



La Nueva Voz

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

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GRATIS

Thursday, January 26, 2012 www.lanuevavoz.net



Celebration of Martin Luther King's life told most Americans disagreed with King during his lifetime

Most Americans disagreed with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during his lifetime "on at least a significant portion of his views" and "many Americans hated Dr. King," former California Assemblyman John Longville told participants at an Inland Empire Martin Luther King Day tribute.

Presenting the keynote address to an audience of more than 300 at the 11th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Unity Breakfast Tribute at the Ontario Airport Doubletree Hotel last week, Longville said there are so many things about King that are lit-

what faded for many people."

"For most of you young people, it's hard to appreciate just how controversial Dr. King was," he said. "Today all over this country people are celebrating his memory. When he was alive, it wasn't like that, folks."

"This was not something that everybody was comfortable with at the time and that everybody embraced," he added. "He took tremendous courage to do what he was doing."

Longville said during King's lifetime that racism was "socially acceptable" to most people.

"We still have many, many problems but things have changed considerably," he said.

Longville said King had several issues that he addressed, including



John Longville

racism, peace and economic inequality.

Citing current news coverage of

Occupy Wall Street and the one percent versus the 99 percent, "this is certainly nothing new."

Longville said a year before his death, King spoke at the Riverside Church in New York City, where the major focus of his speech was economic inequality.

"I would note one thing he said was 'a nation that continues year after year to spend more money on

military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death,'" he said.

He added that the ratio of spending on the military compared to social programs has become "several times as large as it was when Dr. King said those words."

"We see a big debate going on in society today between those who say individualism is what we must worship, individual freedom to engage in whatever conduct you can get away with without being thrown in

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Celebración de la vida de Martin Luther King, Jr.

Muchos Americanos no estaban de acuerdo con los puntos de vista de el Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. y muchos de ellos lo odiaban, dijo John Longville,

ex asambleísta de California, a los que asistieron a un tributo titulado Inland Empire Martin Luther

King Day.

Presentando el discurso de apertura a una audiencia de más de 300 personas en el Tributo y Desayuno de Unidad en memoria de King, Longville dijo que hay muchas cosas que no se saben de King porque él se convirtió en símbolo y todas aquellas

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tle known "because he's become a symbol and all of the substantive things that he stood for are some-

Wisdom of Martin Luther King, Jr. cited as lesson learning that life is hard but character is based on actions under pressure

Rule number one is to understand that life is hard for everybody, but "as long as you are alive you still have a chance."

Participants heard this central message at last week's 30th anniversary Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, presented by the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church. The theme of the event was "Keeping the Dream Alive."

Keynote speaker Rev. Charles Lee-Johnson told an audience of several hundred people that King said "the measure of a man or a woman for that matter is not where

you stand in comfort and convenience but where you stand in controversy and challenge."

"In other words, you find out who you are when everything is going bad, it's who you are in that moment that defines your character," Johnson said. "The truth is you cannot find out what's in a tea bag until you put it in hot water and you won't find out who you are until you are in hot water."

"We have a whole lot of young people in our communities who are suffering because we have a whole lot of zeroes and not enough heroes," Johnson said, adding that parents are important in the lives of

their children.

Johnson, who was born in South Central Los Angeles and grew up with his single mother, graduated cum laude from Morehouse College with a bachelor's degree in sociology.

He received a master's degree from UCLA in social work and public policy and today is the CEO of the National Family Life and Education Center in Culver City and pastor of Corona Community AME Church.

Johnson said he was able to overcome his South Los Angeles beginnings "because there was a dream that stood over my life."

"The reality is that all of us come from some level of dysfunction," he said. "The question is, is the dys-



Rev. Charles Lee-Johnson

function still running me or have I gotten to a place where I can master what's going on around me."

"I have shared my story with you guys because the work that you are doing is so important, and it is so necessary because while we are sit-

ting here looking good, dressed good, smelling good, doing good, there are young people right now who are dying on our streets," he said. "While we are in here we understand that 52 percent of the nation's prison population is young black men. There's something going on with the dream."

"We understand that 40 percent of our young girls before they reach their 18th birthday who are African-American will have babies that they can't even raise," he added. "We understand that 46 percent of the out of home placement and foster care are African-American children."

He said even before the recession, 50 percent of black men were unemployed or even more were discouraged and had stopped looking for jobs.

"We understand that while we are here less than one percent of all doctors, lawyers and engineers combined are African-American," he said. "We understand that there are huge odds that are against us."

But he said the future is bright "where we have young people who are reaching out to other young peo-

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Manteniendo el Sueño Vivo

El principio más importante de entender es que la vida es difícil para todos, pero "mientras tienes vida, aun tienes esperanzas."

Los participantes escucharon este mensaje en el 30 aniversario de la Celebración de Martin Luther King, Jr. presentado por el Proyecto Martin Luther King Jr. del Valle de Pomona en la Iglesia Congregacional Peregrina de Pomona. El tema fue "Manteniendo el Sueño Vivo."

El orador principal fue el Reverendo Charles Lee-Johnson y dijo a la audiencia lo que expresó King cuando dijo "la estatura de un hombre o una mujer no se mide cuando se encuentra en comodidad, sino se mide cuando se encuentra en controversia y en los retos."

"En otras palabras, te das cuenta quien realmente eres cuando las cosas van mal, eres el verdadero tú en ese mo-

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ple looking to make a difference.”

“The future is bright when we have adults who are in here who are encouraging and spurring on our young people to make a change in their community,” he said.

Johnson said life is a struggle “from the cradle to the grave.”

“But as long as you are alive, you still have a chance. No matter what odds are against you, you have a chance,” he said.

“The reality is it matters not what you’re going through, it just matters what you’re going to,” he said. “I’m going to high places but I’ve got to go through some valleys in order to get there.”

“I understand that life is hard for everybody,” Johnson said. “The re-

ality is if I’m going to make it through a hard life I’ve got to have a positive spin of self esteem, I’ve got to believe in me because if I don’t believe in me then it’s hard for you to believe in me.”

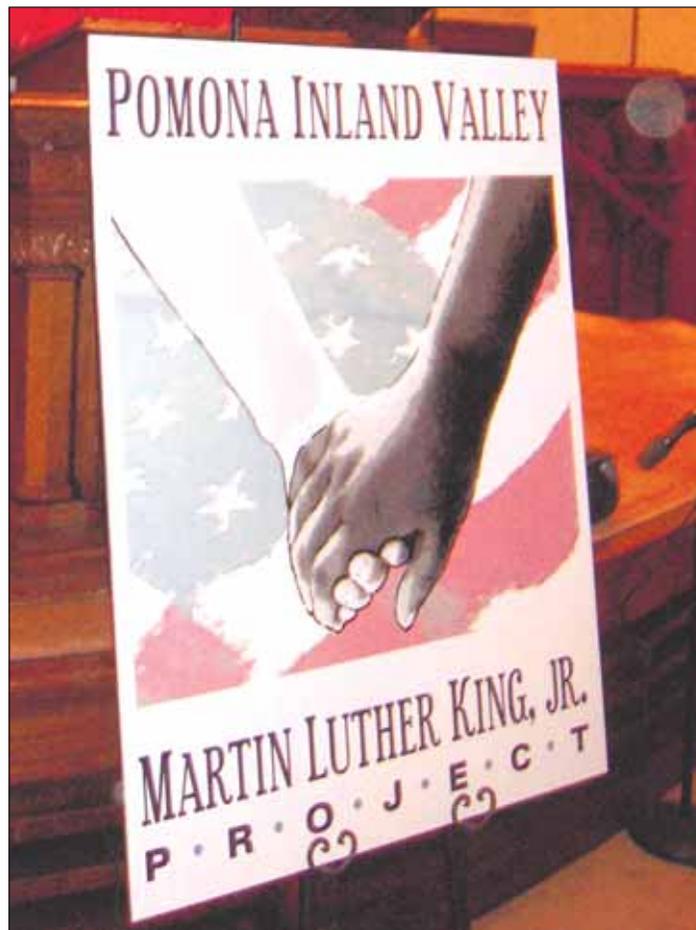
In addition, he said everyone is “affected and infected by those we hang around.”

