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La Nueva Voz

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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



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Thursday, November 27, 2025

Mayor's 'State of City' talk covers homelessness, county fire contract negotiations and more, but remains optimistic

A wide range of topics in Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval's "State of the City" address covered challenges with homelessness, with the city's current contract negotiations with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, with sex trafficking and even on-going federal immigration raids in Pomona – but the refrain in his message was that he remains "hopeful and optimistic for our future together."

Speaking again this year to a capacity crowd in Pomona's Fox Theater, Sandoval incorporated into his hour and twenty minutes not only his remarks but every-

thing from an awards presentation honoring community members and a musical performance.

And all of that followed the Garey High School dragon dancers and an introductory performance by the dA Center for the Arts "Mini Mariachis."

Sandoval reminded the audience that in less than three years Pomona will welcome people from all over the world for the 2028 LA Olympics with the cricket games, the second most popular sport in the world, at Pomona's Fairplex.

"And we are going to welcome



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval

them with open arms," he said. "Currently, there is a debate going on in this country about the value of diversity and what it means to be an American."

"Any attempt to narrowly define what it means to be an American which runs counter to my values I will fight with love and peace," he said. "We are a stronger America because of our diversity. We are America and Pomona is America."

Sandoval said that just the day of his address several people "who are just simply trying to live and to put food on their

table and to pay their rent" were taken off the street in Pomona by U.S. Immigration, Customs and Enforcement agents.

"Since the 2024 election, far too many of our residents and businesses have suffered from the terror caused by the ICE raids," he said. "These unconscionable actions destabilize communities, but I can tell you Pomonans don't back down."

"We organize, we protest, and we even use the courts to challenge these dehumanizing practices," Sandoval said, adding that in July, Pomona joined a federal lawsuit to protect residents from unconstitutional immigration enforcement actions.

He also said he formed a "mayor's task force" to "meet the moment."

It was out of that effort that the city re-introduced the Pomona Compassion Fund initially formed during the pandemic. He said now it will be used to help Pomona families and businesses financially impacted by the ICE raids.

And with contributions during his presentation to that fund, he said the city now has reached its goal of \$250,000.

Sandoval said over the next few months the city will be hosting

State of City... pg. 6

Reminiscent of COVID, Supervisor Solis offers 'federal shutdown' food give-away

In the words of baseball great Yogi Berra, it was "like déjà vu all over again" in the City of Industry this month as Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank responded to the Trump administration's food benefit denial with a half-day drive-through food give-away for more than 2,500 families.

The scene at the Industry Hills Expo Center was a familiar one with cars lined up in lanes served four at a time in each lane by teams of volunteers – exactly like similar drive-throughs during the pandemic, the economic slow-down and disasters like the recent fires and

floods.

This time, however, the distribution event was held to provide critical relief amid the federal shutdown and suspension of food aid.

In an interview with La Nueva Voz, Solis said those lining up represented a "mixture" including federal employees, who she called the "backbone," and federal contractors "because they also receive funding through the federal government via the departments."

"If the departments aren't there to process checks, nobody gets paid, so this has a ripple effect," she said. "So, it's not just the one-

Food give-away... pg. 10



Los Angeles Supervisor Hilda Solis loads a frozen chicken in the back of a car during this month's half-day drive-through food give-away for more than 2,500 families. Solis was often spotted talking to folks lining up asking them where they were from and how things were going for them.



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CORRECTION

L.A. County Fire Chief issues corrections to Pomona fire services story

Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone has formally requested that La Nueva Voz correct two statements in last month’s page one story “La Verne pulls plug on talks over fire services merger to bail out Pomona, leaving next steps unclear.”

In a letter Marrone sent to La Nueva Voz by certified mail dated Nov. 5, Marrone took issue with the statement that the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County plans to “phase in a 41 percent cost spike of \$15 million a year by 2028.”

“The District has proposed a three-year phased-in approach to full cost recovery beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27,” Marrone said in the letter. “This results in an incremental increase of \$3.5M in FY 2026-27; \$5.2M in FY 2027-28; and \$3.8M in FY 2028-29; and

not \$15M a year by 2028 as stated in the article. Therefore, the overall increase from FY 2025-26 through FY 2028-29 is \$12.5M (33 percent).”

