

Pomona High School 'Class of 1948' graduate Don Nichols, Jr. funds \$125,000 in scholarships for students of his alma mater

Editor's Note: The following is based on an in-person interview by Renee Barbee.

Pomona's Don Nichols, Jr., known at Pomona High School as a philanthropist, is 95 and still going strong. In recent years, he's done everything from surfing, playing tennis, traveling the world and even piloting an airplane.

Born in 1930 in Pomona, he graduated from Pomona High School in 1948, graduated from UC Berkeley in 1953, enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as a commissioned officer on the USS Boxer, an amphibious assault ship.

It was on that carrier that he realized his childhood dream of becoming a Naval aviator, and he

flew reconnaissance missions over Korea and China during the Korean War.

But it was his work in the Navy with helicopters that resulted in his going into the business of selling parts to helicopter companies. His company, Heli-Mart, Inc., now located in Irvine, grew for 40 years until he retired in 2013.

It was through the success he had with his company that he has been able to give back to today's Pomona students by funding special events and now scholarships – in fact, over the next five years, he'll be handing out a total of \$125,000 in scholarships to Pomona High School students, one of the biggest lump sum packages ever at



Photo by Renee Barbee

POMONA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF '48 -- Officials pose for a photo with Don Nichols, Jr., 95, who graduated from Pomona High School in 1948 and now has become a philanthropist -- but only for students from Pomona High. In addition to other projects, he has promised to provide \$125,000 in scholarships over the next five years. From left are Dana Anastasi, career technician at Pomona High School; Pomona City Councilmember Lorraine Canales; Pomona High School Principal Dr. Cindy Green; and Nichols.

that school and, for that matter, in the entire Pomona Unified School District.

Why?

"Because of my family," he said in an exclusive interview with La Nueva Voz. He said his father, Don Nichols, Sr., was an attorney and the law firm owned by his father and his grandfather "gave a lot."

In fact, he said there's even a statue of his dad "somewhere up in Northern Pomona."

So, he started his own foundation to address a need for scholarships in Pomona.

"We really wanted to help the students here at Pomona High School have success in their fu-

\$125,000 in scholarships... pg. 6



FOLKLORICO DANCERS HELP OPEN ANNUAL 'CHRISTMAS ON COLUMBIA' -- Dancers of all sizes from the "No Te Rajes Jalisco Folklorico Group" performed this year at opening day this month of Pomona's annual "Christmas on Columbia" festivities where Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval was on hand to throw the switch and light up the entire street with holiday lights. This year, a total of nine streets are lighting up their homes and yards to participate in what has become arguably the biggest and best holiday lights display in town. The lights remain on throughout the holiday season, beginning at White and Columbia Avenues (just south of Orange Grove Avenue). See additional photos page 4.

Pomona Christmas Parade ushers in holiday season in Downtown Pomona

Editor's Note: See La Nueva Voz special pull-out parade section brought to you by Athens Services, beginning on page 11.

Hundreds of residents of Pomona joined with visitors from throughout the region for the Downtown Pomona District's 2025 Christmas Parade this month, this year on the theme "Neon Candyland" and a tradi-

tional nighttime parade in true California style – cool weather but not cold and under clear skies.

The usual estimates for the parade seemed to continue this year – roughly 3,000 people lining the parade route, in many places three or four deep, plus another 2,000 or more actual participants riding the floats, marching in the bands, driv-

Ushering in the season... pg. 11



Courageous Minds

Speakers Bureau

Your story can change someone else's life.

Are you **ages 18+** and have lived experience with **mental health**?

Our **FREE** workshops support you in shaping your story in a way that feels safe, impactful and empowering. Be part of a community that inspires hope, increases compassion and promotes positive conversation about mental health in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne.

Apply by **January 25, 2026**




Pomona ICE detainee tells story of five weeks in custody

Editor's note: It has been well publicized through both the news media and social media that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers have been active in Pomona in recent months. In an attempt to provide a closer look at how that activity is impacting the community, Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, and two other members of the Narrative Storytelling Committee of the Mayor's Task

Force on Immigration sat down in a meeting at the Pomona Public Library in November for an interview with a Pomona resident who was detained and his wife. The following account describes what happened. In a departure from conventional news media policy and practice, and in the interest of the safety of the family, La Nueva Voz provided members of the committee an opportunity to share an

advance copy of the story with family members. Their suggested revisions are included below.

Roberto and his wife Alicia live in Pomona in an apartment near Holt Avenue and Indian Hill Boulevard. They have lived here for the past 15 years. They have two U.S.-born children who are honor roll students at Pomona public schools where they participate in several extracurricular activities.

Their life changed significantly on May 29 when Roberto, intending to attend his younger child's graduation from elementary school, was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. He heard sirens while driving along Holt Avenue and pulled over to the curb expecting to see police cars rushing past, but instead, an estimated 15 ICE agents surrounded his truck, and

pulled him out of his seat.

Roberto, who uses a walking cane because of a bad back, had his cane taken from him and had his hands handcuffed behind his back. His cane was not returned until he arrived in a federal lock-up facility in Los Angeles.

He was later transferred to the federal immigration holding facility in Adelanto, a privately-owned

Detainee tells his story... pg. 4



Fairplex mascots, from left, Thummer the Pig, Daily the Cow and Lily the Sheep greeted guests to "Fall In The Farm," an annual free community event at Fairplex that celebrates agriculture.

Agriculture students from the region participated in Cal Poly Pomona's livestock showcase during "Fall In The Farm" at Pomona's Fairplex.



Guests at "Fall In The Farm" at Fairplex sewed pillow cases for Ryan's Case for Smiles, a non-profit that has volunteers sew whimsical pillow-cases for children in hospitals.

Students from Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise provided entertainment at The Farm Stage for "Fall In The Farm" at Fairplex.

Superintendent's Holiday Message

It has been said that *"the holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us."* As we gather with one another—whether sharing wishes of a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanzaa, Happy Yule, or another meaningful celebration—we are united in honoring a season rooted in gratitude, reflection, and connection.

The most meaningful gifts aren't wrapped in paper; they're revealed in the kindness and care we show each other. To our colleagues and students, let us continue to offer the gifts of friendship, patience, and hope. As one wise reflection reminds us, *"the joy of brightening other lives, bearing one another's burdens, easing each other's load, and filling hearts with generosity becomes the true magic of the holidays."*

Throughout this year, our schools have continued to provide our families and community with the priceless gift of learning—and we have much to celebrate. To meet the growing needs of our youngest learners, Pomona Unified School District expanded Transitional Kindergarten to 21 schools, including the opening of seven additional TK sites. Allison Elementary now proudly offers a dual-language TK program, strengthening early literacy and bilingual development.

Our secondary schools have also achieved notable recognition. Simons Middle School was named an AVID Schoolwide Site of Distinction, reflecting its strong college - and career-readiness culture. Diamond Ranch and Village Academy High Schools earned placement on the College Board's School Honor Roll, and received the AP Access Award for expanding equitable access to advanced coursework.

In addition, Alcott Elementary, Arroyo Elementary, Garey High School, and Park West earned designation as Recognized ASCA Model Programs (RAMP) for excellence in school counseling. With 16 RAMP schools, Pomona Unified now holds the distinction of having more RAMP schools than any district in California—a testament to our commitment to supporting the whole child.

We are deeply thankful for our outstanding schools, dedicated teachers, and committed staff. By supporting and appreciating one another, we continue to build a district rooted in excellence, equity, and care.

As Winter Break approaches, I hope you and your families enjoy time to rest, reflect, and reconnect. May this holiday season be filled with gratitude for all that we have been given, joy in the company of friends and loved ones, and optimism for the many possibilities the coming year will bring. Wishing you and your family a holiday season filled with peace, joy, and happiness.

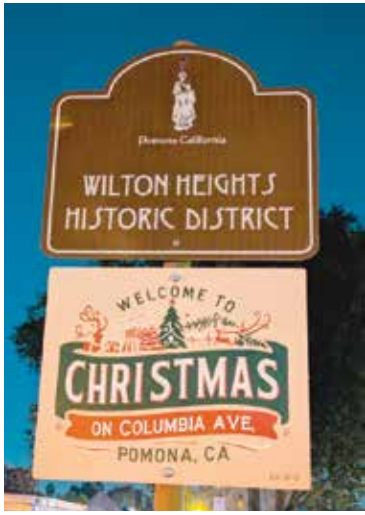
Sincerely,



Darren Knowles, Superintendent of Schools



POMONA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



'CHRISTMAS ON COLUMBIA' IS BIGGER AND BETTER EACH YEAR -- This year's Christmas on Columbia, a huge neighborhood holiday lighting display now expanded to include nine streets in the neighborhood beginning at White and Columbia Avenues, this year opened with the help of dancers from No Te Rajes Jalisco Folklorico Group, the Ganesha High School cheerleaders, the Pomona High School spirit squad, and, of course, Santa (Chris Marble, a resident of Pomona now in his fourth year at the event). Also pictured are lights in one of the many front yards, along with a new official street sign provided by the city designating the event to make it official. Pictured with Mayor Tim Sandoval are, from left, Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, who served as master of ceremonies, along with Pomona City Councilmembers Debra Martin and Lorraine Canales. And pictured with the volunteers receiving their certificates are, at center, founder and organizer Kim Johnson and co-founder Albert Perez. On the far right, from left, are Pomona City Councilmembers Debra Martin, Lorraine Canales, Victor Preciado and Nora Garcia.



