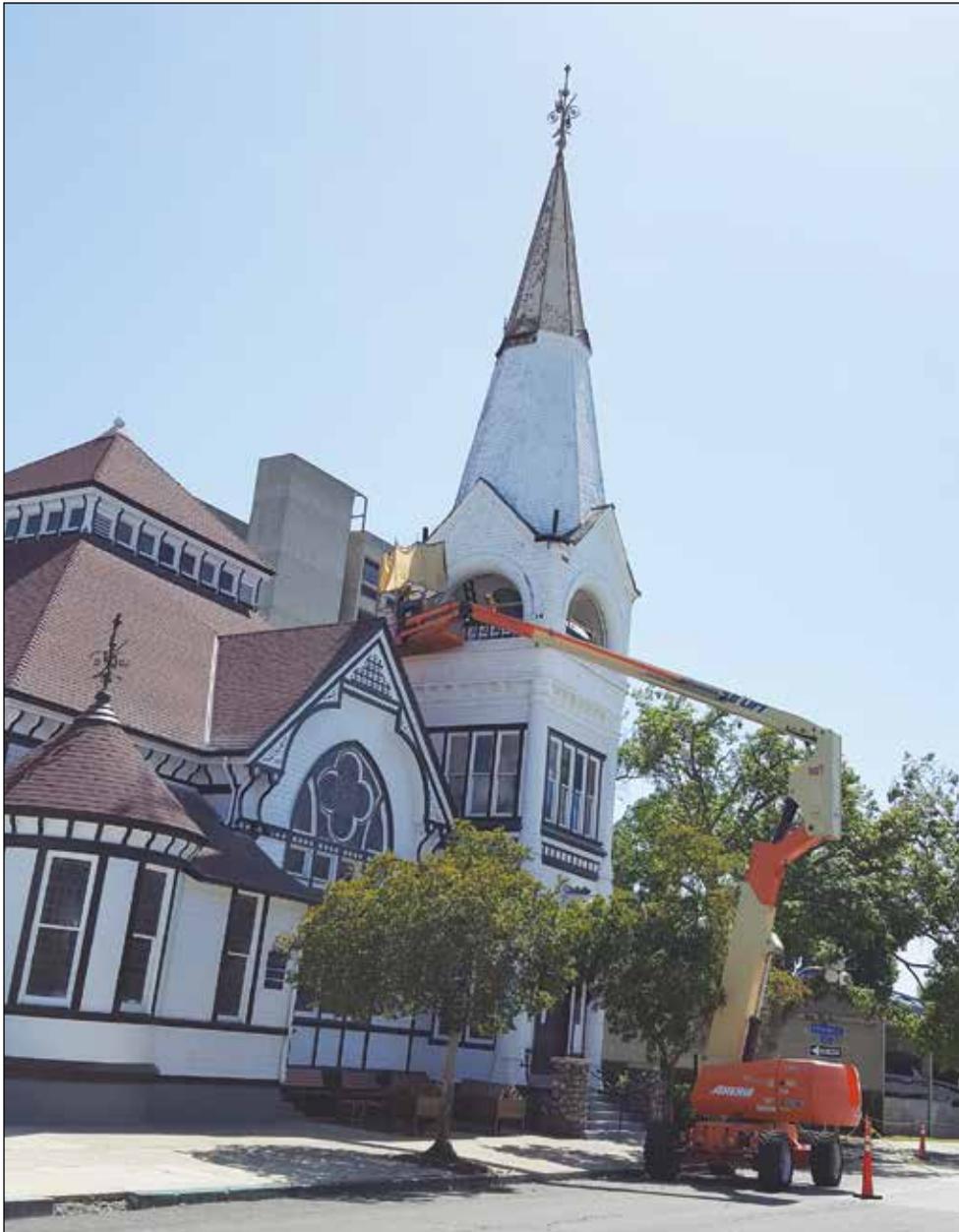
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Workers use a “cherry picker” lift to refurbish and paint the bell tower and steeple this month at historic Humanity Church, 360 W. Third St., in Downtown Pomona. Lower portions of the church were repainted in recent months. Reader Linda Lockwood remembered when the church was the subject of a KCET “California’s Gold” program produced by the late Huell Howser.

Google sponsoring fellowship program for future journalists in ‘underrepresented’ populations

Deadline is Aug. 1 for future journalists in Pomona interested in applying for the Google News Initiative Student Fellowship program to support the development of students of color interested in careers at the intersection of technology, media and journalism.

The program seeks to address the barriers of access to early-career opportunities that many students of color face and support investigative journalism, technological innovation and digital transformation in local newsrooms serving diverse and underrepresented populations.

Host organizations for the 10-week term running from September to December include the Eugene Weekly, Houston Press, Isthmus (Madison, Wisconsin), alDia En America (Lexington, Kentucky), La Noiticia (Charlotte, N.C.), Vida Newspaper (Ventura County), Washington Informer (Washington, D.C.), Omaha Star and the National Newspaper Publishers Association newsroom in

Washington, D.C.

To be eligible, applicants must be at least 18, enrolled in an accredited college or university or graduated from an accredited university within the last 12 months, and able to demonstrate financial need.

A 2019 survey by the American Society of News Editors shows U.S. newsrooms often do not reflect the diversity of the audiences they cover and estimates that less than a quarter of newsroom employees identify themselves as a person of color.

Twenty-four percent of the U.S. population is made up of persons of color.

Google is partnering on the project with the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the National Association of Hispanic Publishers and Association of Alternative Newsmedia.

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 Frausto-Bonilla, Cruz
 Fructoso-Lopez, Juan
 Gallegos Munguia, Karen
 Galvan, Adrian
 Garcia, Jordan
 Garcia, Gladys
 Garcia, Lily
 Garcia Mora, Metzli
 Garcia, Vanesa
 Garcia Cano, Erick
 Gazcon, Bryant
 Godinez Chincoya, Anaceli
 Gomez-Flores, Fernando
 Gonzalez, Jolena
 Granados, Oscar
 Greer, Heavenly
 Guerrero, Raylene
 Guerrero Hernandez, Angelica
 Gurrola, Angely
 Gutierrez, Freddy
 Gutierrez, Michael
 Gutierrez-Barrios, Lizbeth
 Gutierrez-Sierra, David
 Guzman, Claudia
 Hernandez, Alicia
 Hernandez, Alyssa
 Hernandez, Jakob
 Hueso, Angel
 Huizar-Arias, Bianca
 Ibarra-Galvan, Vanesa
 Infante-Herrera, Nataly
 Jaen, Henry
 Jauregui, Kimberly
 Johnson, Asia
 Lamas, Ricardo
 Lambarena-Diego, Karla
 Landaverde, Miriam
 Lara, Genesis
 Lee, Simone
 Leon-Sandoval, Bryan
 Lepe, Yesenia

Leyva-Davila, Josephine
 Llamas, Evelyn
 Lopez, Anthony
 Lopez, Daisy
 Lopez, Jasmin
 Lopez, Jorge Alexander ★
 Lopez, Jorge
 Lopez, Luis
 Lopez, Yessenia
 Lopez Almazan, Alejandro
 Lopez Carra, Juan
 Lopez-Jimenez, Ashley
 Lopez-Parada, Evelyn
 Lopez-Resendes, Lucia
 Lopez-Torres, Alondra
 Lozano, Jan
 Lua, Austin
 Luckey, Josef
 Luma, Angel
 Macias, Giselle
 Maldonado Barajas, Lisa
 Manzano, Jordan
 Martinez, Edgardo
 Martinez, Sergio
 Martinez-Flores, Cielo
 Mateo, Maria
 Mejia, Diana
 Mejia, Samantha
 Mendoza, Sandra
 Mestas, Isiah
 Moleno, Ernesto
 Molina-Castillo, Ryan
 Montes, Bertha
 Montes, Desiree
 Montes, Isaac
 Moore, Tyreek
 Mora, Diego
 Moran, Jocelyn
 Moreno Uribe, Jorge
 Moreno, Gabriel
 Munguia Ocegueda, Alondra
 Munoz, David
 Murillo, Gloria
 Nava, Jason
 Nava, Rob
 Negrete Soto, Marisabel
 Nguyen, Le Kim
 Nguyen, Steven
 Nodal, Emily
 Oliva, Omar
 Orozco-Martinez, Anthony
 Ortega, Genaro ★
 Osuna, Isaiab
 Parra, Wendy
 Pena Hernandez, Iris
 Perez, Cristian
 Perez, Fabian
 Perez, Josecruz
 Perez-Tejeda, Anthony
 Pizano, Patrick
 Portugal, Breanna
 Quevedo, Anthony
 Quintanilla-Xicara, Jennifer
 Quintero, Viviana
 Ramirez Munoz, Diana
 Ramos, Angel
 Ramos, Audrey
 Rangel-Velazquez, Heribán
 Raygoza Solorzano, Teresa
 Rebolledo-Gonzalez, Edgar
 Reyes, Anette
 Reyes, Daniel
 Lara, Justin
 Reyes, Nathaly
 Reyes-Mora, Vanía
 Rivera, Erika