“Sometimes you need to drop the folks you’ve been running around with and start substituting them for some real folks who are going to some real places because losers hang with losers and winners hang with winners.”

“The way to keep

the dream alive is to keep going,” he concluded.

The Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr. Project’s annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration was established in 1983 – three years before King’s birthday was established as a national holiday – as a group modeled after King’s teachings of inclusion of all people in the political system.



NEW MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PROJECT POSTER -- Rev. Gary Lett, above, was selected as the artist to design the new logo for the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King, Jr. Project, at right.

Local students honored at Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration in Pomona

Seven recipients of the MLK, Jr. Youth Social Justice Awards, announced last week, were honored at the 30th anniversary Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Pomona, presented by the Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project.

menting a public health fair.

Phuongngan Bui, a student at Scripps College, ranked third in her class and had the opportunity to attend prestigious universities but decided to stay close to home and work toward making her community a better place for upcoming future students by as-

sisting those in financial need to help provide for a higher education.

Tremale Ratcliffe, a senior at Pomona High School, was honored in high school with the Peace Keeper Award, the Master’s Academy Program and has been recognized by the City of Pomona with his service to the Community Service Department and

Catholic School.

Jasmine Rojas, a senior at Diamond Ranch High School, has served as a volunteer to beautify the community. She believes in the unification of her community through social empowerment and becoming an inspiration to other younger students.



STUDENT WINNERS RECOGNIZED -- The seven recipients of the MLK, Jr. Youth Social Justice Awards last week display their certificates as they pose for a “photo op” with the award presenters.

They received certificates and awards ranging from \$250 to \$1,000.

Abraham Aldaraca, a junior at Pomona High School, served as vice president of the Teen VALUE Council and was instrumental in imple-

sisting those in financial need to help provide for a higher education.

Megan Schubel, a student at Citrus College, has provided students from disadvantaged backgrounds with the opportunity for all to learn the art of

the Special Events Committee.

Victoria Matveev-Suarez, a junior at Pomona Catholic School, spends countless hours assisting in her local church, tutoring local students and acts as an ambassador to Pomona

And Michael Anujmba, a student at Los Osos High School, spends his time tutoring and assisting students who face various challenges. He also tutors and mentors younger students at his local church.

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mento que define tú carácter,” dijo Johnson. “La verdad es que tú no te descubres a ti mismo hasta que te encuentras en momentos difíciles.”

“Tenemos muchos jóvenes en nuestras comunidades quienes están sufriendo porque no existen mentores o personas a las que ellos puedan admirar,” dijo Johnson, agregando que los padres son muy importante en la vida de sus hijos.

Johnson, quien nació en el Centro Sur de Los Angeles y se crió con una mamá soltera, se graduó con honores del Colegio Morehouse con un bachillerato en sociología.

Él recibió un licenciatura de UCLA en trabajo social y en política y ahora es ejecutivo de el Centro Nacional de Educación y Vida Familiar en Culver City y es pastor en la Iglesia Comunitaria AME en Corona.

Johnson dijo que él pudo superar la vida que él llevaba en el Sur de Los Angeles “porque había un sueño que embargaba mi vida.”

“Comparto mi historia con ustedes porque la labor que ustedes hacen es muy importante y valiosa. Al estar ustedes sentados aquí

muy bien vestidos y realizando cosas positivas, hay muchos jóvenes que se están muriendo en las calles,” dijo Johnson. “Mientras nosotros nos encontramos aquí, debemos entender que el 52 por ciento de la población se encuentra en las cárceles y muchos de ellos son jóvenes afro-americanos. Algo esta pasando con ese sueño.”

“Entendemos que el 40 por ciento de las jovencitas afro-americanas se embarazan antes de los 18 años y no saben como criar a sus hijos,” agregó Johnson.

“Sabemos que el uno por ciento de todos los doctores, licenciados y ingenieros combinados son de descendencia afro-americana,” dijo Johnson. “Las ventajas están contra nosotros.”

Pero el futuro se mira brillante.

“El futuro es brillante cuando los adultos se esfuerzan en brindar animo y estímulo a nuestros jóvenes para hacer la diferencia en su comunidad,” dijo Johnson.

Johnson dijo que la vida es un reto desde la cuna hasta la tumba.

“Pero mientras estamos con vida, tenemos una esperanza. No importa los retos.”

“La realidad es que no importa los desafíos que estés pasando, lo que importa es lo que harás para superarlos,” dijo Johnson. “Nos dirigimos hacia la cima pero primero debemos de escalar montañas rocosas para llegar a la cumbre.”

“Entiendo que la vida es difícil para todos,” dijo Johnson. “Pero debo creer en mi mismo, debo tener un alto estima de mi mismo.”

“La manera de mantener el sueño vivo es seguir adelante,” culminó Johnson.

La Nueva Voz

The Inland Empire's Leading Bilingual Newspaper

www.lanuevavoz.net

A division of
South Coast Media Services

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HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AT POMONA'S DAY LABOR CENTER – Some 200 Pomona workers and their families were on hand for a toy giveaway, a visit from Santa and a luncheon buffet last month at the Pomona Economic Opportunity Center's day labor facility at 1682 W. Mission Blvd. Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman stopped by with holiday greetings on behalf of the city. Jose Zapata Calderon, professor of sociology and Chicano studies at Claremont's Pitzer College, told the group that the center, created in 1997, made it possible to combine smaller groups of workers available for hire who at the time were congregating at 11 locations throughout the city. Since then, he said, the center has not only centralized workers but has developed a community garden, English and computer classes, and even partnered with Pitzer where students help with an annual 5K run fundraiser and help gather toys and food for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Juan Medina, coordinator of the center, told the group the economy is improving and 2012 should be a much better year. Pictured, from left, are Medina, Rothman and Calderon. For more information, contact the center at (909) 397-4215.



SNEAK PEEK – Pictured is an architectural rendering of what will be the basement bar and pizza oven (far left) at O'Donovan's Dinner House & Pub, billed as a true Irish pub, in the newly renovated historic Mayfair Hotel at 3rd Street and Garey Avenue in downtown Pomona. The hotel and restaurant, expected to open for business in the next several months, also will include a computer store and a business services office at street level, along with four floors of residential units. Mark Drury, former manager of McKinley's Grille at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, will manage the new restaurant.



Cal Poly Pomona among best values in Kiplinger's rankings

Cal Poly Pomona has been named one of the best values in higher education, ranking 91st in Kiplinger's annual rankings of the top 100 public colleges and universities that blend excellence and affordability.

The editors at Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine said that in these "hard times" in higher education,

value becomes even more important.

The Kiplinger rankings system includes graduation rates, cost and student debt loads. The top 100 were drawn from a pool of more than 500 colleges and universities.

Cal Poly President Michael Ortiz credited the faculty and staff for the ranking.

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AUTORIDAD DE VIVIENDAS CIUDAD DE POMONA NOTIFICACIÓN DE DISPONIBILIDAD PARA REVISIÓN DEL PLAN ANUAL 2012-2013

El Plan Anual de la Agencia de Vivienda Pública (Public Housing Agency): el cual cada agencia pública revisa y actualiza es desarrollado anualmente. El plan es requerido por el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD) [24 CFR Parte 903] de todas las ciudades y Agencias de Viviendas que reciben dinero Federal para administrar programas de subsidio de rentas tales como el "Housing Choice Voucher", Mod-Rehab, y Proyectos de Vivienda Pública.

