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Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member

Issue No. 147

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Assemblymember Rodriguez doubles down securing \$4 million second-round state funding for Pomona Police work with homeless

By Jeff Schenkel
Publisher

It turns out the late U.S. Sen. Everett Dirksen never said, “a billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you’re talking real money.”

La Nueva Voz did a quick on-line search to try to tie that quote to this story and found that the Dirksen Congressional Center said it never happened, although one quote came close.

The Center also tells a story about a gentleman who reported sitting next to Dirksen on a flight and asking him about the famous quote.

“Oh, I never said that,” Dirksen reportedly said. “A newspaper fella misquoted me once, and I thought it sounded so good that I never bothered to deny it.”

Well, back home in Pomona, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez held a news conference in the parking lot of the Pomona Police Department last month to announce he was able to get another \$4 million in the state budget this year for police services involving the homeless – on the heels of a similar \$4 million allocation just three years ago.

So if this keeps up, pretty soon Rodriguez will be talking about some real money – real money that is already providing real services to the City of Pomona.

“Today, I am happy to announce that I was successful in securing the \$4 million to reauthorize this important initiative again,” he said. “Gov. Newsom has signed the state budget so funds are on their way.”

“In 2018, we stood at the same place to recognize one of the largest single state investments in Pomona’s history,” Rodriguez said. “The budget funded the Pomona OATH (Officers Assisting the Homeless) program into existence and started helping the community from day one.”

“A lot has changed since that press conference and today, I am proud to update you on the success of the program to date and discuss today’s second round of historic funding,” he added. Rodriguez said in 2017 during a single night count, Pomona had nearly 900 homeless individuals living on the city streets. In 2019, a year after the initial funding, the city’s homeless population

“A lot has changed since that



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presents a check for \$4 million to Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis at a news conference in Pomona last month. The state funds, a second round after an initial check for \$4 million three years ago, will enable the police department to continue its “Officers Assisting the Homeless” program.

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historic funding,” he added.

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Funding for homeless... pg. 6

Fairplex intake site for minors to close next month after caring for 10,000 children

The Emergency Intake Site for unaccompanied minors – located at Pomona’s Fairplex since the first busloads of children rolled in five months ago in May – will shut down by Nov. 19, authorities reported.

La Nueva Voz learned of the development in a news release from Congresswoman Norma Torres, who said in a prepared statement she was thankful to everyone in

the community who contributed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for the children.

Bonnie Preston, acting director of Region 9 of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, responded to an e-mail from La Nueva Voz confirming the report.

“U.S. HHS informed leadership of the Pomona Fairplex E.I.S. that the site would be closed Nov. 19,”

she said in an e-mail. “Nearly 10,000 children have been cared for at the site since it opened May 1 of this year.”

She added in her Oct. 13 e-mail that there were at that time fewer than 400 children onsite, “and we don’t expect any more children to arrive.”

The last reunifications of the remaining children were expected to

Intake site to close... pg. 7

Pomona Lions and Pomona Rotary both celebrate 100 years of service!

(See stories beginning on page 4.)

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Innovative mental health programs can advance individual and community well-being

Since its approval in 2004, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA, Proposition 63) has helped expand county mental health programs, including prevention, early intervention and treatment services, for all populations across the state: children, transition-age youth, adults, older adults, families, and most especially, unserved and underserved communities. It has also embraced a unique, explicit and enduring commitment to drive innovations that improve mental health outcomes for individuals and communities. The Innovation (INN) component of the MHSA provides Tri-City Mental Health, as well as other county-administered mental health systems in California, the opportunity to develop and test new and innovative approaches that can inform current and future mental health practices.

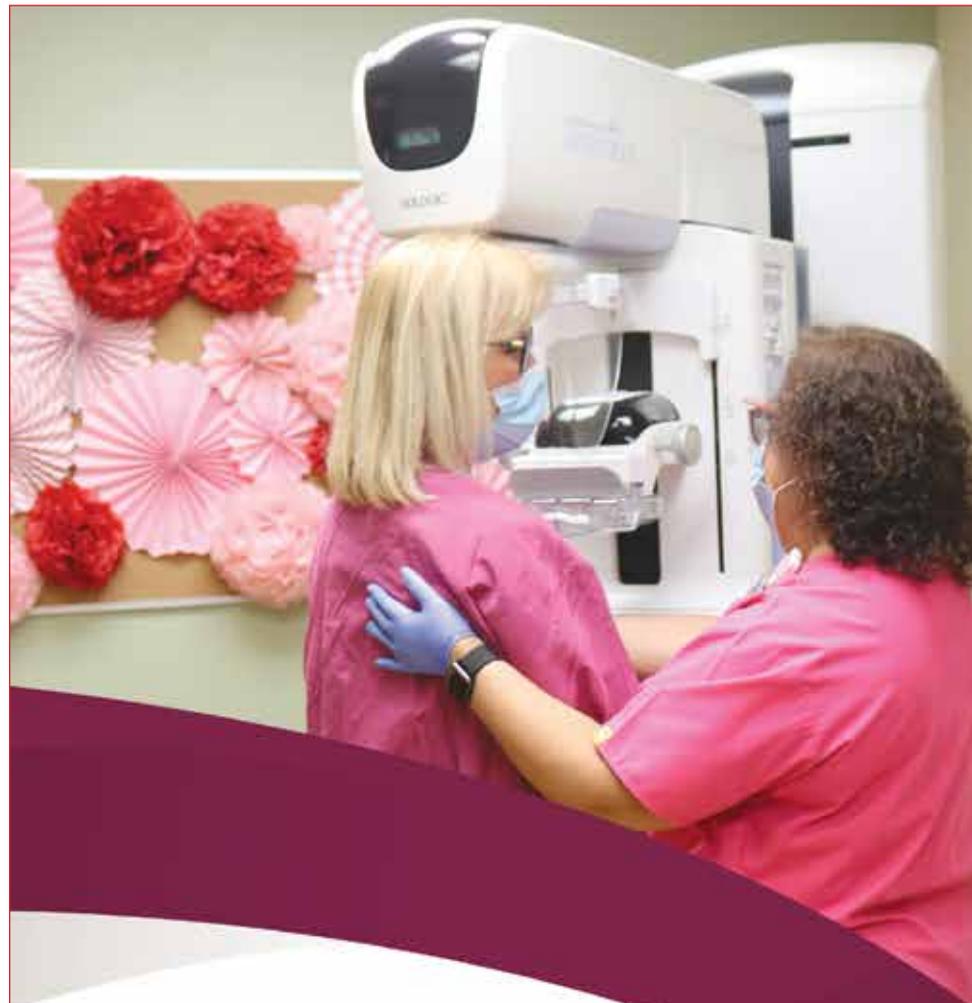
“The true value of Innovation is that we can try out new ideas that have never been implemented in a mental health setting and see how they can benefit our communities,” said Amanda Colt, MHSA Program Coordinator at Tri-City Mental Health. “We can take practices or approaches that may work for health care or education, mold them to fit mental health services and test if they improve well-being for targeted communities. These projects are typically short-term, three to five years, and contribute to learning. By testing out new ideas, we can design novel and creative ways to better serve our communities and the individuals within them.”

Residents, community groups, service providers and organizations alike in Pomona, Claremont or La Verne play a significant role in fostering innovation in Tri-City Mental Health services.

“Community members and stakeholders are the key to effective Innovation workgroups in our community planning process,” said Colt. “They help us determine what concerns are a priority in our communities and help select novel ideas to be used for new INN projects. We invite community members to sign-up for upcoming INN workgroups, both virtually and in-person, that will take place throughout November, and contribute their innovative ideas. The more diverse workgroups we have and the more stakeholder input we receive, the better the chance we have to create an Innovation project that is valuable to our communities.”

Innovation is essential to achieve well-being. Together, we can apply our ingenuity, creativity and ability to learn from each other to advance mental health services and improve well-being for all to thrive. To learn more about Innovation, sign-up for upcoming workgroups and submit your innovative ideas, please visit our new Innovation page at www.tricitymhs.org/mhsa/innovation or contact Amanda Colt at acolt@tricitymhs.org or (909) 326-4638.





IT'S TIME TO GET YOUR ANNUAL MAMMOGRAM

In 2021, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) has seen a 25% decrease in women scheduling an annual screening mammogram for breast cancer. That's more than 1,000 women who are late in receiving this vital health screening. Early detection of breast cancer saves lives.

Postponed appointments may have been caused by a number of factors, including fear of contracting COVID-19 in a health care setting, or economic factors such as loss of health insurance or finances during the pandemic. It is safe to visit PVHMC's Breast Health Center and the Pomona Valley Health Centers. PVHMC is taking extra precautions to keep patients safe. And in an effort to reduce financial barriers and encourage women to get screened, during the month of October, PVHMC is offering \$50 screening mammograms with no physician order or proof of insurance required.

To schedule a 3D mammography appointment at the Breast Health Center in Pomona, or at the Pomona Valley Health Centers in Claremont, Chino Hills or La Verne, call PVHMC's scheduling line at 909.469-9395. PVHMC's cancer program is accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer.

FOR APPOINTMENTS AND MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 909.469.9395



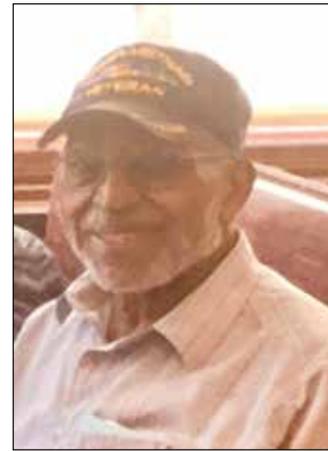
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Pastor Lloyd Greenwood of Pomona's Lighthouse Baptist Church

Pastor Lloyd Greenwood, Jr., who was spiritual leader at Lighthouse Baptist Church in Pomona for more than 40 years, died last month, La Nueva Voz has learned.

Greenwood was known for giving food to missions and even cooking for the missions, especially on holidays.

He was credited with helping many men get back on their feet and, in the case of hardship, would



Pastor Lloyd Greenwood, Jr.

even let them sleep in his church.

Greenwood served in the U.S. Army for 25 years and moved to California in 1979 to attend Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College.

He also ministered at Emmanuel Baptist Rescue Mission in Los Angeles.

He was married to Dolores Greenwood for 65 years. They had two sons, Michael and Mitchell.

Greenwood passed away on Sept. 29.

Pomona's 2021 Downtown

Christmas Parade set for Dec. 11

The 2021 Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 11, on the theme "Holiday Under the Stars."

The parade, presented by the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. beginning at Gibbs Street and Second Street and continuing along Second Street to Park Avenue before looping back around on Mission Boulevard, Garey Avenue and Third Street to Locust Street.