Detainee tells his story... from pg. 2

immigration detention center that has been the subject of controversy and scrutiny regarding its conditions, where he remained for 40 days until he was reunited with his family on July 8.

Both detainees and visiting lawmakers have reported issues such as poor medical care, lack of access to legal counsel and telephone

calls, and inadequate provisions. Roberto recounted that breakfast at 6 a.m. typically consisted of a spoon of oatmeal and two small sausages or one egg, and a little carton of milk (which was sometimes spoiled and frozen). Lunch was one potato, a spoon of beans and a bit of lettuce. Dinner was bread and mustard along with sometimes a hamburger

patty – there weren't enough patties for everyone to get one. Detainees were provided with minimal toiletries, including one towel, which was not replaced if stolen.

There were five showers for 100 people in the room, only one of which ran with more than just a trickle of water. There were nine toilets,

Detainee tells his story... pg. 6



Folklorico dancers from Tradicion Dance Company perform in front of Mariachi Arcoiris at this month's La Gran Posada.



CHECK PRESENTATION FOR THE POSADA -- Iso Nakasato, of Athens Services, presenting sponsor of this month's fourth annual free community "La Gran Posada" at Pomona's Fox Theater, presents a check for \$10,000 to Posada organizers and board members of the Fox Community Culture Fund at Tradicion Dance Company in Pomona. Tradicion provided all the dancers for the event free of charge. The annual program celebrating the traditions of Mexico features live singers and dancers, traditional Mexican songs, colorful costumes and more all to bring one of the oldest Christmas stories to life. Pictured, from left, are Carlos Cardona and Iso Nakasato of Athens, Heidi Ortega of Downtown Pomona District, Jenny Goodman and Cathy Tessier of the Fox Community Culture Fund, producers of the annual Posada, Elizabeth Ramirez of Athens, Monique Robles of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, Manuel Vizcarra of Tradicion, Thomas Wedding of Athens, Marco Argote, a founder of the Fox Community Culture Fund, and Vicente Soto of Athens.

Iso Nakasato of Athens, presenting sponsor for Pomona's fourth annual La Gran Posada, welcomes a capacity audience to Pomona's Fox Theater for this month's free community event. Pictured, from left, are Manuel Vizcarra of Tradicion Dance Co., Marco Argote, a founder of the Fox Community Culture Fund, presenters of Le Gran Posada, and Nakasato.



Mientras ellos ven videos, alguien más está viendo lo que hacen.



Trabajamos para que la privacidad sea fácil



Conoce más en [Privacy.ca.gov](https://www.privacy.ca.gov)



ture,” Nichols said.

Pomona High Principal Dr. Cindy Green added that some of her students will not continue their education “because they can’t afford it, or they need that extra additional portion to go with it.”

“And so the idea of your legacy continuing through, making sure that people in the community you grew up in continue to have those educational opportunities . . . I think it’s amazing,” she told Nichols.

She added that when Nichols comes back to the school on “senior night” that he’ll see the gratitude.

\$125,000 in scholarships... from pg. 1

“Our kids are very appreciative when they are supported through scholarships and grants,” she said. “And I know we pick up a lot of scholarships from (Pomona City Councilmember) Ms. (Lorraine) Canales because she hosts so many different opportunities for kids to get scholarships.”

“We’re leaving money on the table for kids who genuinely need it,” she said. “They genuinely need the support, so thank you so much.”

Canales, a former counselor at Pomona’s Village Academy High School and before that at Pomona’s School of Arts and Enterprise, told the group that Pomona High School

is in her council district.

“And so I like to take care of my schools,” she said.

Nichols, who now lives in Laguna Beach, also has been providing funding to send fifth and sixth graders from Roosevelt Elementary School, also his alma mater, to the Ocean Institute, founded as the Orange County Marine Institute, at Dana Point each year, a field trip that now fills three school buses.

This year, for the first time, Nichols will be providing two \$1,500 scholarships for community college or trade school, two scholarships to Cal State University students of \$4,000 each, and two more

scholarships to students attending either a University of California campus or private university, for a total of another \$7,000 each, according to Dana Anastasi, career technician at Pomona High School, who worked with Canales to facilitate the scholarship program.

Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles called it “a nice gesture.”

“The scholarship, regardless of the amount, can be life changing for our kids,” he told La Nueva Voz.

Nichols also has agreed to buy 10 custom fit suits for high school boys attending the “My future in ties” event presented each year by the Pomona Optimist Club.

And while he said he is thinking about shutting down the foundation in the near future, for now he’s just looking forward to coming back for his 80th reunion in 2028.

Detainee tells his story... from pg. 4

which, along with other chores, could be cleaned by the detainees themselves for \$1 a day.

To supplement the meager food rations, family members (once they had located their loved one) could pay into an account that the detainee could draw upon to purchase food items such as cookies, bread, soup, and packets of sugar. They even had to purchase their own plate. Some of Roberto’s nephews contributed to this fund for him, and he shared some of his purchases with other detainees who did not have family that could help them in this way.

Roberto also shared his diabetes medication with an older detainee to whom this necessary medication was not provided. While Roberto normally takes eight different medications every day for

Detainee tells his story... pg. 7



ALTAMED BRINGS SENIOR SERVICES TO POMONA -- AltaMed Health Services, one of the largest independent federally qualified health centers in the U.S. and serving patients throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties, has expanded its senior services to Pomona with its grand opening this month of a PACE facility (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly). Eligible PACE participants can even receive a new \$600 benefit card to help with essential needs such as groceries, utility bills and over-the-counter items. Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, speaking at the event, said AltaMed serves communities beyond Pomona. “Cities cannot solve the challenges they face without you, so thank you for the work you are doing,” Sandoval said. The new Pomona location is at 2277 N. Garey Ave., Pomona. For more information, call (855) 252-7223 or visit altamed.org/pace. Pictured cutting the ribbon with the help of AltaMed staff and executive team members is Dr. Esiquio Casillas, Chief Medical Officer for AltaMed PACE. From left are Michael Mattox, PACE Transportation Director; Pamela Barrera, PACE Program Director; Nancy Merino-Zamorano, PACE Pomona Center Manager; Miriam Galicia, PACE Assistant Vice President, Outreach and Marketing; Dr. Jung Han, PACE Regional Medical Director; Joyita Garg, PACE Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Jennifer Spalding, PACE Business Consultant; Dr. Esiquio Casillas; Jennifer Becerra, Administrative Assistant; Silvia Guzman, Registered Nurse Supervisor; Ivone Policarpio, Activities Coordinator; and Jacqueline Saso, Registered Dietitian.



An AltaMed technician prepares to check a patient’s blood pressure at the health services company’s new location in Pomona. Founded in 1969, AltaMed serves more than two million patients annually (including “virtual” visits) with more than 500,000 patients each year in-clinic, with a focus on Latino, multi-ethnic and medically underserved communities.

Your ad here!

(909)

629-2292

La Nueva Voz

The Inland Empire’s Leading Bilingual Newspaper
A division of **South Coast Media Services**
Providing media relations services since 1983

(909) 629-2292 • www.lanuevavoz.net
P.O. Box 1117 • Pomona, CA 91769

Member:
California News Publishers Association

Member:
Latino Media Collaborative

Complete and searchable La Nueva Voz archives
on Pomona Public Library web site.
content.ci.pomona.ca.us/digital/collection/lnvoz/search

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

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

Layout & Design: Dora Cruz
dcruz1549@gmail.com

Subscriptions by mail \$49 per year.
Call (909) 629-2292.

All major credit cards accepted!

Printed using soy-based inks.
Copyright © 2025 South Coast Media Services
All rights reserved.
Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

Pomona council approves 'official venue city' status for 2028 Olympics

Pomona city councilmembers last month unanimously approved an agreement to serve as an official venue city for staging the game cricket on Pomona's Fairplex fairgrounds during the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.

"On behalf of the city, we are thrilled to stage cricket, the second most popular sport in the world, as part of the 2028 Summer Olympic Games," Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said. "Cricket has not been featured in the Olympics since 1900, and we are proud that Pomona will be the first to hold Olympic cricket competitions again after 128 years."