PERIODO DE REVISIÓN PÚBLICA

El Plan Anual de la Agencia de Vivienda Pública estará disponible para revisión y comentarios del público del 6 de febrero del 2012 al 2 de abril del 2012. Comentarios podrán ser dados a conocer en la vista pública o ser sometidos por escrito a la Autoridad de Viviendas de la Ciudad de Pomona, P. O. Box 660, Pomona, CA 91769 al más tardar las 5:00 p.m. del día 2 de abril del 2012.

RESUMEN DE LOS REQUISITOS DEL PLAN

El plan anual provee detalles acerca de las operaciones inmediatas del la Agencia de Vivienda Pública, servicios proveídos a los participantes, las estrategias en cuanto a los asuntos de operación del programa, las consternaciones y necesidades del los participantes, y servicios que se llevarán a cabo en el próximo año fiscal.

VISTA PÚBLICA

Residentes y organizaciones interesados están invitados a asistir la vista pública el lunes 2 de abril del 2012 en la Cámara de los Miembros del Concilio (City Council Chambers) a las 7:00 p.m. para dar a conocer sus comentarios sobre el Programa de "Housing Choice Voucher" para los años Fiscal 2012-2013.

Copias preliminares del Plan pueden ser revisadas en la:

1. Biblioteca de la Ciudad de Pomona –625 South Garey Avenue
2. Ciudad de Pomona –505 South Garey Avenue –en el Departamento de Viviendas-Primer piso

Preguntas sobre esta notificación pueden ser dirigidas al Departamento de Viviendas de la Ciudad de Pomona al teléfono (909)620-2368.

Marie Macias, CMC City Clerk



**Pomona Unified School District
ADULT & CAREER
EDUCATION**



Pomona Unified School District's Adult and Career Education is applying to become a candidate for accreditation with the Commission of the Council on Occupational Education (COE). Persons wishing to make comments regarding Adult and Career Education should write to the address below and should include the name and mailing address of the person responding.

Executive Director of the Commission
Council on Occupational Education
7840 Roswell Road, Bldg. 300, Suite 325
Atlanta, GA 30350

La Escuela de Adultos y Carreras del Distrito Escolar de Pomona está aplicando para ser candidato a la acreditación ante la Comisión del Consejo de Educación Ocupacional. Las personas que deseen expresar sus opiniones sobre la Escuela de Adultos y Carreras pueden enviar sus comentarios por escrito a la siguiente dirección y deberán incluir el nombre y el domicilio de la persona que mandó la carta con los comentarios.

Director Ejecutivo de la Comisión
Council on Occupational Education
7840 Roswell Road, Bldg. 300, Suite 325
Atlanta, GA 30350

EXCELLENCE IN ADULT EDUCATION

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cosas substantivas que él representaba se han olvidado lentamente.

“Para muchos de ustedes jóvenes, es difícil apreciar lo controversial que era King,” dijo Longville. “Ahora por todo el país se celebra su memoria. Pero cuando estaba vivo, las cosas no eran así.”

“Esto era algo muy incómodo para muchos en ese tiempo. King tenía tremendo valor en hacer las cosas que hacía.” El racismo era aceptable en la sociedad en aquellos tiempos. “Actualmente aun existen muchísimos problemas, pero las cosas han cambiado considerablemente.”

Longville dijo que King abordaba varios temas como el racismo, la paz y la desigualdad económica. Un año antes de su muerte, King habló sobre la desigualdad económica en un discurso que dio en la Iglesia Riverside en la Ciudad de Nueva York.

“Debo recalcar algo que dijo King, que ‘una nación que continúa año tras año gastando dinero en la defensa militar en lugar de programas de levantamiento social, se esta acercando a la muerte espiritual,’” dijo Longville.

“Actualmente, nuestro más grande problema en nuestra sociedad es la codicia,” dijo Longville.

Él concluyó diciendo que todos los problemas económicos de la nación podrían resolverse “si simplemente ajustáramos las tasas de impuestos de acuerdo a la inflación así como lo hizo Dwight Eisenhower a nivel federal y como lo hizo Ronald Reagan a nivel estatal.”

“Si volviéramos a esos niveles de impuestos, tendríamos presupuestos balanceados y no tendríamos recortes de servicios que son muy esenciales.”

Longville participó activamente en el movimiento de derechos civiles en los años 1960’s. Él renunció a una beca a la Universidad de Minnesota después del asesinato de King y comenzó a trabajar en la campaña presidencial de Eugene McCarthy, un amigo y defensor de King.

Él participó en demostraciones en la Convención Nacional Demócrata en 1968 en Chicago, y marchó junto con Dick Gregory y después sirvió como asistente legislativo y secre-

tario de prensa para el Congresista George Brown en Sacramento y en Washington, D.C.

Su primer cargo electo fue en el Concilio de la Ciudad de Rialto donde sirvió por siete años como concejal y después como alcalde.

Él fue elegido a la asamblea en 1998 y sirvió su término hasta el 2004. Actualmente sirve en la mesa directiva del Distrito de la Conservación de Agua del Valle de San Bernardino y en la mesa directiva del Distrito del Colegio Comunitario de San Bernardino.

El evento anual, presentado por Junteenth America Incorporation, una organización no lucrativa, atrajo a funcionarios electos, representantes de varios negocios y organizaciones y muchos otros a través de Pomona, Ontario, Upland y los alrededores.



FIRST PARENTS MEETING OF YEAR – Victor Caceres, at right, executive director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley, speaks to nearly three dozen parents at the first parents meeting of the year this month at the club in Pomona. Caceres told parents the monthly meetings will emphasize the importance of parents becoming involved in the club and in their children’s activities, and will explore how parents of club members can volunteer their services at the club, depending on what their particular skills happen to be. He said it is also important for parents to become involved in the community, to vote at election time and to be aware of the power they have in determining the future of Pomona. “We understand it is hard to find time to spend with your child,” Caceres said, adding that their involvement at the club will help them become familiar with the many programs available – from karate and soccer to yoga, baile folklórico and ping pong tournaments. Former Pomona City Councilmember Dan Rodriguez, CEO/executive director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Brea-Placentia-Yorba Linda, was also present to see first-hand parent involvement at the Pomona clubhouse. The Pomona Boys and Girls Clubs – through its main facility and the four elementary schools that offer after-school programs, including an anti-bullying program – serves between 400 and 500 kids daily, Caceres said.

La Nueva Voz reaches 50% more readers in Pomona each month than the local suburban daily newspaper.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH – Members of the Pomona Breakfast Optimist Club recognized their “students of the month” this month at Pomona’s Alcott Elementary School, the school selected this year for the program. Pictured, from left, are Alcott Principal Shirley Martinez; father Javier Perez; student of the month Myra Perez; mother Liliana Sanchez; Optimist Club President M. Joyce Bakersmith; and Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez, also a club member. Not pictured is student of the month Jacqueline Ramirez.



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Friends of Fox to present funniest Hollywood cartoons of all time

Friends of the Pomona Fox will present the 1991 program “Just for Laughs,” the “10 funniest Hollywood cartoons of all time,” in March.

The program, based on 10 films selected by a panel of expert advisors, includes such classics as “One Froggy Evening” (Warner Brothers), “Duck Amuck” (also Warner Brothers), and “King Size Canary” (MGM).

It will be presented at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 4, at Pomona’s Fox Theater. For more information, visit the web site at www.pomonafox.org.



