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Member

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Reverberations from Live Nation concert deaths in Houston find their way into master planning efforts at Fairplex with its own history of concert woes

This month's tragedy at a Live Nation-produced concert in Houston that reportedly left at least 10 dead has attracted the attention of concert planners at Pomona's Fairplex where two young women died from suspected drug overdoses at a two-day Live Nation-produced music festival in 2015.

The Pomona event six years ago resulted in cancellations of some

concerts and limitations placed on others.

"We check all events across the nation," Fairplex Interim CEO Walter Marquez said this month. "It's something we are aware of... it's something we will continue to monitor."

However, he added, "there's going to be concerts at Fairplex. We are planning the concerts for our

May fair."

And he said they are talking to a variety of promoters.

His comments came in response to a question from La Nueva Voz citing the 2015 Fairplex event during a live webinar introductory meeting this month on the City of Pomona – Fairplex Specific Plan. La Nueva Voz asked if concerts by Live Nation and similar promoters

would be subjects of the specific plan.

"The one thing to be aware of is there are probably more music concerts where you don't hear of incidents," said Marquez, who joined the Los Angeles County Fair Association in 2018.

And, he said, there are times when an individual or group of

individuals are involved in something where these "unfortunate incidents" can occur.

"We at Fairplex are concerned about safety," Marquez said, adding that Fairplex invested \$200,000 into its command center two years ago.

"We can have all the security in

Concert woes... pg. 6



By Renee Barbee

SECOND ANNUAL 'FIELD OF FREEDOM' MARKING VETERANS DAY -- Flags planted outside Pomona City Hall by Pomona's American Legion Post 30 commemorated Veterans Day this year for the second year. For the first time this year, the City of Pomona joined in the celebration with city councilmembers and other elected officials on the Civic Center plaza before moving to the "Field of Freedom" for photos. Pictured, from left, are Post 30 Adjutant and Color Guard member Sam Cafiero; Lutheran High School of La Verne Navy Junior ROTC leader Master Chief Eduardo David (retired Master Chief Petty Officer); Pomona Vehicle Parking District Commissioner Jacqueline Elizalde; Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres; Congresswoman Norma Torres; Post 30 Color Guard member Hector Navarro, Post 30 First Vice Commander; Color Guard member Joe Paczkowski; Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang; Post 30 Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff, Color Guard Leader and President of Post 30's Legion Riders; and Post 30 Commander Roberto Arnold. Members of the Navy Junior ROTC from Lutheran High School of La Verne are pictured at rear. (See story page 16.)

La Nueva Voz approved as member by board of California News Publishers Association, state's advocacy group for news profession

La Nueva Voz, Pomona's only community newspaper, has been approved by the board of the California News Publishers Association for membership in the organization that has been serving California and its news media members since 1888 to foster "the highest ideals, ethics and traditions of journalism."

The CNPA board voted to accept La Nueva Voz as a member at its October meeting.

The organization, based in Sacramento, works "to protect and serve the common interests

of its news media members (and to help members inform and thereby strengthen their communities."

Last month's board action enabled La Nueva Voz to join 68 daily newspapers, 335 weeklies

and two monthlies (one in San Francisco and another in Palm Springs) located throughout the state.

"We are honored to be accepted

as a member in this longstanding leading organization in the newspaper industry's efforts to achieve and maintain the high-

Professional organization... pg. 8



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One-man show 'Scramble' by Atilio Pernisco continues through Jan. 2 at the dA

"Scramble," an exhibition of works of art by painter Atilio Pernisco, whose art is said to follow the "long tradition of figurative painting, but . . . aspires in secret to abstraction," is on display at Pomona's dA Center for the Arts and will continue through Jan. 2.

His body of work, which often includes oversized oils on canvas, was the subject of a book produced by the dA that included an interview with Pablo Baler, a professor of Latin American liter-

ature at Cal State University Los Angeles.

In his interview, Baler asked the artist if he could name the first image that influenced his relationship with art.

"Without a doubt, the answer is Picasso's 'Guernica,'" Pernisco said. "I saw that painting in an art book. That image has disturbed me since I was a child."

He explained it always gave him a "sense of tenderness and sadness at the same time," adding

that its "vertical screams and horror, the geometric figures create a composition that directs us towards the edges of the horizontal rectangle."

"Picasso's painting invited me to dream differently and wake up to the idea that painting could be a tool for justice," he said. "Today, I paint thinking about issues that have to do with those in the margins, power relations, injustice, love or this apocalyptic climate change."

Pernisco also said he is not a "traditional painter who is drawing all the time."

"I consider the cell phone photograph as a way of making a sketch," he said. "I need a couple of photographs to establish some kind of association, making a collage of images."

A native of Santa Monica, he grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where, as in other third world countries, "class disparities

are most evident."

"I grew up watching how wealthy people dined as a family in luxurious restaurants," he said. "And you start putting yourself into that category of being part of the 'others,' those who do not, those who cannot."

He said as a child on the way to elementary school by bus, there were barefoot children on one

side riding the bus with him and on the other side the slaughterhouse.

"We could see from the bus the blows to the heads, the animals falling, the inconsolable crying of the pigs," he said. "All that bustling of the city winds up seeping through your imagination, your dreams, one idea slipping into an-

One-man show... pg. 6



Artist Atilio Pernisco, whose 'one-man' show continues at the dA in Downtown Pomona through Jan. 2, is pictured second from right with friends during his opening on Second Saturday this month.



A visitor to the dA Center for the Arts in Downtown Pomona takes a moment to focus on some of the work of artist Atilio Pernisco. The artist's exhibition "Scramble" will continue through Jan. 2 at the dA.

Happy holidays, neighbors.

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

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Space station astronaut from Pomona to serve as Christmas Parade grand marshal

Dust off your lawn chairs and grab a blanket and a Thermos and you should be all set for next month's Downtown Pomona Owners Association's Pomona Christmas Parade, set for 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, beginning along Second Street in Downtown Pomona.

Theme of the parade this year is "Holiday Under the Stars."

And grand marshal for the parade will be Pomona native and astronaut and flight engineer Victor Glover, Jr., U.S. Navy Commander, who served on board the International Space Station some 254 miles above the earth while orbiting at more than 17,000 miles per hour.

The parade committee, made up of local community members, has been working since July to line up parade entries and make all of the arrangements.

The deadline for entries is Dec. 3. In addition, sponsorships still are being accepted and volunteers – always an important part of this community-oriented parade – are still welcome.

To volunteer, visit the web site at 2021pomonachristmasparade.eventbrite.com. To sign up to be in the parade, visit www.downtownpomona.org.

More than 100 entries representing 3,000 people of all ages are expected to take part this year, according to a DPOA news release. Included will be bands, youth groups, car clubs, service organizations, dignitaries, floats, drill teams and more.

Thousands of spectators are expected to view the parade along the route through Downtown Pomona.

This year's parade is a back-to-normal parade after last year's "drive through" parade with spectators driving through to view the floats and exhibits due to COVID restrictions.



**Astronaut Victor Glover, Jr. . . .
... Pomona Christmas Parade Grand Marshal**



Photo by Renee Barbee

KIDS AND ANIMALS ALWAYS MAKE A WINNING COMBINATION -- And that was the case last month at a Halloween "Trunk or Treat" event presented by the Pomona Police Department in their parking lot. In addition to the always popular petting zoo, kids -- many of them in costume for a costume contest -- had to choose from other activities like crafts, candy and raffles.



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Photos by Renee Barbee
 Pomona Connect and the Mayor's COVID Action Committee presented a COVID memorial at the Pomona Civic Center fountain this month complete with flowers and candles in memory of all those lost to the pandemic, particularly the more than 500 Pomona residents who have lost their lives. Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval noted the particularly challenging time the pandemic has created in Pomona where the impact of COVID has disproportionately impacted communities of Black and Latino residents. He said the memorial was designed in memory of both COVID victims and, because the timing was during the Dia de los Muertos observance, for all who have passed. He said 73 percent of those 12 and over in Pomona have been vaccinated and, for those 65 and over, the figure is 93 percent. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board member Jeff Johannsen, Pomona Cultural Arts Commissioner Joshua Swodeck, Chara Swodeck of Pomona Connect, City Councilmembers Nora Garcia and Victor Preciado, and Sandoval.



POMONA HOST LIONS CLUB 'PEACE POSTER' WINNERS -- The Pomona Host Lions Club has announced winners of its two local "Peace Poster" competitions on the theme "We are all Connected." Pictured, above, is the winning poster submitted by Yarezi Medrano, a seventh grade student at Pomona's Emerson Middle School and winner of the Pomona Unified School District competition. Below is the winning poster submitted by Tamara Davila, an eighth grade student at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise. The local winners were among more than 450,000 entries submitted worldwide in the annual Lions International contest. Posters were evaluated on originality, artistic merit and portrayal of the contest theme. Medrano's entry last week won the Lions District 4L4 contest and now goes on to "Multiple District 4" competition (more than 730 clubs), according to Pomona contest coordinator Anne Henderson. The "international" grand prize winner receives \$5,000 and a trip to a special award ceremony. And some 23 "merit award" winners each will receive \$500.



Pomona's Promise invites you to participate in two community convening sessions

At our Community Convening in August, several issues stood out as priorities for the community.

Join others who share your concerns about two of them and voice your ideas. Register here:

Youth Programming/Afterschool Options:

Tuesday, December 7, 4:30-6:00pm

<https://pomonayouth.eventbrite.com/>

Parks/Green Spaces/Urban Gardens:

Thursday, December 9, 4:30-6:00pm

<https://pomonagreenespaces.eventbrite.com/>

Registration is free. Spanish interpretation will be available.

Pomona's Promise le invita a participar en dos conversaciones comunitarias

Durante nuestro convenio comunitario en agosto, varios asuntos surgieron como prioridades para la comunidad.

Unase con otros que comparten su interés en dos de ellos y contribuya sus ideas. Inscribese aquí:

Programación y actividades para la juventud fuera de clases:

martes el 7 de diciembre, 4:30-6:00pm

<https://pomonayouth.eventbrite.com/>

Parques, espacios verdes y jardines comunitarios:

jueves el 9 de diciembre, 4:30-6:00pm

<https://pomonagreenespaces.eventbrite.com/>

La inscripción es gratis. La interpretación en español será disponible.