Members of the parade committee, made Downtown Christmas Parade... pg. 6

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Photo by Tom Zasadzinski, Cal Poly Pomona

The “Early Childhood Studies” program at Cal Poly University Pomona has become the first four-year degree program in California to earn national accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Requirements were demonstrated excellence in promoting child development and learning, building family and community relationships, providing support to young children and families, and building meaningful curriculum. “Early childhood education is so important because 85 to 90 percent of the brain is developed in the first five years,” said Associate Professor Eden Haywood-Bird, interim chair of the department, adding that early education helps children develop skills to be successful in life. Pictured are some of the kids in the children’s center working on, well, a very important “Play-Doh” project.



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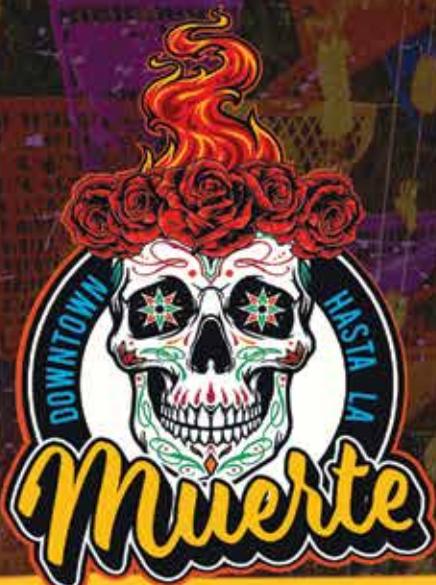
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Pomona Host Lions, marking 100 years, commended for being 'extraordinary as a club'

Lions Immediate Past International Director Howard Hudson told members of the Pomona Host Lions this month at their 100th anniversary celebration that over the past 100 years they have made themselves "extraordinary as a club."

Hudson, a CPA in Santa Barbara and the keynote speaker at the Pomona Valley Mining Company, borrowed a line from the 1989 film "Dead Poets Society" starring Robin Williams.

"Carpe diem, seize the day, make yourselves extraordinary," he said.

"So if you look at the legacy that you have, that has been given to you, I want to ask you to seize the day," Hudson said. "And my challenge to you as a club and as individuals is to continue to serve the community and to continue to make yourselves and this club extraordinary."

"This is only the second time I've appeared before a hundred year old club," he said, "and this is special."

"It is through activity that we do survive and thrive," he added.

"I was on the board of directors when Lions Club International turned 100 and that was the time for us to reflect. It was also a time for us to look in our crystal ball and see where are we going to be for the next five, 10, 15 years."

Hudson spoke of the many activities the Pomona club has undertaken through the years, "and how the country has changed, how the community has changed because of the Lions."

"One of the things I think about is we are all proud to be Lions because we see how we have changed lives," he said. "But when we look at ourselves, one of the reasons why we stay so involved with Lions is because we see how Lions has changed our lives, always for the better."

Hudson said the Lions club has remained very flexible over the past 100 years.

"One of the big things, of course, was about 33 years ago we welcomed women into our association – and look at how that has changed our association," he said.

And he said commitment is another thing that matters most.



PARADE OF PAST PRESIDENTS -- Past presidents of Pomona Lions paraded in for a special recognition at the club's 100th anniversary event this month. Pictured, from left, are Denny Mosier, Judy Pfeiffer (widow of past president Del Pfeiffer), Ken Sherwood III, Tom Hollister, Ben Sellers, Jack Lightfoot, Amanda Behnke, Steve King, Gil Smith, Barbara Smith, Anne Henderson, and Carmen Morris.

"We all commit to something when we raise our right hand and join the Lions club," Hudson said. "Each club is different in their commitments that they ask for, but commitment is one of those premises that keeps us going and that matters most."

But he said gratitude also is important.

"We are grateful for what we

have been given," he said.

"In this club we are grateful for what you have been given and the blessings that you've had from the people who have come before you who have laid the groundwork," Hudson said. "And so, we are building on that groundwork."

Referring to "Dead Poets Society" once again, he cited the scene in which Williams led his students out into the hallway and showed them pictures of students who had been in the school generations before.

The menu for the evening included a choice of prime rib, salmon or pasta primavera. Des-



Lions District Gov. John Schroeder congratulates Pomona Lions on their 100th anniversary.

sert was New York cheesecake with blueberry topping.

A reproduction of the program from the club's "Charter Banquet" held at Legion Home on July 25, 1921 (the club was organized on March 4, 1921) showed the menu was an assortment of cold meats, cold chicken and tongue and potato salad. The desserts were strawberry cream cake and ice cream.

Emery R. Yundt, president of the club at the time, introduced

Pomona Host Lions... pg. 21

Rotary District Governor-elect calls Pomona club 'phenomenal' at centennial celebration

Rotary District Governor-elect Roger Gutierrez congratulated members of Pomona Rotary at their "Centennial Celebration" last week for their 100 years of service, calling them a "phenomenal club."

"You've been engaged for 100 years, you've done projects, just think about all the service extended and all these community services that you've done," he said. "If you hadn't been there, all those people would have missed out."

"So, this is a phenomenal achievement," he said, adding that Rotary District 5300 is beginning to have more clubs reaching 100-year status.

"But . . . this is a great group, I've enjoyed all the visits over the years . . . and all the great work you've been doing," he said. "Congratulations on a great job, keep up the good work, let's go for another 100 years."

Pomona Rotary President Jill Dolan, in her champagne toast at the event, thanked the nearly 200 members, friends and elected officials for attending the celebration at the Pomona Valley Mining



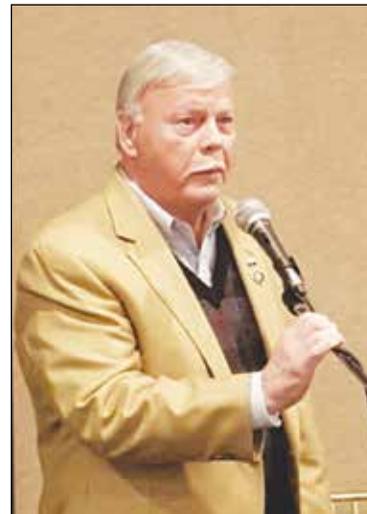
Pomona Rotary President Jill Dolan

Company.

"Here's to another 100 years of serving the Pomona area," she said.

"It is an honor to be leading a club that has accomplished so much over the past century. I look forward to the club continuing to make a difference in Pomona and around the world," she said in a statement after the event.

In her "President's Message" in the celebration program, she said



Rotary District Governor-elect Roger Gutierrez

this year's Rotary International theme is "Serve to Change Lives."

"It is no understatement to say that being a member of Pomona Rotary over the past 10 years has changed my life," she said. "I know that my fellow Rotarians feel the same, and I look forward to many more years of our club changing the lives of others."

And commenting on the club's work during the pandemic, she said meetings were different and

'Phenomenal' club... pg. 17

La Nueva Voz
The Inland Empire's Leading Bilingual Newspaper
 A division of South Coast Media Services
 Providing media relations services since 1983
(909) 629-2292 • www.lanuevavoz.net
 P.O. Box 1117 • Pomona, CA 91769

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

V.P. of Marketing & Operations: Renee Barbee
 Cell: (909) 762-1446 • reneebarbee7@gmail.com

Layout and Design/Translations: Dora Cruz
dcruz549@yahoo.com

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County Assessor Jeff Prang says despite pandemic, property values in county – and in Pomona – continue to grow

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang told members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce this month that property values in the county continue to grow despite the recession caused by the pandemic – and growth in Pomona is keeping pace with this trend as well.

Prang, speaking at a Chamber “Networking at Noon” luncheon at Downtown Pomona’s Metro Ale House, said this year represents the 11th consecutive year of property value growth countywide.

“And it will generate over \$17 billion in property tax revenue,” Prang said, adding that the 2021 assessment rolls were about \$63 billion over the previous year, or a 3.7 percent increase.

“This continues to reflect a reasonably strong real estate market despite the on-going challenges of the pandemic,” he said.

Pomona and neighboring cities experienced a growth rate of 1.6 percent, slightly below the county average of 3.7 percent, he said, with total assessed value of all property in Pomona at \$13.5 billion.



Jeff Prang
L.A. County Assessor

“The market value is considerably higher,” he said.

“The reason that the local value growth appears to be a little slower than surrounding areas is that Pomona’s 2021 assessment growth is offset by one particularly large personal property exemption which was granted to the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center,” Prang said.

That exemption, essentially relief from property taxes, did not appear on the assessment rolls in 2020 but was reflected this year. He said that does not mean Pomona is growing less aggressively than neighboring cities.

“In fact, without that one exemption, property values would have been 3.18 percent in Pomona,” he added.

“Despite COVID and the pandemic . . . the market seemed to fare reasonably well in the county,” Prang said. “Prices on residential property rose dramatically countywide over the past year. We witnessed a flood of buyers competing in a very, very tight market – limited inventory and historically low mortgage rates were the primary drivers of housing costs.”

He said the pandemic pushed the county’s already competitive housing market into such “overdrive” that million-dollar homes “have become the norm in a growing number of neighborhoods.”

In fact, he said the typical home

price has reached at least \$1 million in 15 Los Angeles neighborhoods since March of 2020.

“We predict that prices are going to continue to rise in the near future given the mismatch between supply and demand,” Prang said. “However, the price increases on a home should begin to level off and may even decrease in terms of how fast they have been growing because the market simply cannot sustain this current level of price appreciation.”

And, Prang said, Pomona has experienced the impact of a tight housing market as well.

“The price of a single-family home rose (in Pomona) over 21 percent over the year over year (with) the median sales price of a single-family home, not including condominiums, at \$550,000 this year,” he said.

“This year’s increase appears to be typical of the neighboring areas, and I expect this trend to continue as well throughout the course of the year,” Prang said.

He said the median sales price for a single-family home in Los Angeles County is \$855,000.

On the pandemic, he said busi-

nesses, of course, “struggled to maintain operations” because of restrictions placed due to health and safety reasons.

He said the retail vacancy rate in Pomona is slightly above the countywide average, and he said his records show a lot of large retailers left the market as e-sales increased during the pandemic.

“However, I am optimistic that as customers return, retailers in the area will see this trend reverse,” he said.

But he said the office market in Pomona has “fared reasonably well.”

“With the diversity of tenants and available space, I expect the vacancies to remain low as businesses reenter the market after more than a year of working from home and changing work environments,” Prang said.

He also said industrial warehouse spaces were not very adversely affected if at all, primarily due to shifts of business models that witnessed significant growth in on-line shopping.