Rocha, Alejandro
 Rocha, Marilyn
 Rocha, Paul
 Rodriguez, Arthur
 Rodriguez, Cielo
 Rodriguez, Elijah
 Rodriguez, Geovany
 Rodriguez, Valerie
 Rodriguez-Catalan, Jennifer
 Rojas, Jorge
 Rojas, Lazaro
 Romero, Francisco
 Roque, Irene
 Rosales, Alexis
 Saldivar, Robert
 Samudio, Andrew
 Sanchez, Cesar
 Sanchez-Aramburo, Alexis
 Santana Sanchez, Julian
 Silva, David
 Solorzano, Lesly
 Soria, Melissa
 Stanley, Jermaine
 Suber, Shon
 Tapia, Ashley
 Tapia, Jasmine
 Tellez Sanchez, Arthur
 Toaza, Julio
 Turner, Precious
 Uscanga Tiburcio, Milagros
 Valderrama, Richard
 Varela, Israel
 Vargas, Christopher
 Vargas, Xitlaly
 Vargas-Cabrera, Jessica
 Vasquez-Galvan, Edna
 Vazquez, Eymar
 Vazquez Gonzalez, Yolanda
 Vega, Bryan
 Villagrana-Flores, Litz
 Vivian Lemus, Maria
 Ware II, Darshon
 Whitehead, Erik
 Ybarra, Angelina
 Ysaac, Johnny
 Zamora, Erik

GAREY

Accedo, Jose
 Acosta, Javier
 Adame, Brian
 Aguila-Cuevas, Angela
 Aguilar, Diego
 Aguilar, Kessie
 Aguilar, Mariab
 Aguirre, Andrew
 Aguirre, Kaylee
 Aleman, Victoria
 Alfaro, Berenice
 Allen, Emileon
 Almazan, Diana
 Alvarado, Daniel
 Alvarado-Chavez, Faviola
 Alvarado-Valenzuela, Santos
 Alvarez-Hernandez, Jorge
 Alvarez-Lopez, Eduardo
 Andrade Leiva, Israel
 Andreo, Emely
 Anguiano, Nathan
 Angulo, Frankie
 Angulo-Garcia, Laura
 Aparicio Marcelo, Jovani
 Aquino, Kevin
 Arias, Diego
 Arias, Everardo

Arteaga, Irais
 Asencio, Andrew
 Atia, Mohammed
 Avalos Martinez, Paola
 Avelar-Contreras, Daniella
 Avila, Benjamin
 Aviles, Jennifer
 Ayala, Anthony
 Ayala, Gerardo
 Ayala Gutierrez, Heidi
 Ballard, Nia
 Barrales, Belen
 Barraza-Estrada, Angel
 Bell Jr., Javier
 Bello-Soto, Stefanie
 Beltran Vega, Elevier
 Beltz Soria, Alejandro
 Bohana, Susbil
 Bragado, Jia Pauline ★
 Camberos, Keanna
 Campos, Emmanuel
 Candelario, Gabriela
 Candelario-Aguirre, Alan
 Carrasco-Lamas, Kevin
 Carrillo, Jair
 Carrillo, Joselin
 Carrillo-Garcia, Andrea
 Carrillo-Gonzalez, Anthony
 Carrillo-Martinez, Emily
 Casarreal Arriaga, Victor
 Castillo, Jasmin
 Castillo, Manuel
 Castillo-Celio, Antonio
 Castillo-Herrera, Anthony
 Castorena-Munoz, Carlos
 Castro Becerra, Eduardo
 Cazales-Tamayo, Ashley
 Cazares Jr., Heriberto
 Cedillo-Marin, Victor
 Ceja, Samantha
 Cerda-Velasco, Jennifer
 Cervantes-Esparza, Blanca
 Chavez, Jair
 Chee, Frentz Kristensu
 ChiChi De La Cruz, Evelyn
 Cole Jr, Kevyn
 Contreras-Bermudez, Natalie
 Contreras-Velazquez, Maria
 Corea Cruz, Melvin
 Cortez, Maximilian
 Cortez, Roselyn
 Cruz, Carlos
 Cruz, Janet
 Cruz-Gutierrez, Jackie
 Cuevas, Isabel
 Cuevas, Karla
 Cuevas Villanueva, Dulce
 De Anda, Sarah
 De La Fuente Gonzalez, Kacie
 Delgado Padilla, Mari
 Deniz Mendoza, Ramiro
 Diaz Jr, Gabriel
 Dimas Jr, David
 Echevarria, Anthony
 Espinosa, Brandon
 Espinosa, Bryan
 Espinoza Rodriguez, Gael
 Estevez, Fernanda
 Estrella De Dios, Orlando
 Farrow, Mikeyana
 Favela, Nicholas
 Fernandez, Daniela
 Ferreira-Alvarado, Marco
 Flores, Guadalupe
 Flores, Henry
 Flores, Nathalia

Fonseca, Bianca
 Franco, Edwin
 Frias, Justine
 Garcia, Jeremiah
 Garcia, Moises
 Garcia, Veronica
 Garcia Angulo, Valeria
 Garcia Rivas, Saira
 Garcia Vasquez, Daniela
 Gaytan, Auel
 Gil, Cessy
 Godoy, Diego
 Gonzalez, Ernesto
 Gonzalez, Paulina
 Gonzalez, Victor
 Granados-Anzora, Kevin
 Grimaldo, Ashley
 Guerra, Edgar
 Guevara, Yvette
 Gutierrez, Gabriel
 Gutierrez, Ivan
 Gutierrez-Martinez, Daylily
 Gutierrez-Sotelo, Ricardo
 Guzman, Kimberly
 Guzman, Mya
 Guzman-Tarula, Edwin
 Hendrix, Trevor
 Hernandez, Angel
 Hernandez, Axel
 Hernandez, Charlie
 Hernandez, Eleazar
 Hernandez, Erwin
 Hernandez, Frank
 Hernandez, Gustavo
 Hernandez Jr, Martin
 Hernandez-Arroyo, Daniella
 Hernandez-Dearsia, Lloria
 Herrera, Jakob
 Herrera, Juan
 Herrera, Kevin
 Hidalgo Jr, Ramon
 Hung Leyva, Thyay
 Huynh, Quyen
 Ibarra-Estrada, Jeidy
 Ibarra Sanchez, Juan
 Inda-Perez, Sylvia
 Inzunza-Cazares, Maria
 Jimenez, Jasmin
 Jimenez, Monica
 Jimenez, Stacy
 Jimenez-Sanchez, Paulina
 Juan-Ventura, Jennifer
 Lanyon, Joseph
 Ledezma, Zabiret
 Leon, Yair
 Leon Cortes, Jesus
 Lewis, Andrew
 Lok, Kenneth
 Lopez, Elizabeth
 Lopez, Moises
 Lopez, Stephanie
 Lopez, Zena
 Lopez-Alvarez, Kevin
 Lopez Fonseca, Braylan
 Lopez-Hernandez, Vianney
 Lopez-Martinez, Mikel
 Lopez-Olivas, Alejandro
 Lovell-Ornelas, Madison
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 Lugo Vega, Andreina
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 Luu, Quang
 Magana, Haley
 Magana Tornero, Joscelin
 Magana-Saldivar, Tania
 Maldonado, Megan

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 Marin, Fernanda
 Mariscal, Jorge
 Marsb, Destiny
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 Martinez, Alina
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 Martinez-Ramirez, Bryan
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 Martinez Salvador, Erica
 Martinez Valencia, David
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 Mederos, Juan
 Medina-Acosta, Jackelyn
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 Mejia, Donovan
 Mejia, Jonathan
 Mejia Diaz, Katia
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 Melena-Cisneros, Lisbeth
 Mena-Vazquez, Abigail
 Mendez, Angel
 Mendez, Jeffrey
 Michel, Ruby
 Mickens, Jamya
 Millan, Victor
 Mireles, Albert
 Molina, Max
 Montalvo Benitez, Melannie
 Monteon-Lopez, Miguel
 Montes, Fatima
 Montoya, Francisco
 Mora, Ernesto
 Morales Salomon, Andrea
 Moran, Eric
 Moreno, Arianna
 Moreno, Jerald
 Moreno, Jose
 Moreno, Maricruz
 Moya, Jose
 Moya Magdalena, Sandra
 Munoz, Anthony
 Munoz, Anthony
 Munoz, Dulce
 Munoz, Jaime
 Murillo, David
 Muzum Ruiz, Mildred
 Nava, Angelica
 Nava, Ricky
 Navarro, Andrew
 Navarro-Ramos, Sandy
 Navarro-Vasquez, Precious
 Ngo, Raymond
 Nguyen, Khiem
 Nunez, Georgina
 Nunez Contreras, Jose
 Olarte, Kevin
 Oliva Linares, Kency
 Olmos, Alejandro
 Orantes Castillo, Angel
 Ordonez-Martinez, Anais
 Ortega III, Robert
 Ortiz, Manuel
 Ortiz, Mayra
 Ortiz-Alvarez, Cesar
 Ortiz-Guzman, Daniel
 Padilla, Allen
 Parra-Garcia, Guadalupe
 Partida, Diego
 Pastor-Abrego, Miguel
 Patino-Hernandez, Ariana
 Pedroza, Silvano
 Pena-Cruz, Manuel
 Penalta-Gomez, Eduardo

