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**The New Voice, a Bilingual (English/Spanish) Publication
Pomona's only community newspaper!**



Issue No. 136
Thursday, November 26, 2020

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval re-elected, Arturo Jimenez bumps Frank Guzman from school board in local voting

There was drama in the Pomona municipal election this month, albeit nowhere near as much as in the presidential election, with results which were much more subdued here – while the Pomona Unified School District races resulted in two new school board members, down the street in City Hall all of the incumbents were returned to office.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval was re-elected to a second four-year term with an overwhelming 62.14 percent of the vote, followed by Jacqueline Elizalde with 26.46 percent of the vote, or roughly a third as many votes as Sandoval received.

Mohammad Kamyab received

3.84 percent of the vote, Jesus Villagomez Campus received 3.81 and, despite all of his sound and fury (and critical comments on social media of La Nueva Voz, of all people, for simply running a story about a candidate in another race altogether), Gustavo Ernesto Nunez came in last at the very bottom of the list with only 3.75 percent of the vote.

John Nolte reclaimed his Pomona City Council seat in the First District with 46.23 percent of the vote. The race was for the open seat vacated by City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez who did not seek re-election and is awaiting trial on charges of possessing child pornography.

Nolte served on the council from 2012 to 2016. He did not seek a second term at the time.

Following close behind was Geny Mejia with 44.02 percent of the vote. Virgilio Pico Doniza received 9.75 percent.

In the Fourth District, Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole was re-elected to a second four-year term with 56.52 percent of the vote over Chara Nicole Swodeck, who received 43.48 percent.

And in the Sixth District, Councilmember Robert Torres was able to hold on to his seat for another four years with 38.95 percent of the vote. Former Councilmember Debra Martin (2012 to 2016) received 33.77 percent and Miranda



A MOMENT IN HISTORY -- An unidentified woman casts her ballot on Election Day this month at Pomona's Fairplex, making history in the election with the largest number of total votes ever. Three precincts were combined in one exhibit room under the grandstand at Fairplex.

Sheffield had 20.51 percent.

Perhaps the biggest upset in the local election was former Pomona Planning Commissioner Arturo Jimenez who was successful in unseating Pomona Unified School Board member Frank Guzman, who has served on the board for the past nine years.

Jimenez, running in Trustee Area Number 3, received 51.35 percent of the vote over incumbent Frank Guzman, who had 48.65 percent – a difference of only 200 votes.

In Trustee Area Number 2, Lorena Gonzalez received a decisive

53.35 percent of the vote over Pomona Planning Commission Chairman Alfredo Camacho, who had 46.65 percent.

The race was for the seat held by Jason Rothman who did not seek re-election.

Other races

In the race for 35th Congressional District, Norma Torres was re-elected to office with 69.32 percent of the vote over Mike Cargile, who received 30.68 percent.

And in the 52nd Assembly District, Freddie Rodriguez was returned to office with 68.3 per-

Voting... pg. 6

American Legion Post 30 displays 'Field of Freedom' at Pomona City Hall for Veterans Day

Pomona's American Legion Post 30 partnered with the City of Pomona this month to celebrate Veterans Day in a virtual ceremony placing, for the first time, 50 American flags on the City Hall lawn to create a "Field of Freedom."

Post 30 Commander Roberto Arnold said the flag display "represents all the veterans here in the City of Pomona" and was an effort to salute the veterans and thank

Field of Freedom... pg. 2



Photo by Renee Barbee

A total of 50 American flags -- for the first time saluting veterans with a "Field of Freedom" outside Pomona City Hall -- remained on display throughout the day on Veterans Day this month, courtesy of Pomona's American Legion Post 30.

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Protect your mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic's resurgence - A message from Tri-City Mental Health

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a profound and pervasive impact on people's mental health across our community, especially individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions, people recovering from coronavirus infection and their families.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that causes respiratory illness, but its effects can go well beyond that. According to a study conducted by the University of Oxford, nearly one in five people who have had COVID-19 are at greater risk of developing a mental health condition within three months of testing positive for the virus. The study analyzed the electronic health records of 69 million people in the U.S., including more than 62,000 COVID-19 patients. COVID-19 survivors were twice as likely to report a first-time diagnosis of anxiety, depression or insomnia than groups of patients recovering from other medical events during the same time period. Of course, you don't have to have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis to feel the mental health impact of the pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a report showing that 40 percent of U.S. adults reported considerably elevated adverse mental health symptoms associated with COVID-19, including fear, distress and isolation.

With a projected surge of COVID-19 infections and winter and seasonal depression on the horizon, protecting your and your family's health and well-being is essential. Stay safely connected with family and friends - especially during the holidays, add physical activity into your schedule, practice breathing and mindfulness techniques, avoid stressful triggers, and seek mental health support.

Tri-City Mental Health is here to support individuals and families in Pomona, La Verne and Claremont impacted at this time. We provide free services, including linkage and referral to local resources, weekly virtual support groups, peer support and much more to help sustain your mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You are not alone and there is help. Call us at (866) 623-9500 or visit www.tricitymhs.org.

Community Navigator Resources (888) 436-3246 | Wellness Center (888) 593-4448 | 24/7 Supplemental Crisis Line (909) 623-6131



Field of Freedom... from pg. 1

them for their bravery.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said he wanted to “pay special thanks to all of the men and women who served to protect us, to protect our democracy, to protect our Constitution and to protect the ideals of this country.”

“There’s so much work to be



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at the invitation of Pomona’s American Legion Post 30, places the 50th flag in the ground in a Veterans Day ceremony outside of Pomona City Hall.

done, both nationally, statewide and in our local cities, to make sure that Veterans Day is not just one day but that we honor our veterans every day,” Sandoval added. “And one of the ways we honor them is making sure that they have housing, that they have health care, that they have the types of services that they need to help them in their lives.”

Arnold thanked Sandoval for all the support Post 30 receives from the city as he handed Sandoval the 50th flag so he could place the final flag in the ground.

Arnold also thanked “our broth-



Pomona’s American Legion Post 30 Commander Roberto Arnold, at left, introduces Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval at this month’s Veterans Day ceremony outside of Pomona City Hall as Post 30 Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff, at right, coordinator of the Post 30 Color Guard, looks on.

ers,” the veterans group American Legion Riders, Chapter 262, who honored the ceremony with a motorcycle “drive by,” escorted by two Pomona Police Department motorcycles in front with emergency lights and sirens. A Pomona police patrol car brought up the rear.

The flag display, which was posted on the north side of City Hall along Mission Boulevard, remained in place throughout Veterans Day.

Members of the Post 30 Color Guard, under the direction of Post 30 Second Vice Commander Bob

Radcliff, posted the colors and stood at attention throughout the ceremony, and Color Guard members remained on site with the flags

throughout the day.

The entire ceremony was streamed live over the Post 30 Facebook page.



American Legion Post 30 (Pomona) members, including uniformed members of the Post 30 Color Guard, pose for a group shot after early morning Veterans Day ceremonies this month under early morning sun rays backlighting a field of 50 American flags. Pictured, at center, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and Post 30 Commander Roberto Arnold.



Members of American Legion Riders, Chapter 262, honored the Veterans Day ceremony this month in Pomona with a drive-by of the 50 American flags placed in honor of the veterans by members of Pomona’s American Legion Post 30.

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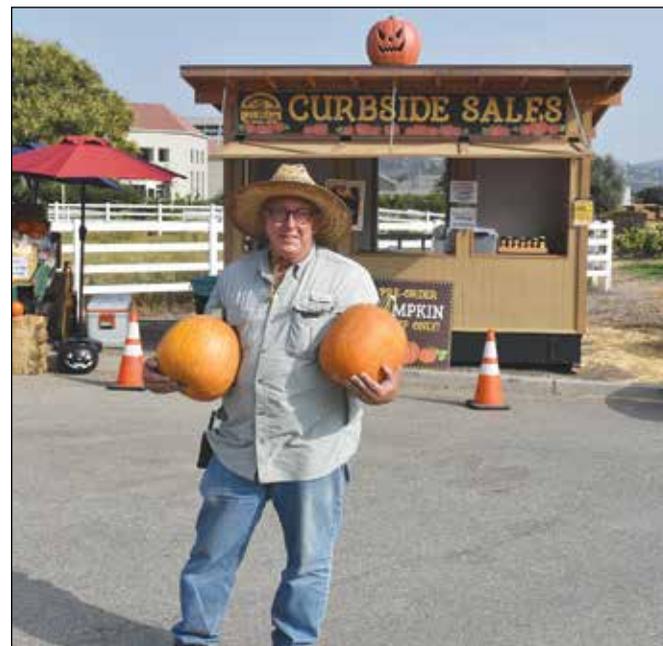
Veronica Grant, of Cal Poly University Pomona's AGRIsclapes, poses with a friend on top of a tractor on display at last month's drive-through pumpkin event on the Cal Poly campus. AGRIsclapes Director Craig Walters said due to COVID, only half as many pumpkins were grown this year since the full pumpkin festival and pumpkin patch would not be possible under health restrictions. So, he said his team, which for three months had been running an on-line "farm box" offer of fruits and vegetables, "morphed the farm box web site into what we now call "Pumpkins and Stuff." Pumpkins, seasonal decorative items, and



festive snack items like kettle corn, roasted almonds and pumpkin bread all were available. He said visitors "seem to be very positive about the whole thing."



Gabby Walker, an AGRIsclapes employee, loads pumpkins into the back of a car during Cal Poly's "Pumpkins and Stuff" on-line and drive-through event on campus last month. Customers were telling AGRIsclapes employees they have been coming for 20 years and were looking forward to returning to a "normal" festival next year. The drive-through event attracted as many as 20 cars a day on weekdays and up to 40 cars on weekends.



Cal Poly AGRIsclapes Director Craig Walters poses with a pair of choice Poly-grown pumpkins at a new curbside sales location behind the Farm Store at Cal Poly. "It's not like the festival -- we don't have the hayride or the corn maze, but we're getting by," Walters told La Nueva Voz. He added that since AGRIsclapes is self-supporting with no state funding for its outreach operations, it is difficult to have to go for an entire year with no visitors.

Western University's President Dan Wilson to step down after reports of rift with faculty

Western University of Health Sciences President Dan Wilson will step down from his position effective July 1, 2021 – exactly five years after taking over the helm of the Pomona-based medical school – amid reports of ongoing issues with faculty.

An e-mail from La Nueva Voz to officials at Western University was referred to the R.W. Jones Agency, a higher education public relations consulting firm that represents Western's Board of Trustees. The firm has offices in Pasadena, New Hampshire, Pittsburgh and Nashville.

"President Wilson's vision and leadership have propelled the institution to greater heights and his mark on the university is indelible," the firm said in a prepared statement signed by the Board of Trustees. "President Wilson has made the decision that now is an appropriate time to begin the process of identifying a new leader for WesternU."

The statement added that Wilson "has indicated that he is taking this step now because he has modernized the university, led it

through the extraordinary disruptions of 2020, and situated it for even greater opportunities in the post-pandemic future."

"Upon broad and deep reflection, he wishes to enjoy a different mode and tempo in personal and professional life," the statement continued.

"The Board offers its sincere appreciation to President Wilson for helping to guide the university through one of the most turbulent times in our country's history, as well as taking on the challenge of shaping the next evolution of our young and still rapidly maturing university," the statement said.

It said as part of the process for identifying a new president, the board is "eager to work with the community to create and enhance pathways and relationships amongst all stakeholders."