“Industrial vacancy in the Pomona area remains at historic

Property values... pg.16



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Funding for homeless... from pg. 1

dropped by 11 percent, moving people into stable housing.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has presented new challenges and indeed has only made the need for more action and more improvements,” he said. “Over the course of two years, the city was able to commit eight full-time officers to be assigned to the specialized unit within the Pomona Police Department.”

According to Rodriguez, officers assigned to this unit responded to more than 3,700 calls and visit nearly 3,000 homeless encampments in the city.

“Additionally, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, hundreds of contacts resulted in referrals to health facilities and follow-ups,” he said.

Rodriguez said he and his staff worked on the funding effort for about two months.

“Over this next year . . . I’m confident the money will make real impact by bringing people off the streets and into housing and into health care,” Rodriguez said. “As a lifelong Pomona resident, I’m honored that the state is finally committing into these investments in our community.”

Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis thanked Rodriguez on behalf of the city.

“These funds will allow the Pomona Police Department and

the City of Pomona to continue providing invaluable services to our community,” Ellis said. “We will be funding training programs for our officers on best practices for police interactions with the homeless community.”

“We’ll also continue to fund our very successful partnership with the L.A. County Department of Mental Health, where we have two mental health clinicians riding with Pomona police officers every day of the week,” he added. “These teams respond to critical incidents and help those who are experiencing mental health crisis.”

Ellis said they use “best practices and de-escalation techniques” to safely get help to those who need it.

“These funds also give us the ability to provide officers training on the delivery of Narcan (medication used for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose) when responding to calls of an overdose,” he said.

Ellis said like many communities, Pomona is challenged when it comes to homelessness due to the size of the problem and the scarcity of resources.

“The funds that were secured by Assemblymember Rodriguez will have a significant impact on the city and on our region,” Ellis said. “We look forward to being



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez held a news conference outside the Pomona Police Department last month to announce a second round \$4 million allocation in the state budget to continue to address the homeless issue in Pomona. Pictured at rear, from left, are Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis and Sgt. Anthony Catanese, who oversees the department’s homeless outreach programs.

able to continue this important work in the city and to continue our relationship with our regional partners who are also working to bring an end to homelessness.”

La Nueva Voz, during a question-and-answer period citing

reports of an on-going problem at the Pomona Post Office with homeless individuals seeking shelter inside after hours, asked if there were funds in the state allocation that could be used to address such problems – even if occurring inside a federal facility. Rodriguez deferred to Ellis, who said he would check with his staff.

“We’d be happy to respond for calls for service there, we probably already do, and can alleviate that problem,” Ellis said. “We would have officers out there ev-

ery day and could respond to the post office to help with that.”

La Nueva Voz learned prior to the news conference from postal officials that Congresswoman Norma Torres voiced her concern that the Pomona facility had been locked at night for several years while similar facilities in other cities remain open.

The local post office reportedly at the request of Torres changed that policy several months ago in Pomona, literally leaving the door open to the nighttime issue.

La Nueva Voz reached out to Torres’ office for confirmation of her action but did not receive a definitive response before press time for this issue.

The OATH program, as the item is known in the state budget, funds programs in the police department including the HEART (Homeless Encampment Action Response Team) team and the HOST (Homeless Outreach Services Team) team.

Pomona Police Sgt. Anthony Catanese oversees both programs.

Pomona Police Department spokesperson Aly Mejia, responding to a La Nueva Voz question after the news conference, clarified that one mental health clinician from the county participating in the program is assigned to the department by and funded through Los Angeles County. The second clinician is paid for by OATH money, but staffed through the county.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, speaking at the 2018 news conference, said that to his knowledge, the original \$4 million allocation was the first “earmark” for Pomona in the history of the state budget.

Cal Poly ranked ‘number one’ among polytechnics for degrees to Hispanic students

Hispanic Outlook on Higher Education magazine has ranked Cal Poly University Pomona the top-rated polytechnic university in the nation and 18th among all universities in the country for the number of Hispanic students graduating with bachelor degrees in 2019-2020.

The university also is second nationally for degrees awarded to Hispanics in “architecture and related services” and fifth for degrees awarded in engineering and “agricultural/animal/plant/veterinary science and related degrees.”

Cal Poly Pomona has approximately 27,000 students and about half are Hispanic.

Designated a Hispanic-



JET-PACK COW TO SOAR OVER CAL POLY’S ROSE PARADE FLOAT -- The Cal Poly Universities (both Pomona and San Luis Obispo) float in the 133rd 2022 Rose Parade, the “Stargazers” float, will tell the tale of how the cow jumped over the moon – it was with a jet pack soaring over the moon and high above the float, of course! The cow will be aided by a cat (without his fiddle) who is managing mission control. Parade theme this year is “Dream. Believe. Achieve.” It is a celebration of education’s ability to open doors, open minds and change lives. Half of the float is created in Pomona and the other half in San Luis Obispo. To volunteer to work on the float, visit www.rosefloat.org.

Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education, the campus recently was named a

First-gen Forward university by the Center for First-Generation Student Success.

Downtown Christmas Parade... from pg. 2

up of members of the community, invite cultural groups, organizations, and businesses of all types to participate in the annual event.

Online applications are now being accepted at downtownpomona.org/christmasparade. Registration for the parade is only \$30.

Volunteers, always an important part of the parade, can vol-

unteer by calling (909) 469-1121.

More than 100 entries representing 3,000 people are expected to participate in the parade including everything from bands, youth groups, car clubs, service organizations, dignitaries, floats, drill teams and more.

Thousand of spectators are expected to line the streets of the parade.

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Intake site to close... from pg. 1

take place by Oct. 26.

“The Pomona Fairplex E.I.S. was always intended for use as a temporary measure when it opened . . . with a lease scheduled to terminate at the end of the calendar year,” Preston said. “These (shelters) are temporary facilities opened to ensure unaccompanied children are quickly transferred out of Department of Homeland Security custody and into settings appropriate for children.”

“Therefore, as the number of unaccompanied children in (Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement) custody decreases because of lower DHS referrals, robust case management practices to place children with family or sponsors as quickly as possible, and increased capacity in the permanent ORR network, HHS is able to demobilize (the shelters),” she added.

“The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services greatly appreciates the warm welcome and all the support shown by the community, Pomona, Los Angeles County and state-elected officials, the Pomona E.I.S. staff, and the many faith-based and community organizations and individuals of the neighboring areas who supported the shelter and provided care to the children,” Preston said.

“I am pleased to hear the news that all the children in the Pomona E.I.S. have been successfully re-

united with their families or otherwise placed in secure living situations,” Torres said in her news release. “It is heartwarming that our community was able to care for these children when they most needed it.”

“But my ultimate goal is that we address the root issues that compel people to risk their lives to migrate to the United States so that we no longer need emergency facilities like this one,” she added. “The vast majority of children in this shelter came from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, countries that are unfortunately plagued by corruption and violence.”

“I will continue to work in Congress to address these problems so that Central Americans can live safely and have a promising future in their home countries,” Torres said. “At the same time, I will push for immigration reform to treat those who do arrive safely and with dignity, as we did here in Pomona.”

Torres has frequently visited the facility since it opened and led two Congressional tours of the facility to meet with the staff and hear from the children in order to ensure they received the best possible care.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis, who also has closely monitored the site since it opened, pointed

out in her own prepared statement that of the 10 million residents living in Los Angeles County, one million are undocumented immigrants.

“Thus, when President Biden’s administration reached out to my office to assist with the influx of unaccompanied children, I said yes right away and identified the Fairplex to serve as the Emergency Intake Site,” Solis said, adding that Fairplex has served as a “beacon of hope” for the East San Gabriel Valley community throughout the pandemic – as a quarantine and isolation site, as a testing location and as a vaccination point.

“I knew without question that the Fairplex and community of Pomona would step up for this mission, and for that I am grateful,” she said. “The reunifications of over 8,000 unaccompanied children with family members or qualified sponsors, in the span of six months, is heartening.”

She said the success of the program can be attributed to the commitment of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Cherokee Federal (chief contractor for the project), various county departments, nonprofit partners and residents.

“Visiting the site multiple times, I witnessed how personal this was for many caseworkers, nurses and educators – their dedication to

providing holistic care and services was nothing short of extraordinary,” Solis said, adding that she is committed to continuing to advocate alongside President Biden, Vice President Harris and HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra for comprehensive immigration reform.

Solis was the first to announce the opening of the site at Fairplex and activated the support of various county agencies to assist in this mission including the Office of Immigrant Affairs, Office of Education and the Departments of Children and Family Services, Public Health, Health Services and Mental Health.

The first busloads of unaccompanied children ages 7 to 14 arrived on chartered buses as scheduled after dark at Fairplex on May 1 with about 250 arriving over the first few days.

The facility was designed to handle children from ages 0 to 17.

The temporary facility – with Fairplex exhibition halls turned into sleeping quarters for the children – was designed to accommodate up to 2,500 young people on cots.

Other areas were designated for

dining, medical care, counseling, recreation and more.

Officials said at the time the goal was to complete the reunification process for children within 14 days of their arrival, returning them to their parents or other caring adults.

Security was tight at Fairplex – more so than ever before in memory – during the use of the grounds as an intake facility – with additional fencing and screening added around the perimeter and normal Fairplex security reinforced by Federal Protective Service Police from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Secretary Becerra himself personally toured the site in a visit to Pomona in July as part of a national “Celebrate America” Fourth of July tour by Biden Cabinet secretaries as America reopened after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The use of a portion of the Fairplex campus as an intake facility was negotiated between Los Angeles County and the Biden administration.

About 50 acres of the Fairplex facility’s 500-acre campus was used for the intake site.



Photo by Renee Barbee

Music in the parking lot was an important part of the “Building for Generations” 150th anniversary campaign celebration at Pomona’s Purpose Church this month. The multi-year campaign, launched to commemorate 150 years as a church, will help update buildings on the Pomona campus in a program that continues as funds are raised. The church is one of the oldest and largest that has continuously served both locally and around the world through its mission program.



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How does diagnostic imaging factor into breast cancer screening?

By Gary Jensen, M.D.
Casa Colina
Diagnostic Imaging Center

Although breast cancer remains a significant cause of death in women, mortality from breast cancer has been decreasing slightly over the past decade. There may be many reasons, including recognition of the relationship between oral estrogen and breast cancer, as well as improved medical treatment of cancer patients. There is also deepening understanding of breast cancer genetics and of the types of disease and treatments. In addition, the guidelines for screening continue to evolve, including recommended imaging procedures.

The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends optional screening every two years for women aged 40 to 49 and screening every two years for women 50 to 74. Women with a family history of breast cancer should start screening earlier and possibly yearly rather than biennially. Women with dense breasts may have elevated risk of breast cancer, but they are not considered to be in the high-risk category. Although certain factors may increase risk, it is important to note that 85 percent of women diagnosed have no family history.