Perez, Angel
 Perez, Brianna
 Perez, Jasmín
 Perez, Sebastian
 Perez Saldívar, Ivan De Jesus
 Plascencia, Jazmine
 Portillo, Carlos
 Prado, Marissa
 Quinonez Salguero, Wilfredo
 Ramirez, Alejandro
 Ramirez, Alondra
 Ramirez, Arianna
 Ramirez, Jonathan
 Ramirez, Luisa
 Ramirez, Mia
 Ramirez, Tommy
 Ramirez-Gonzalez, Juan
 Ramirez-Rizo, Kimberly
 Ramos, Oscar
 Ramos Carrillo, Robin
 Ramos Macias, Carlos
 Ran, Sydney
 Rangel-Lora, Johnny
 Raudez, Kaelie
 Raygoza, Diego
 Recendiz-Ortiz, Jennifer
 Resendiz, Daniel
 Resendiz, David
 Reyes, Ashley
 Reyes, Sonia
 Reyes-Chavez, Carlos
 Rios-Victor, Arisbel
 Rivas Romero, Scarlet
 Rivas-Alas, Nayeli
 Rivera-Mucino, Lesley
 Rivera-Rangel, Britney
 Robles Robles, Osiris
 Rodriguez, Alejandro
 Rodriguez, Angel
 Rodriguez, Francisco
 Rodriguez, Isaiah
 Rodriguez, Jonathan
 Rodriguez-Alvarez, Leo
 Rodriguez-Ayon, Andrew
 Rojas, Anthony
 Roman, Alice
 Roman, Rebecca
 Romero, Joshua
 Rosales, Luis
 Rosas, Stephanie
 Ruiz, Rodrigo
 Ruiz-Bravo, Angel
 Ruiz-DeJesus, Michelle
 Sachor, Katelyn
 Salazar, Aile
 Salmeron Jimenez, Alan
 Sanabria, Andrew
 Sanabria, Octavio
 Sanchez Ruvalcaba, Jonathan
 Sandoval, Jose
 Sandoval-Sotelo, Brianna
 Santana, Neo
 Santiago-Lopez, Zaira
 Saucedo, Matthew
 Saucedo-Martinez, Jose
 Sernas, Jonathan
 Silva-Montano, Celest
 Situ, Kevin
 Solano, Gildardo
 Solano, Israel
 Solis, Juan
 Soria Reyes, Roberto
 Soto, Emily
 Soto-Conchas, Edward
 Suarez, Alyssa
 Tapia, Kimberly

Terriquez, Inez
 Tho, Samantha
 Tinoco, Servando
 Torres, Carlos
 Torres, Giovanni
 Torres, Jessica
 Torres, Jonathan
 Torres Rivera, Jorge
 Townsend, Michael
 Trujillo, Angel
 Turner, Danyale
 Turner, Devynn
 Urbano, Israel
 Urias, Sarai
 Uribe, Kimberly
 Uribe Ramirez, Julian
 Valdivia-Lopez, Jacqueline
 Valencia, Rocio
 Valencia Fernandez, Luis
 Vallejo, Jennifer
 Vargas, Julie
 Vazquez, Joshua
 Vega, Alexander
 Ventura-Basurto, Eduardo
 Verdugo-Porras, Alexander
 Villalobos-Hernandez, Sergio
 Villatoro, Litzzy
 Villegas, Jessica
 Vivanco, Samantha
 Vivar, Emanuel
 Wasik, Robert
 Yang, Patrick
 Young, Jacquelynn
 Zavala, Aracely
 Zavala-Gutierrez, Amy
 Zermeno-Rojas, Mayeli

PALOMARES ACADEMY

Bagbit Medrano, Justin Rae
 Buenavista, Johann L
 DeAlba, Gregorio H, Jr
 Delgadillo, Sianna A
 Flores, Jason
 Gomez Rodriguez, Jorge A
 Gomez-Pacheco, Fabian
 Gonzalez-Rosales, Jackelyn J
 Leyva, Nellie S
 Lopez, Rosely S
 Martinez, Diana M
 Monge, Walter A
 Pena, Nancy
 Perez, Emilio
 Perez, Samuel E
 Ramirez Cantera, Bryan E
 Ramirez, Alexis A
 Ramos, Estrella
 Roman-Rivera, Samantha
 Rubio-Martinez, Jacob N
 Ruiz, Efraim ★
 Santiago, Jesse S
 Silva-Gutierrez, Miriam
 Solis, Carlos M
 Solis, Leonardo J
 Tercero, Luis A
 Velasquez Salgado, William J
 Verdugo, Frida ★
 Zamudio-Aguiluz, Saray

PARK WEST

Alfaro, Harmony
 Alvarado, Alondra
 Alvarez, Oscar
 Alvarez, Roberto

Alvarez-Serrato, Bryan
 Amezcua-Cobarruvia, Rosaura
 Anaya-Esquivel, Bryan
 Andreo, Joseph
 Arroyo, Dylan
 Avila, Jennifer
 Baeza, Isabelle
 Banajas, Naylie
 Barnagan, Juan
 Berruocos, Mia
 Bolanos, Jesus
 Camacho, Samantha
 Carmona, Yanely
 Carranza Guerrero, Andres
 Casas-Salazar, Diego
 Castaneda, Rosemary
 Castorena, Jonathan
 Castro, David
 Cid-Maya, Shayla ★
 Clemente, Kasandra
 Coronel, Danyele
 Cubilla, Carlos
 Cuevas, Erick
 Diaz, Samantha
 Enriquez-Solorzano, Michael
 Flores, Jason
 Flores, Jesse
 Gamez, America
 Gamez, Saira
 Garcia Canas, Edgar
 Garcia, David
 Gomez, Mark
 Gonzalez, Abel
 Gonzalez, Anthony
 Gonzalez-Duenas, Hector
 Gonzalez-Escobedo, Martin
 Guevara, Marvin
 Gutierrez, Juan
 Gutierrez, Lydia
 Hall, William
 Hernandez, Joseph
 Hernandez, Samantha
 Hernandez, Samuel
 Hernandez-Gonzalez, Abigail
 Ibarra-Garcia, Alfredo
 Jimenez, Daisy
 Juarez, Yuliana ★
 Lucero-Gonzalez, Emilio
 Macias, Matthew
 Magana, Jose
 Majin, Marvin
 Marquez, Alyssa
 Martinez, Celia
 Mendez, Alondra
 Mendoza Medina, Yajaira
 Mendoza, Jasmine
 Mitchell, Angel
 Moran, Alexis
 Ortiz, Christopher
 Pascual, Jasmín
 Perez, Meryssa
 Perez-Ortiz, Niurka
 Pimentel, Kevin
 Pinedo, Armando
 Preciado, Jasmine
 Puentes-Lepe, Marc
 Quiroz Nunez, David
 Ramirez, Angel
 Ramirez, Joel
 Ramos-Solis, Aslin
 Richard, Jackelin
 Rivera, Kayla
 Roberson, Marion
 Robles, Britney
 Rodriguez, Alexander
 Salazar, Tulio

Sanchez, Angel
 Sankofa, Akhenaton
 Santos, Diego
 Serrano, Ariel
 Serrato, Jackson
 Tabares Rodriguez, Zulema
 Tapia-Espana, Ashley
 Ulloa, Kristian
 Vargas, Shaika
 Vasquez-Ramirez, Andy
 Zepeda, Aaron

POMONA ADULT SCHOOL

Aguilar, Dolores
 Aguilar, Jessica
 Aguilar, Yensy
 Aguirre, Carlos
 Alfaro, Berenice
 Alaniz, Adelina
 Anaya, Amber
 Avalos, Laura
 Azar, Edgar
 Cabrera, Jorkssiry
 Calderilla, Dolores
 Campero, Melissa
 Campos, Andrea
 Cardoso, Brianna
 Corona, Lisa
 Dominguez, Rosa
 Dominguez, Sandra
 Flores, Deanna
 Gamez, Martha
 Garcia, Monica
 Glassco, Ethan
 Goins, Melanie
 Gonzalez-Ortiz, Griselda
 Harrison, Andrew
 Hernandez, Julia
 Hernandez-Vences, Brenda
 Henry, Chloe
 Hibard, Mary
 Hidebrand, Anan
 Huerta, Michael
 Lachapelle, Garrette
 Ladera, Arab
 Lathon, Lizette
 Le, Phuc
 Leanos, Mary
 Leon-Barríos, Anthony
 Matus, Cesar
 Martinez, Brenda
 Mendoza, Daisy
 Molen, Maribel
 Murillo, Jessica
 Murphee III, John
 Orozco-Juarez, Andrea
 Ortiz, Yolanda
 Polanco, Christian
 Perez, Brian
 Pichardo, Jasmine
 Ramirez, Jaime
 Ramshini, Mahdiveza
 Rios, Raelen
 Rodriguez, Andrea
 Rodriguez, Luis
 Rodriguez, Melissa
 Ruiz, Daisy
 Russo, Alexis
 Salter, Trwon
 Salazar, Areli
 Sandoval, Carolina
 Sandoval, Sara
 Santana, Joslyn
 Schatz, Laura Vera

South, Alexadria
 Sosa, Alemania
 Tolentino, Destiny
 Valentin Castro, Jesus
 Vasquez, Blanca
 Vasquez, Jessica
 Vasquez, Javier
 Velez, Malissa
 Viena, Nancy
 Villaseñor, Aileen
 Villegas-Rosales, Blanca
 Wilbert, Kayleigh Marie
 Zamarripa, Cynthia
 Zamora, Christian
 Zarazua, Rodrigo