A separate communication to the university community spoke of establishing "new expectations around transparency and accountability," along with a focus on developing new practices and norms around shared governance – both

Step down... pg. 7

Pomona awards first four cannabis business permits

The City of Pomona has selected its first four businesses to receive a commercial cannabis business permit to operate with two "storefront retailers" authorized to set up shop on East Holt and West Holt Avenue in Pomona, according to a city news release.

And based on an analysis of applications submitted to the city, the four companies are projected to generate tax revenues of as much as \$1.5 million in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The company Authentic 909, LLC has been permitted to locate at 1605 West Holt Ave., and the company EEL – Pomona, doing business as "Connected," will be at 454 East Holt Ave.

In addition, two "microbusinesses" received permits. United Pomona, doing business as "New Generation," will open at 196 University Parkway in Pomona, and "ASHE Pomona" will be located at 2547 Pomona Blvd.

The storefront retailers will be able to operate "brick and mortar" cannabis retail operations with ancillary delivery services.

The microbusinesses will operate retail storefronts and delivery services, along with indoor cultivation up to 10,000 square feet.

United Pomona also is permitted to manufacture cannabis products.

All four companies maintain existing locations in the Los Angeles area and represent a diverse

mix of owners, according to the news release.

ASHE is an all-female, minority-owned business with locations in Long Beach and Santa Ana and has a "consumption lounge" under development in West Hollywood.

United Pomona, also minority-owned, is co-owned by an existing long-time Pomona resident and business owner. The company currently operates a location in Santa Ana.

EEL also includes co-ownership from an existing and long-time Pomona business owner and has existing locations in Long Beach, Bellflower and Santa Ana.

And Authentic 909 is wholly owned by Shryne Group, Inc., which is a minority-owned business. Shryne owns the "Stiizy" brand and currently operates eight dispensaries, including its flagship location in downtown Los Angeles, according to the news release.

Based on an analysis of applications, the city projects tax revenues from the four locations to generate between \$1.2 and \$1.5 million in fiscal year 2021-2022 and between \$1.8 and \$2.1 million in fiscal year 2022-2023.

The city's cannabis tax program, approved by voters in 2018, is based upon a percentage of the gross receipts and square footage of canopy for cultiva-

tion, the city said.

In addition, the companies will set aside 1 percent of annual revenues to fund programs "directly benefiting adjacent sensitive uses, such as schools and parks."

The permit awards came after 18 months of a "first of its kind" review process involving 31 applications – 24 for stand-alone storefronts and seven for micro-businesses, each with two available permits to award.

No applications were received for the four available permits for individual manufacturing, testing, distribution, and indoor cultivation.

Permits were awarded to the best-rated companies in a complex scoring process.

The city's ordinance allowing commercial cannabis business to operate in Pomona was adopted by the city council in April 2019, followed by 10 community meetings over a seven-month period to receive input on where cannabis businesses should be located in the city.

And the cannabis "overlay" was established in November 2019, designating areas where the businesses could locate.

A total of 292 individual properties were identified as potential locations.

Minimum distances from sensitive uses were approved at 1,000 feet, which is greater than the state's 600-foot minimum distance requirement.

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Anybody in Los Angeles County vote by mail or use a drop-off box? Your ballot went through Fairplex Building 9 for processing!

It wasn't really a secret because members of the public were allowed inside to take tours of the facility, but for about a month, Building 9 at Pomona's Fairplex was used for receiving and processing every ballot in Los Angeles County returned by mail plus those ballots dropped off at the special ballot collection boxes.

And, for those who like to keep track of such things, there were millions of them – and they were being processed by a special team of nearly 200 primarily temporary employees pulled together to handle the job.

La Nueva Voz visited the impressive operation on Oct. 28 and, according to tour guide Mia Crittenden, the higher than ever number of ballots in an election were similar to the rest of the country – even by Oct. 28, they had received 1.8 million ballots by mail.

To put it in perspective, in the 2016 election, Los Angeles County received a total of 1.6 million ballots by mail, a level that was surpassed this month a week before the actual Nov. 3 election.

Crittenden was taking a leave of absence from her regular job to help out the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's Office on the huge ballot processing task.

For the first several weeks, she told La Nueva Voz, those 200 employees were running an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. operation but for the final week, it turned into a 24-hour room.

Building 9, for those who have been to the LA County Fair, of course, looks much like the other

exhibition buildings at Fairplex – a huge open warehouse-style room with a concrete floor.

But with nothing inside other than desks, computers and piles of postal trays with ballots lined up, the building looked a lot like the back room of a crowded post office.

Then what was really going on in there?

Incoming ballots from the post office and those ballot collection boxes were delivered to Building 9 when rental trucks used for the job backed up to roll-up doors at the rear of the building.

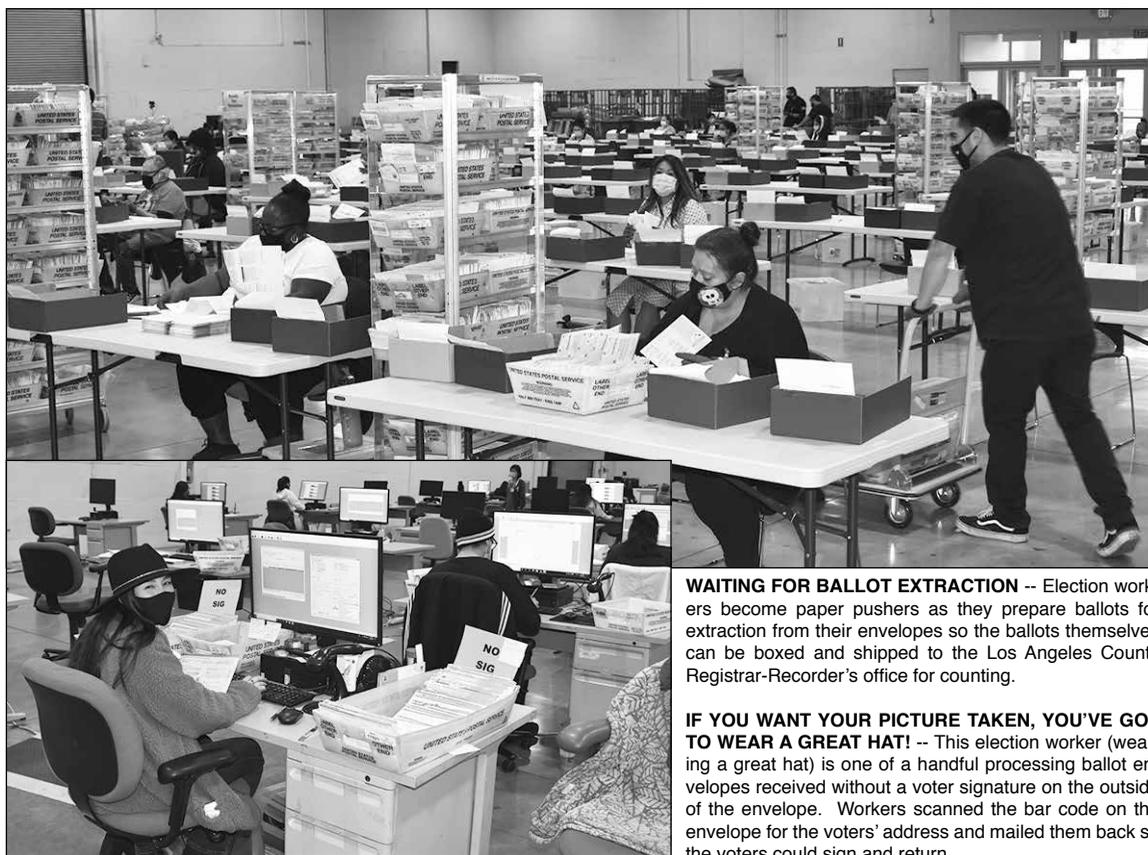
From the post office, the ballots in their envelopes were in white plastic post office trays, while the ballot collection box ballots were transported in brown-colored, locked, fire retardant bins.

Then employees went to work sorting the envelopes, making sure the envelopes had signatures on the outside, and sending them over to the signature verification department.

Envelopes without signatures were set aside and returned to the voter (contact information was contained in a bar code on the envelope) with a letter explaining what happened and providing instructions for returning the ballot.

And ballots that had a signature? They were sent over to an automated signature verification machine which scanned the signature and compared it to all signatures on file for the voter in places like the Department of Motor Vehicles and others.

Eight computerized machines



WAITING FOR BALLOT EXTRACTION -- Election workers become paper pushers as they prepare ballots for extraction from their envelopes so the ballots themselves can be boxed and shipped to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's office for counting.

IF YOU WANT YOUR PICTURE TAKEN, YOU'VE GOT TO WEAR A GREAT HAT! -- This election worker (wearing a great hat) is one of a handful processing ballot envelopes received without a voter signature on the outside of the envelope. Workers scanned the bar code on the envelope for the voters' address and mailed them back so the voters could sign and return.

that looked like large pieces of mailroom equipment were used for this part of the process.

Those signatures that didn't pass the computer test were sent over to a manual verification area where several rows of employees were seated at desks with two computer screens they used to visually make the comparison.

There was also a data processing section to take care of address changes or people who may have received two ballots, one to the old address and one to the new, and name change issues to make sure all ballots went to the right place.

After the signature test, envelopes went to the back of the room for opening and ballot removal and viewing.

Of course, some of the ballots had markings that were unclear and had to be returned so a new ballot could be completed and returned by Nov. 20 as a provisional ballot.

Out of breath yet?

The final step was packaging up the good ballots in a roughly 18-inch long brown cardboard box for shipping to "election central" in Norwalk for actual counting – all while wearing masks and rubber gloves to comply with COVID-19 precautions.



IMPRESSIVE STACKS OF BALLOTS -- La Nueva Voz thought it was impressive several years ago when we saw a live mermaid swimming in a see-through water tank in Building 9 but these stacks of thousands of ballots (multiple millions moved through the building when all was said and done) in the same room were almost as impressive.



This machine and seven others like it were used for automated signature verification, comparing voter signatures to DMV signatures and others on file in the system. Ballots with signatures are stacked up in the tray at the far right of the machine, similar to the output tray of a photocopier. But see that little gray box at lower right with four or five ballots in there on an angle? If the ballot has no signature, a little trap door opens and the envelope drops down in that area for manual processing of signature comparison.



This election worker -- and several others like him -- is in charge of taking ballots removed from their mailing envelopes, mashing them down flat and boxing them up in those brown cardboard boxes for shipping by truck to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's office in Norwalk where they will be fed into a computer scanner and counted.

Your ad here!

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'Just Us 4 Youth' holds grand opening for its first transitional age youth home

Pomona non-profit "Just Us 4 Youth" held a grand opening last month for its first transitional age youth home which will provide emergency housing and relief to former foster youth and transitional age youth (18 to 21).

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval thanked Eric Vasquez, director of the organization, for the work he does in the community.

"Every kid, every child, every young person should have an opportunity to realize

Just Us 4 Youth... pg. 20



Eric Vasquez, director of Just Us 4 Youth, shows off the remodeled kitchen of his organization's first transitional age youth home.



Paula Lantz, at right.



Eric Vasquez, at right, director of the non-profit Just Us 4 Youth, welcomes visitors to the grand opening last month of the group's first transitional age youth home providing housing to former foster youth and transitional age youth. Members of the audience were socially distanced in the backyard of the house.

DPOA announces Grand Marshal, logistics for 'drive through' Christmas parade

The Downtown Pomona Owners Association has announced the "drive through" Christmas Parade, DPOA's 12th annual parade, will begin with cars lining up to view the parade at 400 E. Mission Blvd. (at Elm Street).

And while the parade is free and open to the public, free tickets are required.