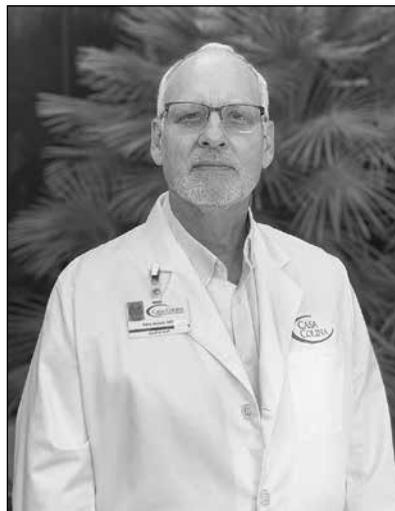
Physical examination and mammography remain the mainstays of breast cancer diagnosis, though other diagnostic imaging proce-

dures may be used. Ultrasound is a wonderful guiding tool to aid in the biopsy of breast nodules, using sound waves to evaluate palpable masses or lesions seen with mammography. However, on its own it is not recommended as a screening modality. Younger women with a palpable mass should first be evaluated with ultrasound, since a simple cyst is benign and needs no further imaging. For women over 35, mammography and ultrasound are appropriate for evaluating a palpable mass.

The utility of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in breast imaging is still being evaluated. It is occasionally recommended for breast lesions that are difficult to categorize by mammography or ultrasound. MRI can also be used to determine the extent of disease in women with biopsy-proven breast cancer prior to surgical therapy. It also provides another means of imaging very dense breasts or breasts with implants. Like ultrasound, it is not recommended as a screening method in lieu of mammography.

Different diagnostic imaging techniques may be helpful in finding a diagnosis, and your doctor will make that determination. As the patient, your job is to get to know your breasts so that you can identify any unusual changes. Find a physician that you trust and follow their advice.

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Dr. Gary Jensen

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Editor's Note: Dr. Jensen is board-certified with the American Board of Radiology.

OPINION

Gov. Newsom: Let's investigate ALEC's (Koch Industries) drive to further the 'digital divide'

By Larry Ortega

For almost 30 years, America's phone companies have been receiving billions of dollars in rate increases and extra fees to finance the buildout of a national fiber-optic network. Along the way, they discovered that actually building that fiber-optic network would foreclose their chance to make a financial killing with wireless technology. So, in 2010, they stopped upgrading phone customers with fiber, creating the digital divide in the process and leaving millions of Americans unconnected.

But this is not just another woe is me too bad for those black and brown kids living in the digital divide story. No señor! We are talking about a skillfully, well thought-out, well-financed scheme that would have the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), Koch Industries and a gang of deep pocketed lobbyists joining forces to write legislation. This legislation would use the levers of state governments to fast-track the deployment of an unregulated and

a highly profitable wireless business. In state after state, the same political forces that are legislating away voting rights and increasing the power of corporations are pushing 5G fast-track legislation under the guise of fixing the digital divide.

Given our current culture of no evidence necessary, the wireless industry claims rapid deployment of 5G technology will bring great new benefits to consumers – and boom! just like that, almost every single one of our California legislators was on board. What the industry purposefully omits is fiber-optics (wired) connections are 10,000 times faster than 5G; safer, more secure, less expensive and future-proof. In fact, it was the phone companies themselves who abandoned the completion of fiber connections mid-stream, leaving millions of miles of “dark fiber” in the ground. It is safe to say the industry most likely was banking on the idea that anyone who cared would simply forget. However, a 2018 Network Exam published

Opinion... pg. 20

Leyva's 'Cleaner and Greener Trucks' bill becomes law

Gov. Newsom this month signed legislation authored by State Sen. Connie Leyva that will reduce air pollution and boost funding and deployment of zero emission vehicles in California.

The measure, Senate Bill 372, will create an innovative state program working with stakeholders to design new financing tools to help owners of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles purchase cleaner zero-emission alternatives.

The “Vehicle Fleet Purchasing Assistance Program” will operate within the Air Quality Improve-

ment Program at the California Air Resources Board and will be administered by the California Pollution Control Financing Authority.

“Living and working in the Inland Empire – as well as representing communities across the region – I firmly believe that, in order to improve the health of families living in the I.E. and across California, we must clean up the air pollution caused by medium- and heavy-duty trucks traveling on our roads and freeways,” Leyva said.

She added that she looks forward to this measure helping ensure that zero emission vehicle transition is a more equitable option for fleets of all types and sizes in California.



NEW POMONA OPTIMIST BOARD MEMBERS -- Incoming officers for the year at the Pomona Optimist Club are sworn in last month at an annual installation and awards banquet at Metro Ale House in Downtown Pomona. From left are Ruby Jung, Fernando Meza (treasurer), Renee Barbee, Barry Dolgovin, Ruth Alvarez (secretary), Sonia Molina (vice president), Lorraine Canales (president), and Hugo Molina.



Outgoing Optimist District Gov. Mike Padilla . . .
. . . installs new Pomona club officers



AWARD WINNERS -- M. Joyce Bakersmith was honored by the Pomona Optimist Club last month for her service as secretary and recognized for her becoming the new District Governor. Pictured, from left, are Fernando Meza, treasurer; Ruth Alvarez, secretary; Vernon Price and his wife, M. Joyce Bakersmith; Lorraine Canales, president; and Sonia Molina, vice president. Meza and Sonia Molina won “president citation” awards, along with Ruby Jung and Hugo Molina (not pictured).

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Fifth annual Pomona 5k run raises \$13,000 for youth programs

Nearly 350 runners of all ages, sizes and shapes participated this month in the fifth annual Pomona 5k and 10k run/walk through the streets of Downtown Pomona.

Notably, it was only the second event to close Garey Avenue to traffic. Previously, only the annual Pomona Christmas Parade has closed Garey each year.

As in past years, the start/finish line was located on Second Street next to Shaun Diamond Plaza, with an entire celebration and expo taking place featuring a live DJ, vendor and resource booths, warm-up exercises and more before the run got under way.

Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado told the runners just before the start that the event had raised \$13,000 for youth programs in Pomona.

Events included the 3.1-mile 5k run/walk, the 6.2-mile 10k run/walk and the “toddler trot,” a “fun run” for kids.



“Winners” (weren’t they all winners?) of the “Toddler Trot,” a “fun run before the Pomona 5k and 10k run/walk through Downtown Pomona, pose for a group photo in Shaun Diamond Plaza.



AND THEY'RE OFF! -- Participants in this month's Pomona 5k are off and running at the start/finish line on Second Street in Downtown Pomona.

The Pomona 5k is a partnership between Pomona Valley Runners, a local running group, and various community organizations including Day One, a community-based nonprofit organization.



Leaders after the first lap in the Pomona 5k turn the corner back onto Second Street this month in Downtown Pomona. Blake Zufall, 26, of Redding, pictured in second place in this photo, ended up coming in first in the 5k with a time of 16 minutes and 21 seconds. And Ryan Burd, 25, of Pomona, shown in front in this photo, took first place in the 10k with a time of 30 minutes and 56 seconds. Official results showed there were 240 entries in the 5k and 94 runners in the 10k.



Runners warm up for the Pomona 5k this month, under the direction of a warmup coach on the stage in Downtown Pomona.



David Perez, owner of Valley Vista Services, “presenting” sponsor for the Pomona 5k run, welcomes runners to the event before the start of the event.



Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, an organizer of this year's Pomona 5k, makes his opening announcements before the start of the run.



Chara Swodeck, one of half a dozen members of the Pomona 5k organizing committee, discusses last minute planning items with Pomona Police Sgt. Alyssa Bostrom just before the start of the run.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, his wife Criselda and even their son, Roy, make their way along Second Street -- stroll-er and all -- during this month's Pomona 5k in Downtown Pomona.

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Pomona Hope returns from pandemic, adds new 'partners' and programs

Pomona Hope, a self-described community-driven, faith-based non-profit working with both youth and their families toward "personal and community transformation," made it through the pandemic with virtual sessions and other approaches and, as students are returning to the classrooms, the organization has even picked up a few new "partners" along the way.

Executive Director Jeff Johanssen told a room filled with nearly 100 supporters this month at a fundraising and awareness gala at Cal Poly University Pomona's Kellogg West that his students are "the future community leaders, business owners, working professionals, teachers and parents of tomorrow."

This year's theme, celebrating Pomona Hope's 18th year, was "Oh, the places we'll go!" based on



A Dr. Seuss theme based on "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" set the stage for Pomona Hope's fundraising gala this month.

the Dr. Seuss poem with a similar title.

And Pomona Hope "students" were asked in a video produced for the gala where they'd like to go with answers literally all over the map – ranging from Texas to Hawaii to Mexico, Florida and even Disneyland and Las Vegas.

"Over the past year, we have not been able to go as many places as

Pomona Hope returns... pg. 18

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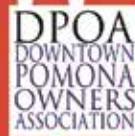
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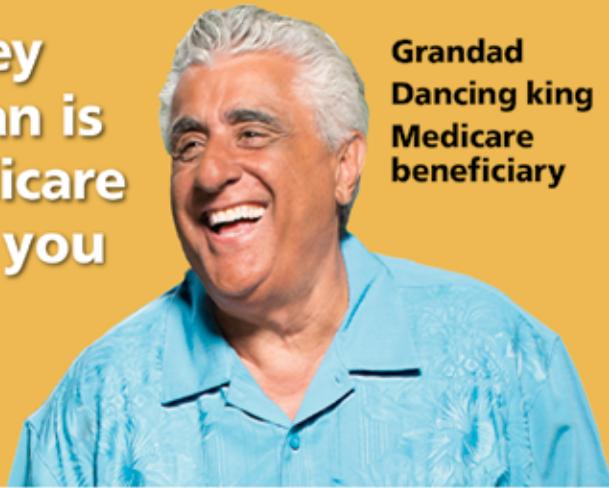
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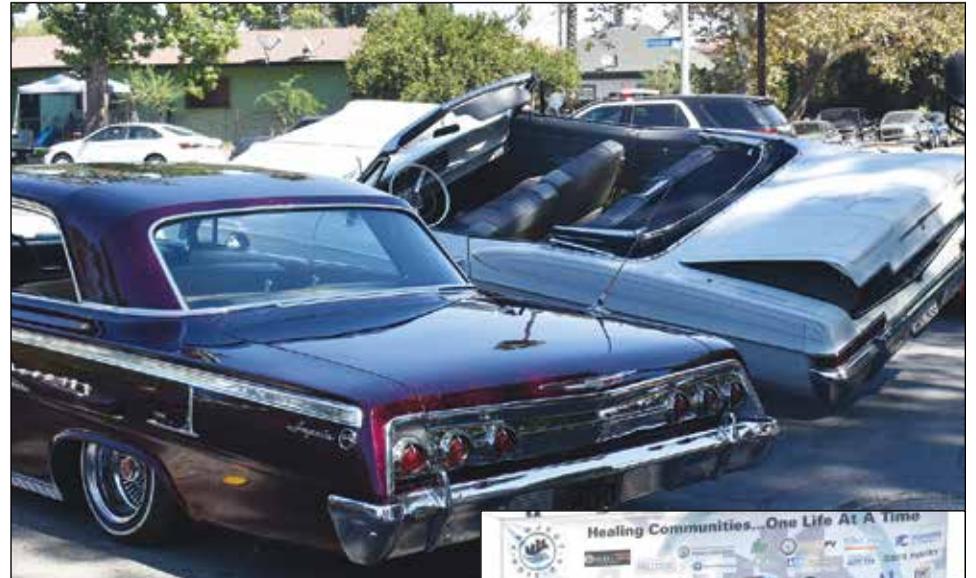
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Photo courtesy of the Assembly Democratic Caucus