"We are grateful to our partners, LA28 and Fairplex, for playing a vital role in showcasing the City of Pomona on the global stage," Sandoval added. "Pomona welcomes the world."

Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez said Fairplex is looking forward to working with the City of Pomona "to create a seamless experience as we prepare for 2028."

"The partnership between Pomona and Fairplex has a strong foundation, one that began in 1922," Marquez said. "It is an honor to team up with the city to bring such an exciting event to the community, the County of Los Angeles and the world."

Vic Knoll, director of venue cities relations for the Games, told councilmembers that "LA 28 is thrilled to be welcoming the City of Pomona as an official venue city for the LA 28 Games."

Councilmembers approved an official Games agreement with

the Los Angeles Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2028 in an action that had no fiscal impact.

However, according to the council's staff report, an "enhanced city resources agreement" will come before the council at a future date to establish services, service levels, unit costs, rates, a repayment timeline, audit rights and other schedule, process and cost estimation considerations.

As part of this month's action, the City of Pomona agreed to confirm a list of advertising space that will be offered at a "priority option" to the Olympic Organizing Committee for advertising associated with the Olympic Games. The city added language to the agreement that the Olympic Organizing Committee would not pursue any advertising on any off-site billboards that are under active litigation with the city or on any unpermitted signs within the city.

Locations used for ads may include street light pole banners, city-operated bus shelters, various outdoor areas in the Civic Center Plaza, city parks, First Street bridge crossings and the Pomona Transit Center.

The agreement also requires that host cities not permit any major public or private event, conference or other meeting which could have an impact on the successful planning, organizing, financing and staging of the Games or their public and media exposure – either during the Games or during the preceding or following week – without prior written approval from the Games.



CEREMONIES AT SIGNING POMONA'S OLYMPIC AGREEMENT -- Pomona's Office of Economic and Business Affairs Deputy Director Ata Khan, at left, holds a ceremonial cricket bat as Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez signs his autograph during ceremonies at last month's Pomona City Council meeting to approve an agreement for the LA 28 Games with the Los Angeles Organizing Committee to hold Games in Pomona. Cricket competition will be held at Pomona's Fairplex.

The city negotiated an exception for the July Art Walk in Downtown Pomona because it is a standing, recurring event.

According to the staff report, the city is working with the Games on its Cultural Olympiad program and has submitted a grant application to LA Metro for its "Open Streets" grant connected with the Olympic Games.

The city agreed to provide at no cost "normal and customer servic-

es" for police, fire, public works and building and safety and the like.

"Enhanced city resources" will be provided under a separate agreement and paid for by the Olympic Organizing Committee.

The city also will be required – if it issues or renews permits for any new hotel development

– to require the developer to allow the Olympic Organizing Committee to purchase up to 90 percent of the hotel's inventory for use by any Games-related stakeholders between June and August 2028.

The City of Los Angeles is the host city for the 2028 Games, with select competitions and events located in other Southern California venue cities.

Detainee tells his story... from pg. 6

a variety of conditions, he went without medication of any type for five days until an on-site doctor determined what he needed to have. His family had not been allowed to bring his medications to the facility.

Roberto told the story of a detainee who was from Bangladesh (South Asia) and, because he spoke no Spanish, communication was a problem. During Ramadan, the man had to save his food until after sunset in accordance with religious restrictions even though the food may have spoiled during the day. This man was detained for 14 months before being de-

ported to Guatemala, of all places, where he reportedly spent a month recovering in a hospital.

Apart from physical stress due to poor food, hygiene facilities, access to medicine, and crowded conditions, Roberto emphasized the tremendous emotional stress of living with great uncertainty day in and day out, and knowing that his wife and children were dealing with their own stress while trying to make ends meet.

For Roberto's family, the ordeal began when Roberto failed to show up for his younger child's elementary school graduation – something very unlike him. Later,

neighbors reported seeing his vehicle abandoned on Holt Avenue, which by this time had been stripped by homeless people; the officers had not allowed him to secure it before taking him away and reportedly told the homeless people they "could have it."

Roberto's wife, Alicia, had to miss a lot of work in order to care for her children. While food banks were helpful and it was possible to get donated clothing, the biggest challenge financially was to keep up with the rent. With the help of Pomona Unified School District and a private foundation, Alicia was able

Detainee tells his story... pg. 8

**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.**

La Nueva Voz Newspaper in Pomona, CA

**The New Voice (La Nueva Voz), a Bilingual
(English/Spanish) Publication. Pomona's Only
Community Newspaper! Advertising with us is easy!**

www.lanuevavoz.net

Follow us on Facebook, Yelp and Instagram!

Detainee tells his story... from pg. 7

to find agencies that helped her pay the rent while Roberto was in custody.

Thoughts of their father were constantly in the minds of his children. Alicia said that her children would sometimes refuse to eat, knowing that their father was barely eating in the detention center. They also questioned how they could sleep on their comfortable mattress, knowing that their father was sleeping “on a board.” Alicia sometimes ate very little so that her children could have more to eat.

There was now the added expense of obtaining legal counsel. They paid \$5,000 to retain an attorney (the Mexican consulate helped by paying \$3,500 of this retainer) and they need to pay him \$600 per month up to a total of \$16,000.

During an online court appearance, the judge determined that Roberto was not a threat, not a criminal and has U.S. citizen children, so he was allowed to leave detention after posting bail. His family picked him up in Adelanto.

Roberto lost 30 pounds while in detention. His family delightedly fed him beef stew upon his arrival home.

Roberto, who said he worked at a factory, had no work permit (the family originally was here on a travel visa) and still is unable to work legally. He said he is attempting to obtain the work permit as his employer would like him to return and is allowing him to work

limited hours.

But Roberto won’t take the risk of becoming a full-time employee, plus he doesn’t want to put other employees at the company in jeopardy. Because of all of this, of course, he is living on limited income.

He said when he first came to the United States, he and his wife were helping family members who own a restaurant in the San Fernando Valley but when they learned Alicia was pregnant, they returned to Mexico. They eventually renewed their travel visa and came back, deciding they wanted to remain in this country.

But they stayed past the time allowed under the visa.

Today, with no work permit, a new manager at their apartment complex gave Alicia the job of cleaning the laundry room and other common areas so they don’t have to go out of the complex for work.

The two wanted others to know how people in Pomona are being taken off the street without due process and without being cared for properly.

For example, when they are detained, often detainees are given a court date for when they will be able to request a bond hearing. Roberto said not everyone knows they’re supposed to request that hearing, but they talked to his attorney who explained what they needed to do.

Not only do some detainees not

Detainee tells his story... pg. 21

A new La Nueva Voz publishes each month on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Pick up your free copy of La Nueva Voz at these locations and dozens more:

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



Pomona’s Prince of Peace Church youth group held its monthly visit to the Pomona Vista Care Center nursing facility this month, bringing gift bags with socks, a blanket, and other essentials for the residents as they entertained them with songs of Christmas. “It is our hope that through songs of worship and a moment of fellowship with the residents, we can encourage each other to always look ahead with optimism,” said youth leader Evelyn Flores, pictured fourth from left. Prince of Peace Church is located at 895 E. 7th St., Pomona. Services are held Sundays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m. For information regarding the church’s outreach program, call (909) 750-0331.

Pomona Valley Hospital, Mt. SAC students stage mass casualty drill

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center hosted a mass casualty incident drill last month featuring nursing, paramedic and emergency department tech students from Mt. San Antonio College in an effort to bolster the hospital’s preparedness for earthquake-related incidents.

The drill provided simulated scenarios requiring triage and treatment of affected individuals.

“We are always prepared for a mass casualty event,” said Dr. Andrew Michael, trauma and critical care surgeon. “We have a lot of wonderful teams here that include our (emergency room) doctors, our respiratory techs, radiologists and a lot of supporting cast here so that we’re ready with the staff and tools we need to help the greatest amount of people possible.”

The drill was part of the Los Angeles County Healthcare Coalition’s annual medical and health exercise for operations to evaluate the ability of a hospital to support a patient surge equivalent to at least 10 percent of its



Photo courtesy of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center
MASS CASUALTY DRILL -- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center staff and Mt. San Antonio College students are pictured outside the hospital last month as they practice transporting patients in a mass casualty earthquake drill.

licensed bed capacity.

It included transporting patients to the hospital from Pomona’s Fairplex by ambulance and other vehicles and setting up a triage area outside of the hospital’s emergency department.

Pomona Valley Hospital re-

ceived a surge of more than 40 patients during the drill which provided hands-on training to enhance preparedness for staff and students alike, according to a hospital spokesperson.

Mt. SAC students participated under the direction of Dr. Connie Kunkler, a nursing professor.

Casa Colina Hospital earns five-star ratings from Healthgrades

Pomona’s Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare announced this month it has earned multiple five-star ratings from Healthgrades, the leading site consumers use to find a hospital or doctor.