The parade, this year on the theme "Dashing thru Downtown," is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12 and is a COVID-compliant family-friendly event.

It will feature "stationary" floats and parade entries while the community drives by to celebrate the holiday season in Downtown Pomona, according to a news release.

Grand Marshal this year will be Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and all the front-line work-

ers battling the COVID pandemic.

"We are grateful for all the sacrifices they have made this year and we would like to thank our local heroes who have been there for us during this difficult year," said DPOA Executive Director Lorena Parker.

She added members of the community are invited to help thank the hospital workers by creating a personalized work of art or message, posting it and tagging DPOA on Instagram pages @downtownpomona and @pvhmc.

Reservations can be made online at downtownpomona.org.

This year's parade route will move along Third Street west to Park Avenue, head north on Park and turn right on Second Street and end at Garey Avenue.

At the end of the parade, spec-

tators will be allowed to park and visit one of the local restaurants or shops.

All pedestrian spectators and participants will be required to wear a mask and social distance.

Volunteers are still needed, and sign-ups are at 2020pomonachristmasparade.eventbrite.com.

Interested in participating? Visit the web site for more information at www.downtownpomona.org/pomonachristmasparade. Application fee is \$25.

Organizers recommend that spectators drive to Mission and Elm using Mission Boulevard from either White or Towne Avenues as street closures in the area will begin as early as 2 p.m.

For more information, e-mail admin@downtownpomona.org or call (909) 469-1121.

Voting... from pg. 1



READY FOR VOTERS -- Voting machines were all lined up and ready for voters to cast their ballots on Election Day this month under the grandstand at Pomona's Fairplex.



COVID-19 COMPLIANT -- Poll workers were wearing masks and gloves and cleaning the voting booth equipment was an important part of the job description on Election Day, as shown here at a voting center at Pomona's Fairplex.

cent of the vote over Toni Holle, who received 31.7 percent.

Former Pomona City Councilmember Danielle Soto (2008 to 2012) won the Division 6 seat (North Pomona) on the Three Valleys Municipal Water District board with 40.34 percent of the vote.

Incumbent John Mendoza had 35.44 percent and former Three Valleys employee Victoria Hahn received 24.22 percent.

In the Mt. San Antonio College race for Trustee Area No. 1, Peter Hidalgo won with 74.24 percent of the vote over Robert Carder, who had 25.76 percent.

It was another "open seat" race since long time board member Rosanne Bader, on the board since 2003, did not seek reelection.

And in Trustee Area No. 7, incumbent Manuel Baca held on to his seat with 47.81 percent of the vote. Pomona Parks and Recreation Commissioner Fabian Pavon received 29.52 percent and Heberto Sanchez received 22.67.

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Step down... from pg. 4

areas that reportedly have been issues on campus in recent years.

It added that a special “Presidential Transition Communications Committee” will include representation from the board, faculty, student body, deans, the president’s office, administration and staff.

The announcement came after Wilson’s leadership received a recent no-confidence vote from faculty members.

Wilson is the second president of Western University. Its founder and original president Phil Pumerantz died in 2017 at the age of 85 after serving as president since launching the school in 1977.

La Nueva Voz reached out to his son, Dr. Andrew Pumerantz, for a comment. Pumerantz, a Professor

and Director of the Department of Population Health at Western University, said the full assembly of voting Western University faculty approved a resolution for a “vote of no confidence” in Wilson’s leadership on July 5 with 78 percent voting in favor of the resolution.

The resolution was presented to the university’s Board of Trustees which launched an external investigation as announced in an e-mail to the school’s community.

“In that e-mail, the Board of Trustees promised to publicly release a report by Sept. 30, disclosing the investigation’s findings and the path forward,” Pumerantz said in an e-mail to La Nueva Voz. “That date came and went. Since then, no official follow-up with

investigative findings has been released, and myriad questions remain unanswered.”

He added that the recent press release “about Wilson’s previously unplanned early retirement still has not been explained to us, especially in the context of the faculty’s overwhelming vote of no confidence that precipitated the formal investigation, and undoubtedly contributed to his decision to step down.”

He added that the Board of Trustees in mid-November asked for and was given a list of questions generated from faculty of all nine colleges pertaining to the investigation’s findings, the decision-making process that went into their action on his status and more.

Pumerantz said the answers to these questions remain outstanding, and that an emergency faculty assembly meeting has been called for Nov. 30, “at which time we hope to hear back officially from the Board of Trustees.”

“We hope to bring this issue to a satisfactory resolution soon so we can finally move onward and upward,” he said.

Pomona’s ‘COVID hotel’ occupancy figures at all-time high, echo national surge

That national surge in COVID-19 figures everywhere is being mirrored by the same index La Nueva Voz has adopted since the beginning of the pandemic – the occupancy rate of COVID patients at Pomona’s Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, which hit a record high the day before this newspaper’s deadline day for the November issue.

Official Los Angeles County COVID-19 emergency operations center figures showed the hotel had 173 occupants on Nov. 19.

The previous all-time peak had been 162 on July 31.

Numbers through most of September and October had remained relatively low in the 90s and low 100s but jumped up to 118 on Sept. 29, 117 on Sept. 30, back to 118 on Oct. 1 and 117 on Oct. 2.

Things tapered off through October until a spike up to 116 on Oct. 22, another to 117 on Oct. 30, 122 on Nov. 5 and 148 on Nov. 17.

Levels continued to climb, reaching 155 on Nov. 18 before

maxing out at 173 last Thursday.

The hotel, one of only a handful used by Los Angeles County for COVID-19 cases, houses patients not severe enough for hospitalization or others exposed to COVID who need to be in quarantine.

La Nueva Voz continues to believe that using the occupancy rate as an index of how COVID is doing in Pomona is as good as any other available figures.

The Pomona location was the county’s first temporary location to open its doors when it began accepting patients on March 25, and it continues to house more COVID patients than any other facility in the county’s system of temporary locations.

Guests have included everything from first responders to members of the region’s homeless population.

According to official Los Angeles County update figures, Pomona has reported a total of 7,441 confirmed cases of COVID-19 which have resulted in 147 deaths to date.



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Clean Air Pomona cites survey showing 97 percent support banning smoking in multi-unit housing

The Clean Air Pomona Coalition, a sub-coalition that was formulated by the non-profit Day One, has released results of a Los Angeles County Department of Public Health public opinion survey of Pomona residents that shows 97 percent of those surveyed support a law that bans smoking tobacco products in multi-unit housing – and a spokesperson called on Pomona to do something about it.

The tabulation showed 90 percent of Pomona residents surveyed would choose to live in a completely non-smoking building if given the option, and 48 percent reported secondhand smoke has drifted into their unit in the past year.

Those 97 percent of respon-

dents supporting a law banning smoking in multi-unit housing indicated they would support such a law imposing restrictions in at least one of four areas – indoor common areas like hallways and laundry rooms (92 percent); indoor private spaces like living rooms and bedrooms (84 percent); outdoor private areas like balconies and patios (64 percent); and outdoor common areas, like courtyards and pools (82 percent).

Day One and the Clean Air Pomona Coalition have been continuing their work toward achieving smoke-free multi-unit housing in Pomona based on dangers a spokesperson said have been well documented.

Alisha Lopez, Director of Tobacco Programs for Day One,

pointed out the U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure which is especially harmful for children, senior citizens and adults with asthma or other chronic illnesses.

And those aerosols emitted from electronic smoking devices or vapes? Those are made up of a high concentration of ultrafine particles – higher even than in conventional tobacco smoke, she said.

Exposure to these fine and ultrafine particles may exacerbate respiratory ailments like asthma and constrict arteries which could trigger a heart attack, Lopez added.

On top of that, the dangers of drifting secondhand smoke in multi-unit dwellings can be es-

pecially harmful since tobacco smoke and smoke from vapes can travel from one neighbor's home to another by drifting into and out of open windows and doors and even through shared air vents or cracks in walls.

A comprehensive smoke-free multi-unit housing policy would limit or prohibit smoking of tobacco, cannabis and vapes.

A 2015 Los Angeles County health survey found that roughly one in five people living in apartment complexes of any size are regularly exposed to tobacco smoke in the home.

Lopez said 63 cities and counties in California already have adopted strong, comprehensive ordinances that prohibit smoking in multi-unit housing, including 12 jurisdictions in Los Angeles County alone.

“Comprehensive ordinances include smoke-free common areas, indoor private spaces, outdoor common areas and outdoor private spaces,” Lopez said, adding that jurisdictions that already have adopted policies include Baldwin Park, El Monte and Pasadena – and even Beverly Hills.

“It is crucial, as a preventative measure, that the Pomona community come together to protect the health and well-being of residents,” said Clean Air Pomona Coalition member Alfredo Camacho, chairman of the Pomona Planning Commission and a native of Pomona. “Tobacco control policies that prevent exposure to secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing are urgently needed.”

He added that new city policies would help promote the long-term health of today's residents and would help “to safeguard future generations from exposure to secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing throughout the community.”

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Survey collected data from 619 Pomona residents between March 2019 and February 2020. It represented respondents of different sex and different age, racial and ethnic groups, as well as different tobacco use status (90 percent were non-tobacco users and 10 percent were current tobacco users).

One in three of those surveyed were living at the time in multi-unit housing such as apartment

buildings or senior housing.

Lopez cited data that shows secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, 70 of which are known or probable carcinogens.

She said more than 500,000 non-smoking children and adults in Los Angeles County are exposed to secondhand smoke, according to a 2015 Los Angeles County health survey by the Department of Public Health's Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology.

And more than 41,000 deaths nationwide result each year from exposure to secondhand smoke, according to figures from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In Los Angeles County, tobacco use is directly linked to the top four leading causes of death – coronary heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer, according to 2010 Los Angeles County Department of Public Health figures.

In addition, in a COVID-19 environment, smoking increases risk of severe illness or even death from COVID, according to figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Plus, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in the case of children, secondhand smoke can cause ear infections, greater risk of sudden infant death syndrome, low birth weight and lung problems.

The Clean Air Pomona Coalition, created under the auspices of Day One, meets monthly and is comprised of residents and community stakeholders. It welcomes anyone in the Pomona community to become involved in the interest of advancing public health.

Day One, with offices in Pasadena, is a community-based non-profit organization with a 30-year history of providing effective, high-quality, and culturally sensitive public health education, intervention and policy development.

It assists communities, acting as key agents of change, in gathering relevant data and information and analyzing research findings.

And, by working with youth advocates, it helps develop their leadership skills to become catalysts of change.

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

IMMIGRATION AND PREJUDICE

Because it is personal to me . . .

By Rabbi Zev-Hayyim Feyer

I've been in the Movement for 68 years. I got my start as an 11-year-old kid handing out “Stevenson for President” flyers at the corner of 94th Street and Madison Avenue in New York City in 1952.

I won't go into all the details; a few should suffice.

In 1971, I went to Mississippi as a poll watcher when Charles Evers was running for governor.

In 1982, I marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge at the 17th anniversary Selma-to Montgomery march. I was in the front row of the marchers, arm-in-arm with John Lewis and Coretta Scott King.

The big one. I was there in 1963 when Martin Luther King, Jr., told us of his dream.

And, as a long-time volunteer at the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta, I was a member of the organizing committee for the 20th anniversary March on Washington in 1983.

I was there. I was there. I was there. And I was there for a myriad of local marches and demonstrations and protests, in New York and in Atlanta and in Southern California.

It's a long and dusty road, a hot and heavy load, and the folks I've met weren't always kind. But I keep on. I keep on because the struggle keeps on and because there is never an end to the struggle.