GAREY'S ANTHONY BONNER NAMED EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR -- Anthony Bonner, currently activities director and formerly long-time band director at Pomona's Garey High School, this month was named "Educator of the Year" for Pomona Unified School District by Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez. Ceremonies were held in the courtyard of the Old Schoolhouse Museum in Chino. Nominations were provided by six school districts in the 52nd Assembly District and Rodriguez made the final selection, according to spokesperson Sean Connelly. Selections are based on experiences, years teaching and accomplishments. "These seven teachers are just an example of the incredible involvement and commitment teachers in California have for our students," Rodriguez said. Pictured, from left, are Rodriguez, Bonner and Garey Principal Roddy Layton.



Project Hope celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month this month in Pomona's Tony Cerda Park with sidewalks filled with resource booths, rappers on stage and some amazing cars in a car show out in the street. Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado and Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia provided support for the event.



Hablo Español



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Cal Poly pumpkin festival opens with fanfare, continues through end of October

Cal Poly University Pomona President Dr. Soraya Coley, officially opening the school's 28th annual pumpkin festival this month, called the event one of the "highlights of the year" and cited the connection between agriculture and the California economy.

"For more than 30 years, our university has been training the leaders and producing the knowledge that has helped make California the far and away national leader in agriculture," Coley said.

"We always like to have a chance to recognize our distinguished college, the Huntley College of Agriculture," she added. "Too often, we aren't aware that Cal Poly Pomona has a college of agriculture."

"And in fact, if you think about the California economy, agriculture is an essential part of that, not just for California and our country but for the world," she said.

Dr. Martin Sancho-Madriz, interim dean of the College of Agriculture, told a gathering in the middle of the traditional pumpkin patch that the event "started as a humble patch . . . (and became what is now) a month-long event for thousands of people across Southern California."

"It is also a celebration of California agriculture, and we hope that you will learn a little bit more about our farming heritage," he added, a reference to exhibits and demonstrations from antique

tractors to live milking.

"Our college is training the next generation of leaders in the food, agriculture and apparel industries," he said. "Our farms grow fruits and vegetables, raise sheep, goats, cows and bees, and we also have grapes for wine that you can purchase at the farm store."

Coley also thanked pumpkin fest director Craig Walters and his team at AGRIsapes who she said every year "do a fabulous job."

And she also



You know that hillside at Cal Poly next to the Farm Store (and across the street from iPoly High School)? That's where the pumpkins are for the pumpkin festival. And pictured is what it looked like on day one, but folks have been doing a pretty good job of cleaning it out all month. Still need a pumpkin? The patch is open through the end of the month.



Visitors make their way out of the kid's corn maze on opening day of Cal Poly's 28th annual pumpkin festival. (Some folks really did have trouble finding their way out!) There are two corn mazes at this year's month-long event.



A live milking demonstration was a popular attraction at Cal Poly's pumpkin fest opening.

introduced "Oreo," a year-old black and white sheep who was a product of the pandemic.

"During the pandemic, we were not able to have a lot of the ongoing activities, but we pushed through," Coley said. "But what we also recognized is that given the number of animals that we have, we have the Arabian horse center, we have cows and pigs and one llama, and they did not know that there was a pandemic."

"And so we are so pleased to have you meet one of the offspring during the pandemic," she said, adding that the university had a birthday party for him two months ago and he has become part of the school's petting farm.

Walters said after a ribbon-cutting officially opening the pump-



Cal Poly Pomona President Soraya Coley, left center, and Dr. Martin Sancho-Madriz, interim dean of the College of Agriculture, cut the ribbon to officially open this year's pumpkin patch on the Cal Poly campus. And that's "Oreo," a year-old sheep born on campus during the pandemic, who was introduced to the audience at the opening ceremonies.

kin patch that Oreo was one of triplets and, because the mother was not able to feed all three, Oreo was bottle-fed by the students who care for the animals.

"He's our celebrity and we're

Pumpkin festival... pg. 16



Now you really had to be there for this one but man, these students are good. Pictured providing the music at the opening of the pumpkin festival is the horn section (hard to get everybody in the photo) of the Cal Poly Bronco Pep Band.



OK, it's not a real barn propped up out there in the middle of the pumpkin patch at Cal Poly, but we couldn't resist this photo with the sunlight providing a perfect backlit effect over the shoulder shot of Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz.

Metro Honda in Montclair increases awareness, raises funds for breast cancer in 'year two' scavenger hunt

Metro Honda in Montclair – a “stop” for the second consecutive year this month in the American Cancer Society’s “Making Strides” scavenger hunt – was all about getting the word out on this year’s theme of “Get screened!” to help educate the public that many lives can be saved from breast cancer with early detection.

The event was produced by the Southern California American Cancer Society based in San Diego, although all funds raised will funnel back to the Inland Empire including Riverside and San Bernardino County. It was held during Breast Cancer Awareness Month held each year in October.

“The American Cancer Society used to do a walk or a run, but because of COVID, social distancing, they decided to do a scavenger hunt,” said Gena Laine, business manager for Metro Honda and coordinator of the Metro Honda “stop,” one of many along the way for participants driving from point to point for games, goodies and support for breast cancer survivors.

Participants in the “Making Strides of Inland Empire” event check off their stops along the way

using a “Pink and Go Seek Passport” (based on the pink color for breast cancer awareness materials), competing for prizes at the end.

“Breast cancer is highly curable when found early, so we need to make sure all women ages 40 and older know where and how to get their mammograms,” Laine said. “Breast cancer affects underserved communities, people that don’t have the literature out there, people that don’t know, and those are the ones that are dying, because they’re finding out that they have breast cancer when they’re really sick.”

She added that many patients are going into the hospital when they

are already at State 3 or Stage 4 (advanced) cancer levels.

“This year, the message is get screened, getting into those communities, getting these people tested, giving them resources, if they

can’t afford it or they don’t have insurance, giving them that funding, directing them where they can get the screening for free,” Laine said.

“For us, our message at Metro Honda is we want to be here to

support these men and women, we want to help them get resources, we are fundraising to fund research and get the education for people that need it,” she said. “We’re re-

Breast cancer awareness... pg. 16



BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR -- April Dogero of Upland, who has been a breast cancer survivor for three years, poses on a red velvet couch at Metro Honda in Montclair. She stopped by the dealership while making her rounds in this month’s American Cancer Society’s “Making Strides” scavenger hunt. Metro Honda has participated in the event for the past two years.



IT’S ALL ABOUT THE TEAM -- When Metro Honda became a “stop” along the way for the American Cancer Society’s annual Breast Cancer Awareness Month scavenger hunt, it really was all about the team. Team members, pictured from left, are Laura O’Neal, accounts payable; Rebecca Prentice, accounts receivable clerk; Gena Laine, business manager; Martha Piedragil, contract clerk; and Pam Gordon, corporate secretary.

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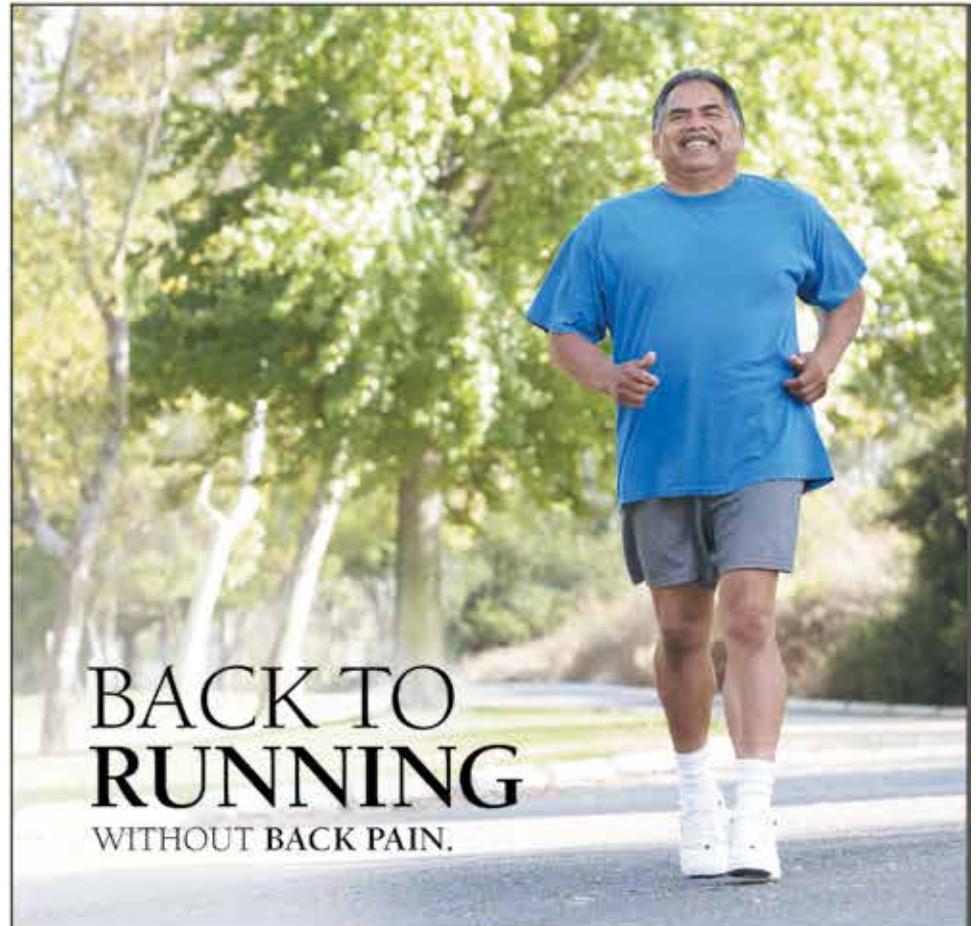
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Photos by Renee Barbee 'JUICE AND PAINT' AT THE LIBRARY -- Have some juice, do some painting. Rinse and repeat. And that's pretty much how it went last month at the Pomona Public Library "Juice and Paint Event," held on the children's patio. Kids ages 4 to 12 learned how to paint a sunset on the beach. And they looked like they knew what they were doing -- and they were having fun at the same time. Pictured, at right, is their instructor for the day, Crystal Orosco from the children's room at the library.