POMONA

Abundis, Jaylene
 Aguilar, Oracio
 Aguirre, Ezekiel
 Alaniz, Daliab
 Albino, Miguel
 Alcantara, Adam
 Alfaro, Issac
 Alvarado, Betsy
 Alvarado, Tracey
 Amaya-Lemus, Evelyn
 Amaya-Rosa, Leslie
 Anaya, Cassandra
 Andujo, Serena
 Andujo, Yesenia
 Aquino Moran, Carlos
 Arambula, Adriel
 Aranda Ocampo, Leticia
 Arellano, Jonathan
 Arias, Sean
 Avila, Daisy
 Avila, Israel Jr.
 Ayala, Josefina
 Baldovino, Janalyn Jade
 Baltazar Cortes, Victor
 Banderas, Brenda
 Banegas Cruz, Marco
 Banks, Jbsmyn
 Bannuelos, Anthony
 Bedolla, Christopher
 Bravo-Gonzalez, Kevin
 Briggs, Reginald
 Briseno Rizo, Brian
 Brown, Jimmy
 Brown III, Warren
 Burgos, Amber
 Cabrera, Cindy
 Camacho, Juan
 Camara, Alejandro
 Cambron, Karla
 Cancino Coronado, Brian
 Carbajal, Priscilla
 Cardenas, Adrian
 Castaneda Estrada, Jemifer
 Cervantes, Jose
 Chairez-Vega, Jesus
 Chavez, Anthony
 Chavez, Israel
 Chavez-Hernandez, Valeria
 Clemente-Herrejon, Jimmy
 Colbert, Kyla
 Contreras, Kaya
 Cornal, Adriana
 Cortes, Manuel
 Cortez-Solomon, Samuel
 Cruz, Angel
 Cruz-Arredondo, Victor
 De Alba, Bryant
 De La Torre, Sephora

Denham, Mae'Lazia
 Diaz, Daniel
 Diaz, Jacob
 Diaz, Saul
 Diaz, Victoria
 Dolan, Mark
 Espinoza, Oziel
 Esquivel, Angel
 Estrello-Leal, Luzelena
 Figueroa-Delgado, Maricela
 Figueroa-Mendoza, Nereida
 Flores, Juan
 Flores-Bernal, Irene
 Fraire, Joshua
 Gabriel, Salvador
 Gaeta, Jasmine ★
 Gamboa, Luis
 Gamboa, Javier
 Garay, Isaac
 Garcia, Avi'Ani
 Garcia, Gladys
 Garcia, Kayla
 Garcia, Paul
 Garcia, Zachariah
 Garcia-Alvarez, Fabian
 Gillette, Maynard
 Giraldo, Evelyn
 Godinez, Jacob
 Gomez Diaz, Fernanda
 Gomez-Sanchez, Daisy
 Gonzalez, Ayanna
 Gonzalez, Christopher
 Gonzalez, Juan
 Gonzalez, Matthew
 Gonzalez, Sergio
 Gonzalez, Yasmin
 Gonzalez-Gonzalez, Alexa
 Gonzalez-Perez, Litzzy
 Gonzalez-Urrutia, Jennifer
 Grijalva, Ronnie
 Guerra, Diana
 Guerrero, Ashley
 Guerrero, Daniela
 Guerrero, Jennifer
 Guevara, Wendy
 Gutierrez, Daniel
 Guzman, Diana
 Guzman-Rodriguez, Christian
 Hernandez, Joie
 Hernandez, Moises
 Hernandez, Samantha
 Hernandez, Tannia
 Hernandez Guevara, Elizabeth
 Hernandez Morales, Luis
 Hernandez-Linares, Briana
 Herrera, Zachary
 Hicks, Anthony
 Hill, Jayla
 Hill, Zachary
 Hipolito, Deyaniera
 Huerta, Cynthia
 Huerta, Michael
 Huerta, Steve
 Jackson-Brown, Jyllian-Michele
 Jacobo, Lazaro
 Jimenez-Canare, Ricardo
 Jones, Christina
 Jordan, Jarvis
 Juanez Basurto, Ricardo
 Kreimann III, Fritz
 Lawton, Toya
 Leal, Christopher
 Leon, Maria Teresa
 Loc, Quang
 Lopez, Brian
 Lopez, Ivan

Lopez-Contreras, Angela
 Lopez-Rojas, Jennifer
 Lopez-Tinoco, Jesus
 Lua, Omar
 Lua-Vargas, Alejandra
 Luna-Zamora, Arturo
 Magallon-DeLosSantos, Mariela
 Maldonado, Laura
 Mariscal-Loera, Carlos
 Martinez, amanda
 Martinez, Ashley
 Martinez, Elsa
 Martinez, Emeline
 Martinez, Olivia
 Martinez, Taylor
 Martinez-Tellez, Stephanie
 Mazariegos, Jessica
 Mazariegos, Julissa
 McDermott, Rachelle
 Medina, Brianna
 Medina, Daniela
 Medina, Jesus
 Mejia, Raul
 Mejia, Salina
 Mendez, Jesus
 Mendez, Brenda
 Mendez-Huerta, Joselyn
 Mendez-Zamudio, Joban
 Meza, Daisy
 Miley, Charles
 Minanda-Robles, Destiny
 Mitchell, Andrew
 Mora, Denise
 Mora, Marco
 Morales, Alicia
 Morales, Gustavo
 Munoz, Brandon
 Munoz, Brianna
 Munoz-Ramirez, Isaias
 Murakami, Adrian
 Murillo, Cyan
 Navarro-Sanchez, Fernando
 Negron-Garcia, Bryan
 Nunez, Elizabeth
 Ochoa, Marissa
 Ofori-atta, Agyemang
 Oropeza, Jasmine
 Orozco, Alfonso
 Pacheco, Alejandro
 Padilla, Ashley
 Padilla, Brian
 Padilla, Fernando
 Padilla, Mario
 Padilla-Alvarado, Kevin
 Palacio, Melanie
 Parrish, Celeste ★
 Pena-Martinez, Roza
 Perez, Adrian
 Pham, Christina
 Porter, Jaiden
 Portillo Pacheco, Elmer
 Quesada Navarro, Exides Alexander
 Ramirez, Alexander
 Ramirez, Brian
 Ramirez, Crystal
 Ramirez-Hernandez, Nayeli
 Ramirez-Rodriguez, Edgar
 Regalado De La O, Luis
 Reyes, Roberta
 Reyes-Lopez, Zahidi
 Rios, Daniel
 Rivera, Javier Jr.
 Robles-Cortez, Aladar
 Rocha, Braylan
 Rocha, Justina
 Rodriguez, Alejandro

Rodriguez, Breana
 Rodriguez, Eduardo
 Rodriguez, Julian
 Rodriguez-Romero, Andres
 Rosas Mondragon, Natanael
 Ruiz Rosas, Margarita
 Saenz Chavez, Luis
 Salas, Isiah
 Salvador, Abigail
 Sanchez, Christian
 Sanchez, Robert
 Sanchez-Rubio, Daniel
 Sanchez-Santacruz, Maria
 Sandoval, Brianna
 Sandoval, Lourdes
 Santiago, Destiny
 Saunders, Jeff
 Serrano, David
 Sibley, Alicia
 Sibley, Chelsea
 Smith, Ryan
 Solis-Ramirez, Rafael
 Soto, Brian
 Spencer, Omega
 Stewart, Cheyown
 Trabeseras, Laura
 Tzintzun-Copland, Priscilla
 Valdez Campos, Lesly
 Valdovinos-Cortez, Teresa
 Valencia, Ruben
 Vallejo Montoya, Valeria
 Vargas, Elizabeth
 Vargas Diaz, Leslye
 Velasquez, Cassandra
 Velasquez-Aviles, Gema
 Vera, Ivan
 Verdusco-Cuevas, Arturo
 Villalobos, Andrea
 Waddell, amari
 Walker, Alyssa
 Williams, Jason
 Wright, Felicia
 Zuniga, Destiny

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 Bayardo-Miramontes, Diego A
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 Calderon, Andres R
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 Castellanos-Martinez, Gustavo
 Castro, Stephanie
 Chairez, Serena C
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 Estrada, Jaqueline
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 Flores, Alejandro, Jr
 Flores, Kellie
 Garcia, Gissele
 Garcia-Flores, Tamara M
 Gomez Cruz, Brandon
 Gonzalez, Everlyn
 Grande Cun, Katerin D
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 Gutierrez, Alejandro J ★

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 Hernandez, Nicolas
 Herrera-De La Paz, Sergio
 Higareda, Jadeh G
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 Lara, Erick
 Le, Jimmy
 Leon-Martinez, Fernando J
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 Lopez-Urban, Angel A
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 Marquez Aguirre, Leisha M
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 Martinez, Jorge, Jr
 Medina, Alfred M
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 Molina-Castaneda, Vanesa
 Mollet, Solomon H
 Noyola, Karina F
 Rea-Aguirre, Obed F
 Rivas-Espinoza, Erik
 Rodriguez Lopez, Christian
 Rodriguez Sosa, Giancarlo J
 Ruacho-Escobar, Benny
 Ruacho-Tamayoy, Jose M
 Salazar-Gonzalez, Brenda J
 Sandoval Cardenas, Lucero ★
 Santamaria, Daniel E
 Segoviano-Terrones, Julieta S
 Solis, Adan
 Tran, Emily T
 Umancor, Kimberly Y
 Villalpando, Alexandra J
 Villalpando, Elizabeth
 Villalpando-Najera, Jocelyn J
 Villavicencio, Joseph A