That's right. The struggle will never end. Because it's hopeless? Not at all. But because in every generation we learn more. Three centuries ago, we thought – most of us – that slavery was OK, so long as the “slaves” were treated well.

By two centuries ago, we were learning that it was the slavery itself that was mistreatment, that there was no such thing as treating the enslaved people well. And a century and a half ago we fought a war because part of our beloved nation did not accept the end of slavery.

And half a century ago, we were aware that, while the law can't make people love each other, it can keep people from lynching each other, and we enacted the Civil Rights Bill and the Voting Rights Bill.

Yes; we learn in every generation that what an earlier generation thought was acceptable really wasn't. And we will continue to learn.

I come to the struggle naturally. In 1935, my father, anticipating that Nazi Germany would overrun his native Hungary, borrowed some money from his brother, went to a travel agent, and said, “Here is the money that I have. I want a one-way ticket. Where will it take me?” The travel agent booked him to Caracas, Venezuela; my dad bought the ticket and then went to the public library to

pull out a world atlas and find out where Venezuela was. He learned Spanish after he got there.

A few years later, my dad won some money in a small lottery and obtained a “business visa” to come to the United States. The visa was wholly bogus; he had no business interests to bring him here. But he came to New York, made contact with the Hungarian Jewish community there, was introduced to a young woman and, a week later, married her. Two years later, I was the result.

Growing up, I thought this was the most romantic story I had ever heard. They met and fell in love and a week later they married. As an adult, I realized that it had little or nothing to do with romance. Dad married Mom to get his green card. I am the child of a green card marriage. I was my father's “anchor baby.” Dad stayed in the marriage until I graduated from high school.

I have not forgotten.

And I have not forgotten how thousands of Jews were denied entry into the United States during World War II and were sent back to Nazi-occupied Europe where they were slain. And I have not forgotten the hundreds of Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany who were “interned” in Great Britain and Canada because they were from Germany and were therefore classed as “enemy

Because it's personal... pg. 16

Jeanette Royston re-elected President of Pomona Valley Branch NAACP

Jeanette Ellis-Royston was re-elected to the office of President of the NAACP Pomona Valley Branch in “drive through” balloting conducted this month.

Royston has continuously served as head of the organization since she worked to build membership and reactivate the local branch in 2014.

Royston and all of the officers ran unopposed with the exception of the office of assistant secretary.

Other officers are Ivory Brown, first vice president; Ted Burnett, second vice president; Rose Escobar, secretary; Clara Hudson, assistant secretary; and JoAnn Camelat, assistant treasurer.

In the contested race for assistant secretary, Hudson received 31 votes and Maria Galvan received 10 votes.

Members at large executive committee members, selected from a field of eight candidates, were Yolanda Brown, Pat Delfosse, Linda Hawes, Mya Ford, Nicole Ford, Bobbie Nix and Miranda Sheffield.

The NAACP Pomona Valley Branch serves cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Claremont, Diamond Bar, La Verne, Montclair, Ontario, Pomona, San Dimas and Upland.

For membership information, call (909) 620-0433.

Pomona Chamber to host virtual ‘Holiday for Heroes’

The Pomona Chamber of Commerce will host its virtual “Holiday for Heroes” event honoring public safety officers and veterans at noon on Thursday, Dec. 10.

Sponsorships for the event are available from \$200 to \$1,500.

To register, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/pomona-chamber-presents-holiday-for-heroes-2020-tickets-129346576091.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Pomona Chamber at (909) 622-1256 or by e-mail at info@pomonachamber.org.

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Frontier distributes free ‘Chromebooks’ to Pomona Unified’s foster youth

State Sen. Connie Leyva joined representatives of Frontier Communications and the Pomona Unified School District on a Saturday morning last month at school district headquarters to hand out some 500 Hewlett-Packard “Chromebook” laptops to the district’s foster youth to help them maintain continuity in their learning when their placement changes.

A spokesperson for the district explained while all 23,000 students have received their own Chromebook over several years of phasing in, they are like textbooks and have to be turned back in.

And since foster youths typically move around from time to time and since all school districts do not offer “one to one” computers, the Frontier Chrome-

books of California to expand access to technology, connectivity and broadband services,” Mendoza said. “We’re grateful to Sen. Leyva, excited about the partnership with Pomona Unified, because what they’re doing is they’re distributing the Chromebooks to students that are in foster care to give them a device that they can call their own.”

He said the equipment allows foster care students to continue their distance learning during COVID school closures.

“We’re really helping prepare the leaders and problem solvers of tomorrow,” Mendoza added.

Leyva, who serves as chair of the State Senate Standing Committee on Education, also serves as vice chair of the Closing the Digital Divide Task Force with State Schools Supt. Tony Thur-



State Sen. Connie Leyva hands out three laptops last month to the next car in line as photographers -- including Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, center -- grab an action shot. Leyva spent her Saturday morning helping out at Pomona Unified School District headquarters where the computers -- provided by Frontier Communications -- were given to the district’s foster youth so they can maintain continuity in their studies as their placements change.



Javier Mendoza, vice president of communications and external affairs for Frontier, poses with an HP Chromebook complete with custom case. Frontier donated 500 laptops to Pomona Unified School District. In all, the company is donating 5,000 Chromebooks to students at a total of 16 school districts.



‘LIGHTS, ACTION’ -- State Sen. Connie Leyva is interviewed by Channel 7 television news at the laptop giveaway program last month in Pomona. The cameraman was using COVID-safe interviewing techniques.

books -- which become their property -- become helpful.

“This is part of a partnership with the California Emerging Technology Fund,” said Javier Mendoza, vice president of communications and external affairs for Frontier. “Frontier Communications has donated 5,000 Chromebook computers and is distributing them in partnership with 16 school districts including Pomona Unified School District to students.”

He said Frontier also is meeting the needs of 350 families in California’s tribal nations.

“This is part of our continuing commitment to serve our customers in the communities

mond.

“We have been working to make sure every student has a device and connectivity so they can learn remotely,” Leyva told La Nueva Voz. “I could not be more excited to be here, thank you to our partners, and we’re going to make sure that our young people who are distance learning have what they need.”

“This is an exciting day to see this come to fruition,” Leyva added.

Krystana Walks-Harper, Pomona Unified’s assistant superintendent of pupil and community services, told La Nueva Voz the district’s foster youth are “students with great challenges in

terms of social emotional circumstances, and so we’re really thrilled that they get to have something, a Chromebook, that is their own, that travels with them.”

And for students in transition, she said, “it can make all the difference in the world and help to close those gaps when students are trying to learn and trying to do their best work.”

“There is a huge social emotional value . . . that needs to be in place in order for students to learn,” she said. “We know that if we don’t reach our students socially and emotionally, we really have a struggle to reach them academically.”

“So, this is an educational device, but it is also a social emotional item of true value for our students,” she added.

She said community partnerships “are really the lifeblood of success for a school district,” and she thanked everyone involved in the process -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, the school district’s university partners and others who have been involved in developing COVID solutions through the mayor’s weekly COVID-19 Action Committee meetings.

Also participating at the event was Agustin Urgiles of the California Emerging Technology Fund.

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Metro Honda and Acura pull out all the stops to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

Talk about a team effort!

All 175 employees at Montclair's Metro Honda, Metro Acura and Metro eXtreme CarCare, Quick Lube & Service were part of the team last month during "Breast

Cancer Awareness Month" as the auto dealership complex became a stop along the way in a three-hour "Pink & Go Seek" scavenger hunt that started at San Antonio Regional Hospital in Upland.

Metro Honda Business Manager Gena Laine told La Nueva Voz that John Hawkins, owner and president of the dealerships, "wanted to do something impactful for the community" and, because the

time frame was October, Laine reached out to the American Cancer Society and learned about the local event.

"We got a team and we got involved and we started fundraising," Laine said. "They are a great organization."

"They provide important resources for these women and they donate millions of dollars to research (and) grant money to help

fine a cure," she said.

She added that statistically, more than 250,000 women will be newly diagnosed with breast cancer this year alone.

"We're really proud to be a part of this event and it's all about these ladies, building them up – we have survivors, people who have passed

Breast Cancer Awareness... pg. 20



MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER AT MONTCLAIR'S METRO HONDA -- All 175 employees at Montclair's Metro Honda, Metro Acura and Metro eXtreme Car Care, Quick Lube & Service were part of the team last month during "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" as the auto dealership complex became a stop along the way in the three-hour "Pink & Go Seek" scavenger hunt. Metro Honda Business Manager Gena Laine told La Nueva Voz that John Hawkins, owner and president of the dealerships, "wanted to do something impactful for the community." Pictured, from left, are Laine and Metro's Assistant Client Care Manager Karina Zepeda.



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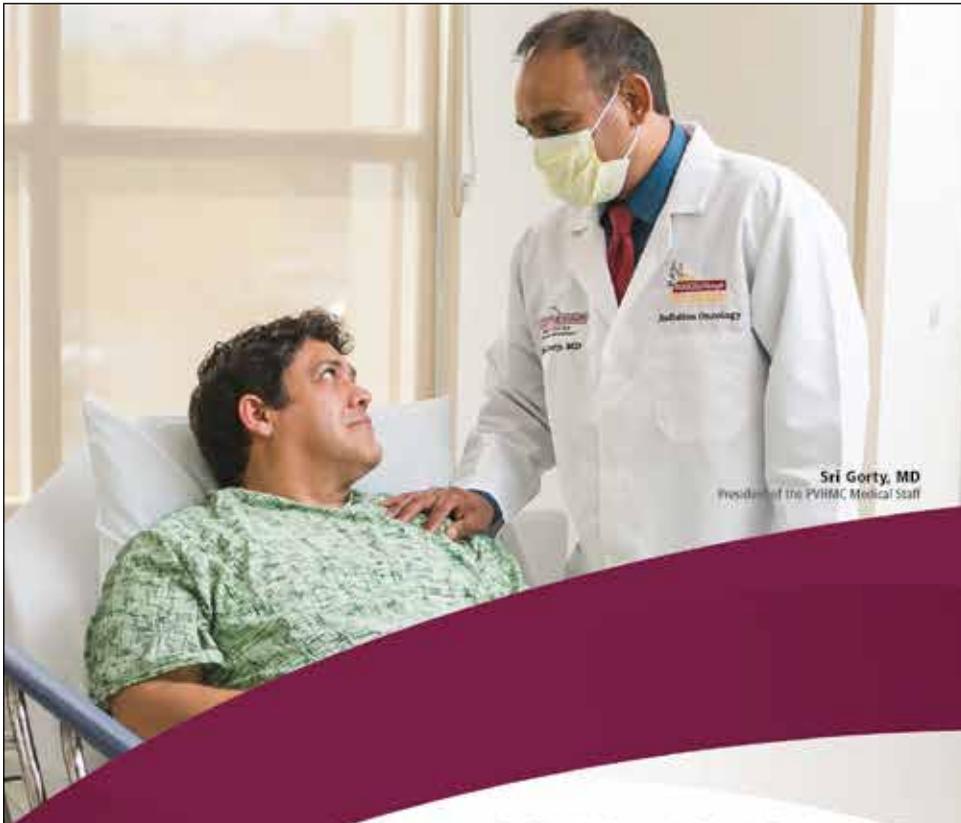
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Xoom Inicia las Transferencias Directas de Dinero a Cuentas Bancarias y de Débito en los EE. UU.