To clarify, the La Nueva Voz figures were based on information contained in a staff report presented by City of Pomona staff to councilmembers with their Sept. 15, 2025 agenda package. That report referenced the fire department’s April 2024 proposal which was discussed at the July 7 city council meeting, which stated costs of fire and emergency medical services would increase by \$14.7 million between 2025-26 and 2028-29. La Nueva Voz rounded off the \$14.7 million to \$15 million for the news story as is common in newswriting and reporting public affairs.

The report continued to explain the phased-in approach would in-

clude a third of that increase phasing in during each of the three years.

After the July city council meeting, the county provided revised and updated numbers showing the four-year cost impact would total \$13.6 million over existing contract terms.

Fire officials further commented on the July 7 Pomona City Council meeting in an e-mail conversation with La Nueva Voz after their initial formal letter.

“Unfortunately, an outdated estimated annual fee for Fiscal Year 2024-25 was used for the presentation,” fire department public information officials said in the e-mail.

La Nueva Voz reached out to the fire department to determine how the latest figures cited by Marrone in his letter were derived. While La Nueva Voz received no response before press time, it appears Mar-

rone’s numbers were the county’s latest updated figures incorporating projected cost increases.

Marrone’s second concern was a reference by La Nueva Voz in the article that “Marrone has indicated that he is not amenable to considering reductions or realignment to fire department apparatus or personnel contracted within the city.”

This quotation in the story was based on a statement from Deputy City Manager Mark Gluba who responded to an inquiry from La Nueva Voz in an e-mail dated Sept. 29.

Marrone clarified Gluba’s comment in his letter to La Nueva Voz:

“The district is not amenable to reducing personnel, as doing so could compromise the safety of residents, the community, and fire personnel,” Marrone said. “However, the district may consider realigning resources, if possible, to better ac-

commodate the needs of the city.”

Marrone also has submitted letters of clarification to Pomona city staff at least twice on this matter, once in a letter to City Manager Anita Scott dated Aug. 1 listing four statements he termed inaccurate, alongside his corrected information.

A second letter to city staff was dated Sept 22 regarding recent discussions and comments at the Sept. 15 city council meeting.

“With respect to the concerns raised in your letter, we recognize that each party may view and describe this situation differently, which is understandable,” Scott said. “While we acknowledge you may disagree with certain characterizations made during the council’s meeting discussion, we do not believe those comments were factually inaccurate or intended to misrepresent the history of negotiations.”

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12/5/25
6:00PM at Village Conference Center,
1444 E. Holt Ave., Pomona, CA

DEC 9

Ganesha High School Music &
Dance: Sounds of the Season
12/9/25
7:00PM at Fox Theater,
301 S. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA

DEC 9

Diamond Ranch HS, Lorbeer MS &
Elementary Schools: Winter
Extravaganza
12/9/25
7:00PM at Diamond Ranch HS
100 Diamond Ranch Rd., Pomona, CA

DEC 11

Pomona High School with Emerson
Middle School: Winter Concert
12/11/25
7:00PM at Fox Theater
301 S. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA

DEC 11

Diamond Ranch HS Choir: Holiday Hits,
Then and Now
12/11/25
7:00PM at The Cathedral at the Union
350 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA

DEC 12

Lorbeer Middle School: Winter
Wonderland
12/12/25
6:00PM at Lorbeer MS Gym,
501 Diamond Bar Blvd., Diamond Bar, CA

DEC 12

Garey High School: Christmas Village &
Christmas Celebration
12/12/25, 7:00PM Xmas Village, Xmas
Celebration at 8:00PM at
Garey HS, 321 W. Lexington Ave.,
Pomona, CA

DEC 16

6-7-8 All District Choir: Holiday
Concert
12/16/25
7:00PM at The Cathedral at the Union,
350 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA

DEC 17

Marshall Middle School: Winter Concert
12/17/25
7:00PM at Marshall MS Gym,
1921 Arroyo Ave., Pomona, CA

DEC 18

Simons Middle School: Winter Concert
12/18/25
6:00PM at Simons MS Gym,
900 E. Franklin Ave., Pomona, CA

Visit our online calendar to
view the full list of dates
and locations at
www.pusd.org

Dec. 9, 2025 • Fox Theater – \$10 at the door
Dec. 11, 2025 • Fox Theater – \$10 at the door
Dec. 11, 2025 • The Cathedral – \$12 at the door
(Children 5 & under free)
Dec. 12, 2025 • Garey High – \$10 at the door

Mt. SAC Board extends president’s contract

The Mt. SAC board of trustees last week voted to extend the contract of President and CEO Dr. Martha Garcia through 2029, reaffirming the board’s confidence in her leadership and long-term vision for California’s largest community college. Garcia joined Mt. SAC in July 2023 and has been credited with guiding the institution through transformational achievements that have strengthened academic excellence and expanded student opportunity.