SEEO

Aguayo, Daniela
 Aguilar, Phabyl
 Almanzo, Michael
 Almanzo-Adame, Brian
 Alvarado, Yaritza
 Alvarado, Katia
 Alvarado, Daisy
 Arel, Zoel
 Arellano, Andrew
 Arguello, Lorena
 Arriola, Jacqueline
 Badillo, Daniel
 Barraza-Lopez, Navill
 Barrera, Leslie
 Bass-Scales, Acacia
 Bautista, Aaliyah
 Berni, Shane
 Bingbazali, Abdulrasheed
 Bocanegra, Angel
 Bocanegra, Izaiiah
 Borrego-Tovar, Jose
 Bronson, Marissa
 Brooks, Bryan
 Brown, Anaiyah
 Carcoha, Marcos
 Cardiel-Orozco, Daniel
 Cardoso, Daniel
 Carrena, Joseph
 Castaneda, Jesus
 Castillo, Erick
 Castro, Bryanna
 Castro, Isabel
 Charoencasari, Pewradai
 Chavez-Rollin, Jennifer
 Chim, Jadon

Chism, Ajah
 Chuta Ochoa, Abraham
 Contreras, Alejandro
 Contreras, Kaya
 Contreras-Vega, Ricardo
 Dandeneau, Ariel
 Davenport, Christopher
 Diaz, Jared Nathaniel ★
 De La Cruz, Rodolfo
 De La Riva, Juan
 De La Rosa, Cynthia
 Dominguez, Melody
 Duran, Anthony
 Edwards, Jonae
 Escobedo, Emely
 Escobedo, Arturo
 Esquivel, Jerry
 Evans, Isaiiah
 Eyberg, Esther
 Fawela, Ruben
 Figueroa-Guevara, Andrea
 Flores, Jared
 Flores, Jason
 Fonseca, Sofia
 Gallardo, Anthony
 Garcia, Evelyn
 Garcia, Jarod
 Godinez-Urbe, Francisco
 Godoy, Uriah
 Gomez, Marco
 Gonzales-Gallegos, Enrique
 Gonzalez Chagollan, Adrian
 Goode, Justin
 Granados, Adriana
 Guardado, Nickolas
 Guerrero-Trejo, Genesis
 Gutierrez, Jacob
 Guzman, Joseph
 Hammett, Laila
 Hernandez, Gerardo
 Hernandez, Jesus
 Hernandez, Julia
 Hernandez, Isaiiah
 Hernandez-Sanchez, Jackelyn
 Herrera, Marcos
 Herrera Martinez, Clarisa
 Hill, Jared
 Horn, Audrey
 Irigoyen Rivera, Rodolfo
 Izarnaras, Alejandro
 Jaramillo Aguilar, Magally
 Kendrick, Quiana
 Limon, Damien
 Lopez, Salvador
 Lopez, Ariana
 Lopez, Jessica
 Lopez, Agustin
 Lucas, Angela
 Martinez, Alejandro
 Martinez, Itzel
 Martinez-Zamora, Alicia
 McKinney, Matthew
 Meda-Coronado, Jennifer
 Medrano, Amando
 Mendoza, Monique
 Mendoza, Gilberto
 Mendoza, Leo
 Mendoza-Medina, Lizbeth
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 Michelena, Annette
 Miller, Surya
 Miramontes, Elizabeth
 Miranda, Matthew
 Molina, Shawn
 Mora, Steven
 Morales, Rosalba

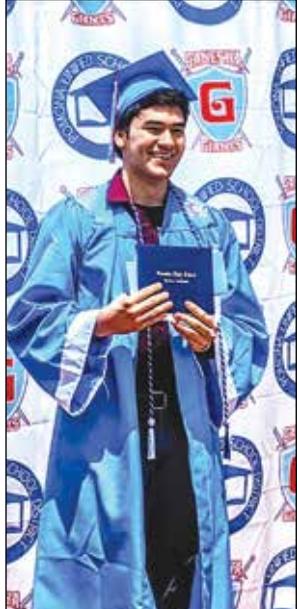
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 Negrete, Alejandra
 Nourn, Jonathan
 Olmos-Sandoval, Angelica
 Ortiz Oropeza, Yarezi
 Oscar, June
 Osuma, Daisy
 Padilla, Ivan
 Palacios-Hernandez, Esmeralda
 Parada, Andrew
 Parra-Robles, Jose
 Pelayo, Christian
 Perez, Stephanie
 Perez-Alvarez, Gabriel
 Perez-Macias, Maribel
 Pizarro, Susana
 Ponce, Bryan
 Ramos, Joceline
 Ramos, Vivian
 Raygoza, Irlanda
 Razo-Ramirez, Daniel
 Reeb, Donna
 Reyes, Jazmine
 Rich, Nikayla
 Richardson, Latonya
 Rodriguez, Yulianna
 Rodriguez, Ernie
 Roque, Stephanie
 Rosales, Marisol
 Roybal, Christina
 Ruiz, Desiree
 Ruiz, Daniel
 Ruiz-Juarez, Yobani
 Russell, Angele
 Salazar, Rosalinda
 Sandoval, Armida
 Sandoval, Jennifer
 Scott, Jason
 Silva-Medina, Lesly
 Smith, Aaron
 Soto, Diego
 Staten, Elijah
 Toledo, Cassandra
 Trinidad, Olivia
 Urbina, Jose
 Valdez, Ricardo
 Vallejo, Andres
 Velasco, Jaquelin
 Villela, Ramiro
 Virgen, Jennifer
 Viveros, Vincent
 Vizcarra, Samantha
 Zepeda, Jessica

KEY
 ★ = Valedictorian
 ☆ = Salutatorian



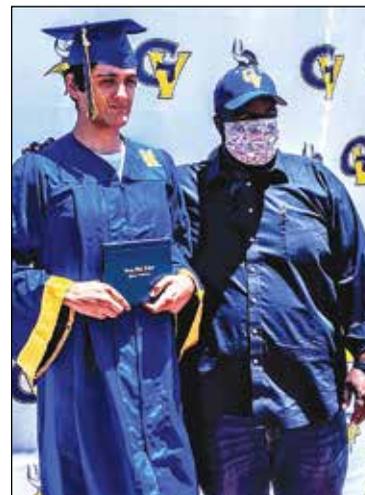
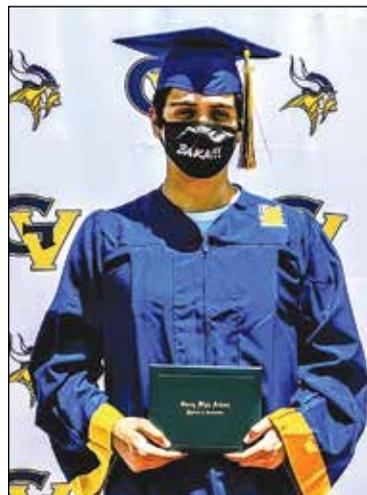
'Pass and Pose' graduation photos throughout PUSD helped fill the graduation gap

There were no "real" graduations in Pomona or pretty much anywhere this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but officials at Pomona Unified School District found a solution -- they put together a schedule of "Pass and Pose" photos -- complete with caps and gowns -- at all nine high schools. Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz stopped by two of them and grabbed a few photos of her own -- just to help retain some of the graduation spirit in the newspaper. Pictured are some of the graduates at Ganesha and Garey, along with a couple of others who sent their photos in. Congratulations to all of the graduates during this difficult time!





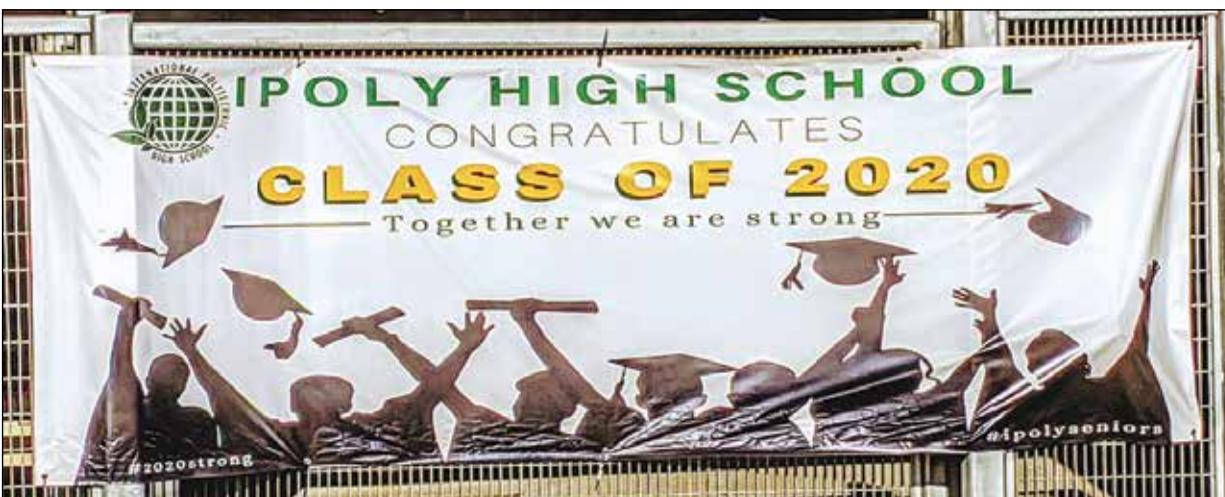
These signs were, well, pretty much everywhere around Pomona at graduation time -- most in front of homes of students either graduating or being promoted -- but we also saw a complete set in front of Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval's house and another on the corner in front of the Pomona Police Department. This set was on the lawn at Pomona Unified School District headquarters on South Garey Avenue.