El servicio de remesas de PayPal expande los servicios domésticos de los EE. UU. para ofrecerle a las personas más formas de brindar apoyo en estos momentos difíciles

Xoom, el servicio de remesas de PayPal, anunció hoy que ha expandido sus servicios domésticos, permitiendo a las personas en los EE. UU. enviar dinero de forma rápida y segura a una cuenta bancaria o tarjeta de débito* elegible del destinatario, para proporcionar a familias y amigos en todo el país una disponibilidad inmediata de los fondos. Esta nueva funcionalidad llega en un momento en el que muchas familias latinas, que se han visto afectadas de manera desproporcionada por la pandemia de COVID-19, se apoyan en sus seres queridos y en las redes para obtener ayuda financiera.

Más de un tercio de los usuarios de Xoom en los EE. UU. envían dinero para ayudar a sus seres queridos en todo el país al menos una vez al mes^[1]. Con este nuevo servicio, las transferencias de dinero realizadas en línea o a través de las aplicaciones móviles Xoom y PayPal pueden enviarse directamente a la cuenta bancaria o tarjeta de débito del destinatario.

“Nuestras comunidades están pasando por una crisis extraordinaria en este momento. La necesidad de apoyar a seres queridos y familias nunca ha sido tan importante. Ya sea para ayudar a alguien que ha perdido su trabajo o para colaborar en el pago de las facturas, queremos proporcionar una forma segura y conveniente para que nuestros clientes ayuden a sus familiares y amigos en los Estados Unidos”, dijo Julian King, vicepresidente y gerente general de Xoom.

Los adultos latinos en los Estados Unidos han sido los más afectados por la pérdida de empleos y salarios debido al COVID-19. El 61% de los latinoamericanos informaron que ellos o alguien en su hogar ha perdido el trabajo o sus salarios debido a la pandemia^[2]. En Estados Unidos, más de 65 millones de personas han presentado reclamos de seguro por desempleo desde marzo de 2020^[3].

Para ayudar a las comunidades latinas de California, Xoom se enorgullece de trabajar con las Cámaras de Comercio Hispánicas de California (CHCC) para capacitar a los dueños de negocios latinos con el conocimiento y las habilidades para reconstruir un futuro financiero más sólido. La CHCC es la mayor organización regional de negocios étnicos en los Estados Unidos, representando a más de 800,000 propietarios de negocios latinos en California.

“El daño en nuestra comunidad es enorme, pero no irreparable. Debemos unirnos como comunidad para compartir nuestras historias e información”, dijo Julian Cañete, presidente y director ejecutivo de la CHCC. “Tener herramientas financieras como Xoom, nos ayuda a compartir recursos vitales a medida que reconstruimos y avanzamos”.

Dado que Xoom es un servicio de PayPal, los clientes pueden confiar en que el

proceso de transferencia de dinero es seguro tanto para el remitente como para el destinatario. Aquellos que aquellos que reciben los fondos no necesitan completar ningún formulario ni registrarse para obtener una cuenta con Xoom o PayPal.

La introducción de Xoom en las transferencias directas a cuentas bancarias y tarjetas de débito es una adición clave a los servicios existentes de envío de dinero entre pares ofrecidos por PayPal y sus marcas.

Pionera en remesas digitales, Xoom es una forma rápida y segura de enviar dinero,

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pagar facturas y recargar teléfonos para los seres queridos en más de 160 países en todo el mundo. Estas remesas sirven como salvavidas para muchas personas en todo el mundo y se utilizan para pagar cosas como facturas de servicios públicos, atención médica, gastos de educación y emergencias. El sistema, basado principalmente en efectivo, para enviar dinero a través de las fronteras consiste en cosas como mucho papeleo, tarifas altas, hacer cola y una incer-



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tidumbre constante de cuándo y si el dinero llegará cuando sea necesario. Al proporcionar opciones de pago rápidas y seguras para que los clientes envíen dinero sin problemas a través de las fronteras conectándose en línea o utilizando un dispositivo móvil, PayPal y Xoom están ayudando a expandir y mejorar la salud financiera de millones de personas en todo el mundo.

*Solo tarjetas de débito o cuentas bancarias elegibles. Es posible que se apliquen tarifas, límites y otras retenciones.

Acerca de PayPal - PayPal se ha mantenido a la vanguardia de la revolución de los pagos digitales durante más de 20 años. Al aprovechar la tecnología para hacer que los servicios financieros y el comercio sean más convenientes, asequibles y seguros, la plataforma de PayPal empodera a más de 300 millones de consumidores y comerciantes en más de 200 mercados para unirse y prosperar en la economía global. Para más información, visite paypal.com.

^[1] Según una encuesta de junio de 2019 encargada por Xoom para sus usuarios.

^[2] Según la investigación de Pew Research.

^[3] Según la investigación del Departamento de Desarrollo de Empleados.

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Volunteer Shift from 3 PM - 9 PM.

For more information please connect with our parade volunteer coordinator Chara Swodeck- volunteers@openboxdesigns.com
DPOA 909.469.1121 admin@downtownpomona.org

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VIRTUAL JOURNEY THROUGH IPOLY -- "Ask a Teacher" was an important part of this month's open house at iPoly High School at Cal Poly Pomona, the school's first virtual look at what happens inside the college prep high school. The theme of the evening was "Your Journey through iPoly." The tuition-free public high school with only 500 students is accepting applications for admission in the 2021-2022 school year. Applications can be downloaded at www.ipolyhighschool.org/Page/1366. For information, call (909) 839-2361.

Students from Barfield, Lincoln named Pomona Optimist 'Students of the Month'

Eight Pomona students from Barfield Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School have been honored by the Pomona Optimist Club as "Students of the Month" in virtual awards ceremonies.

Winners for August were Allison Lopez and Nathan Gutierrez, both third graders at Barfield.

September winners, also from Barfield, were Emily Becerra, a fourth grader, and Tin Pham, a fifth grader.

October winners were Jade Espinoza-Alvarez and Jaslene Aguilera, both third graders at Lincoln.

And November winners, also students at Lincoln, were Daniel Budiyanto, a first grader, and Marissa Mendoza, a fifth grader.

Students are recognized based on academic achievements, leadership abilities, attendance, mentoring and/or tutoring other students, and relationships with staff and students.

Happy holidays, neighbors.

We wish all our neighbors a safe and happy holiday season and the very best in the New Year. It's a true joy to be part of such a wonderful community.

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Claremont education center with on-site counselors offers help for students during 'remote learning' days

Middle Tree, a non-profit education center in Claremont, is offering its services as a supportive learning center for working parents who need a safe place to send their students during remote learning days.

Students will have assistance in both English and Spanish logging into their daily distance learning schedule in a supervised, socially distanced environment with wi-fi connectivity and education assistance from on-site counselors.

And, according to a spokesperson for the organization, Middle Tree "is always happy to help those in need regardless of their ability to pay."

Middle Tree recently has partnered with Pomona Unified School District.

"Regardless of their grades, almost every student needs extra help with their studies," said Middle Tree executive director Joseph Atman. "Middle Tree ensures that every student is able to get that help by designing a specific academic plan for the individual student, giving them unlimited time to work on that plan, and then making sure that everyone can afford it regardless of their household income."

Middle Tree is located at 250 W. 1st St., Suite 330, Claremont. For more information, e-mail info@middletree.org or call (909) 293-9560.



'DRIVE THROUGH' EVENT TO RECOGNIZE AREA VETERANS -- Long-time Pomona volunteer Gerty Marquez organized a drive-through event to honor area military veterans and her husband, Robert Miranda Marquez, now 74, was in the middle of it all as his wife used the occasion to commemorate his service as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Marquez was deployed to Vietnam in May 1967 and was honorably discharged in May 1969 -- with multiple frames filled with medals and honors on display to prove it! He was awarded the bronze star, a national defense service medal, a Vietnam campaign medal, a combat infantry badge, an Army commendation medal and more. Pictured at the event is Marquez with his wife (and their daughter Bobbie Miranda in the background), Marquez with friend Brandon Moorhead, Marquez in uniform during the Vietnam era and frames filled with his honors that were on display at the drive-through. Nearly 50 people drove through the event. As a side note, Marquez' father, Robert G. Marquez, was a veteran of World War II. The event was on Nov. 10, the day before Veterans Day, at the family home in Pomona.



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Penny Jean Barbee – A life of poetry, art, music, family and caring

Penny Jean Barbee, an artist and a poet who was also a wife, a mother, a sister, a step-mom, an aunt, a grandmother and a great-grandmother, died suddenly last month (Oct. 24) following heart-related complications in Klamath Falls, Oregon. She was 77.

She was born in Whittier, where her parents, Jack and Elizabeth Wilson, lived at the time.

Penny Jean was married to James Barbee, formerly of Azusa, who retired from the Los Angeles Times and moved to Klamath Falls.

James Barbee's daughter and Penny Jean's stepdaughter Renee Barbee is vice president of marketing and operations of La Nueva Voz.

James and Penny Jean were married for 24 years and were together for 26 years.

"She was the most loving, kind and caring step-mom you could ever imagine," Renee Barbee said. "She loved my dad with all of her

heart, they adored each other, and my dad is continuing to grieve the loss of his beloved Penny."

Her caring nature is reflected in her favorite song, according to her sister, Sandi Mollo, and in one of her paintings, which depicted their imaginary cabin near the ocean.

"It was going to be the cover of our book, 'Forever Yours,'" Sandi said, referring to a novel the two were in the process of co-authoring about two elderly sisters who lived together in the cabin. "One day I hope to meet her back there."

Sandi said Penny Jean painted many beautiful pictures, many of which she sent to her sister.

She said she and her sister were "always writing" – poems, short stories, songs, comic routines, and more.

"She was a light in this world that should not have been extinguished so soon," Sandi said, adding that Penny Jean loved playing Scrabble with her husband ev-



Pictured is Penny Jean Barbee with her husband, James Barbee. Penny Jean died last month in Klamath Falls, Oregon, at the age of 77. She was the stepmom of Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz.

ery Sunday, she loved the ocean and she loved her cats.

She also enjoyed crafting, gardening, playing piano, and being around her family.

Penny Jean was preceded in death by her parents, grandson Randan Strohmman, and nephew Christopher Mollo.

She is survived by her husband, James Barbee; sister Sandi Mollo, of Pendleton, OR; daughters Diana Platis and Laurie Rhoades of Klamath Falls and Karen Warren of Central Point, OR; and stepdaughters Renee Barbee, of Pomona, and Suzanne Barbee Jones, of Visalia; stepson Todd Barbee, of Cameron Park, CA; five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, nephew Michael Mollo, of Ash-



Pictured is a painting by Penny Jean Barbee that was to be used on the cover of "Forever Yours," a book the two were co-authoring.

land, OR, niece Jennifer Wilson, of Pendleton, OR, three great nieces and one great-grandniece.

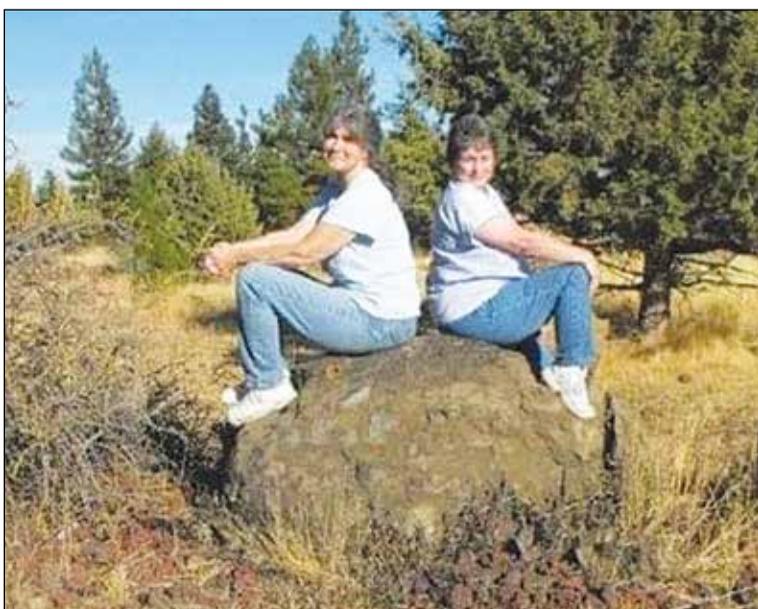
Penny Jean was cremated, and, at her request, her ashes were spread over the ocean.