Photo by Donna Chavez Photography
EAGLES CAR SHOW AND CHILI COOK-OFF -- Members of the Pomona Eagles held their 12th annual car show and chili cook-off last month at their Eagle Park in Pomona following a year lapse due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Three menudo cooks and six chili cooks competed at the event. Music was supplied by "Lil Stevie and his Band." Patty Marquez won the menudo competition and VJ Nelson made the best chili of the day, according to Eagles spokesperson Dick Lotz. Pictured is Ralph Berger, with his 1940 Ford Coupe, who won the "Best of Show" award.



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Property Values... from pg. 5

lows and is a popular location for large stores and facilities,” he said, adding that he expects this market to continue to grow as more spaces develop in the future.

In the area of small businesses, he said COVID adversely impacted a lot of businesses, and a lot of equipment and machinery may have gone unused.

“So that could have resulted in a reduction in value over the past year,” he said.

“In response, my office has provided property tax relief to over 47,000 small businesses county-wide to reflect the impact of COVID,” he said. “We have reduced the assessments by \$210 million. In Pomona, we reduced personal property assessments for 833 businesses out of the 2,230 businesses that pay business property tax.”

He said this represents 37 percent of all business personal property assessments in the city and that translates to more than \$2 million in assessment reductions.

And, he pointed out, even if businesses have not received a proactive reduction, they still can file an administrative review called a “declining value” through Dec.

2. He said information for that temporary property tax relief can be found on his web site at assessor.lacounty.gov.

He called the valuation of property in the county “absolutely critical” because it is the “foundation for generating property tax revenues which fund city government and public schools which, in turn, use that revenue to pay for vital services including schools, libraries, public health, roads, police, fire and more.

Prang is one of only three countywide elected officials, along with the sheriff and the district attorney.

He administers a department with about 1,300 employees located in six different offices across Los Angeles County serving the 88 cities and unincorporated areas in the county.

His office, which Prang referred to as the “fiscal engine of local government,” is the largest local assessment agency in the U.S. and is responsible for establishing the value for the 2.5 million taxable real property parcels and business assessments which this year were valued at just over \$1.7 trillion.

Breast cancer awareness... from pg.14

ally happy to be a part of it, it’s local in our community, grass roots, so it’s just something we plan to do every year now.”

Laine said the effort started with Metro’s president, John Hawkins, who encouraged the entire team to get out into the community.

“So, this is one of the events that we’re doing in the community,” Laine said. “It’s all about the team.”

Participants stopping by Metro Honda – many who were breast cancer survivors or relatives or friends of survivors – were able to play a bean bag tossing game, take a few cookies and pick up a gift bag containing a key chain, flashlight or free car wash coupon and then drop a contribution of any amount in a jar.

Additional fundraising comes from pledges from the participating

individuals and teams.

“This is their reward – they get to go around and do the fun scavenger hunt, come get the swag bags, have the fun and meet all the people,” Laine said.

Sometimes it all hits close to home. Laine’s son is dating a girl whose mom is a breast cancer survivor. The daughter was tested and has the genetic structure showing it is likely she could one day be diagnosed with the disease as well.

She said they are dealing with decisions like will her son need to have a vasectomy which, she said, are “big, tough decisions for a 20-year-old.”



Metro Honda’s scavenger hunt coordinator Gena Laine snaps a picture of a team participating in the event.

Pumpkin patch... from pg. 13



State Sen. Josh Newman presents a congratulatory certificate to Cal Poly President Soraya Coley on opening day of this month’s pumpkin fest at Cal Poly. From left are Newman, Coley and Dr. Martin Sancho-Madriz, interim dean of the College of Agriculture. And helping out with the ceremonies is Newman’s five-year-old daughter Cecily.

Cal Poly University Pomona President Dr. Soraya Coley officially opens the 28th annual pumpkin festival.

proud to have him,” he said.

Music at the official ribbon-cutting and opening was provided by the Cal Poly Bronco Pep Band.

The Cal Poly Pumpkin Fest,

located on the Cal Poly campus next to the Farm Store, continues through Oct. 31 featuring two corn mazes, a hillside loaded with pumpkins for sale, a “night maze”

on Friday and Saturday nights and more.

For tickets (available online only) and information, visit pumpkinfestival.cpp.edu.



HELPING THOSE MOST VULNERABLE -- A “Good Shepherd’s Day” resource fair last month offered everything from free haircuts to gift cards for groceries to those in need. Also provided was music, food, personal hygiene kits, shower vouchers, COVID testing and COVID vaccines. The event, in the parking lot just west of Pomona’s American Museum of Ceramic Art, was sponsored by Brown Memorial Temple’s Community Development Center.

‘Day of the Dead’ event set for Downtown Pomona

Downtown Pomona’s “Day of the Dead” festival will be held next month during Second Saturday Artwalk, featuring plenty of vendors and entertainment for all.

Included will be art, a car show, food, performances and more.

The Dia de los Muertos event will be centered on Pomona’s Antique Row along East Second

Street and will continue from 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13.

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

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‘Phenomenal’ club... from pg. 4



ATTENDING THE ROTARY CENTENNIAL -- Pictured at last week’s Pomona Rotary 100th anniversary celebration are, from left, Debra Martin, Lorena Gonzalez, Roberta Perlman and Lorraine Canales.



Mike Driebe draws another winning raffle ticket at last week’s Pomona Rotary ‘Centennial Celebration.’



John Forbing and Carolyn Hemming were decked out in their Roaring ‘20s finest. And you can’t see them in this photo, but Carolyn’s earrings were actually from the Roaring ‘20s. (You see, she knows this little shop where you can find such things.)

‘Phenomenal’ club... pg. 21

Gov. Newsom signs Leyva bill expanding protections against ‘secret’ settlements involving harassment or discrimination

Gov. Newsom this month signed Senate Bill 331 in a move characterized as “building on California’s continued commitment to empowering survivors” by expanding current protections against “secret settlements” to now cover settlement agreements involving all forms of harassment or discrimination.

Also known as the “Silenced No More Act,” the measure, authored by State Sen. Connie Leyva, also will expand the prohibition on overly broad confidentiality and non-disparagement

clauses in employment agreements to cover workers who are required to sign these types of clauses as part of a severance agreement.

“The California State Legislature and Gov. Newsom have now spoken – California workers should absolutely be able to speak out – if they so wish – when they are a victim of any type of harassment or discrimination in the workplace,” Leyva said.

Included are settlements involving racist, sexist, homophobic or other attacks at work.



CAL AMERICAN DENTAL GRAND OPENING -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, city officials, friends and family members all turned out this month for a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony at Pomona’s newest dental office, Cal American Dental, at 1355 S. Garey Ave., operated by Dr. Ricardo Jara. Pictured, from left, are Roberto Arnold, a Chamber ambassador and Commander of Pomona’s American Legion Post 30; Allison Jara, Dr. Jara’s sister; Orlando Jara, his dad; Diego Jara, his brother; sister Alexandra Jara; his mom, Magda Castro; Dr. Jara; Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares (at rear); Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado; Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang; Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz; and Jenny Macias, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.



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Pomona Hope returns... from pg. 11

we would like,” Johannsen said. “At Pomona Hope, we are also thinking about where we’d like to go, but not from a recreational point of view (but) where are we headed as an organization.”

“What lies in store for the students and families we work with, and how can we ensure that they are prepared for the challenges and opportunities that await them,” he said, adding that the past year has been filled with “challenges we never would have anticipated.”

“But I’m incredibly proud of the flexibility and dedication demonstrated by our staff and volunteer team – from virtual programming to hybrid to finally fully back in



Pomona Hope Executive Director Jeff Johannsen

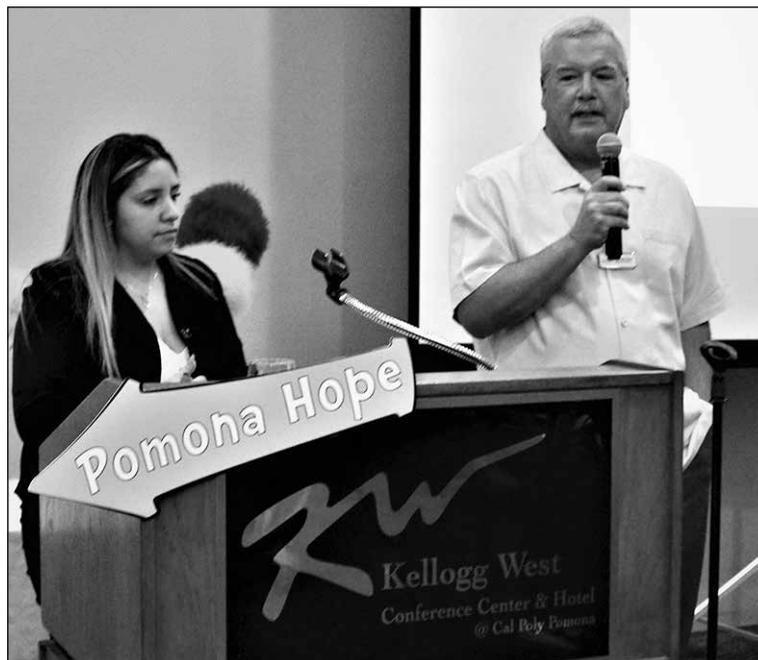
person this past summer, they have adjusted along the way,” Johannsen said. “Our students have adjusted as well.”

And, he said, after a period of “forced separation,” the students realized “just how much they treasured their interactions and experiences at Pomona Hope.”

As the students moved back into the classroom, they were “low on volunteers and college interns,” so staff was able to step back in and teach workshops on topics they were passionate about – like Hispanic culture and heritage and crocheting.

On those new partnering organizations, Johannsen said Pomona Hope now is teaming up with Project Horseshoe Farm, which is based in Alabama, but their executive director is a Pomona College alumnus and is reaching out to the Pomona area.

The group works with recent college graduates who are looking to continue their higher education in the medical field and provides them with a “gap year” experience where they work in the community.



Pomona Hope Board President Stan Van Horn, a retired Claremont police officer, welcomes guests to this month’s fundraising gala at Cal Poly’s Kellogg West. Monse Gonzalez, Pomona Hope’s mentoring coordinator and a former student in the Pomona Hope program, at left, was co-master of ceremonies at the event.