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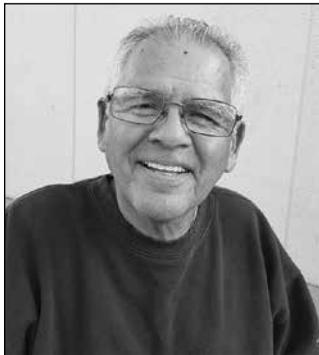
Pomona resident leading effort to re-name Hamilton Park to honor former Pomona educator who served in President Nixon’s Cabinet

Regular readers of La Nueva Voz may remember a story two years ago on a visit by Dr. Henry Ramirez back to his hometown of Pomona from his home just outside of Washington, D.C., where he went to work in 1971 as President Nixon’s Cabinet Committee Chairman on Opportunities for Spanish-Speaking People.

Pomona resident Edward Samaniego has been following Ramirez as well and has been circulating petitions for the past two years to rename Pomona’s Hamilton Park in his honor.

He submitted an application for the name change in March 2019, and the matter has been under review by the Pomona Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioners directed staff to host a community meeting on the subject, and that meeting has been scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 4, at the



Edward Samaniego

park, 317 N. Hamilton Blvd. Members of the community are encouraged to participate in the meeting and make their opinions known.

According to Pomona Neighborhood Services Director Benita DeFrank, the community meeting will include updates on Hamilton Park renovations and offer residents the opportunity to provide input as to whether renaming Hamilton Park should be considered.

In an e-mail, DeFrank cited the city’s policy for naming park and recreation facilities which, it appears, might be a bit of a bump in the road.

“Parks, facilities, or amenities which already bear the name of an individual will not be considered for re-naming, to uphold the original intent of honor and respect, unless substantial evidence is later revealed that the individual was falsely credited with the honor for which the facility

was named,” she quoted from the policy.

But Samaniego believes the contributions Ramirez made – both to Pomona and to the nation during his time in the Nixon administration – are important enough to memorialize in his hometown (see original story in the La Nueva Voz September 2019 issue, page 9, at www.lanuevavoz.net and click on past issues).

For example, Ramirez, now 95, grew up a block away from Pomona’s Sacred Heart Church and went on to a key presidential Cabinet position in the Nixon White House, where he served for three years. Along the way, Ramirez went from picking oranges and lemons at the age of 15 to teaching school in Whittier to being recruited by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to go to Washington where he was appointed chief of the Mexican American Studies Division in 1967.

He even studied to become a priest for four years in Camarillo after college, although he chose instead to go into public service. Even so, Ramirez and his dad both



Dr. Henry Ramirez, accompanied by his wife, Ester, autographs a copy of his book “Nixon and the Mexicans” during his visit to Pomona two years ago.

volunteered at Sacred Heart, Samaniego told La Nueva Voz.

According to Samaniego, Ramirez once lived in a small house at the back of Hamilton Park, a house that is still owned by his family.

“I’m trying to remember our elders that worked in South Pomona . . . activists helping the community,” Samaniego said. “They come

from humble beginnings.”

To date, he has gathered some 200 signatures from residents supporting re-naming the park in honor of Ramirez.

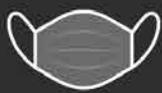
In a letter to members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Samaniego said that the entire Ramirez family was an important part of the community from 1950

Re-name Hamilton Park... pg. 8



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Concert woes... from pg. 1

place,” he said. “We have security that you don’t know . . . we’re sensitive to it but . . . it won’t stop an individual or a group of individuals . . . trying to do harm.”

“But we remain cognizant of it and engage with the various event sites and best practices and work with the Pomona (police department) and La Verne following the incidents,” he said.

He cited the country music festival in Las Vegas in 2017 that resulted in a tragic shooting that claimed the lives of 60 people.

Following that incident, he said Fairplex conducted its own “mock shooter” training with police and SWAT, so “it’s something we constantly are aware of and seek to be prepared” if it were to happen on Fairplex grounds.

Anita Gutierrez, director of development services for the City of Pomona and moderator of the webinar, said the specific plan will not include specific operators or concert operators, although elements of live entertainment and assembly music in general such as noise levels and hours of operation may become a part of the plan.

The specific plan in a sense is an outgrowth of a year-long series of strategic planning sessions in 2017 that involved public officials and representatives of the communities of both Pomona and La Verne.

It focused on a look at the future of Fairplex and culminated with the publication in June 2018 of a final Fairplex Strategic Plan, a 52-page document with a 90-page appendix.

Gutierrez, kicking off the webinar, told city and Fairplex officials and community residents that an initial agreement in August 2019 between the city and Fairplex was to take that strategic plan to the next level and create a “specific” plan.

The original timeline was to develop a specific plan by August 2022, although in December 2020 the agreement was amended due to the COVID pandemic, and the expected completion date was extended to August 2023.

She referred to the F-zone, a zoning document regulating uses at Fairplex that dates to 1970 and authorized 13 different land uses that did not require city permits.

That 1970 F-zone version was amended in 2004 when city councilmembers approved a new ordi-

nance expanding the list of permitted activities – from hosting events to allowing changes to buildings – once Fairplex had become a center with activities taking place year-round beyond the LA County Fair.

Today, anything included in a new specific plan would be subject to an environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act. The City of Pomona will be the lead agency in that review, participants were told, and impacts to be considered will relate to noise, traffic, air quality, agricultural resources and others, along with consideration of any prospective mitigation measures that may be imposed.

And the entire process is expected to take two years – from drafting the document to adoption, with public input and stakeholder meetings to be scheduled along the way.

The specific plan concept should be completed by Fairplex by next fall and a public draft plan and environmental plan should be available for public comment.

The adoption process is expected to begin with the first public hearing in summer of 2023 at the planning commission level and reach a target date of August 2023 for the proposed plan to reach city council for review.

And while all of this is going on, Pomona Planning Manager Ata Khan said other projects will be in the works in city hall to begin to align planning requirements with the Fairplex Specific Plan – updating the housing element of the city’s general plan, updating the city’s zoning code and completing a streets project made possible under a grant funded by the Southern California Association of Governments.

He said the city’s zoning code has not had a complete overhaul in 70 years – since 1949.

Zoning now will include roads that lead into Fairplex, the establishment of standards for bicycling, walking, landscaping, recreational amenities and more.

Marquez told the group that despite the fact that Fairplex reduced its staff size due to COVID, it still represents an “economic engine” and a “community partner” in Pomona.

And Fairplex during COVID has hosted many COVID-related functions and others such as COVID testing, vaccinations, a location

for quarantining and an emergency intake site for unaccompanied minors.

“The city, the community, and the county as a whole have stepped up during this time,” he said.

He said on the specific plan project, he recognizes that plan approval rests solely on the City of Pomona and that his staff will continue to work closely with the city during its development.

Most of the 500 acres at Fairplex, he said, belong to Los Angeles County.

“We are a tenant, L.A. County is the landlord,” he said. “We have a responsibility to the county to make sure that what we want to do . . . is welcomed.”

And, he added, there will be county participation throughout the process through the county’s planning officials, the office of Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis, the office of the CEO, real estate division and others.

But he emphasized the importance of community partnerships.

“That’s what got us to where we are,” Marquez said, adding that Fairplex is “deeply rooted in the City of Pomona” with its 100-year anniversary coming up next year.

In a question-and-answer session, Pomona resident Eunice Russell cited issues involving mobile homes at Fairplex and asked if that will be a part of the planning process.

Gutierrez said a housing element will be a part of the specific plan.

Russell also asked if there has been an effort to clean up the mobile home areas at Fairplex, and asked if there were plans to refurbish the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel or even demolish it.

Marquez said Fairplex has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars revamping the recreational vehicle park and was up to two phases of a three-phase plan when efforts were placed on hold due to the pandemic.

He said there are no plans to tear down the hotel, and that the focus now is on completing the specific plan.

“This is what we committed to,” he said.

Marquez said La Verne has its own specific plan which includes the small portion of Fairplex located within La Verne city limits, responding to another question. He

said while it allows housing, it does not speak to homeless housing.

Responding to a question about the status of use of a portion of the Fairplex campus by used auto dealer Carvana, he said both the city and Fairplex have their own termination agreements with the company.

Resident M. Joyce Bakersmith asked how much Fairplex contributes financially to Pomona including parking revenue and asked if that agreement was negotiable.

She was told details are included in an agreement with the city. Marquez did not provide specific figures but said it was “single digit millions” per year.

Marquez called on Pomona to give Fairplex “a chance to build your trust.”

“We want to be part of the process,” he said. “We want you guys to build this specific plan with us.”

“Pre-pandemic” figures provided by Fairplex in 2018 showed Fairplex provides more than \$2.7 million in tax revenue annually for Pomona and generates \$58.2 million in economic output each year.

One-man show... from pg. 2

other. The city is full of contradictions and visible deaths, blood, unjust lives.”

And he said as an artist, he is “trying to put things together, trying to give some sense to those contradictions.”

Pernisco was on hand for the opening of his one-man show at the dA on “Second Saturday” this month in Downtown Pomona.

A full-time fine artist-illustrator for 20 years with clients including the Walt Disney Company and Trader Joes, Pernisco earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena and a master’s degree in studio art and painting from Claremont Graduate University. His studio is located in Sierra Madre.

His past exhibitions have been everywhere from cities throughout Southern California to Mexico and Japan.

The dA Center is located at 252 S. Main St., Pomona. For more information, call (909) 397-9716.



Photo by Renee Barbee
Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez poses for the La Nueva Voz camera along with volunteers from Pomona’s East Valley Community Health Center, the COVID-19 Community Outreach Team and others during last month’s fifth annual Women’s Health Fair Rodriguez sponsored at the Washington Park Community Center in Pomona. Local residents of all ages were invited to the event which was billed as a collaborative effort to raise awareness of health issues affecting women.

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OPINION

Pomona 'Independent Redistricting Commission' seeks community participation in redrawing council district lines

By Aldo Yañez Ruiz, District 1
Chair, Independent Redistricting Commission

Representative government is one of the most fundamental attributes of the American political experiment. To ensure equal and fair representation in local government, the City of Pomona is in the process of redrawing its council district lines to reflect how local populations have changed over the past 10 years. The city has created an Independent Redistricting Commission to lead this redistricting effort and to gather community members' input on planning and drawing the new district lines.

Redistricting is a mandatory process for districted cities and counties to redraw district lines following each decennial Census. This process will establish districts that are generally equal in population and maintain Pomona's communities of interest. Using the data from the 2020 Census and residents' feedback, the Independent Redistricting Commission will determine the final boundaries of the city's districts.

As the Chair of the Independent Redistricting Commission, I am committed to widespread community input and participation throughout the process. Pomona residents best understand their communities and the unique is-

ssues that impact them. We need residents to tell us about their communities of interest – those areas where the population share social and economic priorities – to help us draw new city districts.

Residents still have opportunities to share their ideas about how our City Council is districted over the next decade! The Commission will host a community workshop at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15. Residents can learn more about the redistricting process and the tools they can use to draw their own proposed Pomona City Council districts during this meeting.

The workshop is virtual at this "Zoom" link: <https://bitly.co/9UWo> with a webinar ID of 837 7784 5489 (passcode 633516) or call (699) 900-9128 for support.

Drawing and submitting your own map tells us where you think the City Council district boundaries should be. You can access the city's online mapping tools at DrawPomona.org or physically drawing maps using paper templates that you can pick up at City Hall (505 S. Garey Ave.) or download from the website. Residents can draw the city's six districts, one district, or just your commu-

nity. These maps, along with the personal explanation of why residents drew the lines where they did, will help to inform us of the priorities and identities that residents believe should be preserved and represented on the City Council.

If you are uncertain about how to access or use the mapping tools available to you, we highly encourage you to attend our workshop to learn how to best use these resources. If you are unable to attend this workshop, a recording will be uploaded to the city's redistricting website. Residents may also watch an instructional video produced by the city's demographer on YouTube.

In addition to this workshop, Pomona residents can provide feedback using the city's redistricting website at DrawPomona.org. Not only can they submit maps through the contact page, but they can also fill out the Communities of Interest (COI) worksheet to further inform the demographer and the Commission of the public's priorities. The website also provides residents with the ability to subscribe to news and updates regarding the city's redistricting process as well as frequently asked questions and a schedule of future meetings.

Get started before it's too late! Visit DrawPomona.org to make your voice heard today.

Pomona Civic Center 'historic district' status approved by councilmembers

Mickey Gallivan, past president of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley, moved to Pomona with her husband Jim in 1972, not long after the six buildings making up the "new" Civic Center were built in the 1960s.

She was impressed with the beauty of the architecture at the time.

And in 2017, she filed an application (as an individual, not as part of the Historical Society) to establish the Civic Center as a local historic district in an effort to ensure that the site and the original architecture is preserved.

City planning staff members reviewed the proposal, the city's Historic Preservation Commission requested the designation and approved a resolution recommending that the Pomona City Council do the same.

Last month Gallivan got her wish – members of the Pomona City Council unanimously voted to designate the entire area as a historic district – between Garey Avenue, Eighth Street, Park Avenue and Mission Boulevard.

"I was overjoyed," she told La Nueva Voz. "It was such a relief."

"I've been waiting 40 years for this," she told councilmembers.

Gallivan said she immediately thought the Civic Center was "a really gorgeous place" the first time she saw it after moving into Lincoln Park and driving down to City Hall to change the water account to her name.

And, she said, she remembers

going to events at the Pomona Public Library, attending art shows and more.

"I have enjoyed it for almost 50 years, and I want to ensure children, grandchildren, future generations and newcomers get to enjoy it," she said. "I hope we can get the fountain repaired in the near future as it was so beautiful as well as restful and relaxing."

Gallivan said she filed the application in 2017 as crews were making repairs and she became concerned some of the replacement benches and planters were more industrial looking than the original style.

According to the staff report on the item at last month's council meeting, the properties in the proposed district boundaries met three of the criteria for historic designation – architecture, design of the Civic Center and its connection to well-known mid-century architect Welton Becket, known for designing the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Mark Taper Forum and the Ahmanson Theatre in the Los Angeles County Music Center.

In addition, the city's zoning ordinance required the Historic Preservation Commission to find that the majority of structures are over 50 years old or of exceptional quality.

A public hearing on the proposal was held at the Historic Preservation Commission level in August and every property owner within the proposed district was notified

Historic district... pg. 8

'Christmas on Columbia'

kick-off event set for Dec. 4

A kick-off event for the world-famous (well, at least famous in and around Pomona) "Christmas on Columbia" holiday decorations extravaganza is scheduled for 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, on West Columbia Avenue between White Avenue and Wisconsin Street in Pomona (just south of the San Bernardino Freeway).

Discovered (by accident) by La Nueva Voz last year (see photos in last December's issue at www.lanuevavoz.net, click on past issues and scroll down to page 16), the entire street gets involved and literally the whole neighborhood is lighted and decorated throughout the holiday season.

So grab a camera or a cell phone and give the kids a jacket for over their pajamas and head on down.

Viewing throughout the month

of December will be from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 5 p.m. to midnight Friday through Sunday.

And bring a new unwrapped toy and be entered into a raffle.

Toys will be donated to the Pomona Police Department for distribution to local kids during the holidays.

The kick-off event is open to all and will feature live music, food and the kick-off to the lights.

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MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

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Visit our web site at YourVoiceMatters.LA
For information, contact MarioOlmos90041@gmail.com

Professional organization... from pg. 1

est standards possible,” said La Nueva Voz Publisher Jeff Schenkel. “At La Nueva Voz, we have strived for professionalism over the past 12 years as we have worked to serve and promote our community.”

He added that the newspaper always has attempted to follow in the tradition of the original La Voz, founded by the late Candelario Mendoza and Al Castro. That newspaper published for 28 years before La Nueva Voz.

“We have been reminded that we are really only the curators or caretakers of Pomona’s community newspaper, and we take that responsibility seriously as we continue to tell the stories of Pomona and its residents,” Schenkel said. “And we always will have the utmost respect for the work that the old La Voz did in paving the way for what we have been able to become.”

“At the same time, we view our membership in CNPA as a confirmation that we have operated at a professional level, and we appreciate this acknowledgement by our peers in the newspaper business,” Schenkel said. “We are pleased to become a small part of the work CNPA is doing as an advocacy organization for a free press and the news profession.”

Historic district... from pg. 7

30 days in advance.

No objections were received by the city.

The staff report pointed out there are two main styles of architecture within the district boundaries – mid-century modern and new formalism.

Pomona’s original city hall was located across the street, essentially where a Starbucks is located today.

It was designed to support a city of 10,000 people and, by the late 1950s when the city had far exceeded that figure, Pomona began exploring options to replace city hall.

The newly designated district includes City Hall, City Council Chambers, Pomona Public Library, Pomona Police Department, Los Angeles Superior Court and public health buildings.

The new local historic district status will require that any new development fits in to the architectural and landscaping style of

“Jeff and I are very honored and proud to make this announcement,” said Renee Barbee, Vice President of Marketing and Operations for La Nueva Voz and an Executive Board member for the Pomona Chamber of Commerce.

She said La Nueva Voz readers and friends appeared to be pleased with the membership approval as well – a brief announcement on Facebook by deadline time for this issue had received 130 comments and 135 “likes.”

Schenkel added that he has always appreciated the work of CNPA on a personal level – his first two jobs as a newspaper reporter right out of college at the University of Tennessee – one in 1970 and one in 1971 (newspapers known at the time as the Simi Valley Enterprise and the San Gabriel Valley Daily Tribune) – were made possible because of a job listing service CNPA maintained in those days in two three-ring notebook binders in an office building near Los Angeles International Airport.

CNPA more recently has continued to serve as a resource for La Nueva Voz.

Schenkel has worked in news and public relations for the past 51 years.

the Civic Center. Any major project would be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission and could be appealed to the City Council.

Meanwhile, Gallivan said she loves Pomona and would never want to live anywhere else.

“It is quite a large city with a small-town feel,” she said. “I love that I see people I know every place I go. I will continue to do anything I can to help our beautiful historical Pomona.”

Re-name Hamilton Park... from pg. 5

and even before – one brother was an activist in education at the time, a sister was a nun at Sacred Heart School working as a counselor, and a nephew was a teacher at Arroyo Elementary School in Pomona for 20 years.

And another nephew continues to work today for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

“Their family and Mr. Ramirez have been positive in the com-

Robotic-assisted partial knee replacements -- Can a robot help cure my arthritis and send me home the same day?

By Luis A. Corrales, MD
Casa Colina Hospital
and Centers for Healthcare

Hate to ruin surprises, but the answer is a resounding YES. As a kid, I believed one day I would be zipping around in a flying car and would have a robot at home like The Jetsons. Well, my car doesn’t fly, but I do have a robot helping me perform surgery, and that’s pretty cool.

You might ask yourself, why is this doc excited about a robot? It’s because this technology is changing the way we treat knee osteoarthritis (OA), and the results are amazing.

Osteoarthritis is a common cause of disability, and over 600,000 total knee replacements (TKRs) are performed annually as a result. This means a lot of people need new knees.

Let’s review knee anatomy and OA. The knee is divided into three compartments and coated with cartilage to protect it during walking. When the cartilage wears out, it causes damage and OA, which leads to pain.

For some, OA affects all three compartments, but 30 percent of people only have one compartment affected. If you have OA involving two or three compartments, a TKR makes sense. But does it make sense to replace your entire knee when only one

part is worn out?

Common sense says no. It makes sense to replace only what is worn out. But, due to the technical challenges and lack of experience in performing a partial knee replacement (PKR), most orthopedic surgeons recommend a TKR.

A PKR, performed in appropriate patients and done well, gives results equal to or better than a TKR. Not to mention it’s less invasive and offers a faster recovery.

This is where robotics plays a key role.

This technology allows us to plan your surgery beforehand and tailor it exactly to your anatomy. This plan is then executed in surgery using robotic technology with less than one millimeter of error.

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of the main causes of failure after PKRs is surgical error. This is eliminated using robotic technology, and the benefits go to the patient. Plus, when incorporated into our total joints pathway, patients walk immediately with minimal pain, and most go home the same day in a flying car.

OK, no flying car. We only have the robot, but a doc can dream.

Editor’s Note: Dr. Corrales is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon specializing in the management and surgical treatment of degenerative and arthritic conditions of the shoulder, hip, and knee. He is medical director of the Revive Joint Replacement Program at Casa Colina Hospital, which has received distinctions in joint replacement excellence, total knee replacement, and total hip replacement from Healthgrades, and also has earned the Gold Seal of Approval for advanced total hip and knee replacement certification, the highest certification awarded by the Joint Commission and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. For information about the Revive Joint Replacement Program, call 866/724-4130 or visit casacolina.org move.



Dr. Luis Corrales

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SUPERVISOR SOLIS DISTRIBUTES TURKEYS AT CAL POLY -- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis, at center, helps her staff and volunteers arrange turkeys for distribution at Cal Poly University Pomona to San Gabriel Valley families impacted by COVID-19. In all, 1,400 turkeys and boxes of grocery items were handed out in an operation outside the Farm Store at Cal Poly. In addition to Cal Poly, sponsors included Alma Family Services, LA Regional Food Bank, Suburban Water Systems, San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Cathay Bank, Health Net and others, along with funding from Solis' discretionary funds. A total of 95 pre-selected nonprofits received the food items for distribution to families. It was the seventh year of Solis' "Operation Gobble Gobble" which involves several events throughout the first supervisorial district.

Boxing fans, title holders turn out for book-signing for 'Lost Stories of West Coast Latino Boxing'

Boxing author Gene Aguilera, speaking at a book-signing last week at Pomona Public Library, had a special message for any kids in Pomona who are thinking about going into boxing – do it!



Boxing author Gene Aguilera, speaking at the Pomona Public Library last week, shows the audience a photo of the old Main Street Gym, once located on Main Street between Third and Fourth Streets in Downtown Los Angeles in his latest book. Asked by La Nueva Voz what's there now, he said a parking lot.

"You know, boxing is a good way to keep you off the street," he said in response to a question from La Nueva Voz. "It's a good way to get your kids discipline in life (and) self-respect."

"If you get a chance, be a boxer, it doesn't matter if you're a professional or not, but be a boxer to get in shape," he added.

More than 60 Pomona residents, friends and numerous boxing title holders turned out for the event outside the

library in the Pomona Civic Center for Aguilera's book-signing of his latest work, "Lost Stories of West Coast Latino Boxing" (Arcadia Publishing and The History Press, \$23.99).

Special guest at the event was former World Boxing Council bantam weight world champion Alberto Davila (1983-1984), a member of the World Boxing Hall of Fame.

Davila, a resident of Upland who grew up in Pomona (originally from Texas) and graduated from Garey High School, was asked by a youth boxing coach what he would recommend to coaches dealing with kids today, and Davila said simply



Boxing Champion Alberto Davila

get to know the kids.

"A lot of kids come from broken homes that we're not aware of," he said. "And their economy is a lot different than a kid who has a lot of things they can't offer."

"So, learn their backgrounds and get to know them, expose them to different things that are good for them for the future," he added. "Boxing's not everything but it's a good start."

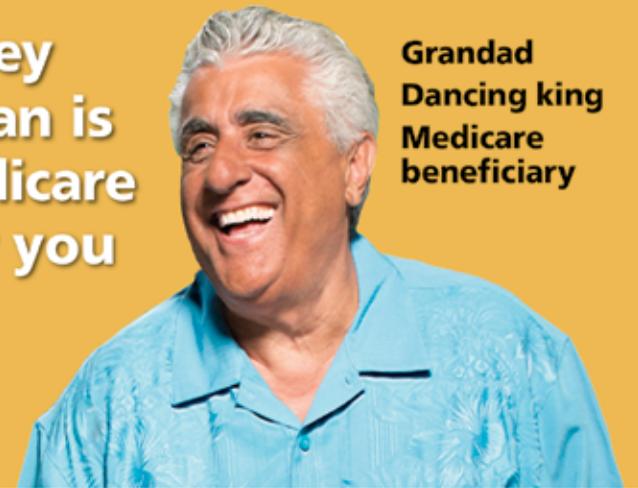
Book-signing... pg. 10

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Photos by Renee Barbee
 Crystal Orosco from the children's room at Pomona Public Library explains the crafts of the day to the kids at a Dia de los Muertos event last month. A special performance was provided by Pacifico Dance Company. Orosco worked with one group of kids inside while volunteers from AMOCA worked with another group outside on the patio. Pictured below are pencils, scissors and glue for use by the kids in creating their own Dia de los Muertos masks.

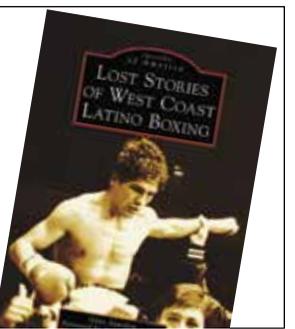


BIOLIFE PLASMA SERVICES OPENS IN POMONA -- Tim Lipson, at center, cuts the ribbon to officially open Pomona's new BioLife Plasma Services location last month at a Pomona Chamber of Commerce event. Lipson said the facility collects plasma in a manner very similar to kidney dialysis center operations -- sometimes as donations and sometimes for compensation. He said the new Pomona center is employing between 40 and 50 people, with nearly 75 percent of them from Pomona. And he said this one office expects to generate between \$2 and \$3 million for the local economy in its first year alone. Pictured, from left, are Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang; Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Claudia Castaneda, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Dharmesh Patel, district operations manager for BioLife, at rear; Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares; and Lipson. Chamber Board member Jeff Johannsen, executive director of Pomona Hope, is pictured at far right. The facility is at 215 Philadelphia St., Pomona.

Book-signing... from pg. 9

Aguilera, who told the audience at the signing for his third book he fell in love with boxing when he was 10, is a native of East Los Angeles and has "seen it all" in the world of boxing.

His latest book uncovers the human drama of memorable West Coast Latino boxing lore. His work has brought attention to the many contributions of Mexican Americans in history, culture, music and sports.



Fairplex donates archives to Cal Poly library

Pomona's Fairplex has donated its historical records – including more than 200 boxes and including everything from blueprints to scrapbooks and newspaper clippings – to the University Library Special Collections and Archives at Cal Poly University Pomona.

There are samples of original artwork, blue ribbons, drawings of thoroughbred horses that raced on the Fairplex track, film reels, photos, cookbooks, negatives, fair programs, press kits, promotional materials, administrative files and annual reports.

Also included is information about the L.A. International Wine Competition and various iterations of Thummer the pig, the fair's mascot since 1948.

According to a news release, Fairplex has had a long relationship with Cal Poly that has included showcasing the university's Arabian horses, sponsoring student art exhibits, hosting Cal Poly animals in the Big Red Barn and more.

"Cal Poly Pomona has vowed to preserve the collection and make it readily available to the public," said Katie Richardson,

University Library Department Chair and head of Special Collections and Archives. "With its photographs and other founding documents, this fascinating collection really captures the fair's rich history."

She said once the collection is processed, opportunities for future initiatives are endless.

"We plan to pursue such avenues as instruction modules, exhibitions, oral history projects, lectures and other public programming," she said.

Cal Poly President Dr. Soraya Coley praised the decision by Fairplex to donate the rare collection.

"We're pleased and honored to further tie together our legacies in the region and help preserve a matchless trove of historical records," said Coley, who is a member of the Los Angeles County Fair Association. "Cal Poly Pomona is truly grateful to Fairplex for entrusting us with this stewardship."

"The history of the LA County Fair and Fairplex chronicles 100 years of life in Southern California," said Fairplex Interim CEO



Katie Richardson, Cal Poly Pomona University Library Department Chair and head of Special Collections and Archives, takes a close look at only a small part of the more than 200 boxes of historical records donated to Cal Poly by Fairplex in Pomona. The collection goes back 100 years.

Walter Marquez. "The Fairplex team is excited that these important photos, records and artworks will be in a secure place, archived and accessible."

And Heidi Hanson, who chairs

the fair association's board of directors, said Fairplex is indebted to Cal Poly for helping to preserve the historic contributions.

"This is a service not only to Fairplex but also to our entire

community," she said.

The Fairplex archives will augment the Pomona Valley Historical Collection, one of four main collecting areas in the library ar-

Fairplex archives... pg. 18

Happy Holidays!

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NEW LIONS DEN GYM OPENS IN POMONA -- The Lions Den Gym opened this month with an official Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting, offering everything from a conventional gym with all the equipment, weights and more to both massage and physical therapy. And the 10,500 square foot facility is even available for booking special events. Pictured cutting the ribbon are, from left, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang, owner Nadim Diab, Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanaras, owners Giovanni Arango, Robert Wickman and Kristian Morales, and Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole. The Lions Den is located at 435 E. Center St. (440 E. Holt Ave.), Pomona. For more information, call (909) 641-6553.



A color guard ceremony for the Lions Den Gym ribbon-cutting was provided by members of the Chino Valley Young Marines, at left, led by retired Marine Sgt. Mario Gutierrez, and Pomona's Post 30 American Legion.



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past issues and more!



Contract to refurbish Pomona's Palm Lake Golf Course, inked in 2017 and expected to take three to six months to complete, still playing 'in the rough' and landing in 'sand trap' delays

The latest developer of the City of Pomona's 62-year-old Palm Lake Golf Course has run into a little trouble getting the place back open for business and the city has unleashed code enforcement officials with orders to try to get the operator and the property into a state of compliance with all terms of the agreement.

As reported in the La Nueva Voz June 2019 issue, Celso Palafox of Chino Development League was awarded a 20-year lease by the city – at the rate of \$1 per year – to upgrade and operate the facility.

At a news conference at the golf course at the time, Palafox said the site – which has been closed since 2017 – was expected to be open for business on the driving range side within 60 days. Palafox now has been in control of the site for a total of four years since signing a contract.

La Nueva Voz happened to be in the neighborhood of the golf course early this month just to see how things are going and noticed the fairways on the golf course side have browned out, there are

piles of concrete debris and tree branches in several locations, the golf shop and restaurant both are in need of repair (the restaurant is now missing a roof and the door is blocked with cinder blocks), and what appeared to be relatively new protective netting between the driving range and the parking lot is torn.

In fairness, two years ago, Palafox apparently teamed up with the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps and students worked on site briefly cleaning up the grounds as part of an educational program. In addition, around that same time, La Nueva Voz spotted workers planting what appeared to be petunias around the golf shop and some improvements appeared to be made to the driving range on the 71 Freeway side of the facility.

But things didn't look as promising this month.

La Nueva Voz reached out to Pomona City Hall to check on status.

"We are pursuing corrective actions in the interest of getting the operator and property into a state



Work appears to have come to a halt at the golf course in photos taken this month.

of compliance with all terms of the agreement," Deputy City Manager Mark Gluba said in an e-mail to La Nueva Voz.

He indicated the corrective actions are being handled through code enforcement rather than the city attorney at this point, and the city has "recently issued correction notices."

"We're all concerned with the lack of progress
Golf course... pg. 18



Fairways have browned out and concrete debris is piled high (at rear) during a refurbishment project under way for the past four years at Palm Lake Golf Course in Pomona.

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Alicia Rodriguez of San Dimas, a board member of the Latino / Latina Roundtable, reads a list of those who have passed in front of an altar at the seventh annual Dia de los Muertos celebration this month at the Lopez Urban Farm in Pomona. The event featured musicians, dancers, crafts and walks through the garden. La Nueva Voz learned



from Pomona Unified School Board member Arturo Jimenez at the event that the farm was named after Ignacio Lopez, an advocate for desegregation lawsuits (movie theaters and schools) in the 1940s in the Inland Empire and Orange County. He said one lawsuit laid the foundation for the well-known landmark Brown vs the Board of Education case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954. Lopez also founded Pomona's early community newspaper El Espectador (1933 to 1960) which published before the old La Voz, which provided the foundation for La Nueva Voz.



The kids were doing a good job of figuring out how to make bracelets and necklaces at the craft table during Dia de los Muertos at Lopez Urban Farm this month in Pomona. Pictured, at left, is Pedro Sanchez, a student at San Antonio Elementary School, and Abraham Orduno, a student at Emerson Middle School. The program was designed to "share stories of those who have passed and how this pandemic has impacted our community -- we hope to reconnect and return to our roots." The tradition of honoring the souls of the dead allows for the range of emotions from joy to sadness to be expressed.



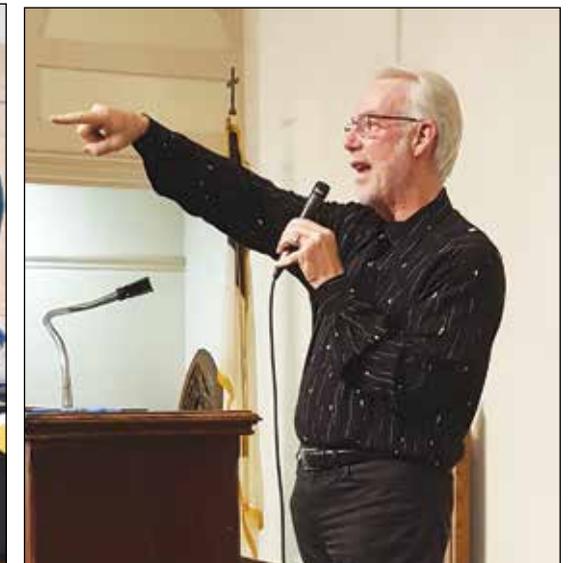
Dia de los Muertos, sponsored by the Latino / Latina Roundtable at Lopez Urban Farm in Pomona, provided a perfect opportunity to check out the garden up close. Pictured, from left, are Diego Amor Torres, 3, and Andres Quinones, 5, both of Pomona. According to his dad, Diego has been coming to the farm for two years for a Sunday junior farmer program.



Beth Brooks, at left, committee co-chair for Pilgrim Congregational's annual auction, chats with Carolyn Hemming as they look over tables loaded with silent auction items.



State Farm agent and community volunteer John Forbing chats with Julie Mestas of Newton Realty at the tickets table at this month's annual fundraising auction at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church.

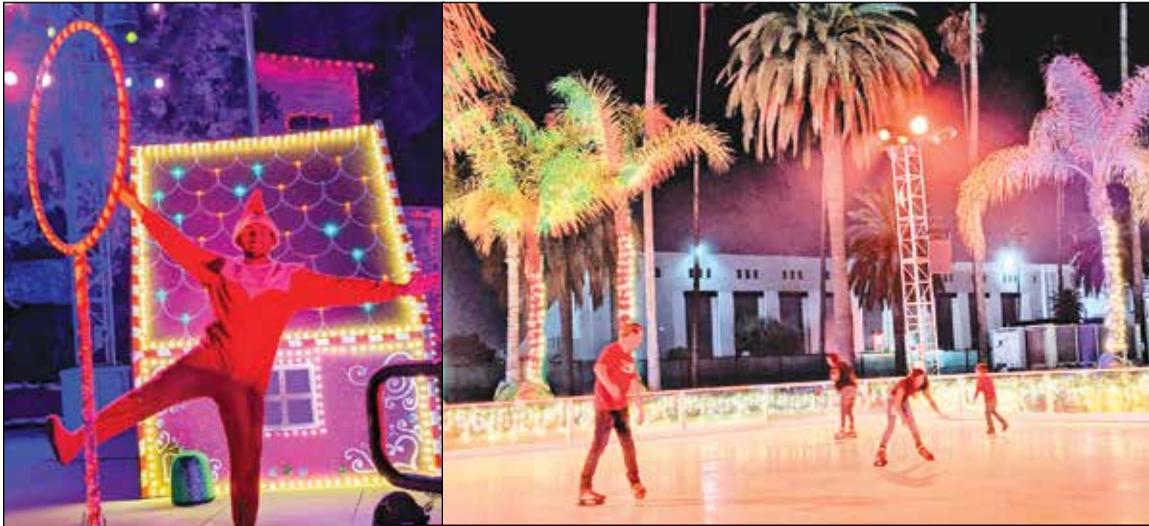


DO I HEAR \$200? -- Volunteer auctioneer Ron Vander Molen picked up the tempo in the room at Pilgrim Congregational Church this month at an annual fundraising auction and dinner. And he did a good job, too! He told La Nueva Voz he's done this before. Thanks to Beth Brooks for inviting La Nueva Voz to the event. And while we didn't get the name of the young lady who pushed the cart out to the La Nueva Voz van with our "winnings," thanks to her, too. And thanks to Ron for accepting a La Nueva Voz bid on that limited edition by Lena Liu ("Morning Serenade"). La Nueva Voz had to buy that one -- it had a guitar in it -- and it is already framed and hanging on the wall.

[H2] HYDROGEN HOME

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/ North America /



Photos by Renee Barbee "The Elf on the Shelf" magical holiday journey is back at Pomona's Fairplex, offering children of all ages an after dark lighted journey into the holiday season. Elves are everywhere -- high atop a wintry "cake" in the Fairplex building known for floral exhibits and performing circus acts along the way. And Santa himself even pops up asking guests for their help (we can't tell you why -- you'll just have to go and find out). A new feature and possible highlight of the evening is an outdoor ice skating rink in the shadow of the Fairplex grandstands. So go down and have a good time! The show continues through Jan. 2.



POMONA'S DA CENTER TAKES ON THE FOURTH GRADE -- Margaret Aichele, executive director of the dA Center for the Arts in Pomona, shows what's inside one of hundreds of pizza box art kits created by the dA -- one for every fourth grader in Pomona Unified School District. The pizza box kits are part of the dA's six-week-long "Locals and Legends Art Program," created by Aichele, in which fourth graders will learn how to create landscapes in their first week, still life works in week two, self portraits in week three and figure drawing and sculpture in weeks four and five. They will be instructed with art "leaders" wearing their own program t-shirts all made possible through dA ARTBridge Outreach, a division of the dA. Five local artists and six artists who are "legends" will participate in the series. At the end of the program, the students will have their own little exhibit and share day, Aichele told La Nueva Voz.

Locally, the rainfall levels were far below average for the third year in a row!

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Ceremonies, 'Field of Freedom' mark Veterans Day in Pomona

What started last year as a small Pomona American Legion Post 30 Veterans Day ceremony in front of flags marking a "Field of Freedom" on the sidewalk in front of Pomona City Hall morphed this year into a full-blown Pomona Civic Center celebration with even Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang on hand to call for additional support for those who have served "in the uniform of our nation."

And the flags were still out there this month by the street to honor all those who served.

"We honor veterans today and I want to thank all of our veterans who are here today but we also honor all veterans who served this country for over 225 years," Prang said, adding he is the fifth great

grandson of a veteran who fought against the British on the Kentucky frontier between 1778 and 1783.

"This country has always dedicated itself to support those who have served, those who have given their lives," Prang said, adding that there are still challenges in providing health care and housing for veterans including more than 4,000 veterans who are homeless in Los Angeles County alone.

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez cited U.S. Census figures that show his 52nd Assembly District is home to 21,000 veterans with more than 3,300 in Pomona.

"Their strength fuels our patriotic pride and reminds us that we are unbreakable when we are strong together," Rodriguez said.



Members of Boy Scout Troop 214 participated in the Pomona Veterans Day observance.



Members of the Lutheran High School of La Verne Navy Junior ROTC participated in the Pomona Veterans Day observance this month outside City Hall.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval



Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presents a certificate to Pomona's Post 30 American Legion Commander Roberto Arnold during Veterans Day observances outside City Hall. Pictured, from left, are Post 30 Color Guard members Joe Paczkowski and Hector Navarro, Post 30 Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff, Post 30 Finance Officer Alejandro Escobedo, Post 30 Adjutant Sam Cafiero, Rodriguez and Arnold.

"Our nation has a responsibility to care for our veterans and honor their sacrifices beginning with ensuring that their basic needs are met such as health care, housing and employment."

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said he had friends growing up in Pomona who went off to the military as an opportunity to get away

from home, to travel the world and become a better person.

"But fundamentally, they went away because they wanted to serve their country, they wanted to make sure that we as Americans had the freedom that we enjoy,"

he said.

Post 30 Commander Roberto Arnold said the United States just ended 20 years of war.

"Both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom has been something that has been part of our generation," he said. "Growing up, literally coming out of high school, that's literally where I started. My career began in Iraq and we finished in Afghanistan."

"Now that we are back here, it is crucial that everybody gets involved with the veteran movement which is helping them and redirecting all of the dedication that we have, not only for our service members but the people coming back home."

"So, open your doors, open

your hearts to them," Arnold said, adding that the American Legion is partnering with the City of Pomona and "doing a lot of great things for our veterans."

"Now that we know that the war is over, the battle for the healing can begin," he said.

He thanked Sandoval for his support.

Others participating in the program included Pomona City Councilmembers Nora Garcia and Victor Preciado, Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, Boy Scout Troop 214, Cub Scout Pack 309, the Pomona American Legion Post 30 Color Guard and the Navy Junior ROTC from Lutheran High School in La Verne.



Pomona City Councilmembers Nora Garcia and Victor Preciado



Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman

Data shows Latinos living ‘Tale of Two Latinos’

According to the editor emeritus of La Opinion newspaper in Los Angeles, if you are a Latino and living in Southern California you are living what he calls “the tale of Two Latinos” – and the data shows there is a need for increased leadership to address growing disparities in lifestyles.

Gabriel Lerner, former editor in chief of La Opinion, made the analogy in his comments to participants in a virtual press conference last month presented by the Alliance for a Better Community and the Los Angeles Media Roundtable.

He said one of the main objectives of the event was to “raise awareness of the impact and the role of the media that serves communities of color . . . and bring them in (as partners) to address the issues that impact our community.”

Specifically, he referred to the growing disparity between the number of Latinos who increasingly are falling behind.

Lerner said a new “Latino/a Scorecard Report: A Policy Roadmap for Transforming Los Angeles” identifies eight findings about a series of critical questions facing Latinos and establishes a grade or score in different focus areas.