APERTURAS DE EMPLEO INMEDIATAS PRODUCTION WORKERS & PACKERS

La empresa de procesamiento de aves de corral ubicada en Chino, CA, tiene vacantes inmediatas para trabajadores de producción y envasadores. Buscando estudiantes confiables y rápidos, con capacidad para trabajar horas extras y algunos fines de semana. La compañía entrenará.

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Penny Jean Barbee, at right, is pictured with her sister, Sandi Mollo, of Pendleton, Oregon.

Kennedy Austin to hold toy give-away

Pomona's Kennedy Austin Foundation will present its 10th annual toy give-away from noon to 3 p.m. Dec. 19 at 310 S. East End Ave. in Pomona.

Partnering with Kennedy Austin for the event are members of the Black Knights and Lady Knights Exquisite motorcycle club.

Children must be present with an adult to receive toys.

For more information, call (909) 620-0912.

The following public service ads are courtesy of La Nueva Voz

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Noon to 5 p.m.
Fri., Sun.:
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Because it's personal... from pg. 8

aliens." Refugees from the Nazis were jailed as Nazis!

And I have not forgotten what was done to 120,000 patriotic Japanese-Americans during World War II. They were rounded up and put into concentration camps across the country from Arkansas to California and north to Idaho and Colorado. Why is this personal to me? Because my closest friend in high school was born in one of those camps, in southern Arizona.

And it's personal to me because my son-in-law and grand daughter are Black. And because my cousin on my mother's side was married to a Black man, from Senegal – he passed away a couple of years ago – and their daughter is Black. And because my cousin on my father's side is the new grandfather of a Black grandson.

Yes. It's personal to me. And so I stay in the struggle, and I will stay in the struggle as long as I have the strength to do so. So long as I am conscious, I will be in the struggle, in one way or another.

Because it is right to do so. And because it is personal to me.

Editor's Note: Rabbi Zev is a community and civil rights advocate in Pomona.

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Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz stuffs a remote controlled red mustang in the back of a Pomona Police cruiser last week at the Pomona Police Department's annual "Stuff a Cruiser" toy drive for kids in Pomona in front of Ross Dress for Less in the Rio Rancho Towne Center. The toys are given away each year in City Hall at the police department's "Operation Santa Cop" event. Pictured, from left, are Community Service Officer Natalie Diaz, Officer Cynthia Jimenez, Renee Barbee and Officer Garrett Dulon.



A television news cameraman from Channel 4 Los Angeles stopped by last week to cover the Pomona Police Department's "Stuff a Cruiser" toy drive. The story was on the Channel 4 news at both 5 and 6 p.m. Pomona Police Crime Prevention Corporal Chris Lewis said the event was tremendously successful, adding that halfway through the five-hour drive they already had received "double approaching triple" compared to last year, including both toys and corporate donations.



POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION TURKEY GIVE-AWAY -- Members of the Pomona Police Officers' Association gave away 250 turkeys and all the fixins' Tuesday during a drive-through at Pomona's Washington Park to residents on a list provided by members of the Pomona City Council and the Pomona Unified School District. Included was a five-pound bag of potatoes and a pie. This year's give-away was able to grow in size thanks to a donation of \$2,500 from Pomona native Steve Pedroza, a former PUSD employee and now head of an Ontario-based consulting firm, who just wanted to give back to the community. Pictured taking a turn at loading the trunk of a car are, from left, Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis and Officer Jason Conley, who organized this year's event with Officer Jeff Hayward.

A MUST READ!

Pomona military hero tells his story of combat in Korea – long after his death – in book published by his children based on his personal journal

By Jeff Schenkel

Tucked away in the history of Pomona is the story of U.S. Army Capt. George Samaniego – husband, father of eight children and active in the Pomona community – who before all of that became known for his distinguished military service both in World War II and the Korean War.

He described himself as one of the few Mexican American officers in the Army at the time.

Interested so far? Well, his service in Korea – some 70 years ago -- is chronicled for all to read in a 170-page book written from his personal journal – essentially his daily diary – and published after his death.

Now, at La Nueva Voz, we have had the privilege, pleasure and honor of knowing a lot of military heroes right here in Pomona in the course of publishing this newspaper for the past 11 years.

Many of them are our friends at Pomona's American Legion Post



Capt. George Samaniego

30 and even include several brave soldiers there who also served in the Korean War.

But Capt. Samaniego's book, "Journal of a Soul," takes the reader right there with him, even onto the battlefield.

Honestly? It reads with the tempo and excitement of a James Patterson novel, something we've

read quite a few of around here. But this time it was real life – and for that matter, real death.

Very simply, reading this book is like living a page out of the Korean War through the eyes of a local hero who had boots on the ground at the time.

We could tell you this book is a "must read" and stop right here, but that would not do the book – and Samaniego's life – justice.

Not only was he a brave leader and an effective leader respected by his men in Korea, but he was experienced in military operations, clearly due to his service in World War II.

From his personal account of the emotion following a maneuver to trap a column of Chinese soldiers to his company's first loss of life in Korea, their radio operator, and I know this is a cliché, it was difficult to put this book down.

And then there was Sgt. Go-Hero... pg. 21




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'Jeopardy!' host Alex Trebek dies of cancer after 37 seasons

Host of the television game show "Jeopardy!" Alex Trebek, who hosted more than 8,200 episodes of the program over the course of

nearly 37 seasons, died this month following an 18-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 80.

While diagnosed last March,

Trebek continued to host the popular game show and was open and public about his battle with the disease.

His last day in the studio was Oct. 29, only 10 days before his death. The pre-recorded episodes will air through Dec. 25.

Plans for a new host have not been announced.

A native of Sudbury, Ontario, Trebek hosted dozens of game shows before becoming host of "Jeopardy!" in its syndicated debut in 1984.

He held a Guinness World Record for hosting the most episodes of a single game show.

Trebek won the Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Game Show Host seven times and was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

He received the Order of Canada

honor from his native land in 2017.

"This is an enormous loss for the Jeopardy! staff, crew and all of Alex's millions of fans," said the show's executive producer Mike Richards. "He was a legend of the industry that we were all lucky to watch night after night for 37 years."

"His belief in the importance of the show and his willingness to push himself to perform at the highest level was the most inspiring demonstration of courage I have ever seen," Richards added.

Trebek is survived by his wife of 30 years, Jean, and children Matthew, Emily, and Nicky. The family announced no plans for a ser-



Alex Trebek

vice, but gifts in his memory could go to World Vision.

"Today, we lost a legend and a beloved member of the Sony Pictures family," said Tony Vinciguerra, chairman and CEO of Sony Pictures Entertainment. "For 37 amazing years, Alex was that comforting voice, that moment of escape and entertainment at the end of a long, hard day for millions of people around the world. He will be deeply missed by everyone who made him part of their lives."

Applications needed for grant-funded composting program opportunity

Local representatives of the California Alliance for Community Composting, working under a Community Composting for Green Spaces grant from CalRecycle, is accepting applications for area "farmers" interested in bringing free composting support and development to local green spaces.

The group is working to expand community composting by diverting food scraps and organic waste from landfills, building healthy soils, and growing food ecologically for the community. Side benefits are that the effort would help support climate change mitigation, waste reduction, food security, environmental justice and community healing efforts.

The Pomona outreach effort is part of a move to launch a network of community compost sites across the state in six regions from the Bay Area to Greater San Diego including, of course, the Inland Empire.

The composting process

would collect materials from local residents, farms, schools, churches, urban farms and gardens and compost the materials in a healthy and safe way.

Skilled staff will be provided to support projects for up to 23 months and limited infrastructure expenses will be available.

Some funds for local staffing also may be available on a site by site basis.

Individuals, groups and organizations must submit an application before Dec. 15. Applications are available on the web site at thecacc.org and can be completed on line or a paper copy of the form can be mailed to California Alliance for Community Composting, c/o LA Compost, 221 W. Ave. 45, Los Angeles, CA 90065.

For more information, contact organizers by e-mail at ccforgreenspaces@gmail.com or call (323) 522-5020.

Assistance League looking for new members interested in giving back

Looking to become part of a group of passionate volunteers who are dedicated to making a difference in the community?

The Assistance League of Pomona Valley might just be the right fit.

The group's philanthropic programs rely on hands-on involvement by member volunteers and their generous hearts and minds.

Membership is open to anyone and the Assistance League offers unique volunteer opportunities that fit individual interests and schedules.

The group serves children and families in Chino Hills, Claremont, Diamond Bar, Glendora, La Verne, Pomona and San Dimas.

The Pomona Valley group is a local chapter of the National Assistance League, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the community since 1946.

Programs include Operation School Bell, providing new clothing to more than 1,300 school aged children each year; a dental center, providing emergency and maintenance care to more than 350 children each year; and assault survivor kits, which provide new clothing, toiletries and other items to women and children who are victims of assault.

Members also plan fundraising events, help with administrative tasks and outreach efforts and serve on committees.

For more information on membership, contact membership@alpv.org, call (909) 629-6142 or visit the web site at www.alpv.org.



A free lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs and more was cooked on-site and available for volunteer workers and, well, pretty much everybody at last month's food give-away at Pomona's American Legion Post 30.



An entire bank of volunteers were lined up, ready and hard at work loading boxes into vehicles at last month's food give-away at Pomona's American Legion Post 30.



Cafiero, Post 30 member and a member of the Post 30 Color Guard, and Post 30 Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff, who coordinates the Color Guard, posing with bags filled with some of the grocery items being distributed.



Volunteers were working the street traffic to rustle up a crowd outside Pomona's American Legion Post 30 on Holt Avenue during last month's food give-away. The event even included free haircuts.

FOOD GIVE-AWAY AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 30 -- Pomona's American Legion Post 30 held another COVID-19 food give-away last month at Post 30 headquarters. Post 30 Commander Roberto Arnold said a total of 40 volunteers from a variety of organizations including "Living Word" of Upland, a rehabilitation program, and Uturn Industries' Men's Sober Living program participated in the event. Pictured, from left, are Sam



OK, you've got us -- we're not sure who this is, but she's loaded up with Halloween treats for the kids at last month's Halloween food give-away at Fairplex.



Greeting residents driving through a special Halloween food give-away last month at Pomona's Fairplex are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at left, with his wife, Criselda, and their son, Roy. At right is Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia.



Village Academy High School counselor and community volunteer Lorraine Canales, center, notices the La Nueva Voz camera as it grabs a shot of residents driving in to the Halloween food give-away at Pomona's Fairplex last month.



Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado welcomes residents to a special Halloween food (and Halloween treats) give-away last month at Pomona's Fairplex, co-sponsored by the City of Pomona, Fairplex and others. "We have plenty of partners that really cared and really wanted to make something happen for the families in Pomona for Halloween, especially during our new COVID time," Preciado told La Nueva Voz. He said it took about a month to organize the event.



Sometimes little girls dressed in a princess outfit are just meant to be photographed and this little girl, whose name is Lola, was just one of those girls at last month's Halloween food give-away at Pomona's Fairplex. And yes, Lola was a good girl -- she looked at her mom in the front seat for permission before flashing that amazing smile.