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Photos by Renee Barbee
It was time again this month for the annual chalk art festival in Shaun Diamond Plaza on Second Street in Downtown Pomona. Pictured are several of the best -- all requiring hours of work -- that caught photographer Renee Barbee's eye.



Suave Gonzalez, a formerly incarcerated artist and Pulitzer Prize-winning advocate for access to education in prisons, paints a live mural at the "100 Million Hackathon" this month in Los Angeles. The two-day event brought together justice-impacted leaders, technology experts, employers and policy makers to design solutions that improve reentry outcomes, expand educational access, and enhance community safety. More than 97,000 individuals currently are in California prisons while industry faces a dual challenge of labor shortages and untapped human potential. For more information, visit antirecidivism.org.

Athens Services launches 'Recycling Ambassador Program' in Pomona, empowering residents to lead local sustainability

Pomona residents are taking a more active role in improving recycling and composting at their apartment communities through Athens Services' new Recycling Ambassador Program, a new initiative designed to increase recycling participation, reduce contamination and strengthen sustainability education across multi-family properties.

The program trains volunteer ambassadors who live in these communities to become on-site points of contact for recycling and composting. Ambassadors help distribute information, answer questions, and support property managers in keeping common collection areas cleaner and easier to use. According to Athens officials, this peer-to-peer approach is especially effective in multi-family housing, where recycling systems

can sometimes be confusing or inconsistent.

"We are very excited to launch the Recycling Ambassador Program in Pomona," said Jessica Aldridge, director of sustainability and zero waste for Athens Services. "By helping residents understand how to sort properly and reduce waste, we can make recycling more successful and improve the overall health of the system. This program allows us to connect directly with the people who make a difference every day."

For many ambassadors, the motivation is simple. Jan Bush, a resident volunteer, said she joined because she wants her complex to recycle more effectively. "I want to help our community do a better job," she said. "I look forward to learning more about proper recycling



ATHENS RECYCLING AMBASSADORS -- Pomona residents living in multi-family facilities are getting involved in a new Athens Services "Recycling Ambassador Program" to help spread the word about the importance of recycling. From left are Elisa Mitchell, City of Pomona; ambassadors Arlene Andrew, Evelyn Diaz Brown, Jan Bush and Diane Stielstra; and Kikei Wong and Daniel Martinez of Athens Services.



Iso Nakasato
Athens Services



Jessica Aldridge
Athens Services

and helping my neighbors feel more confident. When people understand the basics, the whole property benefits."

Lizbeth Martinez, another ambassador, said the program gives residents a meaningful way to contribute locally.

"I have always cared about sustainability, so becoming an ambassador felt like a natural fit," she said. "Small changes in habits can lead to real improvements. If someone learns one new thing

about recycling or composting, that is already progress."

Athens Services officials said the program reflects their long-term commitment to partnering with cities to support cleaner communities and stronger environmental outcomes.

"Pomona continues to show real leadership in sustainability," said Iso Nakasato, senior director of government affairs. "Athens is proud to provide tools and training that help residents participate more

easily. When communities are engaged, the entire recycling system becomes more effective."

The Recycling Ambassador Program will continue expanding to additional Pomona properties as Athens works to strengthen recycling access and education for all residents.

Mt. SAC launches state's only tuition-free vocational nursing program

Mt. San Antonio College has launched California's only tuition-free vocational nursing program, offered through the School of Continuing Education, in a move that opens doors for aspiring nurses to enter the profession without the costs typically found elsewhere.

The full-time program is fully accredited by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians. It spans three 18-week terms and blends classroom instruction with extensive clinical training.

Students spend four days a week in class while clinical rotations provide real-world experience through 12-hour shifts at healthcare facilities across the region.