Catherine Sanchez . . .
 . . . Diamond Ranch High School



Karianna Valencia . . .
 . . . Fremont Academy High School



Photos by Renee Barbee
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Pomona Valley Hospital holds first-ever drive-through food pantry at Fairplex

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center employees held their first-ever drive-through food pantry late last month at Pomona's Fairplex and, with cars lined up first thing in the morning, they gave away 300 of their 2,000 boxes just in the first hour.

It turns out it all started with a suggestion from Sunrise Produce, the hospital's produce provider, who reached out to hospital executive chef Rojelio Gaeta with an idea to help area families in need.

"One day he e-mailed me that the U.S.D.A. (U.S. Department of Agriculture) was releasing a program called 'The Farmers to Families Food Box' . . . and then I saw the e-mail . . . and (forwarded it to his vice president) and she said 'let's do it,'" Gaeta told La Nueva Voz.

"We started the process about a month ago and then here we are," he said. "We are planning to give out about 2,000 boxes of produce. It's to help the community."

Gaeta said a month ago he worked at a drive-through food pantry at Pomona's Washington Park (see story page one of May 28 issue at www.lanuevavoz.net).



Photo by Renee Barbee
A volunteer places a case of soda in the trunk of a car during Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's first-ever drive-through food pantry late last month in the Fairplex parking lot. Some 2,000 boxes of fresh produce were distributed on a Saturday morning during the event. The hospital "easy up" is visible at rear.

"I was really moved by all the people that were really in need so when this came across my desk, I was like, this is something we have to do," he added.

Gates opened at 7 a.m. Saturday, May 30, at Fairplex Gate 17 and about 40 volunteers were able to serve 60 cars at a time, filling car trunks with either one or two 25-pound boxes of fresh produce.

Included in the boxes was an assortment of apples, squash, carrots, potatoes, onions and more.

Among the volunteers was the hospital's Vice President of Development Jim Dale who was busy directing traffic among other duties.

Fairplex and Sunrise Produce joined the hospital as sponsors of the event.

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Business improvement district ‘pro’ takes the reins at Pomona’s DPOA

Lorena Parker took over the reins last month as the new executive director of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association – and, with a background of 20 years with various business improvement districts around Southern California, she hit the ground running.

She had to. Her immediate focus is COVID-related economic recovery for the business community – something that is important to businesses everywhere.

And from the sound of her background, she seems like a good match for the DPOA.

“I understand districts, I understand obviously the operations, the laws, all of those kinds of things,” Parker told La Nueva Voz. “The main thing that I’m looking to get acclimated here is really to get to know this community because every community is different.”

The DPOA board of directors brought Parker in to replace Larry Egan, who retired earlier this year after working with the board since 2007 to bring Downtown Pomona to the point that it attracts more than 1.5 million visitors each year.

Parker, who was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, said she has managed districts, formed districts and “renewed” districts working in

communities like San Pedro in her most recent assignment. Before that, she served for many years in Studio City.

She also formed the Uptown Long Beach District and helped a similar organization in Sherman Oaks renew its district.

Parker said she transitioned into the business while an employee at the CBS Studio Center in Studio City when she was asked to take over regulatory compliance – everything from emergency preparedness to rideshare programs.

She left that position in 1994 to live in Hong Kong because of her husband’s career move. And when they were preparing to move back to the U.S. five years later, she called her old boss, Mike Klausman, president of CBS Studio Center, to tell him she was looking for a job.

He called her back in 20 minutes to tell her he had the perfect job for her – the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, where he happened to be serving as president, had just lost its executive director and he offered her the job.

That chamber was managing



Lorena Parker ...
... new DPOA executive director

the Studio City business improvement district at the time, an organization similar to Pomona’s DPOA.

“The part to me that is the most rewarding of this position, regardless of which city I’ve worked in . . . (is that) the common thread is the fact that I want to improve the quality of

life,” Parker said. “I know that I represent property owners and I take that real seriously, but I really love making a difference in improving the quality of life whether uplifting the businesses or making something pretty.”

“And all of those things improve the quality of life for the community and that is what I am passionate about,” she added.

When La Nueva Voz chatted with Parker, she was still getting to know the key people in Pomona and get the work done at the same time – from paying the bills to figuring out where files are.

“But . . . after three weeks I do feel a lot more acclimated to the job,” she said. “One of the things that I do plan on doing at some point in the near future is I want to find a way to get feedback basically from the community, community leaders.”

“It is less important to me to know what Lorena wants, it’s more important for me to hear the voices of the community

and understand what they see as the need for the community,” Parker said.

She’ll go to work on developing specific goals once she receives the input she needs.

“I have to talk to many, many people,” she said, including one-on-one conversations with her own board members and representatives of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce.

Parker called Downtown Pomona a “mature district,” adding that “a lot of the infrastructure is in place, the light poles, the banners, the streetscape.”

And that’s why she sees the immediate focus as going to work on economic recovery after the COVID-related business downturn.

Her first day in Pomona was May 18.

The DPOA operates with a \$1.4 million annual budget to continue to make Downtown Pomona a safe, clean, desirable and vibrant place to live, work and play.

Gov. Newsom proclaims ‘Juneteenth’ in California

Gov. Newsom issued a proclamation last week commemorating June 20 as Juneteenth in California and supported the California Legislative Black Caucus’ call to light up the Capitol Dome in red, black and green, which are pan-African colors representing the African diaspora to enslavement in the New World.

“As we celebrate Juneteenth, we must redouble our efforts to achieve justice and take on systemic racism and its devastating consequences for black Americans,” Newsom said. “Recent demonstrations, fueling important reforms throughout the United States, are the latest contributions to building a more perfect union where liberty and justice are indeed for all.”

Juneteenth, celebrated each year on June 19, marks the date in 1865 when Union Gen. Gordon Granger led troops into Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War and the institution of slavery.

Thousands of enslaved people in Texas were among the last to learn of their liberation.

Newsom’s proclamation said the State of California has celebrated Juneteenth since 2003 as a day to honor and reflect on the significant contributions of black Americans.

Assemblymember Shirley Weber, chair of the Black Caucus, said Juneteenth is a cause for celebration.

“What is encouraging is the renewed interest in Juneteenth by young people,” she said.




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Latino Roundtable, others, laud U.S. Supreme Court DACA ruling

The Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley held an impromptu “celebratory rally” in front of Pomona City Hall last week in support of DACA organized in only two hours following a surprise early-morning decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the protections afforded to undocumented immigrants known as “dreamers.”

Roundtable members also were “continuing the call for fair and just legalization of our immigrant families, support for our ‘temporary protective status’ families, and an end to unjust detention centers,” Roundtable President Jose Calderon said in a Facebook message.

“The Supreme Court decision upholding DACA is an important victory for our undocumented youth and immigrant families,” Calderon said, adding that participants were asked to wear masks and practice safe social distancing.

He pointed out that the Roundtable was “committing to continue organizing since the decision included a ‘remand to DHS (Department of Homeland Security) so that it may consider the problem anew’ and to not stop until there is full legalization for all undocumented including those families who are here under temporary protective status.”

Participants at the rally held up signs reading “DACA Victory” and “Dreamers” to passing motorists at Garey Avenue and Mission Boulevard, many of whom honked their horns in support.

While not viewed as a permanent “fix,” the 5-4 Supreme Court decision ruled that President Trump did not properly terminate DACA and effectively prevents the president from ending DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), one of his key campaign promises.

Specifically, the court ruled in the case Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California that the administration violated the Administrative Procedure Act.

Nearly 800,000 DACA recipients nationwide, who were brought to the United States as children, are impacted by the decision.

Qualified DACA recipients are allowed to work, study and remain in the U.S. on a renewable permit,

a temporary status that shields them from deportation.

County of Los Angeles response

The County of Los Angeles, which filed a “friend of the court” brief in the case, quickly responded to the Supreme Court decision in a news release “enthusiastically” supporting the ruling.

In its brief, the county argued that DACA offers a valuable path forward for undocumented immigrants brought to this country as children by allowing them the chance to contribute to this country without fear of deportation.

“I join my colleagues in celebrating the Supreme Court ruling protecting Dreamers as a significant victory for the thousands of children who came to this country at a young age and are now integral members of our community,” said Kathryn Barger, chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. “The county will continue to review and identify the necessary programs and services to support this population, working together with our partners and stakeholders.”

“This is yet another reminder of the crucial need for the federal government to develop and implement comprehensive immigration reform,” she added.

Reaction from

Supervisor Hilda Solis

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis called the ruling “historic” and “a victory for our country and for our nearly 800,000 dreamers.”

“Our DACA recipients embody

the values of this country through their work ethic, their optimism, and unwavering loyalty to this nation,” she added. “They are military veterans, medical students and employees of Fortune 500 companies.”

“As the proud daughter of immigrants, I know this country was built on the tremendous sacrifices of hardworking immigrants,” Solis said. “Today’s landmark decision sets the stage for renewed efforts to seek permanent protection and a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers.”