A Dia de los Muertos altar created by the Latino and Latina Roundtable, a sponsor of the Halloween food give-away last month at Fairplex, was seen by 1,000 cars driving through the event to see, well, a few spooky things along the way. Other sponsors included God's Pantry, State Sen. Connie Leyva, Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia, Round Table Pizza, and others. God's Pantry founder Tom Sweeney told La Nueva Voz his organization "pre-COVID" was providing food to 2,500 families a month and now is doing 2,500 a week.

St. Madeleine to become first school in Pomona to re-open for live classes

Pomona's St. Madeleine Catholic School received its approval this week to re-open in-person classes, apparently making the school the first in Pomona to open for business since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March.

While the approval for TK-4 through second grade technically allows the school to open immediately, a spokesperson said the school is opting to wait and open on Jan. 5.

Even so, according to the spokesperson, space is extremely limited with only 12 students per classroom, so parents are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. In addition, the spokesperson said, scholarships are available.

"We are tremendously excited to open St. Madeleine Catholic

School," said Principal Maria Irma Jimenez. "We need our children back in school for in-person learning to ensure they receive the best education possible in a conventional learning environment."

The school's waiver to return to in-person "COVID-safe" instruction followed a waiver application and a preliminary review by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, followed by a "live" inspection tour by health department officials this week.

TK-3 and third grade through fifth grade will continue online using Zoom for instruction.

St. Madeleine Catholic School is located at 935 E. Kingsley Ave., Pomona. For more information on registration, call (909) 623-9602 or visit the web site at www.stmadeleineschool.org.



Volunteers place a box of groceries in the back of a pickup truck at last month's Halloween food give-away at Fairplex. (And we didn't take a picture but we did see somebody drive through in a new-ish Maserati. We're just sayin' ...)

Even Day One was on hand at the Halloween food give-away with their walking cigarette man helping remind residents that smoking is always a bad idea.

Just Us 4 Youth... from pg. 4

their dream, their potential,” Sandoval said.

He added that he feels like he grew up in a relatively stable household.

“Sometimes kids go through a lot more trauma and they need a lot more support and they need a lot more love,” Sandoval said. “They need you – I know all of you are dedicated to helping our young people and helping to transform this community.”

“It is a beautiful thing to watch,” he added. “There is not a shortage of love in this community, there is not a shortage of opportunity in this community.”

“And really at the forefront of helping many of our youth who have suffered tremendous traumas is Just Us 4 Youth,” Sandoval said.

The organization leased the small duplex that is housing four young men from Paula Lantz, a former Pomona city councilmember, who told a small COVID-safe audience that her father left home at the age of 14 to live with his sister and her husband so he could graduate from high school, making him really living with a foster family.

In addition, Lantz said she once worked as a social worker helping with foster youth placements, she also trained foster parents and at one time she was a foster parent herself.

Sowing Seeds collecting gift cards for December ‘Holiday Pantry’

La Verne-based Sowing Seeds for Life is continuing to collect gift cards for local families this

“So I really relate to the work Eric is doing,” Lantz said, explaining she met Vasquez about four years ago and, when she had a vacancy resulting from Western University of Health Sciences students moving out because their classes now were all on-line, she leased the property to Vasquez.

“This is just a wonderful opportunity to share with the community,” she said.

The organization is leasing housing units for young women from First Presbyterian Church of Pomona.

“At Just Us 4 Youth, and with community partners like yourself, we’re committed to not let kids fall through the cracks here in Pomona, and we’re committed to do anything and everything to make sure that they have opportunities to heal,” Vasquez said.

He added that the key to kids getting healthy is long-term relationships.

“We want them to be contributing members to this community,” Vasquez said, and have an “open door” so they can “lead successful lives.”

He said the group’s focus is on foster youth and youth he said who are “at risk” but who he prefers to call “at promise.”

The group’s homes also will

holiday season in preparation for their 14th annual “Holiday Pantry” on Dec. 9, scheduled



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval

work to interrupt homelessness, drug addiction, gang influence, and crime, “and we’ll do that by providing services to those who are deserving of a second chance.”

Included will be aggressive case management, therapy and help finding gainful employment.

“In a sense, we’ll be a training center, somewhere for young people to go and to learn the core competencies of young adulthood, vocation, self-care, mental health and more.”

The organization’s mission is to transform the lives of urban youth by providing them opportunities to heal through mentoring and by helping develop their character, leadership and vocational skills.

For more information, visit the web site at justus4youth.org.

for 8 a.m. to noon at the Pomona Fairplex (enter Gate 17).

The gift cards, valued at \$10 to \$20 each, will be given to pantry families at the distribution once organizers run out of toys.

The first 2,000 vehicles at the event will receive food, toys (or gift card while supplies last) and, of course, greetings from Santa.

Everyone is required to remain inside vehicles and wear a mask at all times.

Gift cards should be mailed to Sowing Seeds for Life, 1350 Arrow Highway, La Verne 91750, attention: Fran Robertson.

Sponsors of the event in addition to Sowing Seeds are State Sen. Connie Leyva, Southern California Gas Co., and Seva Foods.

For more information, contact frobertson@sowingseedsforlife.org.

Breast Cancer Awareness... from pg. 11

due to this terrible disease, so we’re just trying to raise money for the cause and we love it,” Laine said.

The scavenger hunt – with Metro Honda and Acura as one of the stops – was designed to comply with social distancing requirements due to COVID-19, replacing the usual run/walk fundraiser.

“We’re just

one of the stops of many on the scavenger hunt,” she said, explaining participants receive points, flags and “goodie bags” along the way. “It’s all about getting the buzz and the hype (for) the fundraising for this organization. These ladies have been fundraising all year, so this is their reward for it.”

And the participants, most wearing pink – from pink sweatshirts to pink tutus – clearly were getting into the spirit themselves.



Dixee Ayach and her stepdaughter Malia Ayach, both of Fontana, participants in last month’s Breast Cancer Awareness Month scavenger hunt, form a heart in front of Metro Honda in Montclair, one of the scavenger stops along the way.

Martin Luther King Project’s 39th annual ‘Youth Social Justice Awards’ event to be held ‘virtually’ in January

Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr., Project’s 39th annual “Youth Social Justice Award Celebration” will be a virtual event this year at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17, originating from Pomona’s Pilgrim Congregational Church and available online at pivmlkproject.org.

Program theme this year is “Let’s Rise Against Injustice,” and keynote speaker is Kiana Webb, CEO of Webb Family Enterprises, which owns and operates 16 McDonald’s franchises in Southern California.

Sponsorships are still available, and vendors are needed for a “virtual marketplace.”

The primary purpose of the non-profit organization is to promote the ideals of King and to provide social justice awards to youth who have made a significant impact on their local community.

For information on sponsorships (deadline Jan. 5), e-mail the organization at pivmlkproject@gmail.com or call President Sherie Rodgers at (909) 261-0247.

Elf on the Shelf a hit at Fairplex



Photos by Renee Barbee

It wouldn't be a Christmas tradition without Santa who greets guests near the end of the wonderland adventure. Cars driving into the attraction drive through a special tunnel that shrinks the car and its occupants down to elf size to ensure maximum enjoyment. The entire experience brings to life the stories and characters of The Elf on the Shelf, all based on an unfortunate tale of a mishap in which many of Santa's Christmas gifts fell out of Santa's sleigh -- and landed right here at Pomona's Fairplex. Attendees are transported through a holiday dream world to help find the magic Santa needs to fly again. The Pomona appearance is the show's debut and promoters hope to expand it to additional cities across the country next year.

Hero... from pg. 17

mez, who died "in honor" without his hands tied behind his back (others with him had been restrained) because he resisted the North Korean soldiers who fired a single shot into his forehead.

Drafted into the U.S. Army in October 1942, Samaniego (1921 – 1976) attended Officer's Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry, in April 1943.

He was in front-line combat with the 43rd Infantry Division and was awarded the Silver Star Medal in this campaign, according to the book's back cover notes.

He remained in the service as a career soldier and, at the start of the Korean War, he was recalled as an infantry officer with the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

Samaniego was flown to Korea in October 1950 to join the Second Infantry Division where he served in continuous combat until he was wounded in action in March 1951.

He received the Purple Heart in this campaign in addition to other decorations.

He was active in his community of Pomona, in his church, in Alcoholics Anonymous, scouting and many other organizations until his death in 1976.

I was given a copy of his book by his son, Edward, also a resident of Pomona, after meeting him outside Pomona City Hall. Edward is devoting part of his life to making Pomona aware of some of the history of this diverse community.

Capt. Samaniego was writing his journal during the war so his children "could understand a little of his life's journey," his children wrote in

the book's closing notes.

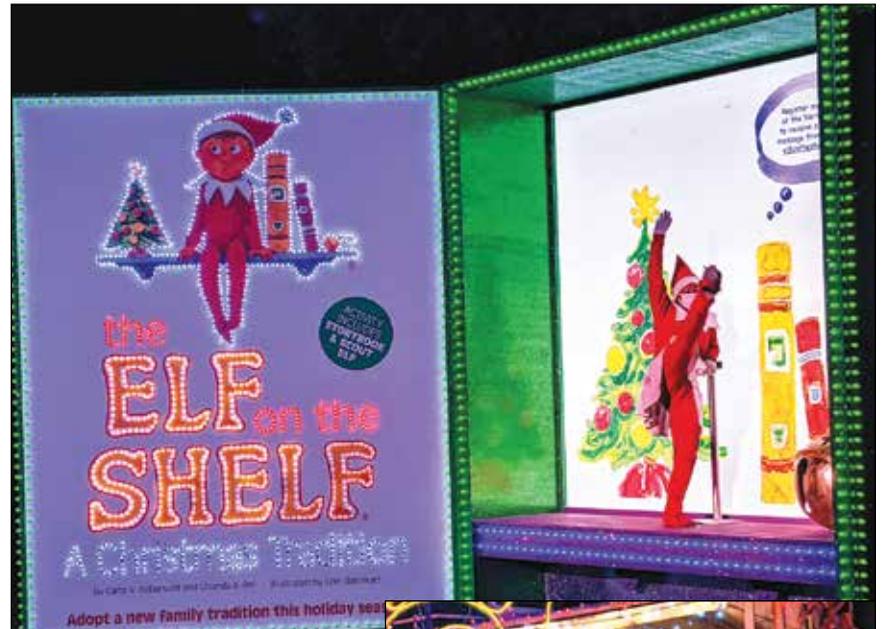
"We love and miss you dad," they wrote. "And to our mom who stood by him, we love and miss you mom. Thank you for everything."

"We are not to judge what transpired here," Edward Samaniego wrote in the book's foreword. "Under certain conditions in a person's life, he or she is capable of anything. We salute you men of honor, men of duty, and leave you to the true judge of all."

In addition to Edward, Samaniego's children are George, Jose, Manuel, Fernando, Katie Ann, Isabel, and David Ezekiel.

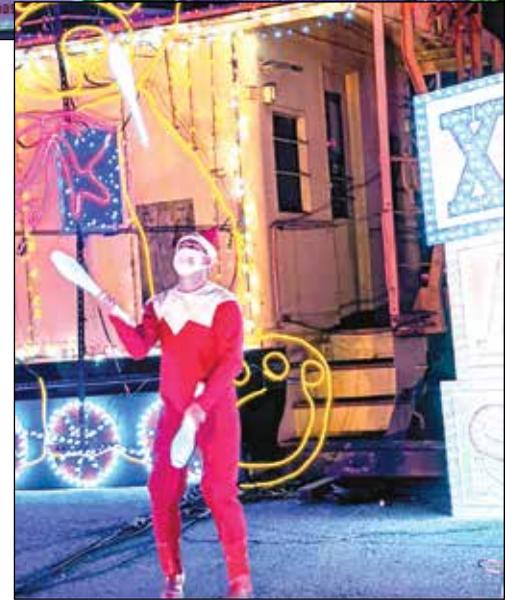
Capt. Samaniego's entire family – and his community – should be proud of the record of this brave soldier.