Sometimes, first aid isn't a **bandage**,
or **CPR**, or the **Heimlich**, or calling **911**.
Sometimes, first aid is **YOU!**



**MENTAL
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FIRST AID**

Someone you know could be experiencing a mental illness or crisis. You can help them.

You are more likely to encounter someone – friend, family member, coworker, customer, neighbor, or member of the community – in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack. Mental Health First Aid teaches a 5-step action plan to offer initial help to people with the signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in a crisis, and connect them with the appropriate professional, peer, social, or self help care. Anyone can take the 12-hour Mental Health First Aid course – first responders, students, teachers, leaders of faith communities, human resources professionals, and caring citizens.

Sometimes, the best first aid is you. Take the course, save a life, strengthen your community.

Tri-City Mental Health would like to invite you to a **FREE** Mental Health First Aid training.

Algunas veces los primeros auxilios no consisten en una **venda**, o en **resucitación cardiopulmonar** o la **maniobra de Heimlich**, o llamar al **911**.

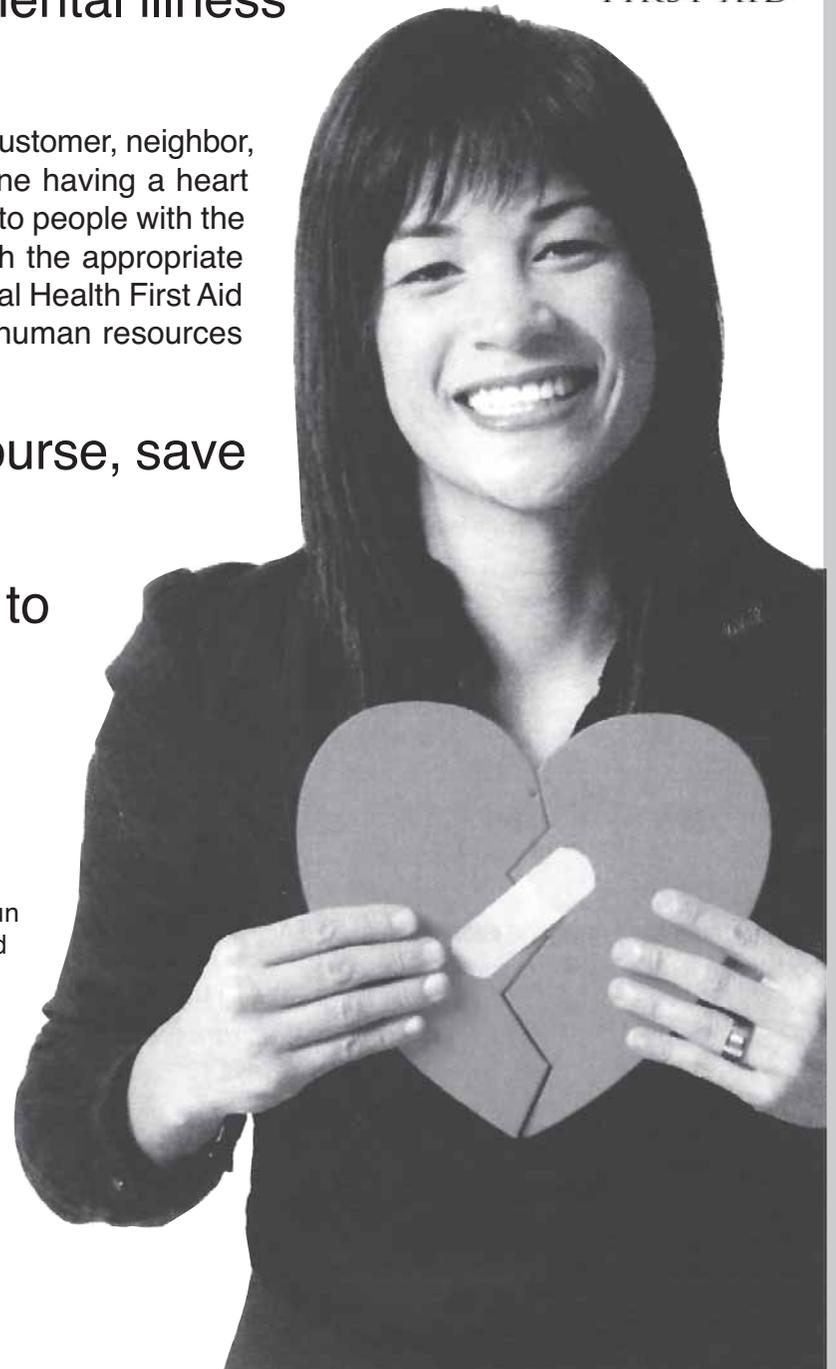
Algunas veces el primer auxilio eres **¡TU!**

Estas más propenso a encontrarte con alguien – un amigo, un miembro de la familia, un compañero de trabajo, el vecino, o algún miembro de la comunidad – con inestabilidad emocional o mental que con alguien que sufra de un infarto. Mental Health First Aid te instruye en un plan que consiste de 5 pasos para ofrecer ayuda inicial a personas con síntomas de enfermedad o crisis mental y de allí encaminarlos a un profesional de salud mental y a cuidado apropiado. Cualquier persona puede tomar el curso titulado 12-hour Mental Health First Aid (12 horas de Primeros Auxilios en Salud Mental) – paramédicos, estudiantes, maestros, líderes religiosos, profesionistas en recursos humanos, o cualquier ciudadano que se preocupa por su semejante.

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March 8, 15, 22 and 29

Community Center

3680 D Street, La Verne

Participants must attend all 12 hours to receive certification.

Class is **FREE** to participants and includes necessary materials, manuals, and certificate.

Celebration... from pg. 1

jail," he said. "And if you are a corporation, corporations can't be thrown in jail, they can just be made to pay fines, so therefore you can do anything where the fines are smaller than the profit."

"We have capital punishment but it doesn't apply to capital," he said.

"When it comes to individualism,

we are supposed to be accepting the system in which you can inherit any amount of wealth if your parents or grandparents . . . were able to make enough money, then you can inherit that regardless of what wonderful qualities you may have," he said.

"On the other, if your parents and grandparents did tremendous dam-

age in some of the things they did, you are wiped free of that when they die," he said. "So if you owned a plantation in the confederacy and the wealth is passed down generation after generation, you don't bear any of the responsibility for what occurred on that plantation but you continue to benefit from the actions

that were taken."

"That is the way capitalism works," he said. "So we find ourselves in this social contract where the deal is that the people who make a lot of money can as individuals continue forever . . . with virtually no inheritance taxes they can continue to control wealth and generation after generation it becomes more concentrated."

"Many people believe that they don't have any responsibility to see to it that some of the resources of this earth that we all inherited, that a significant portion of them be used to make sure that nobody is just absolutely, totally deprived," he said. "And we have the resources to do that."

He cited another speech by King in which he said, "all life is interrelated, that somehow we're caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason, I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be."

Longville said that when King was assassinated, "the concentration of wealth in this society was already extraordinary."

"Today, folks, if you exclude personal residences and talk about all the other wealth in our society in America . . . 90 percent of all the wealth in the United States is held by one percent of the population," he said, adding that clearly there are resources available to deal with the problems in society.

"Why aren't we better off?" he asked. "Because the money is all going to the incredibly top level."

"Our biggest problem in our soci-

ety today is greed," he said.

He concluded by saying that all of the nation's economic problems could be solved "if we simply returned to the tax levels adjusted for inflation that Dwight Eisenhower had at the federal level and that Ronald Reagan had at the state level in California."

"If we returned to those tax levels, folks, we would be today with balanced budgets and we would not be seeing the service cuts that we see," he said.