“I am proud of today’s ruling and am pleased that the thousands of DACA recipients who live in L.A. County – the county with the highest number of DACA recipients in the country – can continue to call Los Angeles County their home,” she said.

Response from

Congresswoman Norma Torres

Congresswoman Norma Torres, who came to the U.S. from Guatemala at the age of 5, said in a news release there are 17,500 eligible DACA recipients in her 35th Congressional District alone.

“To all the Dreamers who’ve shared their inspiring stories with me, this joyous day is for you,” Torres said. “Today’s Supreme Court ruling sends a clear message that DACA recipients are Americans in every way – they are essential workers combatting COVID-19 on the front lines, they are our family members, our neighbors, our co-workers – they are woven into every aspect of the

American fabric.”

“There is still much work to be done to ensure Dreamers are protected from deportation and have a pathway to citizenship,” Torres added. “I urge President Trump to abandon this hateful attempt to end DACA once and for all.”

“And to my colleagues in the Senate, I implore you to take up the House-passed American Dream and Promise Act and make DACA the law of the land,” she said.

MALDEF reaction to ruling

MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) in Los Angeles also filed an amicus brief in the case last year on behalf of two dozen DACA recipients the group represented. It also intervened to defend the initiative against a 2017 challenge filed by Texas and others states in a case that is on-going.

“Today dawned a brighter morning than expected as the Supreme Court delivered great news to our nation,” MALDEF President and General Counsel Thomas Saenz said in a news release. “Because a majority of the court recognized the importance of integrity in fed-

eral policymaking, we will not face the incalculable damage from removing hundreds of thousands of educated, well-qualified workers from our economy.”

“Despite Donald Trump’s tenacious efforts to punish the nation by targeting immigrants, we will not see the precipitous removal of teachers from the students they inspire, health care workers from the patients they treat, essential employees from the businesses they sustain, soldiers from the nation they protect. Integrity won the day, to the benefit of all.”

“Today’s court opinion indicates clearly that knee-jerk nativism is not acceptable public policy,” he added. “Our nation’s laws demand more from government.”

California Teachers Association

Support also came from the California Teachers Association in another news release.

“We celebrate the Supreme Court’s decision overruling President Donald Trump’s attempt to strip the legal protections for our Dreamers who were brought to this country at a young age by their parents who wanted desperately to

DACA ruling lauded... pg. 20

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- Claremont library
- Claremont City Hall lobby
- La Verne City Hall lobby
- La Verne Senior Citizens Center
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce, 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Pomona Unified School District administration building lobby
- Western University of Health Sciences Patient Care Center
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center maternity lobby, outpatient services, emergency room
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- Jicamex Tacos Y Carniceria, 604 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaunderLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



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‘Million Mothers Rally’ held to remember family members who have been lost

Pomona’s Kennedy Austin Foundation held a Million Mothers Rally Saturday in Pomona instead of a Million Mothers March as in years past to honor people in the community who have lost their children.

The rally, held on sidewalks at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Garey Avenue, attracted dozens carrying signs as dozens more passing in their cars honked their horns in support of the effort.

This year’s rally, in keeping with the Black Lives Matter movement, included parents who have lost their children to police brutality, according to foundation founder Ethel Gardner.

“There’s a lot of African American women that have lost their children and a lot of them have lost their children by police brutality and so that is one of the things that I wanted to showcase,” Gardner said. Some of these mothers that have lost their kids, you see the news flash and then they go behind the camera. I wanted to bring them in front of the camera.”

“We have to help these women,” she added, “because a lot of times these women when they lose a child their focus is the one they lost.”

“What happens to their other kids,” she said. “They go to the streets, the gangs get them.”

“I wanted to showcase these mothers that have lost their children so that we can empower them, rally around them, and let people know they’re here, they are present, they are still alive,” Gardner said. “And that’s what my foundation is all about.”

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, who again participated in the event this year, said he was there



REMEMBERING FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN LOST -- Members of Pomona’s Kennedy Austin Foundation and their supporters held a “Million Mothers Rally” Saturday at Garey Avenue and Foothill Boulevard in Pomona to honor people in the community who have lost their children. Pictured are some of the participants on the southeast corner. Others were holding signs across the street. Kennedy Austin Foundation founder Ethel Gardner is pictured at far left.

“to support Ethel, I’m here to support peace, I’m here to support Black Lives Matter, the community coming together.”

“Given what’s happened in this country for a long time, particularly to black Americans, we’ve got a long ways to go,” Sandoval said. “And the only way we’re going to be able to change things is we come together and work together and make some changes that are going to help uplift people.”

Nearly two dozen members of the motorcycle



Members of Pomona’s Black Knightz motorcycle club came out to support the Million Mothers Rally effort.

club Black Knightz of Pomona also were on hand to support the event.

Gardner told La Nueva Voz the group decided on a rally rather than a march this year because parks are closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. The group normally ends its march at Ganesha Park in Pomona.

“So we just decided to do a rally and to bring people together, the community together, the mothers that have lost children, bring those people together, just honor people in our community and let people know that we care,” she said.



Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, at right, chats with members of Pomona’s Black Knightz motorcycle club at the Kennedy Austin Foundation Million Mothers Rally Saturday.



Community activist Gustavo R. Ramirez, at left, creates a collage-style sign during the demonstration on the sidewalk along Foothill Boulevard in Pomona.

The foundation’s event each year remembers children and other family members who have been lost, often to violence.

The mission of the non-profit Kennedy Austin Foundation is “to educate, equip and empower

individuals and families in crisis.”

Its goal is to implement a “life after loss” program to provide hope and restoration to families and individuals so they can turn their tragedies into triumph.



The Million Mothers Rally became an event for the entire family with the kids getting involved as well.

Cuentito for Today

Pobrecitas Juanita and Yolandita

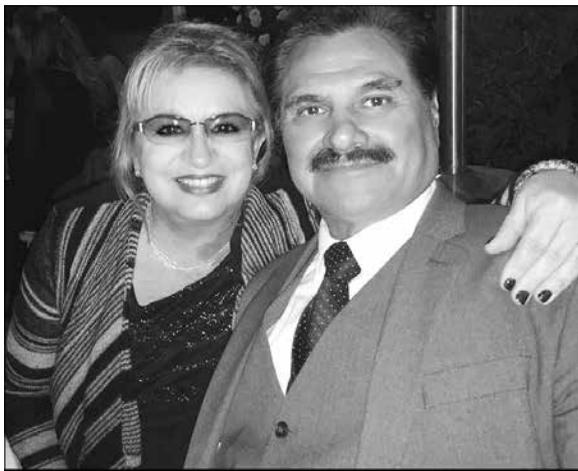
By Susie Perales

A few days ago, we ventured out into the world that is still swarming with that invisible, deadly virus. But we had no choice; it was doctor appointments day. We had on our custom masks, a gallon of 'virus killer gel' ready to go. We put our Spartan shields on and our gloves. I put on my brave face and took off!

I never thought in my lifetime that we'd be going through this just to go to a few appointments. I pray it isn't going to be the new normal!

It was a sweltering 96 degrees outside, so we hoped that would help squish those freaky, red, spiked monsters and keep them from attacking us.

We got to the imaging center and I signed in. The receptionist reached out through this thick, plastic sheet and took my temperature. She asked me if I'd been to China or anywhere abroad recently and a bunch of other questions. I told her we've been on lock-down for four months!! We must have looked like foreigners to



Susie and Angel Perales

her because we looked so tan from being out in the sun every day for months trying to build up our immune systems and fighting to keep that crazy coronavirus at bay! But we look more like beef jerky than anything else!

The young lady ordered my hubby to go outside to wait for me. I decided to go with him until it was my turn to go in. We turned on the AC and I had to put my sweater vest on because, unfortunately, the AC is the other monster I can't handle. Sigh.

It was 15 minutes before they called me in. It was two tests I had to have done – the dreaded mammogram and an ultrasound of my

girls.

I told the tech to please be gentle. Thankfully, she was kind and funny. After a few rounds of tug, pull and smash she started to lower the platform really low. I looked at her and said, "wait a minute, I know they aren't what they used to be, but they don't go to my feet yet!!" We both started laughing. She adjusted the dang thing and finished everything she had to do.

It's my third time there this year. I'm being checked for the other invisible killer. I pray it's nothing to worry about.

After they did the ultrasound I left and happily went to join my hubby in the car. He was hopping mad. I thought he was about to go into riot mode. I gave him the look my dad used to give us to make

him think I was packing some pepper spray! I told him, "honey, oh, no you didn't just raise your voice to me! I just had my girls turned into crêpes and you're mad, because they made you sit in your air-conditioned car! I'll drop you off at Chaz City (Black Lives Matter "Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone" encampment in Seattle) right now and you can raise your voice there."

I try hard to be a good wife and Christian, but when you get on my last nerve, God help us both. I can turn into the Hulk and start throwing those tables over and, yes, I will send you and your chickens flying! Not really...

He looked at me and sorrowfully said, "I guess they hurt Yolandita and Juanita in there, huh." We laughed and I took us to Bravo Burger to get lunch. And that's the end of our cuentito for today.



Wells Fargo Bank on Holt Avenue in Pomona boarded up its windows -- both front and back -- this month during the 'Black Lives Matter' demonstrations. Several buildings in Pomona had windows broken during the protests.