Casa Colina was rated five stars in the “top tier” nationally for two critical procedures and conditions, including neck and back surgery and treatment of pneumonia.

“Achieving these consistent five-star rankings validates our commitment to investing in the highest standards of specialty care and maintaining a culture of innovation,” said Casa Colina CEO Kelly Linden. “This includes everything from our expert clinical leadership and staff to the latest technology, quality improvement initiatives, and the cutting-edge work happening at the Casa Colina Research Institute.”

The Healthgrades evaluations are based on a review of some 4,500 hospitals nationwide.



Photos courtesy of Western University
NEW COMMUNITY KITCHEN AT LOPEZ FARM -- Officials from the Western University of Health Sciences' College of Graduate Nursing, in collaboration with Lopez Urban Farm and the Pomona Unified School District, cut the ribbon last month to celebrate the opening of the Urban Kitchen, an outdoor community kitchen designed to bring community, education and wellness together. The new facility, on the Lopez Urban Farm campus, was called a "shared space" where students, faculty and community partners can collaborate, address public health challenges, and co-create solutions through innovation and partnership. The project, in the works for the past 10 years, was funded in part by Western University grant funds earmarked to train nurses to provide care to medically underserved areas. Pictured cutting the ribbon at center with the scissors are College of Graduate Nursing Dean Dr. Mary Lopez, at left, and Bianca Ustrell, director of operations for Lopez Urban Farm. Also pictured, behind the ribbon, is a look at the community kitchen itself.

Urban Farm. Mid-way at left are Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado and College of Graduate Nursing Assistant Professor and Humanism Officer Marsha Guillaume, who helped facilitate the project. Center, at rear, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and Farmer Stephen Yorba, executive director of Lopez Urban Farm. Also pictured, behind the ribbon, is a look at the community kitchen itself.



Los Angeles County photo by Bryan Chan
POMONA'S 'MINI MARIACHIS' PERFORM FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS -- Members of the dA Center for the Arts "Mini Mariachi" youth program performed before the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors during their meeting in the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in Downtown Los Angeles this month as Supervisor Hilda Solis once again was appointed Board Chair by her colleagues on the Board during an annual organizational meeting in the Board Hearing Room. Solis will serve as Board Chair for her final year in her third term on the Board before terming out. Pictured is Solis presenting a special recognition certificate to the Mini Mariachis for "celebrating the vibrant cultural pride, presence and joy that enriches the First District." Solis said she chaired the Board in both 2016 and 2019 and has "consistently focused on strengthening and uplifting our social safety net." She said the Board faces challenges including budget pressures "at a time when the needs of our most vulnerable residents are increasing." "Our priorities must remain focused on affordability, the rising cost of housing, homelessness, public safety, food security, the safe and accountable rebuilding of communities affected by last January's wildfires, and supporting our county workforce," she said. Solis has served in positions including California Assemblymember, State Senator, Congresswoman and Secretary of Labor under President Obama, when she was the first Latina to serve in a U.S. presidential cabinet.

Pomona Inland Valley MLK Jr. Project Invites You To:
The 44th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
Where Do We Go From Here?

Sunday, January 18, 2026
Pilgrim Congregational Church
600 N. Garey Ave.
Pomona, CA 91767
MLK Marketplace: 4:00 PM
Ceremony: 6:00 PM

Featuring Anthony Bonner and the Garey High School Jazz band!

Honoring our Youth Social Justice & Zennie Cummings Awardees
Local Vendors & Kenneth B. Morris Jr. Book Signing

SCAN THE LINKTREE

<https://linktree.com/pivmlkproject> **Get Involved!**
Make a Donation Be a Sponsor Be a Vendor
Visit our website: pivmlkproject.org 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization

Keynote Speaker:

Kenneth B. Morris, Jr.
Author and Activist

2026
CIVIC SEDAN SPORT CVT

\$175 + tax per month
for 36 months

DOWN PAYMENT: \$4,995

LEASE SPECIAL

2026 Honda
HR-V LX 2WD CVT

\$198 + tax per month
for 36 months

DOWN PAYMENT: \$4,995

LEASE SPECIAL

2026
CR-V LX 2WD CVT

\$259 + tax per month
for 36 months

DOWN PAYMENT: \$4,995

LEASE SPECIAL

LEASE SPECIAL

2025
ADX Base FWD CVT

\$189 /month+tax
For 24 Months

\$4,995 Down Payment

SEASON OF
PERFORMANCE EVENT

LEASE SPECIAL

2025
INTEGRA A-spec 1.5L CVT

\$247 /month+tax

\$4,995 Down Payment

SEASON OF
PERFORMANCE EVENT

LEASE SPECIAL

2026
MDX TECH FWD 10-SPD AT

\$475 /month+tax

\$4,995 Down Payment

SEASON OF
PERFORMANCE EVENT

9399 Autoplex Drive, Montclair, CA 91763 • (909) 625-5000 metrohonda.com

Offers may apply to select vehicles only. Terms available on approved credit. Expires 1/5/26.
See Metro Honda for Complete Details. Subject to vehicle availability.

Las ofertas podrían aplicar en vehículos elegibles solamente. Los términos de acuerdo a crédito aprobado. Efectivo hasta 1/5/26. Visite Metro Honda para detalles completos.
Sujeto a disponibilidad de vehículos.

Helping You Move Forward
with Confidence.

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center
is proud to be recognized by Healthgrades™
as one of America's 100 Best Hospitals
for Orthopedic Surgery.

This is the highest distinction awarded
in the Healthgrades Specialty Care Awards
—an honor earned by only 18 hospitals
in California.

Because our community deserves
the best we can offer, and you deserve
the confidence that comes with choosing
one of the nation's best for orthopedic surgery.

To learn more about our Orthopedic Services,
visit pvhmc.org/ortho.



Expert care with a personal touch

1798 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA 91767 | 909.865.9500

www.pvhmc.org



**Athens
Services**

Special Athens Services "pull out" section -- The 2025 Pomona Christmas Parade



Pomona City Manager Anita Scott waves to the La Nueva Voz camera as she rides down Second Street in the back of a classic convertible in the Pomona Christmas Parade.



Athens Services team members, dressed for the holidays,, drive their fully decorated service truck -- wreaths, lights and all -- down Second Street in the Pomona Christmas Parade.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and his wife, Crissy, wave to the crowd in the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade.



Athens Services team members in their "lead vehicle" decorated with Christmas lights led the way for the Athens entry just behind them in the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade.



Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade Grand Marshal "Angel Baby" Rodriguez, radio personality and host of the "oldies" Art Laboe Show, greets the Pomona crowd as he rides down Second Street on his float. Rodriguez just completed his 21st annual "Turkey Jam" food drive for Thanksgiving and hosted the "Hope Fest" in Pomona with Project Hope.

Ushering in the season... from pg. 1

ing in car club cars, riding bicycles down the parade route beginning on Second Street, and even walking – barefoot on cold pavement, in some cases of authentic regalia for Native American dancers.

There were youth groups, service organizations, dignitaries both local and regional, floats, drill teams and more, for a total of 116 entries in a nearly two-hour-long parade. Even riders on dancing horseback were back for the first time in several years.

Bands this year included the regulars – Garey High School, Pomona High School, Diamond Ranch High School and Ganesha High School. And the Mt. San Antonio College marching band turned out for the first year.

But it was the outside bands – coming from such a long way away and sounding so good – that was impressive simply having them appear in the Pomona parade. They were the Dana Middle School Marching Mariners from Arcadia, Garden Grove High School, Artesia High School, Hillcrest High School marching band from Riverside, John Muir High School Mighty

Mustang marching band from Pasadena, and Giano Intermediate School Gladiator Band and Color Guard from West Covina.

It was the 17th annual parade in Downtown Pomona – back where it all started – after it returned from a 40-year run along Holt Avenue. And La Nueva Voz has covered every one of them – even in 2009 in the rain when it was still a daytime parade.

The only real variation from the Second Street parade was in 2020 when, due to COVID restrictions at the time, it was the first-ever "drive through" parade with spectators driving through to view the floats and exhibits which remained in place.

Grand marshal this year was "Angel Baby" Rodriguez, radio personality and host of the "oldies" Art Laboe Show, who just wrapped up his 21st annual "Turkey Jam" food drive for Thanksgiving and hosted the "Hope Fest" in Pomona with Project Hope.

And the parade's 2025 "Community Hero" was Augusto

Ushering in the season... pg. 13



The 2025 Pomona Christmas Parade



Bob Radcliff, founder of Pomona's American Legion Post 30's American Legion Riders, is pictured with his, well, very loud group of motorcycles leading the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade.



Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis is pictured riding "shotgun" with Pomona Police Officer Mike Sutton, driver, in the Pomona Police Department's "oldies" police cruiser.



Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, at left, and Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley.



Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia



Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado



Members of the Aztec dancers group at the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley march (or dance) their way down Second Street in the parade, complete with their drum on wheels, as Club Executive Director Victor Caceres rides along the parade route in his classic yellow Volkswagen decorated with Christmas lights.



Pomona City Councilmember Lorraine Canales



Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin



Augusto "Goose" Dolce, executive director of Pomona's God's Pantry, pictured riding shotgun in a convertible, was named "Community Hero" in this month's Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade. The non-profit works in the community to combat food insecurity and works with both gang rehabilitation and community violence intervention. Congratulations, Goose!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

FROM  Athens Services





Joe Perez, business development manager for the Credit Union of Southern California, drives the company entry down Second Street in the Parade with Karen Valdez, branch manager of the Pomona office, riding in back and Sophia Rosales, assistant vice president - regional branch manager, up front at left. And we're guessing the car loan on that shiny Tundra was through the Credit Union.



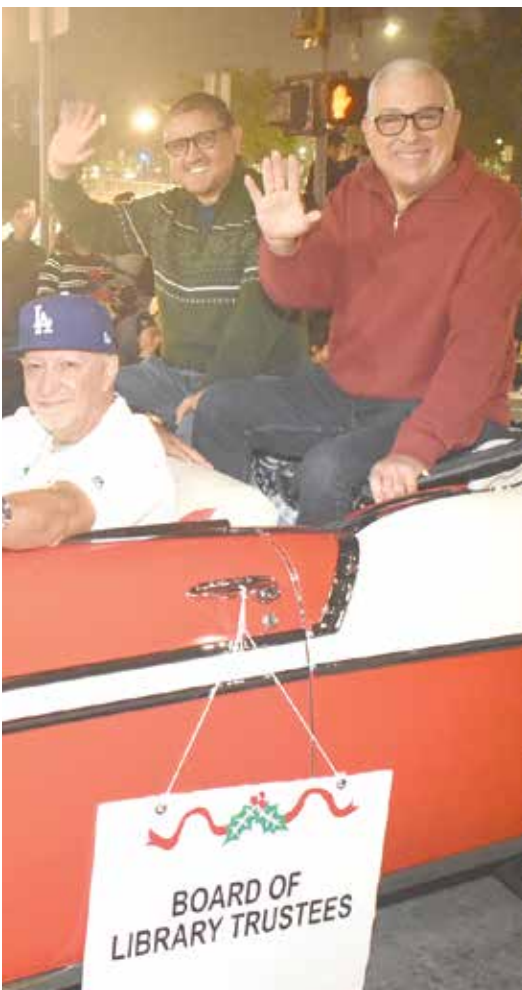
Wow! Members of the Diamond Ranch "Panther Brigade" marching band looked -- and sounded -- amazing as always as they made their way down Second Street in Downtown Pomona.



Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles and his loyal, friendly and very patient dog Kona walked the parade route again this year handing out goodies to the crowd.



Pomona's Galan Cultural Center went with a traditional holiday theme for its float this year. Galan offers dance classes, Zumba, strong, hip hop, folklorico and salsa, all in their studio at 2243 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.



Pomona Public Library's Board of Library Trustees members Tom Rodriguez (at rear) and Mike Suarez wave to the La Nueva Voz camera during a photo op in the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade.

Ushering in the season... from pg. 11

"Goose" Dolce, executive director of Pomona's God's Pantry, a local non-profit that is "deeply rooted at the intersection of food insecurity and gang rehabilitation and community violence inter-

vention." The group feeds more than 120,000 families in Los Angeles County each year by employing 200 formerly incarcerated and gang affiliated individuals.

Dolce, who holds a master's degree in public administration from National University, has expanded the reach of God's Pantry, securing significant grants and partnerships.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

FROM THE ATHENS SERVICES FAMILY!

Family-owned and operated trash and recycling company since 1957

- Recycling Services
- Organics Diversion
- Solid Waste Collection
- Street Sweeping
- Community Investment
- C&D Recycling

AthensServices.com

(888) 336-6100



Benny Ayala of Pomona's Fairplex poses alongside his float for a photo, taking a break from handing out beads to the crowd. And, as the sign on the float says, this year's LA County Fair dates are May 7 - 31.



Leo Arrendondo, owner of Uppercuts 909 barber shop in North Pomona, poses next to his float featuring everything from lights, elves and a Grinch to a snow-making machine -- all pulled behind his black Escalade. The shop is located at 681 E. Foothill Blvd., Pomona, if you want to stop by and say hello.



Horses were back in the parade this year after several years without them! Guerrero Peralta, his dancing horse Valente and several of his friends, also on horseback, were looking good prancing down Second Street.



You know, when that Ganesha High School marching band passes you by, you just know that they're there. Another great job this year to all!

Happy Holidays from the Athens Services Family!

Did you know that waste increases by up to 25 percent during the holiday season? From gift wrap and shipping boxes to festive meals and gatherings, this time of year creates more material than usual – making responsible waste sorting more important than ever.

Properly separating your trash, recycling, and organics during the holidays has a major environmental impact. When recyclable items – such as clean cardboard, bottles, and cans – are mixed with food waste or soiled paper, the entire batch can become contaminated and ultimately sent to the landfill. Similarly, organic waste like food scraps, yard trimmings, and food-soiled paper belongs in the organics bin, where it can be transformed into compost or renewable energy rather than contributing to methane emissions in a landfill.

This practice is especially important in California, where the state is no longer creating new landfills. Existing landfills are reaching capacity, and state laws such as SB 1383 require communities to reduce organic waste disposal and increase recycling efforts. By sorting correctly, we collectively help conserve landfill space, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and support the circular economy – turning today's waste into tomorrow's resources.

Here are a few quick holiday waste-sorting tips:

- Recycle cardboard boxes, glass bottles, metal cans, and non-metallic wrapping paper.
- Compost/Organics: leftover food, spoiled produce, food-soiled napkins, and yard waste from holiday décor.
- Trash: metallic or glitter wrapping paper, ribbons, bows, and broken ornaments.
- Donate or reuse gently used items, gift bags, and packing materials whenever possible.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and commitment to keeping our community clean, sustainable, and resilient. Together, we can celebrate joyfully while caring for the environment we all share.

Happy Holidays!



Pomona's Latino / Latina Roundtable Executive Director Lina Mira, center, holds up the middle of the banner with friends as they march down the center of Second Street in the parade. The organization's parade entry included several vehicles, one driven by member James Sambrano, and members walking the entire parade route.



Pomona's Latino / Latina Roundtable Past President Jose Calderon walked the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade route with two friends in costume -- his grandson Antonio was the "minion" in yellow and his son, Joaquin Calderon, was the Grinch. Jose and his wife Rose helped pass out candy to parade-goers and their other son, Jose Luiz, was dressed as a penguin, also passing out candy, so the whole family was involved in the Roundtable "contingent" in the parade.

2025 Pomona Christmas Parade... from pg. 14



Pomona's Garey High School marching band was in top professional form as always in this year's Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade. The band "version," the jazz band and the orchestra "version" all are always one of Pomona's favorite attractions. Congratulations again to band director Anthony Bonner.



Girl Scouts of Pomona marched in this year's parade with several groups of scouts marching behind their banner. A lot of people watching the parade this month could have used a pair of those green and white striped Girl Scout knee socks, too, just to help stay warm.



Pomona's favorite State Sen. Susan Rubio, wearing holiday lights and looking very festive, received a welcoming reception from the crowd as she rode in a convertible down Second Street in the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade.



Students from The School of Arts and Enterprise in Pomona performed in a parade "pre-show" hosted by the school on a stage set up in front of their Second Street campus at Second and Main Streets.

LA COUNTY FAIR

PLAY YOUR WAY

MAY 7-31

PLAY YOUR WAY

ALL SEASON LONG!

Buy now and save on a Season Pass so you can play partially or all through May!

VALUE SEASON PASS

TIER 1 - \$19

Offer valid Nov. 24 - Jan. 13, 2026

TIER 2 - \$25

Offer valid Jan. 14 - May 6, 2026

TIER 3 - \$29

Offer valid May 7 - 31, 2026

PREMIUM SEASON PASS

TIER 1 - \$49

Offer valid Nov. 24 - Jan. 13, 2026

TIER 2 - \$59

Offer valid Jan. 14 - May 6, 2026

TIER 3 - \$69

Offer valid May 7 - 31, 2026

Open Thursdays - Sundays plus Memorial Day Monday

CARNIVAL

FOOD

ANIMALS

CONCERTS

EXHIBITS

VISIT LACOUNTYFAIR.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



LIGHTING THE PLAZA -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval is all set to throw that huge switch to turn on the holiday lights on City Hall and throughout the Civic Center Plaza during a break in the City Council meeting this month. Pictured behind Sandoval are, from left, City Councilmembers Lorraine Canales, Steve Lustro, Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Nora Garcia, Victor Preciado and Debra Martin. The program included musical performances, artificial snow falling onto the crowd and, of course, hundreds of lights.



SANTA ON THE PLAZA -- Just to make it official, Santa was back and hard at work posing for pictures and making a list, checking it twice, well, you know. That's one of Pomona's favorite Santas, of course -- John Schmidt back for another year.

Pictured are members of the Pomona Unified School District All District Choir -- about 100 voices altogether -- performing traditional holiday songs on the steps of Pomona City Hall.



POMONA OPTIMISTS DONATE CLOTHING TO KIDS -- Members of the Pomona Optimist Club -- in their annual early-morning give-away to kids at Pomona's Walmart -- gave 25 Pomona children their choice of clothes and shoes this month as their way of celebrating the holidays. Pictured, from left, are Optimists Dr. Roberta Perlman, Evelia Cervantes, Fernando Meza, Renee Barbee (at rear), Ruby Jung, Santa (John Schmidt), Optimist President Sonia Molina, Devyn Stein, Rudy Herrera, M. Joyce Bakersmith, and Hugo Molina.

Santa has a little chat with a "customer" at the Pomona Optimist Club holiday give-away this month at Walmart. Santa brought dolls for all the children, and members of the Optimist Club brought teddy bears.

2026 LA County Fair home arts and preserved food competitions open for entries

Get your art projects, creative endeavors and jams and jellies ready! The LA County Fair wants your entry.

Adult and youth home arts competitions are now open for entries, and first place winners will receive a blue ribbon at the 2026 Fair.

More than \$20,000 in cash prizes will be awarded.

Competitions include painting, crafts, photography, pickle preserving, amateur interior designing and more.

Enter online by Feb. 12 for home arts and preserved foods. Entries for baked foods and confections, culinary Fair time contests and tablescaping will open in mid-January.

There's also costume competition for those who sew, and a LEGO competition for both youth and adults. And there are competitions for Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

New for 2026 is the honey competition, with categories including light, dark and amber. Mantle-scaping and tree-scaping are back for a second year, as is the "ribbon challenge."

The LA County Fair awards hundreds of ribbons to winning exhibitors every year.

Details and online entry forms are available at www.lacounty-fair.com/competitions.

The 2026 Fair runs May 7 to 31 on the theme "Play Your Way."



Pomona Chamber honors police, fire and military 'heroes' at annual program

Pomona Police Officers Dejon Miller and Yasmin Rodriguez were the top cops honored this month at the 11th annual Pomona Chamber of Commerce "Holiday for Heroes" program.

Officer Miller joined the Pomona Police Department's "Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Team" on July 15 and immediately demonstrated exceptional investigative skills, according to Pomona Chamber officials.

Shortly after his assignment, he assisted a woman who reported being assaulted and threatened by a human trafficking suspect. Miller led the investigation that resulted in an arrest on a variety of charges.

The suspect last month was convicted on all counts and was expected to receive no less than an 18-year sentence.

Officer Rodriguez, the department's first female apprehension K9 handler, has helped build one of the department's most effective K9 teams in years.

In addition, she has demonstrated remarkable bravery in the face of danger and has been directly a part of three officer-involved shootings while maintaining composure, tactical awareness, and an unwavering commitment to protecting both her fellow officers and the community.

She also has executed two high-risk K9 apprehensions with precision and control.

Los Angeles County Fire Department honorees were Capt. Steven Chavez and Capt. Brooke Gage.

Chavez, who began his firefighting career in 2003 with the Los Angeles County Fire Camps as a fire

suppression aide, was officially hired as a firefighter with the county in 2005.

He has been assigned to San Dimas, Hacienda Heights, Bassett, Lancaster and El Monte before finding his long-term station home in Pomona in 2010.

He served as a paramedic, and then joined the recruit training staff at the East County Training Center in Pomona, where he helped shape the next generation of firefighters.

Chavez was promoted to engineer and worked as an inspector, later earning the rank of captain.

Gage, with more than 15 years of service to the Los Angeles County Fire Department, has served the City of Pomona for nearly four years, gaining expertise in emergency response, public safety and team coordination.



Pomona Police Lt. Alyssa Bostrom introduces Pomona Chamber of Commerce "Holiday for Heroes" honoree Pomona Police Officer Dejon Miller.

He also serves as an advisor for the Fire Department Explorer Program, sponsored by the Boy

Scouts of America.

His responsibilities include helping youth develop character, morals, and a sense of responsibility while familiarizing them with the paramilitary structure of the fire service.

This year's military veteran honoree was Arely Moreno, a U.S. Army veteran, educator and community leader with more than 25 years of experience serving the Inland Empire and Los Angeles County.

She holds an MBA from the University of La Verne and has led major student success and workforce development initiatives throughout her career.

She currently serves as the Regional Director of Career Services for North-West College, supporting students who are aspiring health care professionals and veterans across 12 campuses with



Pomona Police Officer Yasmin Rodriguez is recognized at this month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce "Holiday for Heroes" event. From left are Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, Chamber Board Chair Daniel Thomas, Pomona City Councilmembers Debra Martin, Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Lorraine Canales, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Rodriguez, her daughter, Brielle, 3, and her husband, Ryan Sieger, Kamille Hemsworth, representing Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, Kimberly Masse, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang, and Anthony Moreno, representing State Sen. Susan Rubio.



Los Angeles County Fire Department Battalion Chief Craig Morgan introduces this month's fire department honorees at the Pomona Chamber's "Holiday for Heroes" event. From left are Capt. Steven Chavez, Morgan, and Capt. Brooke Gage.

employment readiness and career placement

The Holiday for Heroes program is designed to honor the courageous individuals who serve the community with unwavering dedication – firefighters, police officers and veterans.

Chamber officials explained they are proud to recognize "these extraordinary men and women who exemplify true heroism," adding that "their service reflects the highest standards of courage and selflessness."

The Pomona Chamber in 2015 shifted what originally was its annual holiday party to a special recognition program for the community's first responders.



Jorge Moreno accepts this year's military veteran award on behalf of his wife, U.S. Army veteran Arely Moreno, who was unable to attend this month's "Holiday for Heroes" ceremonies. From left are Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and Debra Martin, Pomona Chamber Board Chair Daniel Thomas, Moreno, Pomona City Councilmember Lorraine Canales, and Kamille Hemsworth, representing Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez.



Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz poses for an On Time Photo Booth Rentals photo with Santa (OK, it is really John Forbing of State Farm again this year) at the Pomona Chamber's "Holiday for Heroes" event.

2025 Pomona Christmas Parade... from pg. 15



Members of Pomona’s Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Pomona Valley marched in the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade, many wearing head gear made of balloons or, in some cases, costumes made completely of balloons. Pictured, carrying out the theme, is a balloon float with a green balloon “Grinch” on board.



Kennedy Austin Foundation founder Ethel Gardner and friends marched in the parade again this year. The non-profit is a family crisis intervention center serving the communities of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne.



Pomona Host Lions Club members were well represented with Past President WendyAnn Stuard and her husband, “Lion Tamer” Bob Stuard, in the front seat and Community Service Director Anne Henderson waving to the camera from the back seat.



Members of the Pomona Optimist Club did another great job of decorating their float, the back of a truck borrowed from and driven by member Rudy Herrera of Pomona’s Casa Herrera. Pictured, from left, are Optimist President Sonia Molina, Optimist Board Secretary M. Joyce Bakersmith, and member Hugo Molina.



Members of Pomona’s LGBTQ community representing the non-profit Pomona Valley Pride center, located at 235 W. Mission Blvd., ride their float down Second Street in Downtown Pomona in the parade.



Jade Thiel-Maiz, daughter of Eva Thiel-Maiz of the office of Los Angeles County Supervisors Board Chair Hilda Solis, marches in the Mt. San Antonio College “Mountie” marching band in the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade playing the only red flute in the band. It was reportedly the first time Mt. SAC marched in the Pomona parade.

2025 Pomona Christmas Parade... pg. 19



Pictured is that remarkable Pomona High School marching band making its way along Second Street in the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade, always looking and sounding great. Congratulations to the kids and to Miguel Alvarez-Diaz, band director.

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

2025 Pomona Christmas Parade... from pg. 18



The School of Arts and Enterprise walked the parade route with dancers, costumes and more in the parade down Second Street in Pomona.



Cars, motorcycles, "transformer" trucks, bicycles and more were again part of the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade, including this classic station wagon that seemed to prefer driving down Second Street on only three wheels.



Tony Cerda, who La Nueva Voz will always refer to as chief of Pomona's own Costanoan Rum-sen Ohlone Tribe, the indigenous people of the Central California Coastal area who have existed in our region for thousands of years, led the group's entry in this year's Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade. Their "Big Time Gathering and Pow Wow" will be held again in only four months the last weekend of April in Pomona's Tony Cerda Park.