They will be working with Pomona Hope to provide more “in person” classes.

He said another new partner is Mark McReynolds of SoCal A Rocha, an organization that he said has a mission of “restoring people and places through community-based conservation.”

Johannsen said for the past year, the group has been instructing Pomona Hope students at its Center Street Community Garden on ecology, conservation and bird watching.

In another area, he said Pomona Hope is relaunching its parent support group as COVID restrictions are beginning to open up.

“Our hope is that as (parents) continue to meet and grow together, they will see Pomona Hope as their center, too,” he said.

Also relaunching is the mentoring program, since “we know the importance that having positive adult relationships can make in a young person’s life, setting them on a path for future success.”

And as a huge development, Johannsen said a proposed development that would have shut down the Center Street Community Garden has fallen through.

“There is now a desire from all sides for the garden to remain a green space and for the housing where several Pomona Hope students have lived over the years to remain as well,” he said.

He added that the garden for years has been “an oasis in a neighborhood sorely lacking when it

comes to accessible green space.”

It has also enabled families to save up to \$100 a month on their grocery bills by growing their own produce, and students “have learned to love eating their vegetables once they were the ones that prepared the soil, planted the seeds and nurtured the seedlings.”

He said he was “delighted that the garden property will continue to be a much needed oasis for our neighborhood for years to come.”

According to Project Hope’s vision statement, the organization works toward a transformed city where all people find hope and a future.

It works with “fantastic young people with great abilities, talents and potential,” Johannsen said, and tries to help close “some of the gaps that may exist, providing opportunities for our students that they might not otherwise have access to.”

“Just imagine the places that they will go because of your support and commitment,” he said.

The Pomona Hope community center is located in Pomona’s First Presbyterian Church, at 401 N. Gibbs St., Pomona, and includes a gymnasium, a stage, three kitchens, five large group rooms and more than two dozen small classrooms.

Programs range from after school and summer enrichment programs to the arts, young adult scholars, a parenting support group, a community garden and internships.

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

Gov. Newsom signs Leyva bill requiring online portal for rape survivors to track their rape kits

Gov. Newsom signed a bill authored by State Sen. Connie Leyva this month that requires the addition of a new online portal to California’s existing rape kit tracking system to allow survivors of sexual assault to privately and electronically track and receive updates regarding the testing status, location and information regarding their results.

The measure, SB 215, was sponsored jointly by Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O’Malley, Joyful Heart Founda-

tion and Natasha’s Justice Project. It received strong bipartisan support in both the Senate and the Assembly.

Law enforcement agencies already are required by law to inform the survivor of the status of the DNA testing of the rape kit evidence or other crime scene evidence from the survivor’s case.

“A rape kit exam is invasive and retraumatizing, so survivors should absolutely be able to track their rape kit every step of the way,” Leyva said.

Governor signs Leyva bill over discrimination between Girls State and Boys State programs

Gov. Newsom signed into law Senate Bill 363 this month in a move that will help eliminate gender-based discrimination in civic education and leadership programs in California.

The measure, authored by State Sen. Connie Leyva, will end what Leyva called the unfair and discriminatory treatment of Girls State participants.

Boys State and Girls State programs are sponsored by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, providing students opportunities to learn about Califor-

nia’s legislative process.

However, Boys State has been held in Sacramento each summer and has included visits to the State Capitol, while young women attending Girls State attend another program at a college campus in Southern California without access to the state capital.

“With the stroke of Gov. Newsom’s pen, SB 363 will finally end the unfair treatment that has for decades hurt young women attending Girls State here in California,” Leyva said.

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Indigenous People's Day observed in Pomona, around Southern California

Several hundred Pomona residents turned out throughout the day again this year as the community came together this month to celebrate the fourth annual Indigenous Peoples' Day in Ganesha Park, a sacred site that itself once was part of the Kizh Gabrieleno Village of Toibingna.

The event, hosted by the Rum-sen Am:A Tur:Ataj Ohlone tribe, included everything from Native American dancers, singers and drummers to a special appearance by a local folklorico dance group to vendors, resource organizations, food and, of course, the burning of ceremonial sage.

Organizer Dee Dee Manzanaras Ybarra also told the group about the American Indian Movement and its co-founder, the late Dennis Banks, a friend of her family, who organized AIM in 1968 to represent urban Native Americans.

She reminded the group that Banks appeared in Ganesha Park on Earth Day 2017 for a tree carving dedication ceremony (see La Nueva Voz May 2017 issue at www.lanuevavoz.net under "past issues").

At the time, he signed an American Indian Movement flag which she said was flown for the first time at this month's event in his honor.

"AIM protected a lot of people and fought for a lot of rights, including a 'freedom of religions act' so they could do their ceremonies and be out there and not have to be persecuted anymore," Ybarra said.

"After 50 some years we are still protesting for those rights because people are constantly

trying to take them away from us," she added.

Ybarra said part of the focus of the celebration was to honor the memories of the founders of AIM who worked to protect the rights of Native Americans.

In a related news release, Congresswoman Norma Torres issued a statement on Indigenous Peoples' Day, saying that for too long the country has failed to acknowledge its true history and origins.

"On this day, we should work to admit and correct that failure by celebrating our tribal nations and Indigenous Peoples, their roots, traditions and cultural contributions to our country," Torres said in the statement.

"It's our responsibility to make our country a safe and fair place for our Indigenous communities, who inhabited this land long before us," she added. "I hope today serves as an opportunity for all of us to consider how we can work toward that end."

Torres has introduced and co-sponsored at least four pieces of legislation to support the nation's Native and Indigenous communities including establishing a day of remembrance for Native American children who died at-

tending boarding school, an "Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act," and a measure directing the U.S. Department of Justice to review, revise and develop law enforcement and justice protocols to address missing or murdered Native Americans.

And in a news release from the



Pictured are event organizer Dee Dee Manzanaras Ybarra and her dad, Stephen Manzanaras, at this month's Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration in Ganesha Park. Manzanaras, 92, was born in a house on 11th Street in Pomona only two doors down from where he lives today. He served in the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II, has long been a member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association Honor Guard, and even piloted unpowered glider airplanes on reconnaissance missions behind enemy lines in the war. He even made a parachute jump in San Diego 20 years ago at the age of 72. Manzanaras worked for Pomona's Fairplex for 44 years.



FIVE GENERATIONS AT POMONA'S 'INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY CELEBRATION -- Several dozen vendors and several hundred guests participated this month in an "Indigenous Peoples' Day" celebration in Pomona's Ganesha Park, considered a sacred site that once was the location of the actual Gabrieleno Village of Toibingna, according to organizer Dee Dee Manzanaras Ybarra. And five generations were on hand at the event representing Dee Dee's family alone, beginning with tribal elder Stephen Manzanaras, her dad, who will celebrate his 93rd birthday in December. Pictured performing a traditional Native American dance are, from left, Dani Quiroga, Stephen Manzanaras' great granddaughter; Stephanie DeVore (at rear), granddaughter; Raymond DeVore, great grandson; and Richard Quiroga (Dee Dee's son), grandson. And the four great great granddaughters in the foreground, are Raylene, Victoria, Julissa and Desi Olivas. The event was first held in October 2018 and again in 2019. Last year's ceremony was smaller due to the pandemic, attended by tribal members and friends including Congresswoman Norma Torres and Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres.



A folklorico dance group poses for the cameras of a few proud moms and La Nueva Voz before performing at this month's Indigenous Peoples' Day activities at Pomona's Ganesha Park.

Pomona Mayor Sandoval goes back to 'school' in New York along with 37 mayors from around the world in annual management training program

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval went back to school recently along with 37 other mayors selected for an intensive education program exploring the latest in leadership and management practices in a program presented by Harvard University and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Participants in the fifth annual Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative were chosen from across the country and around the world – from Colombia, Brazil and Germany to Baltimore, Kansas City and even Riverside, California.

The Class of 2021-2022 program itself is being delivered by faculty from Harvard Business School and Harvard Kennedy School as well as by experts from Bloomberg's global network.

The year-long program launched with a three-day convening for mayors in New York last month which Sandoval attended at no cost to the city, according to a news release from Pomona City Hall.

Mayors attended classroom sessions using case studies and workshops developed at Har-

"I'm honored to be selected to participate in the . . . initiative and join 37 mayors from across the world to learn and grow together to better meet the needs of our cities," Sandoval said. "To be in a learning environment . . . gives us an opportunity to share ideas and learn new strategies as we confront the most pressing issues of the day."

Michael Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and a three-term mayor of New York, collaborated with Harvard University leadership to create the initiative in 2017.

Los Angeles Archdiocese, an Indigenous Peoples' Day message from Father Tom Elewaut, pastor of Mission Basilica San Buenaventura, described an on-going effort "to help heal the wounds of the past" in which he is in talks with the Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians regarding awareness of the deceased Chumash interred on Mission grounds in Ventura.

He said plans are under way for a future electronic listing of the names and family relations that will be available in the Mission museum. An appropriate monument also will be erected to honor the deceased Chumash.

"From the founding of Mission

San Buenaventura in 1782, mostly Chumash and eventually Spanish and Mexican settlers were buried at the site until St. Mary's Cemetery opened in 1862 when friars at the Mission were looking for more spacious burial grounds," Elewaut said.

"Later in 1922, a school building was erected over the old cemetery for the founding of Holy Cross School," he added.

For more than three decades, Elewaut said, Robert Lopez, a sixth-generation Native Californian and a professor emeritus of anthropology and archeology at Moorpark College in Moorpark, has researched the names, familial lineages and statistical information of those buried at the Mission.



It was all about pumpkins and goodies for the neighborhood kids last week at Pomona's American Legion Post 30. Members handed out 130 pumpkins, 20 of them courtesy of the Pumpkin Patch at Cal Poly University Pomona.

Opinion... from pg. 8

by the California Public Utilities Commission lays out this great scheme in detail, citing the halting of fiber upgrades to low income and rural areas, and leaving consumers with wireless-only options. This is a well-known – and unethical – strategy called harvesting.

These attacks on consumers by ALEC and the telecommunication industry (telecom) have been constant. Gov. Newsom faced off with telecom when he was Mayor of San Francisco. Current Federal Communications Commissioner Brendan Carr had fought the City of San Francisco's effort to ensure consumer protections. This same Brendan Carr wrote the FCC's current regulations on 5G. They are known officially as "Carr's 5G Orders." These orders obliterate state and local government oversight of infrastructure build-out, throwing out both financial and physical safety protocols, all in the name of a race to third place. Even when 5G can be successfully deployed, it is still slower than fiber optics and cable television.