Longville, who became active in the 1960s civil rights movement while in his early teens, gave up his scholarship at the University of Minnesota following King's assassination to work on the presidential campaign of Eugene McCarthy, a friend and supporter of King.

He demonstrated at the Democratic National Convention in 1968 in Chicago, marched with Dick Gregory and later served as a legislative aide and press secretary for the late Congressman George Brown in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

His first elected office was on the Rialto City Council, where he served for seven years as a councilmember and eleven years as mayor.

He was elected to the Assembly in 1998 and served until he termed out in 2004. He currently serves on the board of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District and the board of the San Bernardino Community College District.

The annual event, produced by Juneteenth America Incorporated, a non-profit organization, attracted elected officials, representatives of various businesses and organizations and others from throughout the areas of Pomona, Ontario, Upland and beyond.

Pomona's American Legion Post 30 raffling off week in Big Bear, week in Las Vegas, to fund major expenses

Pomona's American Legion Post 30 is selling raffle tickets for two drawings – one week at Big Bear Lake or one week in Las Vegas – to help fund urgent major expenses at Post 30.

Tickets are \$5 each and there is no limit to the number of tickets that can be purchased.

Both prizes were donated by Brian Bowcock through Starpoint

Resort Group, Inc.

Either cash or checks payable to American Legion Post 30 are being accepted at the post. Only checks are accepted by mail.

The drawing will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at the post, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona.

For more information or for entry forms, contact the post at (909) 620-0943.

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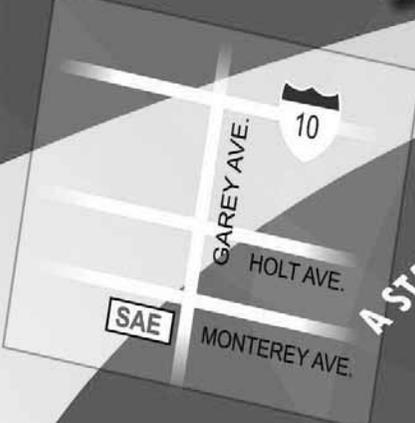
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FIRST ANNIVERSARY RIBBON CUTTING – Mayor Elliott Rothman and Pomona Unified School District Board President Jason Rothman helped cut the ribbon last week to celebrate the first anniversary of Kutz Barber Shop in Pomona where they both have been customers. The mayor told owner Eddie Aleman he appreciates his business in Pomona and presented him a certificate of appreciation from the city. “I join you in your celebration and wish you continued success and prosperity,” Rothman said. Aleman opened the shop on Feb. 1, 2011, while still a student in the Pomona Adult Education barbering program. He said he “re-invented” himself and began a new career after he was laid off from his job of 28 years with a commercial printing company due to the economy. Pictured, from left, are Louis Vasquez, barber/stylist Alicia Vasquez, Mayor Rothman, Aleman, School Board President Rothman, Yvonne Aleman, and Denise Aleman. Front row, from left, are Rodolfo Vasquez, 11, and Eddie Aleman Jr., 10, Aleman’s grandson. The shop, with its old-fashioned barbershop look and feel, is located at 929 W. Mission Blvd. For more information, call (909) 622-6205.

Western University to hold free community health fair

A free community health fair will be held in March providing everything from health screenings and information to fun health activities for the kids.

The health fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 3, at New Direction Com-

munity Church, 1100 E. Holt Ave., Pomona, between San Antonio Avenue and Indian Hill Boulevard.

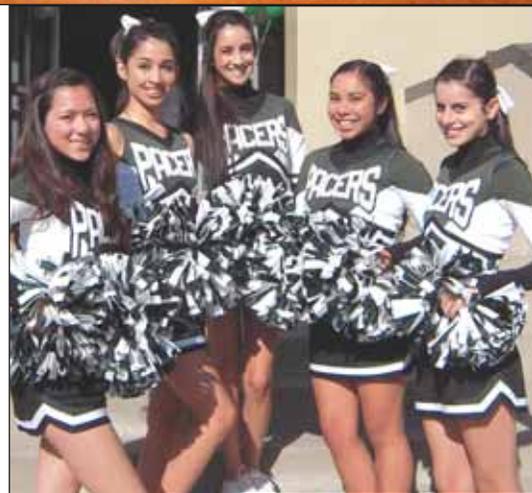
Pomona’s Western University of Health Sciences will provide everything from vision and dental screenings to foot exams, blood

pressure screenings, body mass index calculations, prescription interaction advice, dog health screenings and more.

Sponsors include the Western University Student Government Association and New Direction Community Church.



OPEN HOUSE AT POMONA CATHOLIC – Members of the Pomona Catholic choir, above, performed at this month’s open house at the landmark 112-year-old school at White and Holt Avenues in Pomona. At right, the Pomona Catholic cheerleaders welcomed the guests and later performed inside. Principal Sam Torres, at bottom, welcomed the guests and introduced performances by the cheerleaders, the school choir and student actors who presented a scene from the play “The House of Bernardo Alba.” Torres told guests the school has 61 seniors in its graduating class this year – the largest number in the last 10 years. He said the school’s student population has grown 50 percent each year for the last three years, with graduates accepted to colleges and universities across the country. Pictured, above, are cheerleaders Sophia Avalos, 14, a freshman from Pomona; Valerie Tautimer, 17, a junior from Pomona; Celeste Guzman, 17, a senior from Pomona; Yesenia Perez, 15, a sophomore from Pomona; and Geena MacMullen, 17, a junior from Claremont. A total of 15 girls are on the cheerleading team. For more information on the school or on registration, contact Pomona Catholic at (909) 623-5297 or visit the web site at www.pomonacatholic.org.



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SANTA'S ANNUAL VISIT TO RALPH WELCH PARK – Santa made his fifth annual appearance at Pomona’s Ralph Welch Park last month, arriving atop a fire truck from Los Angeles County Fire Department Engine Company 181 with bags full of toys. Santa, played by Pomona City Councilman Freddie Rodriguez, distributed toys to several dozen kids inside the park community center after firemen spoke to the kids about fire safety.



HOLIDAY TOY GIVE-AWAY – More than 1,200 toys were collected by Project Caring and Sharing and distributed to 600 neighborhood kids last month at Pomona’s Brown Memorial Temple. Major donations came from Toys for Tots, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power employees and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. Pictured, from left, are Mrs. Cynthia Brown, director of Project Caring and Sharing; Taliyah Shipp, 8, of Pomona; and Mrs. Gertie Brown, founder and original director of Project Caring and Sharing. The organization was founded in 1998.



LINING UP FOR CHRISTMAS TOYS -- Children and their families lined up last month (above) at Pomona’s Brown Memorial Temple to receive more than 1,200 toys collected by Project Caring and Sharing. The line wrapped around the front of the church and down the sidewalk on Holt Avenue. At right, Pomona Unified School District Board Vice President Dr. Roberta Perlman, at left, and her daughter, Aly Perlman, helped distribute the toys to the kids. The two are "regulars" each year and bring extra volunteers with them, as well. Pictured with them are parent Amos O’Banner, at right, of Ontario, and his children who are getting an advance look at the toys. The children, from left, are Curtis Truly, 5; Buhyma Truly, 3; and Ma’leeya Booker, 2. Brown Memorial Temple is located at 985 West Holt Avenue, Pomona. For more information, contact (909) 622-6292 or visit the web site at www.bmtpomona.org.