Bringing up the rear of the Downtown Pomona Christmas Parade (except for the traditional marching volunteers who worked so hard to help produce the parade) -- and high atop a Los Angeles County Fire Department fire engine -- was Santa, waving to all the girls and boys and wishing everybody a Merry Christmas. (This year's Santa had an amazing striking resemblance to Pomona's own John Clifford -- maybe they just have the same kind of beard.)

La Nueva Voz...

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Linked In and Yelp

OPINION

The spirit of the season

By Rev. Dr. Jacob Buchholz (Claremont)

Rev. Tino Cordova (Diamond Bar)

Rev. Julie Wheeler (Pomona)

The December holiday season is typically one of cheer, filled with messages about goodwill, peace, and families and communities gathered in celebration.

This year our holidays were launched by hateful words from the highest offices in our land. President Trump labeled groups of immigrants "garbage." Secretary of Homeland Security Noem defined immigrants as "...killers, leeches and entitlement junkies."

This rhetoric irrationally demonizes members of our communities and our places of worship, and it serves to build hate at a time when unity is key to the vitality of our neighborhoods and our nation.

In Christian homes and places of worship, this month launches a celebration of a Holy Child who with his family is forced to flee as a refugee to save his life. Amidst this time, angels are said to have sung of peace and goodwill to all.

In Jewish homes and places of worship, this month launches a

celebration which recalls freedom from the oppression of a demonizing ruler. Amidst this time, candles are lit as a message that light will prevail amidst the darkness of hate.

Our spiritual traditions, in this season and in all seasons of the year, inspire us to welcome the stranger, to ensure justice for the immigrant, and to treat the foreigner as a beloved neighbor.

Our differing faith traditions require us to put these beliefs into action. As such we decry the statements from the White House and we commit to our core beliefs of justice for the foreigner, of being beacons of light in this dark time and working for the good will of all people.

Editor's Note: This opinion piece submitted to La Nueva Voz was written by three "co-conveners" of the organization Pomona Valley Spiritual Leaders for Justice, a collaborative of 22 spiritual communities.



POMONA VALLEY MEMORIAL PARK
Cemetery • Mausoleums • Crematory
tel: 909.622.2029 • fax: 909.622.4726

Pomona Valley Memorial Park is a 56-acre nonprofit cemetery operating since 1876. The cemetery, which serves all faiths, offers a beautiful, serene, and affordable cemetery choice.

Pomona Valley Memorial Park es un cementerio de 56 acres sin fines de lucro establecido en 1876... un cementerio que ofrece belleza y tranquilidad a precios razonables.

波莫纳谷纪念公园是一座占地 56 英亩的非营利性墓地，自 1876 年开始运营。该基地为所有信仰的人提供服务，提供美丽、宁静且价格合理的墓地选择。



Affordable pre-payment plans for your peace of mind.
Call and make an appointment today for a free consultation.
Witness cremation service available.

*Planes económicos de pagos por adelantado.
Llame ahora para fijar una cita de consulta gratis.
Servicios para presencia la cremación disponible.*

价格实惠的预付费计划，让您安心无忧。
立即致电预约，享受免费咨询。
提供见证火葬服务。

Cemetery Grounds: 8 am to 5 pm daily
Mausoleum: 9 am to 4 pm daily
Office: 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday- Friday

502 E. Franklin Avenue, Pomona, CA 91766
pomonacemetery@verizon.net • www.pomonacemetery.com

Pomona Valley Memorial Park is a nonprofit corporation.

“Angels as light messengers from the divine. Are you an angel?”

By Rev. Jan Chase, Unity of Pomona
Convener, Compassionate Pomona

In this season of ever darkening days, I think of angels as the bringing of messages of light to help people who are struggling. Our minds need light to stay healthy. There is the need for outer light and the need for inner light. I feel I am very blessed to live and work in Pomona, which is truly a city of angels, many angels who care about the wellbeing of all our residents.

Almost all religious traditions have angels in their teachings, some have skin, others don't. The Jewish festival of Hanukkah began this year on Dec. 14 and ran through Dec. 22. Each night a candle is lit to commemorate the miracle one night's worth of oil burning for eight days during the Maccabee Rebellion. In the Jewish tradition, the Hebrew word for angel is mal'ach, which means "messenger." Angelic messengers of God appear in stories of the Torah and in later books of the Hebrew Bible where they are associated with visions and prophesies. In these stories angels bring light into the lives they touch.

The Christian New Testament also references angels, especially in the story of the birth of Jesus. The angel Gabriel delivered the

message to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to the "son of the Most High." Then Mary's betrothed Joseph was sent an angel in a dream to ask him to marry Mary, even though she was pregnant with a child of the Holy Spirit. And then an angel and a host of angels appeared to shepherds watching their flocks by night telling them to go see the newborn Messiah in Bethlehem. These stories of angelic messages remind us of the light of reason and understanding that lay within each of us. The birth of Jesus represents good news of the birth of Christ or God consciousness within each of us, which we must seek, find and express in this world today.

Most every religious tradition has an understanding of the divine presence within us: In Judaism it is the spark of divinity or inner light or I AM; in Christianity it is Christ within or divine consciousness; in Islam it is the beloved; in Hindu, it is the Atman; and in Buddhism it is our Buddha nature.

One cannot be a Muslim without believing in angels, it is one of the six essential articles of the Islamic faith. Angels are seen as important messengers who deliver revelations to prophets, protect people,

record deeds, maintain order in the universe and strengthen faith. It was the angel Gabriel, or Jibril, who revealed the Holy Qur'an to Muhammad.

In the Hindu tradition, the angelic realm is more complex, although one could say that the basic angelic functions are similar to those in other traditions: to connect heaven and earth, to uphold universal moral law by guiding individuals towards righteousness and enlightenment, and to balance cosmic order, even by bringing in a bit of chaos.

Throughout the diverse traditions of Buddhism, there are many and varied angelic types without skin. However, in this tradition angels often take the human form of a bodhisattva – one who practices

the six perfections of giving, moral discipline, patience, effort, concentration and wisdom in order to fulfill their bodhisattva aim of attaining enlightenment for the sake of all beings. In Mahayana Buddhism, everyone is encouraged to become bodhisattvas and to work for the enlightenment of all beings.

At Unity Church of Pomona we understand these angelic stories, metaphysically, seeing them play out within us as well as in the world. In this time of deepening darkness, our need for light is greater than ever. Seeking and finding our own inner light through prayer, meditation, reflection in nature, spiritual study, journaling, etc. is crucial. Then, learning to listen to and follow our own spiritual guidance to become

an angel for others less fortunate than we are puts us on the path of enlightenment. Albert Schweitzer said, "There is no higher religion than human service." I believe that in the County of Angels, we have a large concentration of angelic beings here in Pomona. Our compassionate service blesses all in our community, but mostly it blesses the doers.

This holiday season, let us imagine our city filled with people who care about every member of the community and who are willing to step up in life-affirming, angelic service to help the many that are struggling. Look around! Is there something new that the divine is calling you to do now? Remember, Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly!

Pomona's Dr. Vo leads delegation to United Nations in New York to press for human rights

Pomona's Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley and Chair of the United Council of Vietnamese Homeland and Overseas, Federation of Vietnamese American Community of USA, this month was part of a delegation to New York presenting updates on issues of human rights, religious rights and other restrictions.

The group met with various offices at the United Nations headquarters in New York on the 77th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Dec. 10. That declaration, adopted in 1948, established universal standards for human rights and is recognized as the foundation of international human rights law.

Members of the delegation met with representatives in the Office of the Commissioner of Human Rights, as well as officials in the U.N. offices of Denmark, Fin-

land, Czech, Ireland and Canada.

In addition to Vo, members of the delegation included Dr. Hung Q. Tran, coordinator of the Alliance for Vietnam's Democracy; Thich (Reverend) Huyen Viet, deputy patriarch, Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam; attorney Linh Nguyen, chair of the Office of International Relations, Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam; and Truc Nuong Brown, representative of Hoa Hao Buddhist Church of USA.

They outlined in the half day of meetings their concerns regarding a variety of restrictions of basic freedom on behalf of the Interfaith Council of Vietnam and the Protestant churches of Vietnam.