Copies of the book are available for sale. For information, contact Katie Ann Samaniego Bartlett at larrybartlett@charter.net.



An elf in a box performs a little (little, elf-sized, get it?) dance routine during "Elf on the Shelf: A Christmas tradition" at Pomona's Fairplex. The way it works, you listen along the way to a description of what you are seeing -- using an app or a web site on your cell phone or through your car speakers. And you can even buy a miniature elf in a box at a gift shop on the way out.

A LITTLE DRIVE-THROUGH JUGGLING AT ELF ON THE SHELF -- An elf shows off his juggling skills in front of the caboose at Pomona's Fairplex during the magical holiday journey "Elf on the Shelf: A Christmas tradition" now open and running through Jan. 3. The event, enjoyed completely on a drive-through basis with full social distancing rules and health and safety precautions, provides 16 live attractions on a route through the Fairplex parking lot and on picnic hill. For information and tickets, visit the web site at elfontheshelfjourney.com.



A group of excited visitors to a City of Pomona Halloween event last month in the Pomona Civic Center (except for one visitor who already had enough excitement and is taking a nap) stop by the Pomona Public Library booth for "PPE" protective supplies and "goodie bags." Pictured, at rear, from left, are Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, a member of the Library Board of Trustees, and former City Councilmember Paula Lantz, of Save Our Pomona Public Library.



That jack-o-lantern in front of the stroller says it all as visitors to the City of Pomona Halloween event, billed as a "National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week," PPE and "treats" resources fair, gets into full swing. Representatives of the city's housing division were offering information on how to enroll your home for a free lead inspection. Attendees received free personal protective equipment, courtesy of the Pomona COVID-19 Action Committee.

There were lots of strange things to see at the City of Pomona "PPE and Treats Resource Fair" Halloween event last month. This one pretty much qualified and, fortunately, it did not appear to be moving.





TIBO SHOWS WHAT HE CAN DO -- Tibo, a 7-year-old Belgian Malinois police dog, makes an impressive collar (or "arm grab" in this instance) during a Pomona Police Department K-9 demonstration last month at Phillips Paw Park in Phillips Ranch Park. Pictured, at left, is Tibo's handler, Pomona Police Officer Nick Hedlund, and the "suspect of the day" in a protective suit, at right, is Officer Manny Rodriguez. Tibo has been with the Pomona Police Department for the past four years. The audience was told the dogs have a lot of training and skills and won't bite unless the "suspect" makes a move, but La Nueva Voz recommends that you don't take a chance. The demonstration, complete with ice cream and Red Ribbon "swag," was a part of the police department's Red Ribbon Week observance in which kids are encouraged to "be happy, be brave, be drug free."



JAX HANGS OUT WITH THE KIDS AT POMONA POLICE K-9 DEMONSTRATION -- Pomona Police Department K-9 bloodhound Jax gets to know the kids in the neighborhood at a K-9 event last month in Phillips Paw Park in Phillips Ranch. And, as an important note, Jax, whose only job is picking up on a scent and following a trail, is the only police dog on the Pomona K-9 team the handlers allow folks to hang out with up close. Pomona Police Officer Jason Conley, at left, Jax' handler, explains just what his dog can do. COVID-19 health precautions and social distancing were in full force at the event. Officer Jeffrey Hayward and his K-9 dog Bari also were on hand at the event to showcase their skills.

Do you have a news story?
Send your news tips to: reneebarbee7@gmail.com



Los Angeles County Supervisor

HILDA L. SOLIS

First District • Chair Pro Tem

Happy Holidays!

Wishing you and yours health, happiness, and peace during this holiday season and through the coming year.

¡Felices Fiestas!

Les deseo a usted y a los suyos salud, felicidad y paz durante estas fiestas y durante el próximo año.



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Children's book author Sasha Ariel Alston publishes second book – inspiring girls to become entrepreneurs

Best-selling author Sasha Ariel Alston has launched her second children's book, "Sasha Savvy Starts It Up," which encourages girls to become entrepreneurs.

Following the success of the STEM-focused (science, technology, engineering and math) book "Sasha Savvy Loves to Code," Sasha, a recent 2020 graduate with a degree in information systems

(merging technology and business), was determined to write the second book in the series.

According to the book's description, it uses STEM, entrepreneurial and social justice concepts to inspire girls to be confident, creative thinkers and problem solvers, all while having fun.

She wrote her first book while still in high school.

"I wanted to provide an innovative solution to address the lack of girls exploring STEM and maintaining an interest," she said. "I thought a book telling a story would be a great way to inspire girls and help build confidence in areas they find challenging."

She said she had a similar motivation for her second book although it is more focused on entrepreneurship.

According to a press release from the book's

publisher, Gold Fern Press, American Association of University Women figures show a girl's self-esteem drops 3.5 times more than a boy's does between elementary and high school.

"I want to encourage girls to speak up, take risks, pursue dreams, share ideas, and believe they can be leaders, inventors and CEOs," she said.

Despite pandemic-related challenges, Sasha published this book through a successful "Kickstarter" campaign, raising nearly \$10,000.

The book can be purchased on Amazon, at Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million and local, independent bookstores at Indie Bound.

Sasha is the granddaughter of Pomona veteran and community volunteer Farrell Chiles.

**La Nueva Voz...
Follow us on
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Instagram!**



TREE TOPPLES ONTO CARS -- Remember those high winds late last month? Among other damage and trees down throughout the city, a good-sized tree fell onto two or three cars (there was too much tree to tell for sure) in the Pomona Public Library parking lot. At least one of them belonged to a City Hall employee.



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Pomona Police to begin posting sex purchaser booking photos online

The Pomona Police Department started a new policy this week of posting booking photos of “sex purchasers” on the city’s web site as part of a comprehensive plan to attempt to reduce human trafficking in the city, according to Police Chief Mike Ellis.

In a message to the community over the online community information service Nixle, Ellis said the new approach was developed in a collaborative effort “with input and support from the Mayor and City

Council and with several community-based organizations who share our commitment to end human trafficking in Pomona.”

Booking photos will be active and updated every 15 days “in an effort to deter prostitution-related activity away from our city,” Ellis said.

In addition, the police department beginning next month will be adding two additional police officers to the Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking Team (SET Team) to create a seven-day-a-week cover-

age focused on rescuing victims of human trafficking and conducting directed enforcement on pimps and sex purchasers.

Ellis added that the city council at its Nov. 16 meeting unanimously approved a ban on the hourly rental of hotels and motels in the city.

“We will be working with local hotels and motels to inform them of the new ordinance, which takes effect on Dec. 16,” Ellis said.

He said the department will be teaming up with the FBI’s Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking

Task Force – a move he said “will provide additional resources to the city and give federal criminal filing opportunities to our SET team.”

Ellis said this action will not reduce hours of SET team members in Pomona.

And street lights on East Holt Avenue are being replaced with LED bulbs, providing brighter light along the corridor which long has been well known for human trafficking activity.

“East Holt Avenue and the illegal activity that occurs on our city

streets remains a top priority for our department,” Ellis said in his statement. “With these changes, we will continue to work with federal, state and local partners to hold those who engage in sexual exploitation activity accountable and seek justice for victims.”

He said his department will continue to work with local churches and organizations and the Inland Valley Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, comprised of Project Sister, EveryoneFree, the Claremont Police Department and local churches.

“As a police department, we will always seek innovative ways to maintain a safe community and improve the quality of life for all,” Ellis said.

Pomona Youth Commission reinstated after 19 years

By Donna Houston

Meet Pomona’s newly appointed Youth Commissioners!

The Youth Commission, an advisory board to the Pomona City Council dedicated to providing youth with a formal voice in local government, was recently reinstated after some 19 years.

The seven-member commission is comprised of high school students coming together to enhance the interests of youth and the community. Their duties will include attending community events and city council meetings. They will attend training and be mentored to serve as current and future leaders.

Their first official meeting was held on Oct. 1 via Zoom. Mike Osoff, community services manager, and his staff conduct the training sessions. The youth commissioners are learning about city operations and services provided by departments such as police, public works, neighborhood services and youth programming.

Youth Commissioner Ryan Houston became active in his community while in elementary school.

“My mother (Donna Houston) has always been very active in my schools and community and that inspired me to become more involved myself,” he said. “My mom currently serves as a Community Life Commissioner. I decided to follow in her footsteps and apply to be a Youth Commissioner. I am excited to serve my city.”

Youth commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and City Council. They serve a two-year term. Below are the current members:

Natalie Alvarado, Commissioner	Mayoral appointment
Orlando Arias-Pulido, Commissioner	District 1
Victor Tessier, Commissioner	District 2
Javier Rodriguez-Rivera, Commissioner	District 3
Mario Portillo, Commissioner	District 4
Ryan Houston, Commissioner	District 5
Vacant	District 6

The Youth Commission originally was established in 1993 and dissolved in 2001 due to a lack of quorum for 18 months.

One of the original youth commissioners was Alfredo Camacho. He began his career in public service at the age of 16.

“I learned how city government works, I learned Robert’s Rules of Order and The Brown Act,” Camacho said. “I am excited for the future and for what is to come from the newly revived Youth Commission.”

Camacho currently serves as Chairman of the Pomona Planning Commission.

Meetings of the Youth Commission are open to the public and are held at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

The role of the Youth Commission is to engage and empower Pomona’s youth to be active leaders in local government and in their community. Congratulations, 2020 Youth Commissioners!

For additional information visit the city website at www.ci.pomona.ca.us.

Editor’s Note: Donna Houston is a graduate of USC’s Annenberg School of Journalism. She has been a Pomona resident for more than 20 years.



Artist A'kailah Byrd, 23, of Rancho Cucamonga and a student at Claremont Graduate University, puts the finishing touches on a painting on the fence in Downtown Pomona during recent Second Saturday activities. Second Saturday has been dialed down a few notches due to COVID-19 restrictions.



STRANGE LOOKING ROOMMATES AT SERENITY VILLA SENIORS COMPLEX -- It was Halloween last month, of course, and everything seemed to come out of the woodwork including several unusual residents hanging over a railing at Serenity Villa Apartments in Pomona. But don't worry -- La Nueva Voz snapped a photo and left quickly and quietly while wondering whoooooooooooooooooooo they were!



Pomona’s American Legion Post 30 held its Thanksgiving food give-away this month at post headquarters in Pomona, handing out 60 turkeys to the first 60 cars and boxes filled with groceries throughout the morning, courtesy of God’s Pantry. Pictured helping out Post 30 Commander Roberto Arnold in the effort, from left, are Monique Manzanares, president and CEO of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, Arnold, and Pomona Chamber Board member Annette Limon, special projects manager at Mt. San Antonio College.



AMERICAN LEGION FRIEND BACK IN TOWN! -- Vicki Grillot, a long-time Pomona American Legion Post 30 supporter and past president of Post 30’s Auxiliary, was back in Pomona this month to visit and see her friends during the Thanksgiving food give-away at Post 30 headquarters. Grillot, who now lives in Lucerne Valley, told La Nueva Voz it was the first anniversary of the death of her husband, John Grillot, a past commander of Post 30, and she wanted to make the trip in her husband’s memory. Pictured are Grillot, at left, and Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz.