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Pomona's *only* community newspaper!



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member

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Fire at the Ebell!

A structural fire believed to be of electrical origin at Pomona's historic Ebell Museum caused an estimated \$500,000 damage last month leaving smoke damage throughout the building but Board members of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley, owner of the building, have already gone to work on rebuilding the local landmark.

Historical Society President Deborah Clifford told La Nueva Voz an insurance investigator, after a preliminary review, pointed to what is known as "knob and tube" wiring with obsolete conduits dating to 1904.

The building, dedicated in 1910 at its original location at Pearl Street and Garey Avenue, was moved to its present location in 1919 where the two-story auditorium was constructed and completed in 1924.

Clifford said the entire front



Photo by Duane Smith

EBELL AFTER THE FIRE -- Board members of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley pose with the burned-out front of the Ebell Museum in a "before" photo, since work on reconstruction is already under way that will eventually result in an "after" photo of the finished product. Pictured, from left, are Board members Benny Ayala, Mike Schowalter, President Deborah Clifford, Alice Gomez, Jan Braunstein, John Clifford, Alejandro Martinez, Renee Barbee and Donna Manzanares Otero. Not pictured are Carson Bennitt and Jay Munns.

Opposing sides on Measure Y pit kids' programs against diverting public funding

Representatives of Measure Y, the so-called "Pomona Kids First" initiative, came together side by side for the first time last month at a public informational forum at Pilgrim Congregational Church where supporters touted the advantages of kids' programs to the community

and opponents objected to the plan's method of budgeting by charter amendment and diverting public funding to private groups, backed by organizations outside of Pomona, without accountability.

Proponents were Jesus Sanchez, who identified himself to La Nueva

Voz as a community organizer for Gente Organizada, and Eric Vasquez, executive director of the non-profit Just Us 4 Youth, both of Pomona.

Representing the opposition were Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia and John Clifford, represent-

ing the organization Save Our Pomona Public Library.

And, just as a disclaimer, the speakers indicated they were there only as individuals and not representing any organization or employer.

Measure Y... pg. 8

of the building, located at 585 E. Holt Ave., Pomona, will need to be rebuilt, adding that the group had been moving things around in preparation for a repair project already under way when the fire broke out.

Because of that, the entire ballroom and most of the museum had been cleared out, keeping losses to a minimum, she added.

"There's so much dust and dirt we're going to be cleaning for weeks, but we have a heck of a lot to clean and that's the joy - it's not like it's lost," Clifford said.

Pomona Police Department officials said the fire was first reported by three citizens who called it in.

Los Angeles County Fire Department Public Information Officer Frederick Fielding told La Nueva Voz that county engine companies from throughout Pomona and surrounding cities responded to the 1:07 a.m. alarm on Saturday, Sept. 28, and the first units arrived on the scene two minutes later in what he said was considered a standard response for a fire in a commercial structure.

Fire!... pg. 2



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Fire!... from pg. 1

He said part of the difficulty in battling the flames was that there was no division between the first and second story, making it extremely difficult to control the spread of the fire. Fielding added that this type of construction eventually was phased out.

The fire, confined to the front portion of the building's office and storage area, was officially knocked down at 3:19 a.m., although crews continued working on the scene during "mop up" operations.

However, Clifford said no flames could be seen when she arrived at 1:15 a.m.

She said fire crews continued spraying the building's "old growth redwood floor" joists until nearly 5 a.m.

Clifford added that firefighters "bent over backwards not to destroy anything in the foyer or the two offices."

Because of that, she said they lost some documents but "it wasn't horrendous."

"They (firefighters) took two five-foot 18th-century Chinese vases away from the front window . . . and brought them all the way into the museum unbroken" — items she said probably were the most valuable items in the building.

Interested in helping? Clifford said clean-up volunteers are welcome to call or just stop by, and donations are always welcome. Parking is in the back parking lot off of Pasadena Street.

She said the building is in-



Photos by Duane Smith
Volunteers sort out, clean and pack items on the floor of the ballroom in the aftermath of the fire at Ebell.

sured, although it is not yet clear how much will be covered.

Security guards also have been hired to watch the building after hours.

And she added that Board members and community residents have been "marvelous."

"We're rebuilding this building, there's no doubt in my mind, because we're one of the oldest historical societies in the state," she said. "This is what we do."

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez thanked county firefighters for working quickly to control the fire.



Interior damage from the fire is visible looking up toward the roof in the office area of the Ebell Museum building.

"It's sad to see that the Historical Society caught fire, especially after the over \$3 million in renovations I was able to se-

cure," he said.

Clifford pointed out that it was fortunate that the restoration process using funding from that state grant was just getting under way.

"We're taking it one day at a time," Clifford said.

The building, the former Pomona Ebell Women's Club building, a Craftsman style clubhouse, became an important social center in the Pomona Valley featuring well-known singers and musicians. Former President Richard Nixon first announced his candidacy for political office in the auditorium and returned later to announce his intent to run for president in 1960 against John F. Kennedy on the same stage, according to Historical Society records. He narrowly lost the election to JFK.

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NOVEMBER 11, 2024



Tri City Mental Health re-opens upgraded 'therapeutic community garden' as milestone in commitment to mental wellness

Marking a new chapter for community wellness, Pomona's Tri City Mental Health held a grand re-opening of its "Therapeutic Community Garden" this month that officials are calling a "significant milestone in our commitment to mental wellness and community resilience."

The garden, built on a nearly one-acre site that was not in use next door to the 2008 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, location, has been an integral part of mental health programming since its inception in 2011. It remained largely unused during the pandemic when programs transitioned indoors or became "virtual."

But with the backing of the community, the garden is once again ready to flourish in its role as a therapeutic resource for individuals and families seeking connection, healing and growth.

Open to both Tri City clients and community members, the garden became the subject of conversations



Pictured, at left, is Tri City Mental Health clinical therapist Cory Campos giving a quick tour of Tri City's newly upgraded "Therapeutic Community Garden" to guest Jennifer Carey following grand re-opening ceremonies this month.



Cutting the ribbon at Tri City's grand re-opening of the "Therapeutic Community Garden" are, from left, Tri City Governing Board members Paula Lantz (Pomona's community representative on the board), Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte and Carolyn Cockrell (La Verne's community representative and liaison from the board to Tri City's Mental Health Commission), and Tri City Mental Health Commission Chair Anne Henderson.

among stakeholders to improve the facility by providing a shelter for weather and "Americans with Disabilities Act" requirements for special needs individuals.

Tri City's governing board approved a \$500,000 expendi-

ture of California "Mental Health Services Act" funds to finance the project which also included professional design and construction of the garden, concrete walkways, nearly a dozen raised planting beds, fencing, benches, irrigation and a shade pavilion with a sink and washing station.

Final plans and implementa-

tion of the garden redesign were delayed until an easement issue could be resolved with the City of Pomona.

Tri City's Interim Executive Director Diana Acosta told guests at the grand re-opening that the garden has been a "valued program" since its inception in 2011.

Milestone in commitment... pg. 18

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PUSD invites input from public in ‘facilities needs’ meetings before voting on school bond measure

With a \$385 million bond issue to fund school facilities on the ballot next month, Pomona Unified School District staff members – from Supt. Darren Knowles on down – have been convening a series of “facilities needs” information sessions to both update the public and gather input on suggested priorities.

Measure UU, billed as a “classroom repair (and) safety measure,” would provide a new round of school district funding to help upgrade classrooms, labs, vocational/career technical education spaces, repair leaky roofs, deteriorated restrooms and plumbing, and provide safe drinking water for the district’s 21,000 students.

The bonds also would help pay for removing asbestos, mold and lead paint throughout the district’s system of schools, most of which are more than 50 years old.

Cost to individual property owners would be \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, raising \$22.5 million annually while the bonds are outstanding.

At least 55 percent of voters voting on the measure is required for approval for the school district to issue and sell the bonds.

Assistant Supt. Fernando Meza explained to nearly 30 parents and residents in an informational meeting at Pomona High School this month that projects to be funded by revenue generated by the bonds would be prioritized. He explained that if everything needed to be done was taken care of at one time, the cost would be \$1 billion.

Meza added that a common question he hears is why is everything so expensive when work is required in the school district.

One answer, he said, is that after the earthquakes in the early 1970s, California’s Department of State Architects was created to oversee school construction.

And, state laws that apply to construction at schools are at a higher standard than construction of private residences, making schools able to sustain high winds and certain types of earthquakes.

Knowles pointed out that this also makes schools the logical choice for residents when evacuation points or disaster recovery centers are needed.

Another part of the process, Meza said, is that the review and

going out to bid – from design to construction – can take anywhere from 24 months to five years from start to finish.

Plus skilled labor must be hired for the job, and independent inspectors are required to be on site during construction to ensure all rules are followed.

“So the cost is sometimes three to five times more than we would pay at our house because we have to make them last longer,” Meza said.

In some cases, because of fluctuations in numbers of students in the district, PUSD purchased temporary buildings which, sometimes, “became almost permanent.”

Priorities are constantly reviewed by staff and by a Bond Independent Citizens Oversight Committee to help determine exactly what needs to be done next in terms of either new construction or upgrades. The committee normally meets twice a year.

Meza pointed out that things become even more complicated as design specifications change, since schools of the future now are required to have a net zero “footprint” in terms of impact on global warming, LED lights are now required to save energy and provide more light, light colored roofs are now required to reflect heat from the sun, and more solar panels will be going in this summer.

And back on the bond issue itself, he said often when issuing bonds, school districts are able to apply for and receive matching funds through the state for specific purposes, making it possible for districts to try to “leverage” the funds.

Meza also pointed out that PUSD is currently in a period of declining enrollment which is requiring the district to consider what to do with surplus properties.

He explained once a property is declared surplus, it can be sold, leased or repurposed.

If a property is sold, money from the sale goes back into the construction and maintenance of schools.

But if a property is leased, that money goes into the district’s general fund and can go towards programs and other expenses, giving the district more flexibility.



Assistant Supt. Fernando Meza

Repurposing a property, such as the district’s “Village at Indian Hill” property, can include both schools and district offices along with leased space.

In such a case, he said, the district can close a school, move district offices into the school, and lease the additional space at the Village at Indian Hill.

A second committee, known as the 7-11 Committee (it must have a minimum of seven members and a maximum of 11), makes recommendations to the school board as to whether properties should be classified as surplus. That committee has met four times this year.

As another example, the district recently relocated the adult school campus from Mission Boulevard into the Village at Indian Hill. “Portables” have already been removed and the fate of the site – sell, lease or repurpose – currently is going through the committee process of review. He said the final decision ultimately will be made by the school board.

So district officials are constantly looking at demographics and birth rates – both nationally and locally – to try to stay on track with anticipated facilities needs of the future.

On that declining enrollment is-

sue, Meza said a typical elementary school has about 500 students, while the average in PUSD is about 300 students. A typical middle school has between 500 and 700 students, while the average here is under 400 students. And a typical high school has 2,000 to 4,000 students.

“We struggle to get 2,000 students,” Meza said. “We have two high schools that are under 1,000.”

Those two are Village Academy High School and Ganesha High School, he said in response to a question from La Nueva Voz.

“We want to consolidate students and whatever school they’re going to go to, do the renovations, do the modernization, so they have appropriate facilities,” Meza said.

And that includes looking at the resource side – how many students should be in the facility to avoid being either too noisy or too crowded – and the instructional side – looking at how many students should ideally be in a math class or a science class.

Plus, he said, of course, it costs to have a teacher.

“If it costs us . . . \$100,000 to have a teacher, we need to have enough students to pay for the cost of the teacher,” Meza said,

explaining that if there are too many students a second teacher may be needed. “So, we’re constantly adjusting depending on the need.”

“We do have to take into account is it a good environment for the students to learn,” he said. “That’s ultimately our goal – we’re in the business of educating students.”

Meza said the primary means of paying for construction is through school bonds. The last bond issue was approved eight years ago and the district has been “spending it down” on projects.

“The question becomes if the money runs out, what do we do then,” he said, pointing to a “wish list” of previously identified needs throughout the district.

Knowles added that proceeds of the previous bond issue helped pay for things at Pomona High School like re-doing the gym with new flooring and bleachers, and a new roof.

He said a lot of people have been advocating for air conditioning for the gym, although he said that’s an expensive item.

And he said the top two results from a community survey on priorities were drinking water and water fountains as number one,

Pomona's Freddie Rodriguez receives hometown send-off after 11 years in Sacramento

Pomona's favorite, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, received an impressive send-off this month – in a banquet room filled with friends, family and supporters – after serving 11 years in office and racking up an equally impressive list of accomplishments in Sacramento, with arguably the most notable securing more than \$373 million in funding for the 53rd Assembly District.

As far as send-offs go, this one might have been a bit early since Freddie, who terms out this year, really doesn't leave office until Nov. 30 when newly-elected representatives on a new slate of incoming freshmen assemblymembers are sworn into office.

But the event, which packed the banquet room at Pomona's Tropical Mexico Restaurant, was a complete success – just the way it was planned by Freddie's wife, Michelle, with the help of staff members.

For those who want the details, the party was billed as a surprise and, as both Freddie and Michelle independently told La Nueva Voz, it really was a complete surprise.

And for those who haven't read any newspapers or political lawn signs lately, Michelle herself – on the ballot in less than two weeks – is expected to be one of those incoming assemblymembers taking the oath of office in December, as she was the top vote-getter on the Democratic side of the ticket in the March primary.

That \$373 million Freddie brought to his district provided funding for public safety, community and economic development, and education.

And he has championed legislative priorities in areas focusing on emergency preparedness, pub-



Freddie and Michelle Rodriguez, and their grandson Tanner, are greeted by guests as they arrive at a surprise send-off party this month marking Freddie's stepping down as an assemblymember after 11 years in office.

lic safety and criminal justice.

Michelle told guests Freddie "never took anything for granted" and "always stayed humble and brought stuff home."

Freddie's son, Freddie Jr., a firefighter for the Arrow Bear Fire Department, introduced himself as "number four" on the microphone (Freddie and Michelle have four children).

He told guests that he didn't grow up in a political family.

"Whoever thought that a Garey High grad and an EMT would be able to make a change," he said of his dad, adding that their family wants to make a difference and is made up of people who care and who care for other people.

"You did things that are going

to last longer than your lifetime and ours," said Chino Police Chief Kevin Mensen. "You are committed to public safety, you are committed to the community and . . . making this a better place."

"So, on behalf of the entire district that you serve, Chino, Ontario, Pomona, thank you, you are leaving the neighborhood and the cities in a better place from when you started," Mensen said. "On behalf of all the cities and the chiefs I know, thank you for your service and everything you've done."

Pomona's Lorraine Canales, a candidate for Pomona City Council District 6 and president of the Pomona Optimist Club,

commended Freddie for everything he's done for children.

"I've always admired your dedication for our youth of Pomona," Canales said. "You've always been there for them."

Canales is a former Educator of the Year and Woman of the Year for Freddie's district.

Former Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin, once again on the ballot next month for City Council District 1, said she watched Freddie and Michelle in their role as parents as their children grew up together, and said she has watched Freddie's votes "for the people."

"I want to thank you and we're going to miss you for your courage for voting the right way for the people of Pomona," she said.

And Freddie's Capitol Direc-

tor and Deputy Chief of Staff Sean Connelly told Freddie he "built an incredible legacy here in the 53rd District," adding that "it was an honor to have been a piece of that journey."

"You're not done," Connelly said.

So, as it turned out, Freddie really did do an amazing job for his constituents while in Sacramento – especially for a Pomona native and Garey High School graduate who always said he really never intended to go into politics but did so after his successful efforts to improve Pomona's Ralph Welch Park in his neighborhood.

A former member of the Pomona City Council, Freddie's assembly district includes the cities of Pomona, Ontario, Chino, Upland, and Montclair.

La Nueva Voz

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- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
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- LaunderLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



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Editor's Note: This page is the seventh in a series of a Phase Three statewide program with three focus areas -- "Anti-Hate," "Socioeconomic Justice and Equity" and "Health." The program is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs as part of the "Stop the Hate" program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to <https://www.cavshate.org/>.

Hate, Justice, Equity and Health – Phase Three of an on-going series as La Nueva Voz participates in a statewide program as newspapers attempt to help make a difference

Pomona turns out for 'Safer Pomona Peace Walk'

Nearly 100 walkers – including Pomona City Hall employees, members of a variety of non-profit organizations, Pomona police officers, elected officials and concerned citizens – assembled in the Pomona Civic Center this month to walk just under a mile to House of Ruth in an effort, as Mayor Tim Sandoval put it, "to improve the lives often of the people who are most impacted by violence."

Looking out at the marchers in the "United Steps for a Safer Pomona Peace Walk and Community Fair," Sandoval said he recognized a number of organizations – including the City of Pomona itself – involved in the event designed to raise awareness of gun violence, domestic violence and youth violence.

"We cannot do it alone – this will not be solved by city government," he said. "It's going to be solved by city government working in collaboration with the organizations that are the experts, that are the folks that are actually deeply connected in the community, and who are the trusted elders of this community."

Sandoval thanked the police department for its participation.

"They're the first ones people call when they're in a situation – they put their lives on the line every day," he said.

Pedro Payne, who heads the city's Office of Violence Prevention and Neighborhood Wellbeing, said the city plans to continue the march on an annual basis. He told La Nueva Voz before the march it was the first event organized by his office, although he was quick to add it was a collaborative effort with all of the groups participating.

He told the group the focus of the march was "to help bring unity and cohesion to our community and at the same time send out a very important message that we don't stand for violence and we want a peaceful and tranquil and thriving community."

Pomona City Manager Anita Gutierrez thanked the participants for the work they are doing.

"What I love about the Office of Violence Prevention, Neighborhood Wellbeing program and the work of Pedro and Vanessa (Moreno) here at the city and all of our partners are doing is how important it has become, how important the collaboration between the city, the community and police is so critical in creating an environment of peacefulness with our residents, our business owners and our entire community," she said.

Gutierrez thanked the group for their volunteerism and for their advocacy.

"It is going a long way," she added. "I think the city is seeing a marked improvement in our relationships and ultimately the reduction of gun violence."

Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis told the group he joined the Pomona Police Department in 1998.

"Like the other officers here, we've seen way too much gun violence, domestic violence, youth violence on the streets," Ellis said. "The police department works very hard to have an effect on that."

"But in the last few years, specifically with the creation of the Office of Violence Prevention and the partnerships that have grown from that, we are seeing a difference – it's very good to see, it's encouraging" he added. "And I just wanted to let you all know this is the first group doing this walk, I expect it to be bigger in the future, but as a police department, as the chief, we are here to partner with you and the community to make these differences."

"We embrace the new best practices that are coming out, and we're seeing the results of it," he said.

Pat Bell, chief executive officer and executive director of Pomona's House of Ruth, a domestic violence prevention organization

Safer Pomona Peace Walk... pg. 18



The speeches were over as marchers took a moment to pose for a group photo in the Pomona Civic Center Plaza. Pictured at center, from left, are organizers Pat Bell of House of Ruth, Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis, Assistant City Manager Mark Gluba, City Manager Anita Gutierrez, and Pedro Payne of Pomona's Office of Violence Prevention.



AND THEY'RE OFF! -- Marchers make their way out of the Pomona Civic Center this month on their walk to House of Ruth, all to make a statement to "end domestic violence" and "stop gun violence" in their "United Steps for a Safer Pomona."



Pomona City Manager Anita Gutierrez



Police Chief Mike Ellis



Mayor Tim Sandoval



Pat Bell



Pedro Payne



Andrea Moreno

Measure Y... from pg. 1

“(Measure Y) is going to reorder city priorities and hold the city accountable for direct youth impact,” Sanchez said, adding that the measure will create a city department for children and youth. “The city is now going to have the infrastructure (to serve the children) while establishing oversight, accountability over our tax dollars, and creating local jobs.”

He added that today, many young people in Pomona have to visit neighboring cities for programs and support services or miss out on critical youth support altogether.

Sanchez said Measure Y would “create, maintain and expand youth services such as child care, housing and rental assistance for families with young children, after school programs, sports, art and educational programs at public venues such as our parks, our public library and community centers.”

“This measure is created and run by parents, youth and community members here in this city – it is grass roots,” he said. “Measure Y responds to the urgent needs of Pomona children for increased support programs and services to ensure that kids can get their needs met in their own city.”

Sanchez claimed “roughly 20,000 kids in our school district are considered low income,” and said 2,000 to 3,000 of them are “houseless in Pomona.” And he said the “overwhelming majority of our kids cannot read at grade level.”

He said most of the kids who graduate from high school in Pomona are not eligible to apply to a four-year university, three out of 10 households in the city are headed by a single mother, and teen suicide is rising.

Sanchez cited statistics he said were from the American Psychological Association that show roughly 20 percent of teens have considered suicide.

“This is serious – transformational effort has to be done,” he said. “Measure Y can bring us back to changes that are needed in this city, not just to survive in this city but to thrive.”

Garcia, sitting at the opposition table, told an audience of 200 that she opposes Measure Y as a private citizen “not because the underlying idea lacks merit, but because its implementation and funding mechanism are fundamentally flawed.”

“The rigid framework of Measure



Rev. Jan Chase
Compassionate Pomona



Moderator Monique Robles



Representing “yes” on Measure Y are Jesus Sanchez of Gente Organizada, at left, and Eric Vasquez, of Just Us 4 Youth.



Representing “no” on Measure Y are Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia, at left, and John Clifford, of Save Our Pomona Public Library.

Y would severely limit Pomona’s ability to adopt to unforeseen crises or emergencies,” she said. “In times when quick and flexible action is required, such as during pandemics or economic downturns, this measure could prevent the necessary adjustments to address urgent needs.”

“A well-intentioned initiative should not sacrifice long-term flexibility for short-term gains, and I believe this measure fails to strike that balance,” she said.

Summarizing several of the measure’s key features, Garcia explained Measure Y requires the city to divert 10 percent of its general fund on an annual basis to non-profit organizations that offer youth programming.

In addition, the city would be required to spend more money to create a new division to manage this process.

“A board of 15 unelected community members would make funding decisions about which institutions to support without accountability to residents or the time and expertise to determine if a non-profit has met its goals and metrics,” she said. “If this

measure is adopted, the city will be locked into this obligation without a way out.”

“Measure Y is not about making more funding available for youth programs – it’s a systematic effort to transfer Pomona’s funding from public oversight within the government to private organizations that might not even be based in Pomona,” she said.

As an example, La Nueva Voz researched the two published ‘top funders’ of the Pomona Kids First ad committee as listed on campaign mailers.

One of them, the Heising-Simons Action Fund, is a 501(c)(4) private organization based in the San Francisco Bay area. According to its web site, it focuses its efforts in areas of climate and clean energy, early childhood education, human rights and the impact of technology on society.

It was established four years ago, is funded by the Heising-Simons family and is governed by a four-person board.

The other, the California Community Foundation, based in Downtown Los Angeles, according to its web site works to transform Los Angeles in areas of education, health, immigration and housing.

“Measure Y is the wrong way to

help kids,” Garcia said. “Measure Y is outsourcing the city’s responsibility to our children and when has outsourcing ever provided better services to the residents of Pomona? The outsourcing of fire, park maintenance and waste has resulted in poor customer service and increased costs to the residents and businesses. The same will happen with Measure Y as there is no direct oversight of how the non-profits use funds and no transparency or accountability to the residents.”

“Over 95 percent of the funding for this initiative is from . . . special interest groups,” Garcia added. “How do these outsiders know what our kids need?”

She said Measure Y will “hijack” funds that are essential for maintaining streets, essential for maintaining and upgrading parks, essential for maintaining public safety, and essential for maintaining services children already receive from the city like the library.

In addition to the two major groups outside of Pomona providing funding to the “Yes on Y” campaign, La Nueva Voz filed a public records request just to get an idea of how much funding Just Us 4 Youth and Gente Organizada already have received from the City of Pomona – from July 1, 2023 to the present – since, very likely, they would be two

of the groups receiving additional funding from the city if the measure is approved by voters.

First, the city and Just Us 4 Youth signed an “operational agreement” this year, in a “not to exceed” amount payable to Just Us 4 Youth of \$200,000, with payments broken down into monthly invoices.

The “scope of work” describes the role of Just Us 4 Youth in supporting the city’s new Office of Violence Prevention and calls for two “street outreach specialists” to perform duties like serving as first responders to shooting incidents, engage active shooters, refer those at highest risk of gun violence for case management and “life coaching,” conduct survey interviews and the like.

In another “memorandum of understanding and license agreement” with the city also dated this year, this one for two years with an option to renew for another two years, Just Us 4 Youth agreed to provide crafts programs for kids, mentoring programs for parents, employment readiness workshops and career fairs – with programming at least five days and at least 15 hours a week, all at the city’s Renacimiento Community Center at 2383 Chanslor St., Pomona.

While the agreement includes no compensation, it appears the intent is to offer use of the city facility at no cost in exchange of providing programming for nearby residents.

La Nueva Voz learned that while this particular community center normally is not rented out, similar community centers like Palomares Park go for \$112 an hour and Ganesha Park for \$89 an hour. Both require \$112 cleaning fees and refundable deposits of \$300.

Just Us 4 Youth, according to the public records request search, also has received in the last year and a half an additional 17 payments from the city – ranging in amounts from \$21.71 to \$20,010.83 and totaling \$79,495.37 – for a variety of grant payments, reimbursements, housing programs, professional services and expenses.

During that same time period, Gente Organizada received no payment from the city, although a single payment in the amount of \$950.00 for “equipment” from 2019 was included in the public records search.

The Measure Y public forum was presented and produced by the Pomona organization Compassionate Pomona.



OLYMPICS MEDALIST VISITS POMONA -- Paris Olympics bronze medalist and Claremont native Brittany Brown, 29, of Fort Worth, Texas, who is also the granddaughter of Pomona NAACP President Jeanette Royston, stopped by Pomona this month at The Union, the former Pomona YMCA, for a meet and greet complete with autographs. Brown received her medal for placing third in the Women's 200 Meter Run with a time of 22.2 seconds. It was her first Olympic medal. She graduated from Claremont High School in 2013 and went to the University of Iowa on a "full ride" athletic scholarship. Pictured, from left, are Malynda Cooper of Sigma Gamma Rho; Chara Swodeck, Pomona Girl Scouts Service Unit Manager; Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, president of the Pomona Vietnamese community; Brittany Brown, her grandmother, Jeanette Royston; Yo-Landa Brown, Brittany's mom; Chicana artist Rosa Calderon; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; and Jose Calderon, president of the Latino and Latina Roundtable.



POMONA'S BOXING CHAMP -- Pictured is Pomona boxing celebrity Danny Mercado who this month won the 2024 National PAL Boxing Tournament, a five-day event in Oxnard. Mercado, 20, a Pomona native and resident, competed in the 156 pound amateur men's open division. His brother, Tito Mercado, 22, who weighs in at 140 pounds and has a record of 16 fights with 15 knock-outs, recently signed with promoter Matchroom Boxing and is scheduled to fight on Nov. 9 at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. Both boxers train with their father, Ernesto Mercado, at the Gangs 2 Grace Youth Foundation gym in Pomona.

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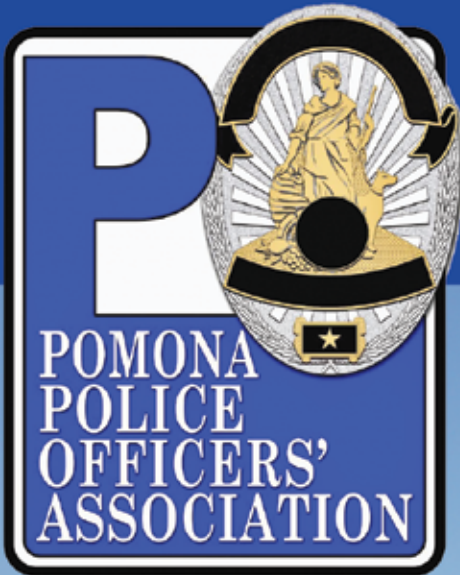



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POMONA CHAMBER OPENS NEW OFFICES WITH STOREFRONT! -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce officials joined with elected officials, Downtown Pomona Owners Association (DPOA) officials and friends to cut the ribbon this month opening a new Pomona Chamber office at 320 S. Thomas St. in Downtown Pomona. The newly remodeled two-story offices include an art gallery, a conference room and business offices providing both more space and easier access for walk-in customers right off the sidewalk. It is the first time the Chamber has had a street level storefront office in years. Pictured, from left, are Kimberly Masse representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang, Pomona Chamber Ambassadors Tracy Evanson and Essence Guss of Healed Women Heal (at rear), Chamber Board members Heidi Ortega and Marco Argote of DPOA, DPOA Board President Cathy Tessier of Arteco Management, Chamber Board member Grace Yao of Cal Poly Pomona, John Forbing of State Farm, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Chamber Board member Luis Rodriguez of San Antonio ROP, Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, Martha Rivera of Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Pomona Chamber Board Chair Nef Cortez of Re / Max Galaxy Realty, Chamber Executive Board member Jeff Johannsen of Pomona Hope, Jocelyn Ruiz of Statewide Funding, Chamber Board member Ron Garner of Inland Empire Fence and Construction, Pomona Chamber Board Vice Chair Josh Landis of Foothill Transit, and Chamber Ambassador Joel Rosales of Modern Woodmen of America Financial.

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MID-AUTUMN CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL -- It was time again this month for Pomona's Vietnamese community to honor the children at their annual mid-autumn children's festival in Pomona's Ho Binh Plaza. The event is designed to help preserve the Vietnamese culture for the children after leaving Vietnam in 1975 following the Fall of Saigon. The celebration included a costume contest with 59 children in traditional dress, interviews with the children, music, food, free moon cakes, lanterns and gifts, and an always-present dragon dance.



Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, a Pomona physician and President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley, at right, explains the traditional dragon dance to several of the children this month at the annual mid-autumn children's festival presented by Pomona's Vietnamese community.

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Photo by Renee Barbee

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH -- Members of the Pomona Optimist Club recognized their latest round of students of the month last week in ceremonies at the Pomona Eagles "Aerie." All students were from Pomona's Alcott Elementary School. Award recipients, from left, are September honorees Liliانا Mora, 6th grade, and Iratze Ramirez, 5th grade, and August honorees Leon Ortiz, 4th grade, and Ashley Henry, 3rd grade. At rear, from left, are Optimist Secretary M. Joyce Bakersmith, members Ramona Valenzuela and Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, Optimist President Lorraine Canales, PUSD Supt. Darren Knowles, also an Optimist, and Vice President Sonia Molina.



SUPPORTING PROPOSITION 36 -- Franchisees of 7-Eleven and their corporate 7-Eleven, Inc. teamed up with law enforcement and local officials this month for a news conference in front of a 7-Eleven in Los Angeles to rally support for Proposition 36, the "Homelessness, Drug Addiction and Theft Reduction Act," aimed at combating retail theft and ensuring safer environments for small businesses and communities by holding repeat theft offenders and drug traffickers accountable. Impacted by "smash and grabs" and petty theft, the 7-Eleven operators and 7-Eleven, Inc. have contributed a combined \$2 million to the Proposition 36 campaign. Pictured, at center, from left, are Sukhi Sandhu, chair of the National Coalition of Associations of 7-Eleven Franchisees; Jawad Ursani, owner of the franchise store hosting the event at 8500 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, and Randy Quinn, senior vice president of franchise operations for 7-Eleven, Inc. "I've operated in this area for nearly 25 years and have seen the growth in crime rates firsthand," Ursani said. "Prop. 36 is not just about protecting our stores -- it's about preserving our dedication to the community and the customers that we serve." His Olympic Boulevard store was targeted by a group of 50 juveniles last month, according to a spokesperson.



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Agradecemos a la gran comunidad de Pomona, a los estudiantes, y al personal por el apoyo continuo en proveer una educación de primera calidad.



FOURTH ANNUAL 'KINDNESS CARNIVAL' A SUCCESS --

The fourth annual Kindness Carnival, an outreach program of the organization Compassionate Pomona to try to make a difference in the community, attracted nearly 1,000 people this month in its new location in Pomona's Washington Park. This year's theme for the always free event was "Kindness is my Superpower." Featured were crafts, music, dancers, poetry, drums, games, food and resource information. Included was drummer Danny Peterson of South Africa, who was the recipient of President Obama's "Lifetime Achievement Award." He even got the kids in the act using little drums of their own. Also on the Kindness Carnival stage was "Sisters of the One Drum," featuring a group of women presenting traditional Native American intertribal drumming. A special poem written for the occasion was presented by poet Ann Sago, and dancers included the famous ballet folklorico group from Lincoln and Kingsley Elementary Schools, with special guests from Emerson Middle School. And dancers from four age groups were on hand from Pomona's Galan Cultural Center, along with Aztec dancers from the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley.



Also on the Kindness Carnival stage was "Sisters of the One Drum," featuring a group of women presenting traditional Native American intertribal drumming. A special poem written for the occasion was presented by poet Ann Sago, and dancers included the famous ballet folklorico group from Lincoln and Kingsley Elementary Schools, with special guests from Emerson Middle School. And dancers from four age groups were on hand from Pomona's Galan Cultural Center, along with Aztec dancers from the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley.



RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS -- Kindness Carnival organizers Renee Barbee and Andy Quinones give away the top raffle prizes -- a bicycle and a flat screen television -- to two lucky winners.

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Letters to the Editor

Measure Y – “Against”

For the past six years, Pomona residents have trusted me to make important decisions on their behalf. I am asking you to trust me again when I urge you to **VOTE NO ON MEASURE Y**.

Sharon and I have called Pomona home for nearly 42 years. I love my community and aim to protect it and improve it with every decision I make.

Measure Y has good intentions, but I disagree with the idea that we should all support it without question. Although the goal of supporting youth through the turbulence of life is commendable, the funding mechanism is fundamentally flawed and will lead to unintended consequences like reduced funding for street and sidewalk improvements, reduced funding for maintaining and upgrading parks, reduced funding for public safety, and reduced funding for services children already receive from the city, such as the Pomona Public Library.

The idea that opposing Measure Y rejects community well-being is misleading, unfair, and smothers a genuine debate about the pay-offs of such a measure. **MEASURE Y COMES WITH NO GUARANTEES THAT CONDITIONS FOR OUR YOUTH WILL IMPROVE.** The only guarantee is that an estimated \$17 million of Pomona’s tax dollars will go to organizations outside the city’s fiscal control. Measure Y makes a lot of promises and says nothing about how those promises will be kept.

As is often said during election campaigns, follow the money. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been contributed by Bay Area special interest groups – 94 percent of the funding for this initiative is from special interest groups from outside Pomona. If you look at how this measure came about, one local organization funded the early effort and then reached out to organizations in the Bay Area to get funding to pay people to obtain signatures. The list of local organizations supporting this measure is not long. Supporters of Measure Y didn’t reach out to the larger Pomona community. They didn’t build a community coalition, they didn’t build a better policy through extensive engagement with city government, and it shows with their flawed policy. They drafted this wrong-headed measure independently, got support from outside billionaires, and are relying on love for our children to blind us to the flaws and unintended consequences of Measure Y.

I am going to **VOTE NO ON MEASURE Y**. It’s a bad deal for Pomona and Pomona residents. Measure Y is the wrong way to help our children. I urge you to join me and other concerned Pomonans in opposing this measure.

Support Pomona kids by voting **NO ON MEASURE Y**.

Steve Lustro
Councilmember, District 5

Measure Y – “For”

Changes are needed for our young people not just to survive, but to thrive in this city.

As a young person, I was aware that our family was struggling. At 16, I started working to contribute to the household, learned how to pay bills, and maintained a good academic standing. While life at home was tough, it was the resources I received at school and the before and after school programs my mother enrolled me in that supported my aspirations to go to college and become a professor.

It is similar to the circumstances that many youth living in Pomona face, and some of the many things Measure Y, Pomona Kids First, will do to support youth.

As a sociologist at a public university who has spent almost a decade understanding the social inequities faced by youth with similar backgrounds, I am certain Measure Y will support youth in Pomona.

On Sept. 25, Compassionate Pomona organized a public forum that had Nora Garcia and John Clifford as opponents and Jesus Sanchez and Eric Vasquez as proponents. I attended the forum and have closely read the measure. Here are my thoughts.

While opponents believe the measure is a “dubbed” policy, written by “amateurs,” the reality is that the policy was written alongside community members and vetted by several attorneys.

So why care about youth in Pomona? According to the “World Population Review,” Pomona’s child dependency ratio is 38.2. This means that over a third of the population in Pomona is a child between the ages of 0-14. Additionally, Pomona’s overall poverty rate is almost 15 percent. This is crucial to consider as previous research has found that social class has a real impact on a child’s educational and life attainment. Moreover, Sanchez shared some jarring statistics – roughly 20,000 children in Pomona’s school district are low income, the majority of students cannot read at grade level, and two out of every 10 households are led by single mothers. Youths are the most vulnerable and a large portion of Pomona’s population.

So what will Measure Y do and not do?

1. Reallocation of Funds – If passed, 10 percent of the city’s general funds will be redistributed to increase access to childcare, housing/rental assistance for families with young children, afterschool programs, and educational programs.

2. Measure Y will NOT increase taxes – Confirmed by both sides during the forum, Measure Y will not increase taxes for Pomona residents.

3. Pomona’s public library will NOT close – The measure (see page 5, section 4) explicitly states education to be one of the sections that will be funded. Measure Y will allocate more funds to the public library and other spaces that enhance education.

4. Funds will stay in Pomona – Page 7, section 4 of the measure proves funds will stay in the city. As Sanchez clarified, “Outside organizations aren’t administering funds, but they are eligible to possibly apply for funding.” Additionally, there is no mandate that state funds will go to outside agencies or nonprofits.

5. A Department of Children and Youth with accountability oversight – There will be a board appointed by city council members. This board will have a strategic investment plan, a transparent and fair application process, and an annual evaluation by a third party (see page 9, section 9).

Towards the end of the forum, Clifford claimed that youth have no life experience and are inadequate to be part of the board that would help implement Measure Y. At 16, I learned what my family and I needed to survive – food, shelter, education, a job. The resources received at school and in our community helped us thrive. As a professor, I’ve worked with many youth with full-time employment, family and school responsibilities, and a tremendous amount of experience and insight that we could all learn from.

My lived experience as the daughter of immigrant parents, educator, and sociologist assures me a Yes on Measure Y is what Pomona children need.

Bianca Haro, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Cal Poly Pomona

Editor’s Note: Letters to the Editor appearing in La Nueva Voz do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper. Positions representing both sides of issues may be published in the interest of providing balance in our coverage. In fact, the “Measure Y” issue represents the first time ever in our 15 years of publication that La Nueva Voz has taken a position on any issue or any candidate (see “Editor’s Note” under an “opinion” piece on page 21, August 2024 issue, available at www.lanuevavoz.net under “past issues”). La Nueva Voz recommends a “no” vote on this measure.

Casa Colina Research Institute receives \$2 million grant to study new brain injury treatment technique

The U.S. Department of Defense has awarded the Casa Colina Research Institute (CCRI) and key partners a four-year, \$2 million grant to study the use of a new neurorestoration technique to treat individuals with severe brain injury.

Acquired brain trauma is the second most prevalent disability in the U.S., estimated to affect 13.5 million peo-

ple. It is not only devastating for patients and their loved ones, but also affects caretakers and imposes extremely high costs on society, estimated at \$76.5 billion annually.

Some patients survive their acute brain injury but remain in potentially lifelong “disorders of consciousness” such as coma, vegetative state, or minimally conscious

state. Unfortunately, there is a crucial lack of treatment to improve recovery in this patient population, according to a news release from Pomona’s Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare.

Led by Caroline Schnakers, Ph.D., assistant director of research at CCRI, researchers are pioneering an experimental intervention for

severe brain injury known as “low-intensity focused ultrasound stimulation” that requires no surgery and can be done at the bedside.

The study explores the degree to which sonic stimulation can modulate brain function and enhance recovery of consciousness in patients.

The project is a multi-institutional collaboration between CCRI,

UCLA, Harvard/Spaulding Rehabilitation Network and Massachusetts General Hospital as key partners.

“We hope this can serve as a steppingstone for the development of a neurorestorative intervention that can be used in both civilian and military hospitals and, eventually, in the acute care and long-term care settings,” Schnakers said.

Milestone in commitment... from pg. 4

“Over the years I’ve had the pleasure of hearing such wonderful, great and positive comments about the garden and feedback from the community members and stakeholders about the program and how important it is for our community,” she said.

Dr. Nicole Loboto, Tri City’s clinical program manager and a member of the therapeutic community garden team for the past seven years, said team members care for the garden and conduct workshops and community outreach activities there.

“The garden means so much for so many people,” she said. “It means a chance to connect with the community, socialization, you learn some new gardening skills at the same time, and it has meant so much in that people experience different things from the garden.”

“Through our weekly programs, a program group, our workshops, people will have the opportunity to plant and harvest in our garden,” she added. “The garden is used in a variety of ways – we promote mindfulness . . . resilience, support and growth.”

Loboto said people have made new friends and connections in the garden and have learned to feel they are not alone or they can feel calm there.

“I think especially true is just feeling connected to one another whether it is the therapist or behavioral health specialist or just each other in the community,” she said, adding that the garden also has helped clients work on their “wellbeing” or increase their confidence.



Tri City Interim Executive Director Diana Acosta, at right, speaks at this month’s “Therapeutic Community Garden” grand re-opening as Dr. Nicole Lobato, Tri City’s clinical program manager, looks on.

Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte, a member of the Tri City Governing Board, said “it’s been a long time coming,” adding that he’s very proud of it.

“Gardens are so important to me – I think there’s nothing I love more than just a bench next to a tree with a little bit of time, maybe a breeze and a book, and just a chance to think and connect,” he said.

Former Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz, Pomona’s community representative on the Tri City Governing Board, called the re-opening a “glorious occasion, many, many years in the making.”

She said now Tri City and the entire community can begin “using this wonderful space in a much more constructive way.”

Lobato told La Nueva Voz the garden is open to all and that members of the community can sign up with the garden program by calling (909) 623-6131 and asking to speak to the “garden team.”

Since 1960, Tri City Mental Health has been the public mental health authority and primary provider of outpatient services for residents of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne.

It supports and sustains an integrated system of care for individuals experiencing mental health symptoms and their families.

Included are prevention and early intervention services, psychotherapy, crisis support, clinical case management, medication support, peer support, linkage and referral, vocational training and support, socialization activities, and community outreach and training.



KIDS’ SOCCER IN POMONA -- Club Leon, a franchise of a soccer organization based in Guanajuango, Mexico, and operated here by the non-profit Soccer Access, held a ribbon cutting last week at the Pomona Chamber of Commerce as a new Chamber member making youth soccer easily available to kids in Pomona. Academy Director Josue Espinoza told La Nueva Voz he already has nearly 30 players enrolled in the program which will train in Pomona but play in a league in Anaheim. Kids must be between the ages of 5 and 11 and will play on teams for “under 8,” “under 10” and “under 12.” He said the goal is to work with the city and create a league that attracts people to Pomona. Cost is only \$205 per month and includes a ball, jersey and backpack. To sign up, call (833) 732-4648. Pictured, from left, are Chamber Board member Daniela Franco of Metro Event Center, Giusette Sciabica, board secretary of Soccer Access, Chamber Board members Heidi Ortega and Marco Argote of Downtown Pomona Owners Association, soccer coach Alberto Duarte, Chamber Board member Victor Caceres of Pomona’s Youth and Family Club, Josue Espinoza, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, soccer coach Jonathan Campeche, Chamber Ambassadors Frank and Domenica Carrillo of On Time Photo Booth Rentals, Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Chamber Ambassador Joel Rosales, of Modern Woodmen of America Financial, and Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles.

Safer Pomona Peace Walk... from pg. 7

and co-organizer of the walk, said “the fact that we’re all working together to eradicate violence is super, super great.”

“We know how gun violence intersects with domestic violence, we know how youth violence intersects with domestic violence, kids that grow up in abusive homes often don’t have anything else to role model themselves after,” she said. “So they repeat the cycle over and over.”

Andrea Moreno, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, told the group that Pomona is one of the largest cities in their First Supervisorial District.

She said as the others have mentioned, “it’s all about partnerships and we couldn’t do it alone.”

Other organizations participating in the event included Just Us 4 Youth, the Latino and La-

tina Roundtable, the California Community Foundation, Rising Communities, Project Hope, Spirit Family Services, God’s Pantry, and the Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention.

The walk was co-sponsored by the Community Action for Peace Coalition. A resource fair with additional speakers was held at

the end of the walk in front of House of Ruth.

Seven Pomona police motorcycle officers escorted the marchers along the route.

The City of Pomona created its new Office of Violence Prevention and Neighborhood Wellbeing a year ago under an initial \$5 million state grant.

Please visit our website at www.lanuevavoz.net to see the latest issue of La Nueva Voz, past issues and more!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Legion back and open for business!

It's been several years since COVID shut-downs and compliance issues with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health forced Pomona's American Legion Post 30 to close its doors but after a lot of determination and a lot of guys volunteering to do a lot of work, Post 30 got those doors opened again and invited the community in last month for a "Grill Out & BBQ" grand re-opening to celebrate.

"It's been a long journey for this post," said Post 30 Commander Javier Hinostroza, who told La Nueva Voz before the event that it took an estimated 10,000 man hours plus donations with volunteer teams working 10 at a time to get the post back into shape following damage during break-ins and more.

"I took over in 2023, I took over in a fatal state, a post that wasn't open for about three or four years, wasn't making money, wasn't generating anything," Hinostroza told a packed meeting room at Post 30.

He said it was the team that came together at the end of 2023 that took "great strides to bring this post back alive."

"A lot of people have come up to me and thanked me for doing that – it wasn't me, it was an entire team effort," he said as he called all of the Post 30 officers to the podium.

"These gentlemen here along with other outside agencies have all banded together to bring up what we have today," he said. "And if it wasn't for them and all the efforts and manpower that

they put into (this), we wouldn't have a post."

"The place would still be closed, we would still have people breaking into it, it would be tagged up," Hinostroza added. "We have a difficult location – Holt Avenue – it's just a difficult location all around. We're not the only business suffering. But we're the example to everybody else up and down the street here to not give up, to invest in your business, and to put it through."

"A lot of people turned away from this post because of what happened," he said. "Hopefully, now that they've seen that we're making great strides, it brings them back."

"We would never turn anybody away."

Hinostroza introduced former California Statewide American Legion Commander Jere Romano, now a member of the Legion's National Executive Committee, who, he said, was instrumental in retaining the building when other entities tried to take it away from them.

"I've been a part of the Legion now 17 years and I've learned to grow pretty quick up the ladder," Romano said. "I hope it has to do with merit. You lead by action."

"I can safely say that this team

up here took action," said Romano, who is based in Culver City.

He said he's been out himself a couple of times to help and once even helped vacuum a carpet.

"But at the end of the day, it's this team up here, not me . . . that's what we need more of – we need more people stepping up and just donating one day, donating two hours," Romano said. "So if we want to be successful, if we want to address the toxicity in our close district . . . we need to start putting

our personal biases aside."

"It's time for us to start looking inward. It's all about membership – membership is the life blood of the American Legion," Romano said. "And we have to figure out a way to retain those members."

He added that nationally, the American Legion has declined in membership from three million at its peak to 1.6 million today.

"If we band together, we can change legislation," Romano said. "It starts at the post, this is where we have to put our heart and soul, blood, sweat . . . at the post, the family."



GRAND RE-OPENING AT POMONA'S AMERICAN LEGION! -- It was a time to mark a huge job well done last month when members of Pomona's American Legion Post 30 opened their doors and invited everybody in for a grand re-opening. Pictured at the ceremonies in Post 30's meeting room are, from left, Adjutant Mitchell Quintero, First Vice Commander Joseph Chavez, former California Statewide American Legion Commander Jere Romano, Post 30 Commander Javier Hinostroza, Sergeant at Arms Hector Navarro, Executive Board Member Joe Paczkowski, Second Vice Commander Jorge Barrera, and Executive Board Member and Director of Legion Riders Bob Radcliff.



UNVEILING COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE -- Pomona's American Legion Post 30 Board members, from left, Joe Paczkowski, Jorge Barrera and Bob Radcliff help unveil a plaque commemorating members who helped with the restoration of their historic headquarters building to bring back the American Legion to Pomona.

The group unveiled a special plaque commemorating all the names of volunteers that helped revitalize the building and bring back the American Legion in Pomona.

Representatives of Montebello American Legion Post 272 presented a check for \$200 to help keep the post running.

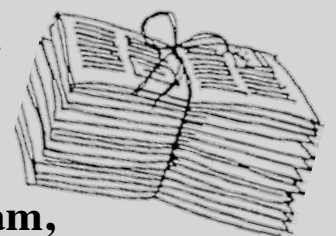
The historic Post 30 building is located at 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona.



Organizers of the 8th annual Pomona 5k/10k and "Toddler Trot" Chara Swodeck and Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado lead the warmup exercises for runners before the 8 a.m. start last Saturday in Downtown Pomona. Pictured are the first of the runners as they head out from the starting line. Angel Sanchez, 17, of Pomona, came in first in the 5k with a time of 17 minutes and 12 seconds. Mauro Chavez, 38, of Rialto, came in first in the 10k with a time of 37 minutes and 19 seconds. A total of 210 runners participated in the 10k and 612 runners were in the 5k.

La Nueva Voz...

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Healthy Brain Aging 101

By Elizabeth Cisneros, PhD, QME

Clinical Director, Department of Neuropsychology and Psychology
Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

They're often called the "Golden Years," but for many advancing in age, they also represent a real concern about cognitive deficits and lost independence. Sometimes, it's not easy to determine whether we're having a so-called "senior moment" or whether there is genuine cause for worry.

Just as the body experiences normal wear-and-tear, so does the brain. So how do we recognize changes in cognition that are a normal part of aging, versus those that may precede a brain-related disorder like dementia? Some natural forgetfulness or absentmindedness as we age – losing your keys, or not finding that specific word you want – is to be expected. But repetitive forgetful behaviors, costly lost items such as smartphones, or lingering communication deficits may be signs of crossing over into "mild cognitive impairment."

Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) is a condition where peo-

ple exhibit more pronounced cognitive problems than others of similar age. Symptoms of MCI are not nearly as severe as those of Alzheimer's disease, for example. People with MCI often lead normal, functional lives. Unfortunately, they are also at increased risk of developing Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

That's why, if you believe you are experiencing MCI, it's important to see a specialist to start monitoring your cognitive health. Often, simple medication or lifestyle adjustments can improve MCI and stop it from developing into a more complex condition like dementia. This is one of the benefits of being eval-



Elizabeth Cisneros, PhD, QME

uated by a neuropsychologist.

A neuropsychology evaluation typically consists of a series of tests on memory, problem-solving, and communication, as well as review of medical history, personal details about family and work, and more. The evaluation will help determine the extent of any deficits, potential sources or causes, and interventions that may work to address them. Whether you're in need

of speech therapy, increased aerobic activity, or medication adjustments, the specialist will work with your primary care team to determine the best way to maximize your remaining function.

Aging can be associated with both great hopes and fears about what the future will bring. As neuropsychologists, our goal is to help seniors maintain their healthy brains or to identify problems in thinking abilities early on so that we can make recommendations and promote the best quality of life for patients.

To learn about neuropsychology services at Casa Colina, visit <https://www.casacolina.org/programs-services/neuropsychology/>.

Art showcase continues through Nov. 30 in Downtown Pomona

"Just Show Some Art," an art showcase featuring the work of 10 area artists, will continue on display through Nov. 30 at the Alliance Community Cultural Center in Downtown Pomona.

Featured artists include Alejandra Lopez, Alejandro Ruiz, Amaranta Ramirez, Gurrod Cole, Heather Andrews-Horton, Isabella Reyes, Mario Solorzano, Ro, Samo and Zarf.

The exhibit is at 406 W. 2nd St., Pomona.

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Interested in who has been arrested by Pomona Police in Pomona? Please check our weekly listing at <http://www.lanuevavoz.net> and click on "Arrest Logs" on our home page.

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<p>GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. All 50 States. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-855-408-6546.</p>	<p>Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581</p>	<p>HEALTH/MEDICAL</p> <p>DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-203-2677 www.dental50plus.com/ calnews #6258</p>	<p>WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your home's value. Call 24/7 1-888-248-0815</p>
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Free and low-cost women's medical exams scheduled

Women in Pomona have at least two opportunities for free or low-cost medical exams, starting with \$50 mammograms at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center throughout October as part of "Breast Cancer Awareness Month," according to a news release.

No physician order or proof of insurance is needed for women over 40 who haven't had a mammogram in the past year, do not have breast implants and do not have a history of breast cancer in the past five years.

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in women, after skin cancers. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, breast cancer causes more than 40,000 deaths in women each year in the U.S.

Annual mammograms are critical to early detection and diagnosis.

Pomona Valley Hospital is one of the only hospitals in the region to offer the "SmartCurve" breast stabilization system, which is clinically proven to deliver a more comfortable mammogram.

To schedule an appointment at the Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center in Pomona or at the Pomona Valley Health Centers in Claremont, Chino Hills or La Verne, call (909) 469-9395.

And on the other side of Pomona, a free women's clinic will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 4, at the Patient Care Center on the Western University of Health Sciences campus, 795 E. 2nd St., Pomona.

Free breast exams, pelvic exams and HIV/STI testing will be available.

To schedule a visit, e-mail freewomensclinic77@gmail.com.



PUMPKIN TIME AT CAL POLY POMONA -- Cal Poly's pumpkin patch was all set and ready to go early this month for the month-long 31st annual Pumpkin Fest officially marking the end of summer. Included were farm tours, a petting zoo, pony rides, corn mazes, food vendor booths and, of course, the opportunity for kids of all ages to select their own pumpkins.

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Did you know?

John Nolte secured \$5.2 million for the Office of Violence Prevention & Neighborhood Wellbeing

OVP's Last Report: Gun homicides decreased by 66% & shootings by 17%. With the recently acquired \$8 million grant, imagine how many more lives we can impact.

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Facilities needs... from pg. 5

followed by safety and security at the schools.

Knowles said the district has recently completed installation of 157 new water fountains in the schools and will be doing more.

The informational meetings were held at all four of the district's comprehensive high schools, beginning on Sept. 30 at Diamond Ranch High School and continuing through Oct. 8 at Ganesha High School.

Supporters listed on the ballot include State Sen. Susan Rubio, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Diamond Bar City Councilmember Steve Tye, PUSD Board President Arturo Jimenez, and PUSD Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman.

No opponents were listed on the ballot.

Need more information, have questions about the bond committee or the 7-11 committee, or want to provide input to the district regarding recommendations for priorities? Contact Ronald Lawrence at (909) 397-4800, ext. 23885 or by e-mail at ronald.lawrence@pusd.org.



FLAG FOOTBALL AT FREMONT -- Are you ready for some football? They were ready over at Pomona's Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design last week as ASISA (After School Interscholastic Sports Academy) for the first time brought together high school student teams from Fremont, Village Academy High School and Park West High School to play a little flag football. But from the sidelines shooting photos right from the chalk line, it looked like the real thing -- the players were doing a great job. Fremont Principal Roger Fasting told La Nueva Voz the idea was to get the nearly 100 participating students in the district's smaller high schools without actual CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) teams out on the field for some athletic recreation playing against each other. And the result for this first-time effort was "so many happy families" turning out for the game "and we just expect it to keep growing and growing." After football season, the same three schools will continue year-round with soccer, basketball and volleyball. Darien Baldriche, CEO of ASISA, and a physical education teacher since 2011 at Pomona's Cortez Mathematics and Science Magnet School, said he formed the sports non-profit in 2014 for students who don't have access to sports and now has partnerships with Pomona Unified School District, Los Angeles Unified School District and Jurupa Unified School District. In Pomona, he started with elementary school and middle school students, and now that he has expanded to high school for the first time, has coaches in every school. Students in the new high school flag football program practiced for nearly six weeks and came together last week for their tournament. Pictured are students from Park West (jerseys with yellow numbers) playing Village Academy (black ASISA jerseys and blue ASISA jerseys with white stripes on their sleeves).

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Services set in Visalia for Suzanne Barbee-Jones

My only sister, Suzanne Barbee-Jones, passed away in the afternoon on Thursday, Oct. 3 at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. She was 62.

She was surrounded by her husband, Jeff Jones and her children, Chad Kelley, Julia Archibeque, and Garrette Archibeque.

My sister is survived by her husband, Jeff Jones, of Visalia, her three children, her grandchildren Bo, Marcus and Rosie, father, James L. Barbee, of Klamath Falls, Oregon, stepfather, Tim Cossey, of Azusa, brother, Todd Barbee, and sister-in-law, Cathy Barbee, of Cameron Park, and sister, Renee Barbee, of Pomona.

Suzanne was a loving and devoted mother, wife, sister, aunt, friend and was loved by all who knew her.

On behalf of myself, Jeff Schenkel and our families, we appreciate your love and support!

– Renee Barbee

“In loving memory of a special sister: The day you left and gained your wings my heart just broke in two. I wish you could have stayed with me, but heaven needed you.” (Author unknown)



Pictured, from left, are Renee Barbee of Pomona, her late sister Suzanne Barbee-Jones, of Visalia, and their late aunt Mary Alvarado, of Ridgecrest.



POMONA KIWANIS INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS -- New officers of the Pomona Kiwanis club for a one-year term beginning this month were sworn in at an installation banquet last month at Luchador Bar and Kitchen in Downtown Pomona. Pictured, from left, standing are Board member Gino Elias, Board member Brian Hagerty, Audrey Delgado, Past President Rene Guerrero, Board member Ish Arias and Secretary Rodney Tanaka. Seated, from left, are Board member Diane Elias, Vice President Maritza Vera, Treasurer Linda Lowry, incoming President Diana Avila, and Norma Quinones. In front, from left, are Kevin Holley and Kiwanian of the Year and President-Elect Mitch Stein. Not pictured is Board member Julie Carver. Gino Elias also was installed last month as incoming Lieutenant Governor-Elect for Kiwanis International Division 15, where he will represent local clubs at the regional and national levels. The installation dinner was held at the Mission Inn in Riverside. Division 15 includes clubs in Chino, Chino Hills, Claremont, Ontario, Norco, Riverside, Pomona and other communities in the area.

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Development of the FY 25-26 Annual Action Plan El Plan de acción anual 25-26

In the fall, the City will begin developing the 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan which outlines spending for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds on housing, human services, public infrastructure and community development activities for low/moderate income persons.

Please join us at one of the following Community Needs Meetings and complete the survey!

En el otoño, la Ciudad estará en el proceso de desarrollar el Plan de Acción Anual 2025-2026 que describe los gastos para el Subsidio en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG), el Programa de Asociaciones de Inversión HOME (HOME) y los fondos del Subsidio para Soluciones de Emergencia en vivienda, servicios humanos, infraestructura público y actividades de desarrollo comunitario para personas de bajo/moderado ingresos. **¡Únase a nosotros en una de las siguientes Reuniones de Necesidades Comunitarias y completa la encuesta!**

September 26, 2024 - January 31, 2025

We need your input!
bit.ly/yourvoicecountspomona

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Community Needs Meetings Starting at 6:30 PM

Wednesday, October 2, 2024
via ZOOM - <https://zoom.us/join>
Webinar ID: 851 3519 6356
By Phone (669) 444-9171

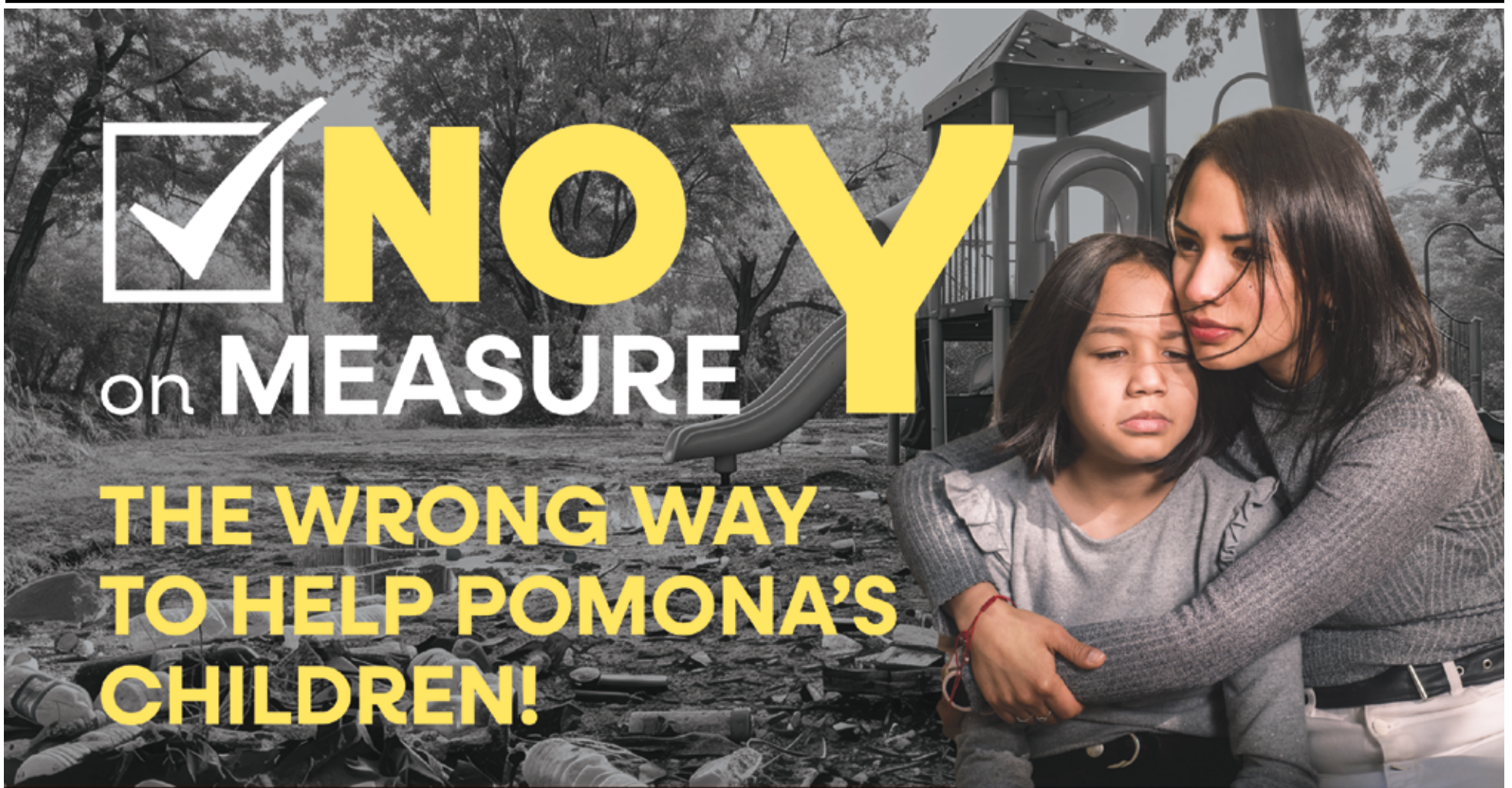
Wednesday, October 9, 2024
Garfield Neighborhood Center

Tuesday, November 5, 2024
John F. Kennedy Community Center

Wednesday, December 4, 2024
Ralph Welch Community Center

Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Washington Community Center

Wednesday, January 22, 2025
via ZOOM - <https://zoom.us/join>
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NO Y on **MEASURE**

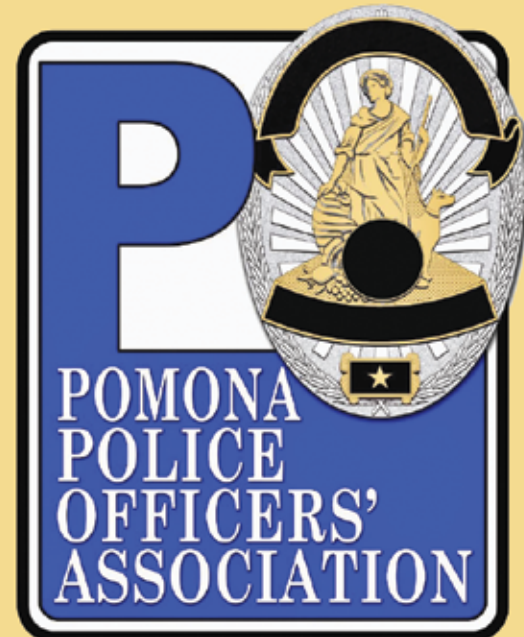
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- Park Maintenance and Upgrades
- Police, Fire, and Emergency Services
- Library and Community Services

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- ✗ NO ON CLOSING MORE FIRE STATIONS**
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