ALEC (Koch Industries), Brendon Carr, and the phone companies are working in tandem to ensure consumers in California do not get access to world class telecommunication services. Fiber

optic upgrades would slash profits by hundreds of billions of dollars, breaching telecom's fiduciary duty to shareholders. The telecoms want no part of profit slashing and therefore have chosen to drive a strategy that ensures the existence of a digital divide.

Community groups, unions (e.g. Communications Workers of America) and moms who fear their children may be harmed by unregulated deployment of wireless infrastructure are on to this nonsense. They recently asked for, and were granted, the governor's veto on one of these ALEC bills (Dodd's SB-556). The effort was a massive grassroots undertaking. Though this cohort of consumers and activists prevailed this time, it is a strategy that is not sustainable long-term.

We applaud the governor for his decision to stand up to the telecoms and veto the most pernicious of 2021's ALEC bills: SB-556. It's a great victory for local governments in California, but it's only temporary. ALEC and friends have a history of success that has had devastating impact on those families living in the digital divide – starting with 2012's SB-1161, which the CPUC Network Exam points to as a culprit in exacerbat-

ing the digital divide, followed by 2017's SB-649, which fortunately was vetoed by Gov. Brown, and 2021's AB-537 (a repackaged SB-649), creating a "deemed approved" law that puts safety protocols at risk.

We (me, you, telecoms, and our legislators) are charged with the task of ensuring all Californians have quality high-speed fiber-optic access to on-line resources, be they in the rural cities of Huron, Mendota and Firebaugh or in the inner city at MacArthur Park, Huntington Park and Leimert Park in Los Angeles. It is time for the governor to call for an investigation as to how these ALEC bills keep landing on his desk. We might begin by looking at increasing oversight of fiber optics deployed under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934 — a federal mandate that all customers shall be served. This increased oversight, by itself, might be able to close the digital divide.

Editor's Note: Larry Ortega, a resident of Pomona, is the founder of Community Union Inc., a non-profit corporation that has trained tens of thousands of consumers living in the digital divide. He is a 35-year veteran in the technology sector.

COVID cases among the homeless declining

With continued countywide slowing transmission of COVID-19, cases among those experiencing homelessness have declined from 188 weekly cases in August to 107 new cases weekly reported this month.

To date, 9,307 people experiencing homelessness in Los An-

geles County have tested positive for COVID and 244 have died. Of those, 116 were sheltered, 78 were unsheltered and, for another 50, their status was unknown.

Some 1,225 providers are administering vaccinations to the homeless.



Sam Cafiero, in costume, at right, American Legion Post 30's Adjutant and this year's "Legionnaire of the Year," hands out candy to the kids at Post 30's "Fright Night Trunk or Treat" event with 13 cars decked out for Halloween.

Some of the kids really had amazing costumes at Pomona's American Legion Post 30's "Fright Night Trunk or Treat" last week. The event included free pumpkins, Halloween goodies, pumpkin painting, arts and crafts and a children's costume contest.



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- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
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- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaundryLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



La Nueva Voz...

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‘Phenomenal’ club... from pg. 17

some plans were canceled.

“(But) the club was still able to accomplish great things, including feeding the homeless and providing shoes to our area’s youth,” she said.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Erwin “Dutch” Anhaeuser, who Dolan said currently was the club’s longest-serving member.

Anhaeuser, a resident of Upland, was formerly in the street sweeper manufacturing business (FMC Sweeper Division once lo-

cated in Pomona) and served as president of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce from 1989 to 1990. He told La Nueva Voz he came to the United States from Germany shortly before the Korean War and almost immediately upon becoming a citizen was drafted into the U.S. Army.

But, he said, he was not sent to Korea – he was sent to Germany because he spoke the language. And he added it worked out well since he met his wife there.

The Pomona club was founded in 1921 which, according to information left on the tables at the event, was the same year Albert Einstein won the Nobel Prize for physics and the average price of a new car was \$525. Gasoline was only 33 cents per gallon.

A book highlighting the club’s history over the past 100 years was compiled by Rotarian Steve Graeber.

It pointed out that Rotary International was only 16 years old when the Rotary Club of Pomona was formally organized on April 18, 1921, by 24 charter members. It was the 913th club in the international organization which at the time had 70,000 members.

Early opposition to the club came from those concerned that it might detract from participation in the Pomona Chamber of Commerce.

As was later demonstrated in practice, the Rotary Club became a strong supporter of the Chamber and Rotary members continued to serve as leaders in the work of the Chamber.

With the assurance of the District Governor at the time that



Pomona Rotary Past President Darren Krohn shows the last two winning tickets in a drawing for a \$10,000 grand prize at last week’s ‘Centennial Celebration.’ The last two ticket-holders were given three minutes to decide whether to split the prize or go one more round for a “winner take all.” They agreed to the split. Pictured in their “Roaring ‘20s-themed attire (the club was founded in 1921, after all!), from left, are Beth Brooks of Brooks Property Management, Krohn and Kathy Touche, owner of Norm’s Hangar at Brackett Airport.

Frank Allen, District Governor, who served as toastmaster for the evening.

Pomona Lions are involved in feeding the homeless, collecting eyeglasses for recycling, providing groceries for low-income families and providing “mini-grants” to teachers to help fund classroom projects.

In the early days, one of the club’s earliest activities was working to eliminate itinerant salesmen from Pomona streets and working to build a fire station.

The club also is credited with

originating an agricultural fair, first known as the Pomona Community Fair, but soon transformed into the Los Angeles County Fair.

The Pomona Chamber of Commerce committed to serve as the coordinating entity for the Fair, and the Pomona City

Council agreed to help with funding.

Other early projects included helping what was then LeRoy Boys’ Home, sponsoring two Boy Scout troops, building playgrounds and more.

Five members from the Pomona

club have been elected District Governor.

The Pomona club was the first service club in Pomona and the 10th in all of California, Nevada



Dr. Jackie Allen
Pomona Lions President

and Hawaii.

More than 200 members and guests from throughout the community attended the event.



Music at Pomona Rotary’s ‘Centennial Celebration’ was provided by Victor Caceres on the drums (at rear), Jeff Keating on the guitar (at right) and Ashley Micheletti, a music major at Cal Poly University Pomona.

the club would receive a charter if Rotary requirements were met, a meeting was held in the office of Fred E. Whyte, head of a commercial laundry firm, and the group decided to proceed with a charter application and the signing up of charter members.

Whyte later became first president of the fledgling organization. The group decided to hold its weekly luncheon meetings on Tuesdays, a schedule that continues to this day.

“Charter Night,” an event with dinner and dancing, was not held until June 17 at the Avis Hotel (later named the Mayfair Hotel).

And the current owner of that hotel, David Speidel, is a member of Pomona Rotary today.



Jeff Schenkel and Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, on hand to cover Pomona Rotary’s 100-year anniversary last week, get into the spirit of the evening with a little “Roaring ‘20s” look of their own.

Pomona Valley Hospital recognized by nurses credentialing group

The Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center has been honored by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Magnet Recognition Program which distinguishes organizations that meet rigorous standards for nursing excellence.

“Magnet recognition provides our community with the ultimate benchmark to measure the quality of patient care,” said Pomona Valley Hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum. “Achieving Magnet recognition reinforces the culture of excellence that is a

cornerstone of how we serve our community.”

He said it also is “tangible evidence” of the commitment of the hospital’s nurses to providing the very best care to patients.

Research shows that Magnet-recognized organizations demonstrate better patient outcomes and higher job satisfaction among nurses.

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Photo by Renee Barbee

It was trick or treat on Second Street in Downtown Pomona at the ArtWalk and night market this month as kids of all ages in costume went door to door for Halloween treats from participating merchants. Pictured is maintenance supervisor Augusto Vivanco making a last minute electrical connection.



It was family fun for all during the Downtown Pomona Owners Association "trick or treat" event on Second Street. Pictured is one family all decked out for family game night. Mom was dressed as a Scrabble board and Dad was dressed as one of those winding cranes at the arcade where you grab a stuffed animal for a quarter and drop it in the chute, but both were just out of the photo at far right. Anyone for Monopoly?



A lot of cameras were clicking when the team from ghost busters walked by, complete with their well-equipped dog.



Photo by Renee Barbee

It was a spooky night of family fun on Second Street in Downtown Pomona, especially at the Pomona Chamber of Commerce booth. Pictured, from left, are administrative assistant Heidi Ortega and Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares.



A NEW MUDMOBILE! -- Representatives of the Pomona and Los Angeles Unified School Districts, Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise, the Pomona City Council, Pomona's American Museum of Ceramic Art and others cut the ribbon this month to celebrate the launch of a new Mobile Museum and Virtual Visits program, supported by the California Natural Resources Agency and Julianne and David Armstrong, in partnership with Pomona Unified and the Los Angeles Unified School District. The program allows a new "mudmobile" to travel to under-resourced school sites within 60 miles of Pomona, showcasing engaging and educational art experiences to students, parents and educators at their schools. The first 36 visits for the current school year have been funded and will be free to participating schools. Beth Ann Gerstein, executive director of the Pomona museum, said the program was based on a similar program at the Clay Studio in Philadelphia. Holding the scissors are Gerstein and AMOCA founder David Armstrong.



Tess Dipple, owner of Ink'd Chronicles Tattoo and Piercing, at right, offers a handful of Halloween treats to a passer-by.



Downtown Pomona Owners Association maintenance supervisor Augusto Vivanco, at left, and DPOA Executive Director Lorena Parker (holding the extension cords) stopped working just long enough to pose for the La Nueva Voz camera.



One oldie but goodie at the dA Center for the Arts car show last month was displayed with its own window speaker from a drive-in movie theater. (And some of us actually remember using those things!) Want one of your own (a speaker, that is)? He had a few extras in the trunk. Give him a call at (626) 278-0023.

Chris Basua of Pomona poses with his 1964 Chevy Impala convertible that won Best of Show at last month's third annual car show presented by Pomona's dA Center for the Arts. The car show was in a parking lot across the street from the dA.



Mike Suarez, a dA Center for the Arts board member, draws the winning numbers for raffle prizes last month at the dA's third annual "Con Safos Car Show," which awarded prizes for low riders, hot rods and best in show categories.

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Desiree Ramos, Class of 2020

Desiree plans to attend college. She continues to work and take care of her kids.

Desiree planea asistir a la universidad. Continúa trabajando y cuidando a sus hijos.



Nathan Cordova, Clase de 2020

Nathan now works at SGVCC doing environmental projects. He has been certified in chainsaw and tree planting. He plans to enroll in college and continue to pursue a trade.

Nathan trabaja en SGVCC haciendo proyectos ambientales. Ha sido certificado en motosierra y plantación de árboles. Planea inscribirse en la universidad y dedicarse a un oficio.

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