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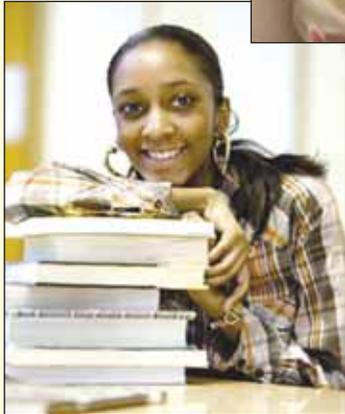
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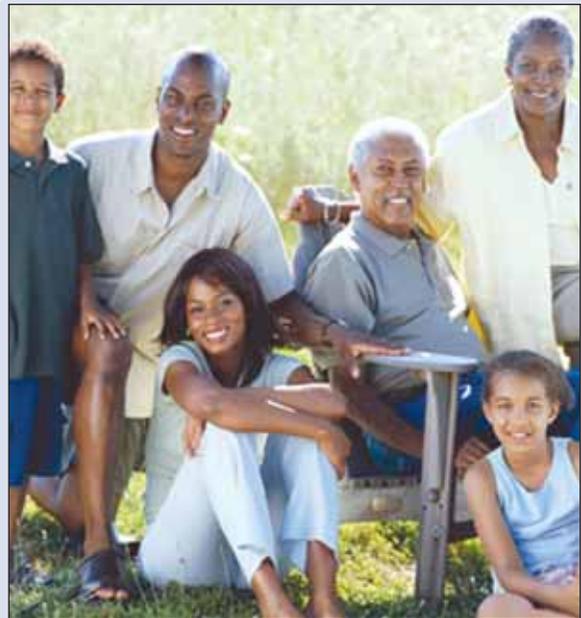
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Pomona's Boys and Girls Clubs members participate in national golf program for kids that stresses game of golf plus nine 'core' values

The First Tee, a 14-year-old program designed to teach youngsters the game of golf while instilling in them a series of nine "core values," has been launched at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley as one of only three programs of its type in the U.S.

The program is designed for elementary and middle school students – generally from age 7 to 18.

Headquartered in St. Augustine, Florida, the program's local affiliate is The First Tee of Pasadena, headed

by Executive Director Bob Baderian.

Will Neel, who is coordinating the program in Pomona, said he just finished the first five-week session at the Boys and Girls Clubs. The group met on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and averaged between 10 and 12 kids per week, reaching out to a total of about 30 kids.

Neel said it is particularly exciting to be able to use golf as a structure for delivering the program, although other sports are used as

well – soccer, football, tennis and baseball, for example.

The program begins with special oversized golf clubs already cut to the right length for kids, and works in a gymnasium environment to teach the basic skills of the game.

Then, by partnering with golf courses and various organizations and agencies as sponsors, The First Tee begins taking the kids out onto the golf course for work on the driving range, the practice green and then out for a round of golf.

Neel said his role is to take The First Tee's life skills to boys and girls who have not had the opportunity to become involved in golf and want to learn more about becoming a better citizen.

And all of this is possible, he said, by working to educate the kids about the importance of the nine core values – honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy and judgment.

"It's great," Neel said. "Having taught golf for the last 20 years full time, you start to appreciate the simpler approach, and that's what's great about this whole structure of The First Tee program."

"Even if I came in there without my personal experience or expertise, it's a great program that breaks it down for the kids – it's a great structure for them," he added.

How did the kids do in Pomona?



'FIRST TEE' GOLF SKILLS PROGRAM UNDER WAY AT BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS – Will Neel, at left, coordinator of "The First Tee" program at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley, helps Norbito Gomez, 11, of Pomona, work on his grip and line up a shot at an inside training session using specially manufactured equipment for kids. The inside training helps the kids prepare for getting out on an actual golf course.

The First Tee was founded in 1997 and has already grown to include more than 200 chapters delivering the program at more than 750 locations.

But the Pomona program is only one of three locations nationwide outside of military installations to deliver the program using the nine core values. It has already become successful at 100 military installations around the U.S. and another 20 internationally.

"We saw the success of (the military installation) program and realized it could

be adapted to youth . . . like in the Boys and Girls Clubs," Baderian said.

The Pomona program is expected to impact hundreds of kids over the next three or four years, he added.

While some grant money has been available from a variety of sources, the training equipment for each program costs \$3,200 in addition to other expenses. Because of that, fundraising and partnering will become an important part of the program.

"This program is not only teaching the sport of golf but is creating a positive mind set to the young people in terms of life skills, proper eating habits, dealing with the obesity problem," said Tony Powell, Outreach Director for The First Tee in St. Augustine. "We involve all of these elements."

"And no child is turned away because of the inability to pay," he added.

The First Tee is a 501(c)(3) non-profit youth development organization.

Since its inception in 1997, it has introduced the game of golf and its values to more than five million participants in all 50 states and six countries internationally.

It is an initiative of the World Golf Foundation. Its founding partners are LPGA, the Masters Tournament, PGA of America, PGA Tour and the USGA. Former President George W. Bush serves as honorary chairman.

To become involved in the program as a volunteer or as a sponsor, contact Baderian at (626) 353-4013 or by e-mail at bbaderian@sbc-global.net, or visit the web site at www.thefirstteepasadena.org.



TAKING THEIR NEW SKILLS OUTSIDE – Two of the 30 kids participating in "The First Tee" golf training program at the Boys and Girls Clubs in Pomona take their new skills outside onto a "green grass" facility at Palm Lake Golf Course in Pomona as instructor Will Neel holds the pin. Pictured on the green, from left, are Norbito Gomez, 11, of Pomona; Neel; and Jesus Morales, 11, also of Pomona.



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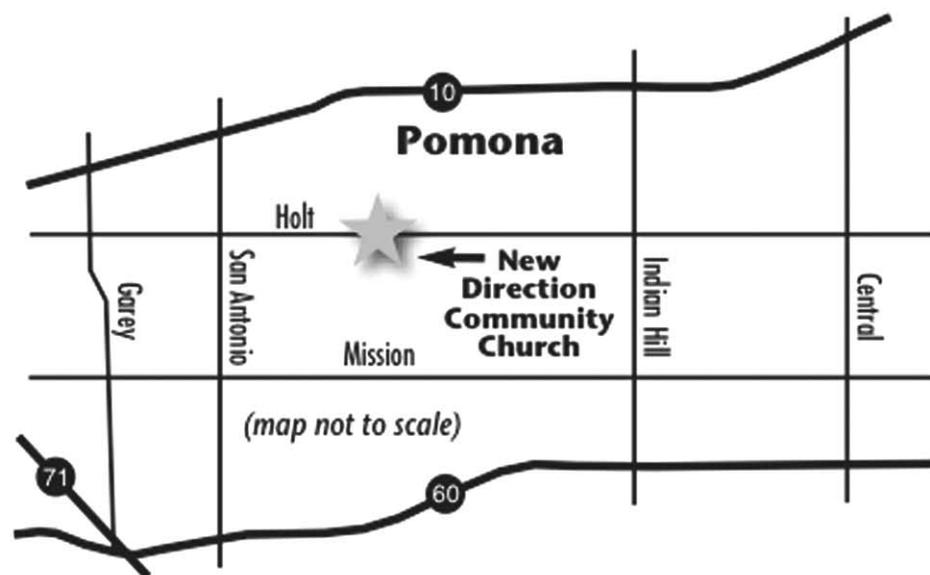
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Second annual 'Guns N Hoses' half marathon set

The second annual "Guns N Hoses" Half Marathon and 5K run will be held in April in Ontario, according to organizers.

The event, set for April 22, will honor the families of fallen heroes in the police and fire professions and other related agencies including Regional Occupational Programs and

Explorer programs for future first responders.

A portion of the net proceeds from the race go to families of fallen heroes.

For more information, contact The Five Cities Marathon, Inc., in Glendora at (626) 394-1953 or visit the web site at www.rungunshoses.com.