Their recommendations included pressuring Vietnamese communists to release all prisoners of conscience, monitor human rights conditions in Vietnam be-

Pressing for human rights... pg. 22

ANNOUNCEMENT	the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-491-2884 today!	Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581	www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073.
CONSUMER CELLULAR the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20 per month. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605	Tiene un vehiculo no deseado? Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rapida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 1-833-695-1947 24/7	Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-888-989-5749	SERVICES
CANCER INSURANCE Lump Sum Benefit of up to \$50K Affordable Coverage. Don't wait for the unexpected. Call Today 1-805-683-3636. CA Lic#0773817	FINANCIAL SERVICES	Don't pay for covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL Major Systems and Appliances. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call 1-855-411-1731	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 1-833-712-3809
AUTOS WANTED	Struggling with debt? If you have over \$15,000 in debt we help you be debt free in as little as 24-48 months. Pay nothing to enroll. Call Now: 1-833-641-3437.	HEALTH/MEDICAL	MISCELLANEOUS
DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 1-833-545-0785.	HOME IMPROVEMENT	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	Want Residual Income? Turnkey Established Vending Massage Chair single location or Route for Sale! Asking Price: From \$2,500 to \$29,000 per location. text only: (949) 381-9899
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: 1-833-426-0105.	BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 mos. Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military discount. 1-833-795-0042	LOANS	DID YOU KNOW Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, & emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Call 1-916-288-6011
Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist	Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire	RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$ for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company	Call 1-916-288-6011 Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For MORE INFORMATION call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com

Detainee tells his story... from pg. 8

know to request a bail hearing, but then it's up to the judge to grant bail, and even if bail is granted, not all detainees can afford to post bail. It can be anywhere from a few thousand to tens of thousands

of dollars. In Roberto's case it was \$15,000. And recently, U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials announced that they will no longer grant bail to anyone. Roberto told La Nueva Voz that

another husband whose family lives in his apartment building also was detained by ICE and was out on bail. That family decided to pack up and return to Mexico. But Roberto said he's here for

the long haul. He and his family believe they have become part of the community, and he's prepared to continue to go through the legal steps so he and his family can remain together in this country.

Contact
us today!
909-629-2292



UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE MISSION INN -- Renee Barbee and Jeff Schenkel pose for a photo in the lobby of the Mission Inn Hotel in Riverside this month after driving out to see the lights and crowds. And they just wanted to take a moment to say thanks to all of the readers, advertisers, contributors and supporters of La Nueva Voz, along with their designer Dora Cruz and their web site consultant Vincent F.D. Santomero, for being there throughout the past year, their 16th year of publishing "Pomona's only community newspaper." Happy holidays to all!

RETIRED COUPLE
HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE*

V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY
Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING
Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker
WWW.VIPLoan.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217
Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

FastER
24/7 EMERGENCY CARE

FastTrackCare
Skip the wait and schedule your ER reservation in under 2 minutes

Three easy ways to reserve your ER arrival time:

1. Scan the QR code
2. Text 'ER Now' to (909) 298-1828
3. Visit montclair-hospital.com/fasttrackcare

 **Montclair Hospital Medical Center**



Photo courtesy of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center

CHECK PRESENTATION TO POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL CANCER CENTER -- Representatives of the Pomona Police Department donated a check for \$10,000 last month to Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center as part of the "Pink Patch Project" supporting breast cancer services at the hospital's Robert & Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center. It was the third year in a row the police department selected the Hospital Foundation's "Breast Health Fund" as the recipient of proceeds from its annual fundraiser. The donation will help the hospital provide free support services to cancer patients in the community. The Pink Patch Project is a collaboration of more than 500 public safety agencies nationwide. Breast cancer affects more than one in eight women, according to the American Cancer Society. Pictured, from left, representing the police department are Management Analyst Natalie Diaz, Community Service Officer Nohemi Gonzalez, Officer Tiffani Shaik, Officer Jose Garcia (at rear), Civilian Commander Kendra Farmer, Dispatch Manager Carmen Greenwood (at rear), Corporal Jason Conley, Chief Michael Ellis, Corporal Megan Gonzalez, Officer Vanessa Munoz, Capt. Ryan Rodriguez, Capt. Todd Samuels, and Administrative Coordinator Beatriz Elias. From Pomona Valley Hospital are Vice President of Administration Leigh Cornell; Dr. Swarna Chanduri, hematologist and oncologist; Dr. Sri Gorty, radiation oncologist; and cancer patients and survivors.

Pressing for human rights... from pg. 20

fore providing aid, regularly visiting Vietnam to monitor human rights and religious freedom, and protecting refugees in Thailand by pressuring the Thai government and extraditing Vietnamese refugees back to Vietnam. Vo said all offices were "very supportive and will present the report to their governments."



OFFICIAL COMMENDATION

-- Pomona's Farrell Chiles was honored this month with an official commendation signed by all five members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recognizing him on his retirement after serving for 10 years as a commissioner on the county's Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission. He was appointed to the position by County Supervisor Hilda Solis. Chiles, an author and cultural historian, retired from both federal civil service and the military and was the first recipient of the Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel Warrant Officer of the Year Award. And in 2007, he received the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board's Distinguished Public Service Award. He has served as board chairman of the National Organization of Blacks in Government and as vice president for resource development of the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation.



POMONA POLICE HOLD ANNUAL 'STUFF A CRUISER' TOY DRIVE -- Members of the Pomona Police Department held their annual "stuff a cruiser" toy drive this month outside Pomona's Target to collect, well, a lot of toys all to become part of what they gave away later this month at the annual Operation Santa Cop toy give-away at Pomona City Hall. Pictured, from left, are Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Santa, Pomona Police Corporal Jeff Hayward, head of the Police Department's community programs unit, and Pomona Police Sgt. Ernie Rios.

Always a call or click away

Call me for a quote today
Llameme para un presupuesto ahora

 **State Farm**


John Forbing
Agent

154 West SAN JOSE AVE
CLAREMONT, CA 91711

Bus: 909-623-8571
Fax: 909-620-5869
www.johnforbing.com
Insurance License #0502558



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



La Nueva Voz...
Follow us on Facebook, Yelp and Instagram!

Students from Alcott, Madison and Simons win top honors at The Club's 'STEAM' festival

More than 200 Pomona Unified School District students participated in an inaugural three-day "e-sports and STEAM festival" last month at The Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley, a hands-on friendly competition for students in grades K – 8 providing student experiences, parent engagement workshops and opportunities to build critical 21st century skills.

Organizers Roy Gonzalez of Viva Gaming and E-sports (computer games) coach Donovan McKinney told La Nueva Voz the idea was to do something for the students by providing a "hub" to get them all in one place for a free fun festival focusing on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) skills.

More than 100 competitors participated in the finals working on 30 computers running E-sports programs and 10 Nintendo Switch video game consoles running

"Smash Brothers." Awards went to the top three during an awards ceremony and turkey give-away.

Victor Caceres, executive director of The Club, said none of the video games selected for the competition were the "violent" type.

"The idea is for them to have a chance to compete with and amongst their friends," he added. "We invited people from all over the (school) district."

He said about 250 kids participated in each of the three days of competition, including some who had never been to The Club before.

Caceres said E-sports has become a program at The Club, specifically because of the connection it has with higher education.

Students become connected with others nationwide in the program that builds skills "that can also translate into careers in college," he said.

"It opens up some new doors for kids," Caceres said.

The first place award in the competition went to Emilio Lopez, 9, a fourth grader at Pomona's Alcott Elementary School. Second place went to Niah Villagomez, 10, a fourth grader at Madison Elementary



Photos by Renee Barbee
Participants in the E-sports competition at The Club are pictured at work on their computers.



Pictured with contestants participating in last month's three-day E-sports competition at The Club are volunteer organizers and supporters Ruby Jung, at left, and Lorraine Canales. The Club Executive Director Victor Caceres is pictured at rear.

School, and third place went to Matthew Vasquez, 16, an eighth grader at Simons Middle School.

Lisa Christie of The Club said the idea was to "provide a safe, structured environment for youth

to strengthen digital literacy, communication and collaboration during the Thanksgiving school break.

The Club serves more than 3,000 Pomona Unified School

District students each day through in-school enrichment and after-school programs.

A second tournament series, this time a four-day event, was scheduled for late this month.



Three contestants do a little competing in the games using "Smash Brothers" operating on a Nintendo Switch video game.



ASSEMBLYMEMBER MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL TURKEY GIVEAWAY -- Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez held her first annual Thanksgiving drive-through turkey giveaway last month at the Ontario Elks Lodge to help spread kindness and gratitude during the holiday season, according to a news release. More than 700 individuals and families received a free frozen turkey and a bag of food during the three-hour event. "As we approach the season of giving, it's important to come together as a community and support one another," Rodriguez said. "This event is a small way to give back and share in the spirit of gratitude that defines this time of year." Pictured are Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez and former Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez loading a turkey and groceries into the back of a car. Also pictured in a group photo are the volunteers participating in the event with Michelle and Freddie, at center. Volunteers were from United Health Group, Kaiser Permanente, California Conservation Corps, VIDA Federal Credit Union, Enterprise Mobility, National Core, SoCal Gas, the San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce and AAA.



Happy Holidays

from Los Angeles County Chair
and First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis

Wishing you joy, warmth,
and safety this holiday season!



Los Angeles County Supervisor

HILDA L. SOLIS

First District • Chair