"It not only prepares graduates for immediate employment but also positions them for further advancement into registered nursing programs," said Dr. Tami Pearson, Mt. SAC's associate vice president of the School of Continuing Education.

Diabetes 101

By Guadalupe Castillo, RN, CDCES

Diabetes Educator for Casa Colina and Centers for Healthcare's Limb Preservation Program

Diabetes is a medical condition where your body has too much sugar (blood glucose). This happens because your body doesn't make enough insulin or can't use the insulin it makes well. Insulin helps remove sugar from your bloodstream and turn it into energy. If blood sugar stays too high, it can cause health problems.

Types of Diabetes:

- **Type 1 Diabetes:** Usually found in children and young adults, this is an autoimmune condition where the body attacks insulin-making cells. People with Type 1 must take daily insulin shots.

- **Type 2 Diabetes:** Most common type seen in adults and children. It is linked to being overweight, inactivity, and family history. Your body doesn't make enough insulin or doesn't use it well.

- **Gestational Diabetes:** High blood sugar during pregnancy. It

usually goes away after birth but increases the likelihood of both mom and baby getting Type 2 diabetes later.

Signs You Might Have Diabetes: Can be mild, but look out for:

- Feeling very thirsty
- Urinating a lot
- Unexplained weight loss
- Feeling very hungry
- Constant tiredness
- Blurry vision
- Slow-healing sores/cuts

Getting diagnosed early is crucial to prevent bigger problems.

Diabetes Management: Managing diabetes means keeping blood sugar levels healthy. This involves:

- Checking blood sugar often (home monitor and HbA1c lab tests).

- Eating healthy: Focus on whole foods, lots of vegetables, and cut down on high fat and high sugar foods. Drink water instead of sug-



Guadalupe Castillo

ary drinks.

- **Being active:** Regular exercise helps, even walking.

- **Insulin:** People with Type 1, and many with Type 2, need insulin injections.

- **Pills:** Some with Type 2 take pills to help their body make or use insulin better.

What Happens if Diabetes Isn't Controlled? If blood sugar stays too high, it can damage parts of

your body over time, like:

- Your heart (leading to heart attacks or strokes)
- Your kidneys (kidney failure, leading to dialysis)
- Your nerves (causing pain, numbness, or even limb loss)
- Your eyes (leading to blindness)

See your doctors regularly to check for these problems.

Living with diabetes means paying attention to your health daily. With good care and support, people with diabetes can live long, healthy, and happy lives. Knowing about diabetes, early diagnosis, and sticking to your treatment plan are the best ways to stay healthy.

Casa Colina is offering diabetes education classes in English and in Spanish. Visit <https://www.casacolina.org/programs-services/community-services/wellness-programs/>

State of City... from pg. 1

community meetings throughout the city to discuss the strain on the city's budget of homelessness, sex trafficking and the increasing cost of fire protection services.

"And we are committed to listening and hearing from you," he said. "People tell me they see the progress we are making together."

As examples, he cited the recently opened Cesar Chavez Foundation's 90-unit affordable housing project, the Metro A Line opening in Pomona, and even newly repaved streets lined with trees and shrubs, new playgrounds throughout the city and the \$6.1 million upgrade at the Pomona Public Library.

Sandoval said the city's code compliance officers are enforcing laws preventing the sale of flavored tobacco and hemp products to children and, through the work of the Pomona Police Department



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval introduced members of the Pomona City Council before his "State of the City" address this month. Pictured, from left, are Councilmembers Steve Lustro, Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Victor Preciado, Mayor Sandoval, and Councilmembers Lorraine Canales and Nora Garcia. Not pictured is Councilmember Debra Martin.

and the city's Office of Violence Prevention and Intervention, the city achieved in 2024 a 24 percent reduction in shootings and a 53 percent reduction in gun homi-

cides.

"In 2013, there were 29 homicides in the city," he said. "As of today, there have been eight homicides in the City of Pomona – still far too many, but much, much lower than 2013."

"Earlier this year, the L.A. Times recognized 101 Latino-owned businesses and organizations to highlight the best of Latino L.A.," Sandoval said. "Three of them were in Pomona – Mi Cafecito, Wish You Were Here Coffee, and Café Con Libros."

He listed more than two dozen events produced by



Members of the dA Center for the Arts "Mini Mariachis" performed this month at Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval's "State of the City" address at the Fox Theater.