New branch manager at Pomona's Wells Fargo Bank

Ricardo Rosales has been named branch manager at Pomona's Wells Fargo Bank branch, coming to Pomona after serving for nearly five years with the bank.

Previously, he worked at the Azusa branch and the West Covina Heights branch after working for two years in the pharmaceutical industry.

Rosales, who attended Cal Poly Pomona, said his goal is "to focus on our vision of really delivering our banking by adding value."

He hopes to help Wells Fargo customers succeed based on their individual priorities.

This means, Rosales said, that the Pomona branch will be more than just a check-cashing bank – the bank will focus on helping customers with their refinancing, insurance needs and "non-traditional" banking products such as life insurance, health insurance and automobile insurance.

"There are a lot of products a lot of customers aren't aware we offer," he said.

In other words, he said Wells Fargo Bank really is becoming a comprehensive financial institution.

"We're here to take care of all needs," Rosales said, adding that the



Ricardo Rosales
New Wells Fargo manager

bank also offers a variety of savings plans and college plans.

And for small business customers, he said Wells Fargo companywide continues to be "number one" in U.S. Small Business Administration lending, with nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in SBA loans last year.

"We are trying to have our small business customers know that we're still lending," he said, adding that his goal is to help the business grow and become even more successful.

"My focus in the new year is to show that we're here for our customers," he added, "and to continue to create the awareness of what we can offer to all of our customers."

The Pomona Wells Fargo Bank branch is located at 321 E. Holt Ave., Pomona. For more information, contact the bank at (909) 620-3514.

Heidi Bonadie named Executive Director at Pomona Valley NAMI

Human resources and client relations veteran Heidi M. Bonadie has been named Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Pomona Valley Affiliate.

She will replace Dick Bunce who is retiring.

Bonadie, who holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from USC, said she looks forward to supporting NAMI "in its efforts to improve the quality of life of those affected by mental illness."

For more information, contact NAMI, a support, education and advocacy group, at (909) 625-2383 or visit the web site at www.namipomonavalley.org.



Heidi Bonadie
New NAMI Executive Director



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Western University College of Optometry student earns military scholarship

Shirley De La Rosa Bright, a first-year College Optometry student at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, is one of only 24 students nationwide selected for the

U.S. Air Force Health Professions Scholarship program in optometry.

Bright, who was selected from more than 100 applicants, is also the first optometry student at Western

University to receive a military scholarship. She recited the Commissioning Oath and was sworn in as a second lieutenant in the Air Force this month on the Pomona campus.

"I like that it's different. It's not your typical civilian optometry job," Bright said. "I look forward to the

dual-professionalism as a career officer in the Air Force. Not only will I be an optometrist, but I'll also be an officer in charge of the enlisted Air Force personnel assigned to me."

Bright said she has a great desire to serve the underserved because of

her background. Her parents came to the U.S. from developing countries to seek the "American dream" for a better future, which motivated her to provide service to her country and those who defend it, and to partake in the various humanitarian missions the U.S. Air Force leads.

New drug-free community coalition forms in Pomona under five-year White House grant

A new drug free community coalition – funded through a five-year grant from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy – officially formed this month by both bringing together leaders from

needed to join the coalition and may include youth, parents, pastors, police officers, teachers, nurses, school administrators, business owners, community agencies, residents and others interested in helping make



KICKOFF MEETING OF NEW DRUG FREE COALITION – Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz, at right, presents a city proclamation to Jamie Holes, at left, and Sara Cooley, organizers of the new drug free coalition, at kickoff meeting this month at Pomona's Ganesha Park.

throughout the community and by coming up with a new name P³, or Partnership for a Positive Pomona.

Organizer Sara Cooley, project coordinator with the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, said the new name, selected by the members of the coalition at a kickoff meeting in Pomona's Ganesha Park, "captures the celebration of our strengths and working together as our method and positive changes as our goal."

The group, part of a national family of some 2,000 similar organizations, will "focus on environmental strategies to reduce youth substance use/abuse," Cooley said.

Additional participants are still

changes in the community to encourage kids to make positive, healthy choices and stay away from alcohol and drugs.

Goals also include developing strategies to limit access to substances, change the norms and reduce negative consequences.

"The ultimate goal we have is to save lives and save quality of life," said Cooley.

The second meeting of the coalition is scheduled for noon Thursday, Feb. 9, also at Ganesha Park Community Center. Attendees are asked to RSVP by contacting Cooley at (909) 629-4084, ext. 2004 or by e-mail at ncadd.scooley@verizon.net.

Cal Poly Pomona President Michael Ortiz to receive award for distinguished leadership

The American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education will honor Cal Poly Pomona President Michael Ortiz with its Alfredo G. de los Santos Jr. Distinguished Leadership in Higher Education Award in March.

"President Michael Ortiz emulates the leadership characteristics reflected in the description of this award," said Loui Olivas, president of the organization.

The association will present the award, sponsored by the Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education magazine, at its national conference March 8 – 10 in Costa Mesa.

Cal Poly Pomona is among the top 30 universities awarding baccalaureate degrees to Hispanics, many of whom are the first in their family to earn a college degree.

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Tomaso Vitali

John Phillip Sousa

WINNERS OF CYSO CONCERTO COMPETITION



Born in 1995 in Seoul, Korea, So Jeong (Alicia) Lee began playing the violin at the age of 9, studying with violinist Byung Woo Kim. She was concertmaster of the San Jose Youth Symphony and assistant concertmaster at her school. She also played in the California Philharmonic Youth Orchestra before moving from San Jose last year. An 11th grade student at Eriwanda High School in Rancho Cucamonga, So Jeong has been playing with the CYSO since 2010. She will be performing Chaconne in G Minor by Tomaso Vitali.



Jahnavi Curlin, flutist, is 16 years old and in the 11th grade at Claremont High School. She has been playing the flute since the age of 9 and has been with the CYSO for five years. She currently studies privately with Wendy Herbert. Jahnavi is a member of the Claremont High Chamber Singers and the Speech and Debate Team, and she performs chamber music at local nursing homes. Jahnavi will be performing Suite in A Minor for Flute and Strings by Georg Philipp Telemann.

Veteran Western University staffer Gugelchuk named Western University provost

Gary Gugelchuk, PhD, has been named provost and chief operating officer of Pomona's Western University of Health Sciences, Western University President Philip Pumerantz, PhD, has announced.

Gugelchuk, the university's executive vice provost, succeeds Ben Cohen, DO, who asked that he be relieved of

the Provost/COO duties so he can focus on the university's strategic planning process.

Cohen will become advisor to the president for strategic planning. The changes will become effective on Feb. 6.

Pumerantz commended Cohen for his contributions to the university in a

recent message to the board of trustees.

Gugelchuk, a 25-year veteran of the university since joining the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, has served as a health professions faculty member, dean of the College of Allied Health Professions, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Senior Vice President for Executive Affairs.

He has served as Executive Vice Provost since 2010.

Cohen joined Western University in 2005 and has been credited as being the main architect of the university's academic and physical expansion over the past five years.

During that time, Western University has added four colleges and more than 250,000 square feet of instructional and research space. In addition, total enrollment surged past 3,000 for

the first time during the current academic year.

Before joining Western University, Cohen served as Provost and Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

He also served as Founding Dean of the Osteopathic School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Letters to the Editor

EDITOR:

I am John Speidel, a seasoned business professional with over 45 years business experience and a long time resident of the City of Pomona. My current project was the purchase of the historical landmark, the Mayfair Hotel in downtown Pomona, which is undergoing restoration to offer retail shops and residences. I have been active in supporting the City of Pomona since 1954.