Valley Vista Services held its latest in a series of community clean-ups Saturday, this one coordinated by Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and City Councilmember Steve Lustro. Cars bringing their discards were lined up for most of the morning at Valley Vista's Pomona Valley Transfer Station. "The event was a great success," said Jill Reiff of Valley Vista. Pictured is Reiff checking in cars as vehicles dropped off electronics (outside) and other waste and bulky items (inside).

DACA ruling lauded... from pg. 18

give them a better life," said CTA President E. Toby Boyd. "This ruling fuels our energy in the fight against systemic and racial injustice that terrorizes our communities of color and threatens their safety and basic human rights."

"Although this administration is likely to seek another path to strip Dreamers of their legal protections, today's decision lets our DACA students and colleagues know you are welcome here," he said.

The 310,000-member CTA submitted its own legal brief to the court last year calling the Trump administration's action to end DACA "unlawful, arbitrary and capricious and therefore should be set aside."

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Neighborhood turns out for block-long parade to honor their graduates

There's regular graduation and, of course, this year during a worldwide pandemic there's "virtual" graduation. But on one street in Pomona, pretty much the entire neighborhood got together late last month for what was really a block party type of graduation, complete with a parade and presentations of certificates from the city.

Organizer Leticia Casillas Sanchez, who lives "at the end of the block," told La Nueva Voz she just wanted to make sure the graduating students on her block received "the recognition they deserve and earned" – all while adhering to social distancing protocols.

"Part of this was really geared and rooted in the fact that kids didn't have an opportunity to have a traditional acknowledgement as part of their graduation ceremonies," she said. "A lot of these things really are rooted in the community, and I thought I know a lot of my neighbors in the block."

So, she said she went to work and talked to her neighbors "and mobilized them to come together to have this parade for the kids."

She received unanimous support.

"It was just a really great opportunity to bring together community and do a fantastic acknowledgement of the kids," Sanchez said.

And at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 29, the neighbors turned out – all along the 1300-1400 block of South Mountain View Avenue – holding signs, waving and cheering at the graduates as they rode by wearing their caps and gowns in cars and in the back of a pickup truck, and playing "Pomp and Circumstance" over several public address systems along the way.



Everybody likes a parade. And when it is all about celebrating all the graduations in the neighborhood, it is even more special. Pictured in the back of a pickup truck covered with "silly string" are most of the graduates participating in last month's event. Pictured, in front, from left, are organizer Leticia Casillas Sanchez and Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia.

It was only a block-long parade but for a dozen graduating seniors, it was the best kind of hometown graduation with their entire neighborhood showing their support.

Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia, who was asked to prepare certificates of recognition from the city for the kids, was impressed with the grassroots community effort.



Kessie Aguilar's family posed for the La Nueva Voz camera just before Kessie, a Garey High School graduate this year, went out to join the parade in the street in front of her home. Pictured, from left, are her brother, Timothy Aguilar, who graduated from Garey eight years ago; her mom, Angela, Kessie, and her dad, Saul. Kessie said she's planning on attending UC Riverside in the fall.

"I think it's really nice that parents are doing their absolute best to make this the most memorable event possible for their kids under the circumstances," she told La Nueva Voz.

Garcia, who teaches at Citrus Valley High School in Redlands, even wore her own cap and gown for the ceremony.

Block-long parade... pg. 22



Photo by Rebecca Arreguin

Moises Arreguin, nephew of La Nueva Voz designer Dora Cruz, was a proud graduate from Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School this month where the school's drive-through graduation had a very strict policy of only one car and two guests per student. Needless to say, that caused the family to do a little celebrating of their own when they got home. Mom's advice to her son? "The best is yet to come but always put God first in your life." Pictured, from left, is Logan Sajinovic (also Dora's nephew), Moises' sister, Rebecca, also a Diamond Ranch alumna, Moises, Mario and Gina, his mom and dad, and Vienna Sajinovic, Dora's niece. Congratulations!

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Fire broke out this month at the site of the old Mission Family Restaurant at Mission Boulevard and White Avenue where, as this photo shows, not much is left other than debris and most of the parking lot sign. The structure, a classic diner built in the 1950s, was in the process of being repurposed as a 7-Eleven and other uses.

New L.A. County report calls for 34 changes in policing

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations this week released an extensive report on policing and human relations in the county containing 34 recommendations for change designed to “build a new normal that prioritizes human dignity and repairs the damage done by discriminatory policies and practices.”

The report, “Redefining Policing with our Community,” was the result of the Policing and Human Relations project launched in 2015 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion. The report was developed after conducting seven public hearings across each of the five Los Angeles County Supervisorial Districts along with 42 stakeholder feedback sessions, meetings

with community-based organizations and more. “Through this report, our hope is to bring about systemic and cultural changes in policing that will honor George Floyd and the many others whose lives have been lost or damaged,” said Commissioner Isabelle Gunning, chair of the committee that led to the report’s development.

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Block-long parade... from pg. 21

“I always wear my cap and gown for my own students’ graduation,” she said. “I’m not going to be able to do that this year, so this is a good little substitute.”

Then what did the kids think about the idea?

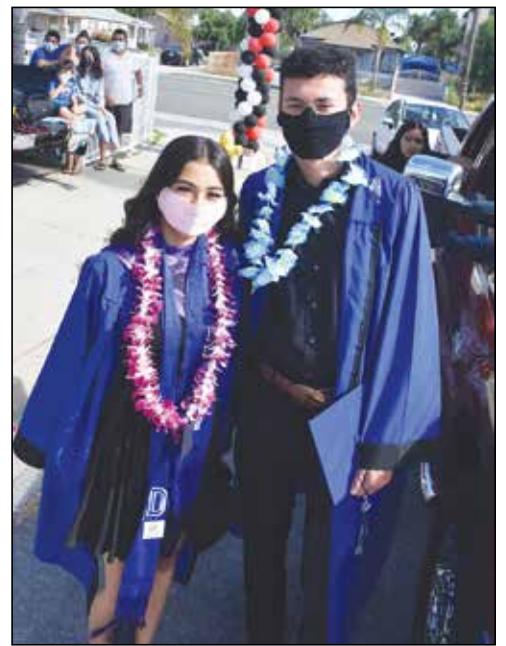
“I’m very grateful, I think she (Sanchez) was very sweet to do this because I wasn’t expecting anything like this,” said Kessie Aguilar, who graduated this year from Garey High School.

She’ll be attending UC Riverside.

Marco Sanchez, whose aunt organized the event, graduated from Diamond Ranch High School and will be going on to the University of La Verne to study computer science.

“I think it’s like a compensation for not have a real one (graduation),” he told La Nueva Voz. “Like families can like look at their kids walking – it’s not the same walk but, you know, it’s something.”

Students included in the parade and ceremony were graduating from Diamond Ranch High School, Garey High School, Ganesha High School, Chaffey Community College and Ramona Communication Arts Academy.



Fridah Sanchez, at left, and her cousin, Marco Sanchez, both graduates at Pomona’s Diamond Ranch High School this month, pose for the La Nueva Voz camera before the parade down their block in the neighborhood as everyone came together to make sure they had a “real” graduation this year.



One of the proud moms along the way holds up her own sign congratulating all the graduates in the neighborhood graduation parade.



They weren’t ready for their own graduation quite yet but two proud supporters of the graduating seniors watched the parade go by from the back of a pickup truck in their driveway on South Mountain View Avenue in Pomona.



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Photos by Renee Barbee

The Pomona Optimist Club couldn't convene a regular meeting to honor their "Students of the Month" with awards so M. Joyce Bakersmith came up with an idea to make it work -- the Optimists would go to the homes of the winners and hand out the certificates and lawn signs in person. Pictured this month is Trinity Monroy, at center, a fourth grader at Pomona's Allison Elementary School, "Student of the Month" for February. Her mom, Osmara Monroy, is pictured behind her. Also pictured are Optimist members, from left, Dr. Roberta Perlman, Optimist President Lorraine Canales, and Sonia Molina.



Pomona Optimists stopped by the home of Andy Martinez this month to give him his "Student of the Month" award for February. Pictured with his family is Martinez, a sixth grader at Pomona's Allison Elementary School. His parents are Ublado Martinez and Maria Tellez.



Allison Elementary School student Anthony Nguyen, a fifth grader, was honored by members of the Pomona Optimist Club as "Student of the Month" for March. Pictured, from left, is Optimist member Sonia Molina, Anthony's mom, Van, Anthony, Optimist member Renee Barbee, Optimist President Lorraine Canales, and Optimist member M. Joyce Bakersmith.



Vanessa Hernandez, a sixth grader at Pomona's Allison Elementary School, was named "Student of the Month" for March by the Pomona Optimist Club. She is pictured second from left with members of her family.

Western University students donate supplies to homeless Pomona Unified students

A group of students at Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences is working with Pomona Unified School District officials to provide support to the school district's nearly 200 students who are homeless and on their own -- something the group believes is exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students in the group called Po-

mona Leadership Network, which they have dubbed "The P-Town Leaders," have put together backpacks filled with food, clothing and other essentials to help them during this crisis.

They have also collected donations and purchased supplies using their own money to fill the backpacks which have been distrib-

uted to the students throughout the school district.

The group's core focus is youth empowerment and development within Pomona. They worked with Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez and Patti Azevedo of the district's Student and Family Support Services group to identify students in need.

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