Services held for Mary Montes, early Chicano Movement advocate

Services were held this month for Mary Montes, a Pomona High School graduate, educator, the first Latina and first woman elected to the board of the Pomona Unified School District, and an early activist for equitable education and wages during the Chicano Movement, who died last month. She was 86.

Born on a dairy farm in rural Chino, Montes lived an extraordinary life graduating from Pomona High School in 1957, attending Mt. San Antonio College and transferring to UCLA where she graduated.

She went on to earn a doctorate in education at Claremont Colleges. Her career in education included teaching in Pomona Unified where she was elected to the school board in 1974 – the same year she ran a strong but unsuccessful 35th District Congressional campaign in the in the June primary election.

Montes became an assistant pro-



Mary Montes

fessor at Cal Poly Pomona where she became the first Chicana professor, and she served as a broadcast standards editor for ABC Television for 15 years. She served as assistant dean of students at Claremont Colleges in 1974.

She has been recognized in the Hall of Fame at Claremont Colleges and recently, because of her leadership contributions, her photo

was included in the "Power of Pomona is People" art installation at the new North Pomona Metro A Line station.

Montes is a past president of the Pomona Unified School District board, a Pomona Progress Bulletin "Woman Achiever" in 1976, and she received an "Appreciation Award" for creating the first bilingual education course at Cal Poly Pomona in 1976-1977.

She received an appreciation award from the Hispanic Youth Task Force in Pomona in 1992, she received a distinguished service award from the Claremont Graduate School Alumni Association in 1982, and she became a founding member of the Claremont Graduate University "Alumni Hall of Fame" in 2000.

Montes, who marched and fought with Cesar Chavez, was founder and chair of the Hispanic Academy of Media Arts and Sci-

Mary Montes... pg. 14

residents and organizations in the community each year.

"As you know, people make that happen – you make that happen," he said. "I'm moved by the people of this city. You really are amazing people. And that is the strength of Pomona, those who serve others without expecting anything in return."

"And looking out for each other and caring and showing compassion for each other is what gets us through the difficult and chal-

lenging times," he added. "And Pomona has stepped up."

A couple of dozen awards presented before his comments included "small business of the year" to "On Time Photo Booth Rentals," "business of the year" to Spectra Company, and "community leader of the year" to Duane Smith, who Sandoval called "Mr. Pomona."

A second "community leader of the year" award went to Jeanette Royston of the Pomona Valley NAACP, and a "city team of the year" award went to the city's Homeless Encampment and Response Team (HEART).

"Veteran of the year" awards went to Stefanie Boatman and Ali Hangan, and a "community impact award" went to Khalif Rasshan.

"Inspiration awards" were presented to the families of the late Ron Vander Molen and the late Mickey Gallivan.

La Nueva Voz

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LEASE SPECIAL

LEASE SPECIAL

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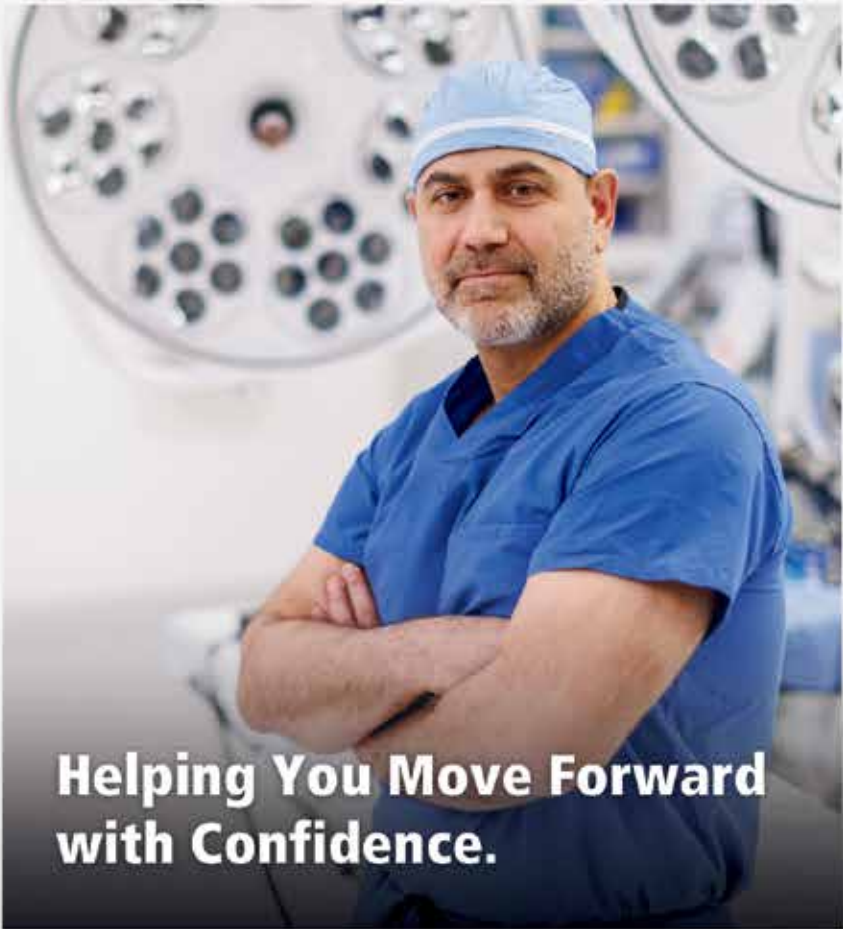
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Cesar Chavez Foundation opens new 90-unit housing project; one new resident sees apartment as step toward education, employment