“One thing that was very interesting for me highlighted in the report is that it directly addresses the disparities between this group of Latinos that are succeeding and the large majority that are not . . . in (areas of) education, health, public safety, economic prosperity in the city (and other) topics that are covered by the report,” he said.

“Because of the urgent need to define Latino issues and the need for strong leadership, La Opinion, (which) as you know, rarely takes the position of recommending a report, endorsed this report in a recent editorial,” Lerner added.

And the recommendations in the report, he said, form a “foundation for our progress in the near future.”

Vanessa Aramayo, executive director of the Alliance for a Better Community, explained her group was formed in the 1990s by a group of Latino civic and business leaders who saw a need to promote a proactive Latino agenda in the Los Angeles region in order to respond to the needs of the region’s largest and fastest growing



Dr. Feliza Ortiz-Licon

population.

She said the Latino Scorecard was created several years after the organization was founded.

“The scorecard challenged many ideas (and) put statistics, perceptions and implications surrounding the Latino community to work,” she said. “This was an effort that was based on one fundamental idea – that it was time for action.”

And the ideas that were identified at the time were in areas of health care, education, economic opportunities, public safety and others.

“These challenges as you all know are challenges that our community continues to face,” she



Robert Sainz

said. “Today, Alliance for a Better Community continues to improve and increase opportunities to advance equity and justice for Latinos in the Los Angeles region through power building and policy advocacy.”

“Our work is based on the underlying premise that the investments and the vitality in the Latino communities today are investments in communities across Los Angeles County tomorrow,” Aramayo said.

“We must engage this complex work of coalition building and collaboration to advance one common agenda across issues for all Latinos in this region,” she said.

Data presented from the score-



Dr. Susana Bonis

card on education and economic prosperity showed, among the highlights, that when the scorecard first was introduced in 2003 and looked at numbers of those not graduating from high school, there was a 40 percent drop off rate between the start of freshman year and senior year among Latino youth in the county.

But in 2019, the latest year for completed statistics, four out of five Latino students graduated from high school and have been around that 80 percent level since 2016.

“But these rates are outperformed by White students by



Gabriel Lerner

roughly four percentage points,” said Alliance senior project manager Dr. Susana Bonis.

And looking at those completing “A-G” requirements during high school making graduates eligible to apply for enrollment in the University of California and California State University systems, she said the numbers show only 53 percent of graduating Latino students completed those requirements in 2018.

Then where do Latino high school graduates go to college? She said 56 percent go to community college, about a third to California state universities, 9 percent to a University of California campus and a smaller percentage to



Vanessa Aramayo

private universities or colleges in or out of state.

And 44 percent of Latino students who left community college earned an award or certificate. Twenty-three percent transferred to a four-year institution.

By comparison, she said, 46 percent of exiting non-Hispanic White students earned an award or certificate and 32 percent transferred to a four-year institution during the 2018-2019 academic year.

Bonis also focused on economic prosperity on the scorecard, pointing out that nearly a third of Latino households in Los Angeles

County earn between \$40,000 and \$80,000, and about 18 percent earn more than \$135,000.

Both are at lower rates than all other racial and ethnic groups in the county. For example, one in four Latino households earn less than \$40,000, while only 16 percent of White households fall in this income bracket.

And the gap is even higher among immigrant Latino households, with 30 percent of households earning less than \$40,000 a year.

On homeownership, she said generally Latino households are less likely to own a home compared to non-Hispanic White households.

In 2019, about 42 percent of Latino households owned their own home compared to 57 percent of non-Hispanic White households.

And for non-citizen households, only 25 percent of Latinos own the home in which they reside.

Home values also are similar – in 2019, more than half of Latino homes are valued at under \$500,000, while only 22 percent of White-owned homes are in the

Tale of Two Latinos... pg. 20



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Cuentito for today: Ponche for Breakfast

By Susie Perales

When my viejito sits in the backyard with me we talk about so many things. Our favorite chats are about our good old days and some of our bad days. This story is about the good old days.

I told him this cuentito about my life as a young kid. This one is about when I grew up in the Ice Age about 12,000 years ago. At least that is what my kids think!!

This cuentito is a little slice about my life as a young kid living in East Los Angeles. It was in the '40s and '50s. I lived there until I was 17 years old.

I was about 4 when we got our very first TV set. Hardly anyone owned a TV in our barrio back in those days. TV had just started to become commercial. They were the new sensation! I thought, "we must be rich to have our own TV!"

My dad's friends would pile into our tiny duplex to watch the pleitos (fights) every week on that itty bitty screen. My favorite shows were Superman, Dennis the Menace and I Love Lucy.

I remember on warm, breezy summer days we would go outside and watch the ragman ride

his horse driven wagon asking for rags or old clothes. The ice man would come drop off blocks of ice with a huge, metal ice tong to keep our food from spoiling in the old wooden icebox. In the mornings the Helm's Bakery man would drive up to our door with so many delicious pastries. You could smell the baked goodies from a block away! The milkman delivered all our dairy goods. I loved scooping the cream out of the top of the glass milk bottle.

I can't forget about the man who drove a huge RV-like vehicle who sold shoes and clothes. He'd come every school year to sell his array of school clothing and zapatos. We got uniforms and the dreaded, hideous Oxford shoes! That's the only store-bought clothes we ever got. And those shoes lasted forever! Maybe that's why I have a crazy shoe fetish now!

Never in a million years did I think that in 2021 we would be able to get folks to deliver all our groceries once again! We went backwards in time!! But we love it.

(I got a little ahead of myself. So, I will continue with the rest of

this cuentito.)

Los Angeles/East L.A. — it's the city of the Roughriders! That's right, I went to Roosevelt High School. I loved East L.A. and swore I'd never leave it, but at 17 I did leave my legendary city and got married to my knight in Chicanos khakis and 'ironed to perfection' plaid shirt. We moved away from East L.A. in 1965.

We moved to El Monte and lived there for a few years. Then we decided to buy our first home in beautiful Westmont, Pomona. We wanted a decent place for our kids to grow up.

When we first saw Westmont, it reminded us of Mayberry of

out there and trying to get it back on track or evaluate our alternative options," Gluba said in an after-hours e-mail.

Although several Chino Development League business telephone numbers have been disconnected, La Nueva Voz was able to reach Palafox by text on his cell phone. He first suggested and agreed to a meeting at the golf course, although Bob Velker, his public relations consultant, reached out to La Nueva Voz the day before the scheduled meeting and said such a meeting would not be possible until after deadline for this month's issue of the newspaper.

Velker did, however, respond to a list of seven questions from La Nueva Voz by saying, "Nobody in particular is to blame for the last 2.5 years."

He essentially blamed everything on the "scrap metal dealers who serve the thieves and vandals."

"The leadership in the city has been exceptionally supportive and unwavering," he added. "What it comes down to is we've been a victim of circumstances, bureaucracy, crime and materials shortages."

"We remain committed to the chives.

Cal Poly plans to hire an archivist to work on the project. Richardson said the archivist likely will work for about 14 months to conserve the items in archival boxes and folders, create a "finding aid," and organize the collection for public use.

the Andy Griffith Show. It wasn't East L.A., but it was so quaint. We fell in love with our new neighborhood in an instant. While sitting on a bench in Westmont Park we knew this was the perfect place for our little family.

However, I will never forget the many good memories that I spent in my hometown with friends, my family, and our besties, Yolie and Nena. I was very happy there as a kid.

I was the daredevil of the '50s. I guess I had to be. Living in the city does that to you sometimes. I rode the bus whenever my parents could afford the quarter for the bus fare or walked everywhere.

Golf course... from pg. 13

cause and our promises, and we certainly have the resources to persevere," Velker said. "Our biggest frustration lies in the disappointment of the good people of this neighborhood. We feel incredibly sorry for our neighbors, along with all the law-abiding people of this city, who have had to endure this roller coaster ride of emotions and disappointment with us."

"We appreciate the many neighbors who regularly stop by to introduce themselves, and to share their support and encouragement," he said. "Unfortunately, the

only people who have benefitted from two years of investments have been the scrap metal dealers."

Pressed for specifics on a new target timeline for the project, Velker did not respond nor did Palafox who was copied on the e-mail.

The original plan called for Palafox to upgrade and operate the facility, with long-term plans — with architectural renderings on display at the 2019 news conference — calling for both completing

Fairplex archives... from pg. 11

Some of the collection should be available for public viewing and scholarly work by early 2023.

Founded as the Los Angeles County Fair Association in 1922 and readying for its centennial celebration next year, Fairplex has played a critical role in shap-

Mostly, I walked!

I loved the sights, the sounds, and the scent of great Mexican food wafting through the windows of our homes. I loved listening to my mom's romantic boleros and mariachi music with my ídolos Pedro Infante and Jorge Negrete. But I truly loved the oldies my friends played on their cool record players during warm summer nights.

We played outside for hours and walked for miles to the barrio swimming pool at the Evergreen plunge or Lincoln Park. We weren't attached to phones back then. Only to our skate keys and

Ponche for breakfast... pg. 19

work on the golf course and refurbishing the club house and restaurant, all on a "retro" style concept utilizing the 1950s design of the original buildings.

This latest contract was approved by the Pomona City Council in December 2017 and, at that time, was expected to be up and running in three to six months. He



Celso Palafox

also complained about vandals destroying equipment and taking copper pipe — and homeless individuals living in the buildings — in a January 2018 story in La Nueva Voz.

At that time, Velker said the original proposal which called for a \$100,000 investment had jumped to half a million dollars. Palafox said he expected that figure to reach more than \$1 million during 2019.

The facility and its nine-hole golf course closed in early 2017 after an unsuccessful three-year attempt by Pedro Gonzalez, a teacher at Pomona's Madison Elementary School, to revitalize the course and make it cost-effective.

The golf course is located at 1300 W. Phillips Blvd., Pomona.

ing the Pomona Valley and the entire Southern California region.

It has played host to thousands of educational and entertainment events that have brought significant economic benefits to the area. The LA County Fair alone has welcomed nearly 96 million visitors in the past 100 years.

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Vaccine mandates for kids?

By Larry Ortega

Did Dr. Fauci, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and President-elect Biden in the year 2020 say vaccine mandates are something we should not be doing? Yes, they did say that. So, what changed? Certainly not the science. In fact, children's risk of serious harm from COVID is so small it is barely measurable.