In 1995 there was a transfer station planned for the City of Pomona. At first, I did not think we needed this in the City of Pomona. After looking into the project, I became aware of a study requested by the city of transfer station locations that identified the current 9th Street property as the best location.

We now have a developer who is asking for city authorization to start building a state-of-the-art transfer station which meets all environmental requirements. The developer is paying all costs to prove what it is and what is going on and has other ones in other cities that I have personally visited – no smell, no gas problem.

It would be a proper construction program for the City of Pomona. All the landfills in and around Pomona are closing. We will have no place to take our trash. If a transfer station is built in Chino, it will cost us more money – likely 30 percent more – resulting in an increase in property and utility taxes.

The new transfer station will pay to the city income in property tax and \$1 million a year in fees that we can then use to open our library full time and allocate to other activities. It will also help us keep utility taxes from being raised.

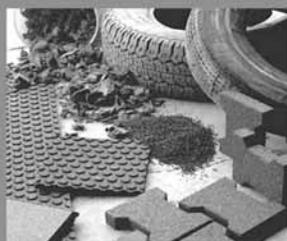
I urge the people of the City of Pomona to call their local council people and show their support to help keep our taxes down. If we don't support new businesses that create additional tax revenues for our city, taxes such as utility tax and sales tax will be imposed which will only hurt all of us in the long run.

The transfer station is Pomona's road map to the future.

John Speidel
Pomona

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- The UPS Store, 168 W. Willow St., Pomona
- 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 Administration Building and Patient Care Center
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley, 1420 S. Garey Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center main lobby, maternity lobby
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- My Bakery Group, Inc. Panaderia, 782 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona
- Jicamex Tacos Y Carniceria, 604 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Central Market, Towne Avenue and Phillips Boulevard, Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- La Verne City Hall lobby
- La Verne Senior Citizens Center
- La Verne library



'Celebration of life' set for Mrs. Emma, who served as Boys and Girls Clubs art director for 32 years

A "celebration of Mrs. Emma's life" is scheduled for Jan. 28 at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley for Emma Suquett, a Boys and Girls Clubs arts and crafts director for the past 32 years, who died suddenly last month at the age of 83.

"She changed kids' lives by the hundreds," said Victor Caceres, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs, adding that the newly designed art room at the club will be named in her honor.

Mrs. Emma, as she was known by the kids, started her family in the Boyle Heights area of East Los Angeles and moved to City Terrace where, in the mid-1960s, her boys became members of a Boys Club when it was opened in an old Jewish synagogue there by a group of Silician priests.

According to Lou Suquett, one of Mrs. Emma's six sons, his mother immediately became involved in the club and soon became president of the parents' club.

She remained with the club until the mid-1970s when his youngest brother went through the club.

"My mom already had the ability of being able to get people moving in the same direction," Suquett said, adding that she was always involved in putting on special events at the club.

A housewife for nearly 40 years and never really employed, Mrs. Emma was active in volunteer work and was active in her church as a religious Catholic woman, Suquett said. It was only natural that, when her youngest son moved on after going through the Boys Club, she began working there as an arts and crafts director. She was in her early 50s at the time.

Her interest in arts and crafts resulted from a friendship with Mary MacGregor and led to her work with the 1984 Summer Olympics (Los Angeles) cultural arts museum. Mrs. Emma also had a display featuring her Nacimiento (traditional Nativity scene in Latin America and the Southwestern United States) in the Autry National Center of the American West in Griffith Park.

Her love for holiday art carried over into her work at the Boys and Girls Clubs and she always made sure the kids worked on a project in December they could give to their parents as gifts.

When she died last Dec. 17 with

the holidays approaching, her son immediately asked staff where the kids were on their projects.

Suquett said he shared his mother's love for the Boys and Girls Clubs and went to work for the club right out of high school. Today, 35 years later, he serves as senior regional service director and is based in Long Beach after serving 20 years working in the local clubs.

In fact, it was Lou Suquett who hired Pomona's Caceres as a full time employee in the mid-80s when Caceres was working as a lifeguard at the Hollywood club.

Mrs. Emma moved to Pomona in 2000 and went to work at the local club, he said, after commuting back and forth to the East Los Angeles club for about a year.

"Before it was a strategy on the part of Boys and Girls Clubs, she understood the importance of providing for the family," Suquett said. "My mom felt a responsibility to ensure that the parents were providing for the kids to be in a good home. And she felt the club was an extension of the home."

Mrs. Emma, who also was an accomplished singer and guitar player and enjoyed singing traditional Mexican songs, is survived by nine children (six boys and three girls), 22 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Private services were held last Dec. 27 in Covina.

Instead of flowers, the family asked that contributions be made to the Boys and Girls Clubs.

For more information, contact the Boys and Girls Clubs at (909) 623-8538.

Assemblymember Torres' annual toy drive a success

It was the generosity of the community that made Assemblymember Norma Torres' third annual holiday open house and toy drive a success last month at her Chino office, Torres said.

A room full of toys resulted from the effort. The toys were distributed last month to 23 local and military families with a total of 52 children.

"I am grateful and very appreciative of everyone's efforts," Torres said. "Without the support of our community, many of these families would not be able to provide holiday gifts for their children."

Organizations donating toys in-



NEW CONFERENCE CENTER OPENS AT FAIRPLEX – A new 80,000 square foot state-of-the-art conference center opened for business at Pomona's Fairplex this month. The facility, which is operated by Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, includes the 12,000 square foot California Ballroom and offers a 40-megabyte high-tech sound system. Other features include "smart boards," "drop down" electrical power, hanging points for lighting and access to power and internet through connections in the floor. Pictured, above, are members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce last week on a tour of the new facility. Below, Sheraton Fairplex marketing director Tim McGill explains highlights of the facility to Pomona Chamber members. Pictured from left inside the facility are Roberto and Judy Flores of Casa de Salsa restaurant in Claremont; McGill; Dayle Coleman, of the Los Angeles Urban League in Pomona; and Stephanie Benjamin, of PVW (Pomona Valley Workshop) in Montclair.



SUCCESSFUL TOY DRIVE – Assemblymember Norma Torres, center, poses with some of the kids last month at her annual open house and toy drive at her Chino office.

cluded the Citrus Valley Association of Realtors, SEIU Nurses, State Farm, Chino Fireman Association,

Pomona Police Officers Association, ARCO Pomona, and Redbrick Pizza.

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ARTS AND ENTERPRISE OPEN HOUSE – Jacob Franco, at left, of West Covina, a teaching assistant and high school senior student at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise, and art teacher Naomi Kadinoff display a work of student art at last month's open house at the school, a state Board of Education authorized public charter high school with an emphasis on academics and the arts. For more information, contact the school at (909) 620-1018 or visit the web site at www.thesae.k12.ca.us. The school is located at 295 N. Garey Ave. in Pomona.

Pomona's GAIN office to hold job fair with representatives of 30 employers

The Los Angeles County Office of Education's GAIN Division is hosting another Pomona Community Employment Expo in March at its Pomona office.

The event, co-hosted by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, the Pomona Unified School District, and local WorkSource Centers, will include 30 employers

and as many as 500 well-qualified and "hire-ready" applicants from the local community, according to David McElwain, East San Gabriel Valley Region III Manager.

Expo hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Thursday, March 22, at 2235 N. Garey Ave. (at Arrow Highway).

Participants are encouraged to bring their resumes and "dress to impress."

The GAIN Division provides highly-energetic and motivational training to thousands of low-income job seekers throughout Los Angeles County. The Pomona office alone serves more than 100 job seekers each month, helping to build self-sufficiency through employment for parents and families.

For more information, contact (909) 392-8070.

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