Hearken, you who are in power over the multitude and lord it over throngs of peoples! Because authority was given you by the Lord and sovereignty by the Most High, who shall probe your works and scrutinize your counsels! Because, though you were ministers of his kingdom, you judged not rightly, and did not keep the law, nor walk according to the will of God, terribly and swiftly shall he come against you, because judgement is stern for the exalted.

Wisdom 6: 2-5

From health ministers in Mexico to self-described pothead-comedians who do their podcast from their garage, e.g. Jimmy Dore, we hear COVID vaccine risks to children out-weigh the benefits. Jimmy Dore tells us that he nets more views and downloads than the news organization CNN. Jimmy Dore has been a truth revealer and has done exceptional journalism in educating people – about the absolute sham our supposed political allies have been pulling on us. Jimmy Dore and his colleagues (experts, journalists) have uncovered truths that have served to educate the public in ways that mainstream media is incapable of doing. There is video from 2020 where Fauci, Pelosi and Biden make statements opposing mandated vaccines.

bikes!

I remember being the best downhill skater on the block and a pro-skater on one skate! I was an Olympic contender!! I would fly down a steep, suicidal hill and head straight towards the San Bernardino/10 Freeway! I would make a quick, swift turn onto Ramona Boulevard and survive yet another dare.

I think we were the only kids on the block that used to share a pair of skates, because we were very poor. I shared mine with my sister.

I can think of many things that we did that my mom would have pounded us for. We rode our

As you can see from the chart below, it makes no sense to give your child the COVID vaccine . . . unless of course the goal is to lessen the severity of the impact COVID will have symptomatically speaking. As it relates to stopping the spread, or preventing your child from getting COVID, these

Reasons why you would want to give your child the Covid vaccine:	YES	NO
a) Stop my child from spreading the virus	x	
b) Prevent my child from getting the virus	x	
c) Unvaxxed more easily transmit virus than vaxxed	x	
d) FDA guarantees it is safe for my child to receive	x	
The science tells us:	YES	NO
1) Does the Covid vaccine prevent you from getting the virus?		x
2) Does the Covid vaccine stop you from spreading the virus to other people?		x
3) Are unvaxxed people more likely to give you the virus than vaxxed?		x
4) Were all elements of the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) protocol - granting approval to administer the Covid vaccine to kids ages 5 - 11 years in age - satisfied?		x

goals are scientifically unachievable through the vaccine. Campaigns to mandate vaccinations on the grounds that the COVID vaccine will stop the spread or prevent you from getting it are not supported by the science. Israel and other countries with high vaccination rates are seeing transmission of COVID between the vaccinated, similar to those who are not vaccinated. There is no difference. President Biden claimed that this was the pandemic of the unvaccinated. This claim is not supported by the science.

If what we are being asked to do is to make our children, 5 to 11 years in age, available to become walking experiments, then this is what the government and other

leaders should say. It is dishonest to make claims that teachers in classrooms will be safer with children vaccinated. The science does not support this claim. Kids who are vaccinated are just as likely to transmit COVID as those children who are not vaccinated. Parents should have a clear understanding

why they should or should not give their child the COVID vaccine.

Conflicts of interest, revolving doors

The 17 members of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee who voted 17-0 in favor of authorizing Pfizer's COVID vaccine for kids ages 5 to 11 all have deep ties to the pharmaceutical industry, or Big Pharma.

Big Pharma has hijacked the influence of some of our most trusted voices, e.g. one of America's most famous Latino cartoonists, Lalo Alcaraz. According to recent tweets and LinkedIn posts, Lalo's on a campaign to encourage our children to become walking lab

experiments (rats), and is in lock-step with Big Pharma. Folks like Mr. Alcaraz are talented, brilliant minds, with giant hearts, who I truly believe would never do anything on purpose to harm our children.

But the influence of big-dollar-Pfizer is so enormous, they are now compromising our most influential advocates. Encouraging a total shutdown on discourse on the matter of options on how to deal with COVID is by itself highly suspicious. Why can we not talk about the facts that children are more likely to die from the regular flu than from COVID according to the science? And on and on . . . there is much to be known about this novel COVID virus, making discourse the requisite – not the enemy.

Mr. Alcaraz is the cartoonist who drew the Godzilla-like Mickey Mouse when Disney was trying to buy the right to trademark the phrase “día de los muertos.”

Mr. Alcaraz drew the Mickey Mouse, tall as skyscrapers, in protest over the attempt by Disney. So, it was weird for me to see him 180 degrees on the other side of people's freedom of choice. He wrote, “Don't spread misinformation” when I commented on his post about his tour d'vaccine. I soon found that I had been excommunicated from Lalo's groupies, forever banned into the abyss of fans who had an intelligent, legitimate, independent opinion on how COVID vaccine mandates for children were unsubstantiated and parents deserved to know. The act of Lalo blocking me from the conversation served to restore the echo chamber for Mr. Alcaraz,

leaving intact homogeneous commentary, devoid of independent thought or meaningful discourse regarding this particular topic.

Is the goal to mandate vaccines on our children or to keep our children safe from harm?

If the latter, then the data tells us the COVID vaccine should not be mandated en masse, especially to small children ages 5 to 11. It breaks my heart to see these experimental COVID jabs going into a child's arm with parents believing, in good faith, they are safe. Yet the very means by which the vaccine was okayed for small children – Emergency Use Authorization – is by definition done without following all the protocols for safety. Emergency Use Authorization grants that because there is a state of an “emergency.” Safety protocols meant to ensure no harm can be skipped.

Moms, dads and guardians of children 5 to 11 years old, get all the facts before subjecting your child to an unnecessary, experimental vaccine trial. Ninety-nine-point ninety-nine percent (99.99 percent) of children infected with COVID will survive. Long term effects of this experimental vaccine on children are unknown. Tweaking the immune system of a small child – as does the COVID vaccine – has effects which we do not yet understand.

Is it irresponsible for us to mandate COVID vaccines on children at this juncture? Most likely, given the science on this issue.

For more information on how to protect yourself or your children, or engage in policy discussions, please feel free to email me at LA@LAOrtega.com.

Ponche for Breakfast... from pg. 18

10-speeds down the huge hills at Hazard Park hands free.

Living in a haunted house made my younger years something to remember, too! Our casita was old, muy old. It was a shabby, dark, and creepy old house. It was so old that it looked like it was about to take its last breath, but for \$28 a month we couldn't go wrong.

I can recall that we didn't have much money back then. But for me that was no problem because I figured that there were people worse off than we were. We were always fed, clean and dressed nicely. I lived comfortably for being pobres (poor).

We all pitched in and made our house something to be proud of. The wallpaper was so pretty with flowers everywhere and the frilly curtains that hung in the whole house; my mother made them. They were better than the store-bought ones. She was the best seamstress I ever knew (besides my good friend Rosemary).

My mom taught me how to sew. I made all my clothing and that was something I will be forever grateful for.

Of all the things that my mom taught me, that was my favorite. She taught me how to cook, how to be a good homemaker, wife,

and decent mom. I tried my best to follow her example and advice. I wasn't a perfect person, but I tried my best and God took care of the rest.

We fixed the old jacalito (little shack) up and you wouldn't have recognized it when we got done. My father would stand in the front yard and would beam with pride at all our hard work. What used to be a lonely shack was now a home. He'd look at us with pride and say it's better to be pobres and happy than rich, lonely, and full of sadness.

I used to wonder if there were any spirits living there. If there

were ghosts, I'm sure they approved of what we had done to their casita. As a matter fact, I know they kept us company!

I can remember a cold and rainy night the year that I turned 10. I was quietly tiptoeing through the house on those creaky, ice-cold floors hoping to get one last glass of water. When I approached the kitchen, I saw out of the corner of my eye what might have been a ghostly entity. It was floating and swishing quietly past the kitchen door. I felt a cold shiver run up and down my spine! I ran back into my room and slammed my

Ponche for breakfast... pg. 19

Ponche for breakfast... from pg. 19

toe on the bed post and didn't even stop to scream in pain! I jumped under the covers and prayed that nothing would float in to grab my feet! I was soaking wet from the cold sweat. I laid there as stiff as a corpse!! Ay, cu cuy!

That night I heard someone whisper my name! It sounded so eerie! It was probably the wind and rain playing games with my imagination. Believe me, I have a very great imagination.

I didn't get up during the night many more times after that. Although I really wasn't scared, because deep down I'm pretty brave and besides my dad who happened to be a great philosopher always used to say, "don't worry about ghosts, because it's the live ones that you have to worry about."

Do you want to know what finally convinced me that my father was a wise man, after all? Of course you do. So, I'm going to tell you about it. It was a pretty traumatizing experience for me. And I'll never forget it. To this day it turns my stomach, and I can feel it in my throat. Ay, que asco me dio! (Omg, it made me nauseous!)

It was a school day. I got up

very late and I hadn't had breakfast yet. I ran into the kitchen to see what I could get, and I saw my mother making my power drink. It was leche, a spoonful of the three S's and cod liver oil she had waiting for me. It was her idea of a good breakfast!

I watched my mom reach into the cupboard for the colorful, tin tumbler that the milkman sold with cottage cheese in it. As I was quickly trying to fix my hair, she filled the glass with milk and handed it to me. She was great for sneaking things into our milk that would make us bright and perky through a tedious school day. Of course, she had good intentions, but she couldn't be trusted. Instant breakfast hadn't been invented yet. So, she usually made her own. She called it 'ponche.' My mom cared about our health, but she had a terrible habit of sneaking raw eggs into our milk.

That morning I wasn't in the mood for her special treat. I lifted the glass to my lips and closed my eyes. I took a sip, and it didn't taste like thick, gooey egg. So, I took a bigger swallow and there was that nasty, raw egg! It was

gross! I nearly threw it all up.

My mother looked at me concerned and in her usual cool manner like she didn't do a thing and all saintly with her Virgencita de Guadalupe face she said, "what's the matter, Mija?" I replied, "mom I don't want to drink this! I cannot drink this! I don't feel like slimy eggs this morning." She was so convincing when she answered to my cry. She said, "Mija I told you I didn't put an egg in there. I swear!"

My God, you should've seen the look on my face. I dumped the milk into the sink and there at the bottom of my glass was a frightened, little creature clinging onto the bottom like gum on a shoe!! It was a dang garden snail!!!

I am positive that the little guy was very happy to be alive and thankful that I didn't gulp him down for breakfast! Yes, and to this day I hate the sight of milk and the dark, ominous tin tumblers. I would rather confront a ghost any day!

Seguramente, my dad was right! It is the live ones that you have to watch out for!

Y se acabó el cuentito.

Tale of Two Latinos... from pg. 17

same range.

Bonis pointed out that households spending more than 30 percent of their incomes on rent are considered "rent-burdened."

For Latinos in 2019, over half – or 54 percent – met that category, while non-Hispanic White came in at only 48 percent.

The data showed figures were even more concerning for non-citizen Latinos – 60 percent were considered rent-burdened, compared to only 49 percent of citizen Latino renters.

Aramayo said when the organization was founded, the goal in its beginning stages was to leverage collective resources and take action.

"Today . . . we believe we are in a stronger position . . . because over the last two decades we have gained more experience among us to be able to . . . be more strategic on how we advance this Latino agenda," she said.

"We have the ingredients to be able to shed more light on the needs of Latinos, whether it's students, youth, immigrants, undocumented communities or those that have graduated college, that have a career and are trying to access

opportunities to build wealth," she added.

She said the report's 32 recommendations across five different "issue areas" focus on "how to ensure that Latinos are not left behind . . . because we know that the direction that Los Angeles goes in usually . . . sets the way California and the rest of the country go."

Panelist Robert Sainz, president and executive director of New Ways to Work and board chair of the Alliance, said the COVID pandemic has "severely impacted our community . . . not just economically but also for its mental health and our family cohesiveness."

But on the economic side, "there is probably no greater group in Los Angeles that's been impacted," he said, referring specifically to industries like hospitality, entertainment and retail that are highly led by and populated by Latinos.

"So for the long term how do we . . . build back better for all of the communities to make sure that everyone has an equitable opportunity to recover," he said, "not to just advocate but to really imple-

Tale of Two Latinos... pg. 23

The following public service ads are courtesy of La Nueva Voz

Project Sister Family Services
Sexual Assault and
Child Abuse Services
909-626-4357
or 626-966-4155
www.projectsister.org

**Feeding the Hungry,
Sheltering the Homeless**
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209 W. Pearl St.
Pomona

Volunteering: 909-622-3806
www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

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

Pomona Public Library Hours
("Walk up doormat service" only)
Noon to 5 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
(For "Walk up doormat service,"
please use south parking lot
entrance due to construction.)

Info on student group programs at AGRIScapes:

www.agriscapes.cpp.edu

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

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- 打电话预约今天免费咨询。
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9 am until 4 pm daily

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Workers ‘got this’ on first Cal Poly project being built in new Rose Float Lab

Students and volunteers are hard at work on Cal Poly University’s float in the Rose Parade on New Year’s Day in Pasadena – the first float to be built in a new \$5.5 million, 7,200 square foot Rose Float Lab on the Cal Poly Pomona campus – in a project that may just be as much of the school’s “learn by doing” experience as grooming a thoroughbred, driving a tractor or sitting in a math class.

And that experience is an important part of preparing college students for future careers, said Cary Khatav, director of the Cal Poly Pomona Rose Float program.

La Nueva Voz stopped by the Rose Float Lab during a visit to the Cal Poly campus this month to have a look at how things are coming along.

Khatav, a former production manager for Walt Disney Special Events in Burbank who joined Cal Poly last year, said Cal Poly graduates will end up competing against students from other schools when they are talking to hiring managers.

And a student from, for example, Stanford University “may be more academic, where we’ve actually taught them . . . hands on training so they’re ready to start day one.”

“I would put any of our students against anybody,” he said.

Khatav and Josh D’Aquisto, his counterpart on the float project at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, each are working with teams of about 40 students.

“Our presidents from both campuses are huge supporters of this program and understand the value that our students really bring to it,” he said.

Each year work begins on half of the float at San Luis Obispo and the other half in Pomona. The two halves had been joined together in the Rose Float Lab just days before La Nueva Voz stopped in.

One of the goals of the program, Khatav

said, is to try to become innovative in developing a new float each year “because when we make that TV corner (during the parade in Pasadena), we’re able to start telling people about what our campuses have created.”

“We were the first to do hydraulics, we were the first to do fiber optics, we were the first to do power changing elements, we were the first in a lot of elements . . . because our students look outside the box,” he added. “They’re not like a lot of the other professional (float) builders.”

“We have the opportunity to say push the envelope, try something new, bringing it to the table, learn,” Khatav said. “Learning by doing is bringing that type of stuff so that’s what’s really exciting for us is to be able to give that opportunity.”

He said the two campuses try to keep the two teams about the same size because, as he explained, they are all volunteers, and it is important to keep it more of a team project.

“We have a construction chair, a deco chair, and a design chair and each one of them has a counterpart at the other campus, and it’s their job to work collectively together so that they can learn how to work with another person in a different area . . . and develop the skills,” Khatav said.

Those skills include everything from scheduling, figuring out the routines, tracking their tasks and coming together as a single team.

“And then we have sub-groups like electronic chairs and design

leads . . . they all have counterparts, and they work together seamlessly to try to get this thing together,” Khatav said.

He explained the San Luis students have been driving down every Saturday, leaving their campus at 6 a.m., driving the 245 miles to Pomona, starting work around 10 and going until 6 p.m. when they have dinner and drive home.

“They get home by 11, 12 o’clock at night,” he said.

For now, Saturdays are the only days they



La Nueva Voz publisher Jeff Schenkel checks the steering linkage on the Cal Poly float, currently under construction in the new Rose Float Lab on the Pomona campus. (Hey, you can’t be too careful! We just wanted to make sure nothing bad would happen during the parade, right?)

are working.

“And then we’ll have a couple of weekends that we’ll do it and then we’ll do what we call design week starting on Dec. 11

Cary Khatav, director of the Cal Poly Pomona Rose Float program, climbed up to the loft with a La Nueva Voz cell phone this month to grab an “aerial” view of this year’s float in progress. (OK, it was one of those straight up ladders bolted into the side of a wall!) The two pieces of the float -- one from the Pomona campus and the other from San Luis Obispo -- already have been bolted together and students are hard at work getting it ready for its annual ride down Colorado Boulevard.

after school’s all done when we’ll be working every day to get the float

prepared to be able to transport it down to Pasadena on Dec. 19,” he added.

Then what types of students are attracted to volunteering on

the project?

Interestingly, he said “first and foremost,” they come from engineering and then some from the College of Agriculture.

“We’re trying to work together with our campuses to draw people from all the different colleges because there’s a lot of opportunity

Cal Poly Rose Float... pg. 23

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Sometimes you just have to get up a little higher to see everything there is to see. And that certainly applied to the dancing in the street this month at the Downtown Pomona Owners Association's Dia de los Muertos observance on Second Street.



Members of the Nick Gomez Trio were hard at work performing, well, just one jazz tune after another during Second Saturday in Downtown Pomona inside Cafe Con Libros this month while an entire street filled with Dia de los Muertos was happening outside their door.



Know who this is? OK, time's up -- that's Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares, at left, getting into the spirit and posing for the La Nueva Voz camera with Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz.



OK, we've got to say there were some pretty impressive classic cars set up on Second Street to form the backdrops of some pretty impressive Dia de los Muertos displays.



If you didn't have your face painted on Second Street during Second Saturday this month, well, you just weren't getting into the spirit for the DPOA Dia de los Muertos celebration. Included was a car show, art, food, vendors, performances and more.



Heidi Ortega of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce was hard at work in the street at the DPOA Dia de los Muertos observance this month.

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Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval set the stage for the DPOA Dia de los Muertos celebration, telling the crowd he had never seen so many people in Downtown Pomona at the same time.



DPOA Executive Director Lorena Parker served as a co-emcee at the event.



Folklorico dancers of all ages and sizes were dancing in the street at the DPOA's Dia de los Muertos celebration this month, courtesy of instructor Manny Vizcarra at Tradicion Dance Company, located a couple of doors down from the dancing at 237 E. 2nd St., Pomona.



PHOTO OP WITH THE MAYOR -- Pomona resident Carlota Cruz had an opportunity to meet Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval this month at a Pomona Connect resource fair at Pomona's Washington Park. She told La Nueva Voz she had her A1C (blood test for type 2 diabetes) taken at the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center booth and the numbers were really good. Oh, and she's actually part of the La Nueva Voz family -- her daughter Dora Cruz handles layout, design and translation services for the newspaper and has for all three owners through the years. Happy Thanksgiving, Mom!

Tale of Two Latinos... from pg. 20

ment programs and policies that are going to impact our young folks in particular.”

Dr. Feliza Ortiz-Licon, also an Alliance board member, said it is important to hold the line on educational progress.

“We’re going to see perhaps generational impact of this pandemic,” she said, “and so the biggest challenge right now is making sure that we keep the attention focused on Latinos.”

And she added that it is important to take a clear comprehensive approach to what recovery looks like.

“And that’s going to be the challenge,” she said, “keep Latinos front and center and not a single approach but a comprehensive approach for recovery.”

“It really is about the educational attainment and status,” Sainz said, since COVID has exasperated the transformations that have been noted in the economy, going from a service economy to a technology economy to even further as an artificial intelligence economy.

“So, where skills that were needed 20 years ago are skills that are not needed today,” he said, is demonstrated by the fact that auto manufacturing once was a highly sought after skill in Los Angeles.

“Today, everyone talks about electronic vehicles and it’s about energy and battery

Cal Poly Rose Float... from pg. 21

to do so,” he said.

As an example, he said the students have lunch every Saturday and they are trying to work with Cal Poly’s Collins College of Hospitality Management where future hospitality workers can do a little learning by doing of their own.

“Those kinds of things, they haven’t done and we’re hoping they can do it in the future,” Khatib said.

This year’s Cal Poly float in the 133rd 2022 Rose Parade, “Stargazers,” will tell

cells development and production which can be done anywhere in the world,” he said, explaining that the environment calls for engineers and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and high skills.

“Even the technicians on the line have to have the high skills,” he said. “So what does that mean for the Latino community – we need to be able to get those skills, we need to be able to get those degrees” to be part of the recovery in a fast-moving economy.

Then how important is all of this?

“Latinos are simply too big to fail,” Aramayo said. “We also know that the health of our democracy lies a lot around the increased civic engagement of the community and one aspect of that is voter engagement.”

On that subject, she referred to the issue of removing citizenship requirements for voting in local elections like school board races.

“There’s no reason why parents whose children are the most impacted by the school system should not have a voice in who’s representing them where many voters in those races . . . don’t have children in the system,” she said.

“So, what are we saying about a democracy that is not inclusive of the people that are most impacted,” she added.

To see the complete Latino Scorecard Report, visit the web site at afabc.org.

the tale of how the cow jumped over the moon using a jet pack.

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.

Cal Poly’s annual Rose Parade floats have been student-built since 1949.

To volunteer to work on the float, visit www.rosefloat.org.



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