Editor's Note: The following is based on an in-person interview by Renee Barbee with a new resident of Chris Hartmire Plaza in Pomona.

The Cesar Chavez Foundation celebrated the grand opening this month of the \$75 million Chris Hartmire Plaza, a new 90-unit affordable housing community developed by the foundation in Pomona, by holding an official ribbon-cutting for both officials and residents.

Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz took the opportunity after the ceremonies to interview Randy Collins, a resident of the new complex, to find out how it all came about.

Q: When did you first learn about this facility?

A: I learned about this facility during my time incarcerated and me being released. I had a friend that told me about Chris Hartmire, and I knew it wasn't going to be easy to get into these apartments, so I had it in the back of my head that I won't do it.

Q: And how long did

the process take?

A: It took approximately a year and four months.

Q: A year and four months? Long process application?

A: Yes, appointments, applications, signatures, the whole nine yards for me was not easy.

Q: And how old are you?

A: I'm 33.

Q: Did you ever serve in the military or become homeless or anything like that?

A: I was homeless for about like eight years.

Q: How did you survive?

A: I've been homeless. When

I say homeless, I mean like absolutely no home. I mean like in the street, you know. I survived by the tools that my mom taught me and that my dad taught me. And at a young age, I was already put to the test to see if I was a man or a boy. And I guess you can probably say I was a man because I passed the test. I had a lot of tools . . . that was taught down to me, old tradition lifestyle, old fashioned tradition, traditional maturity.

Q: That's good to know. Do you belong to any groups (or) do

New housing project... pg. 15



Photos by Renee Barbee
New Hartmire Plaza resident Randy Collins is pictured on the deck of his new home. Also pictured is his brand new kitchen area.



Photo by Sandy Huffaker

RIBBON CUTTING AT HARTMIRE PLAZA -- Officials cut the ribbon this month for the new \$75 million Chris Hartmire Plaza, a new 90-unit affordable housing community in Pomona constructed by the Cesar Chavez Foundation. Pictured from left, in front, are Becky Shevlin, vice chair, San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust; State Sen. Susan Rubio; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; residents Linda Carbajal and Adelma Huerta; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; and California Dept. of Housing and Community Development Director Gustavo Velasquez. At rear, from left, are Hao Li, director of City Community Capital; Steve Cain, UnitedHealthcare; Jason Osborn, mortgage officer; John Hartmire, son of Chris Hartmire; Congresswoman Norma Torres; Cesar Chavez Foundation Vice President Alfredo Izmajtovich; Foundation Board Chair Paul Chavez; and Foundation CEO Manuel Bernal.



Start Saving this Winter!

As the holidays arrive and the weather starts to cool, Three Valleys invites the community to stay water-wise. Try these tips to avoid unnecessary water use:

When it comes to your holiday decor, choose drought-tolerant wreaths or greenery that doesn't need extra watering.

Rain on the way? Turn off your sprinklers and let nature take care of the rest to avoid overwatering.

Prevent wasting water and spending more on your water bill by only running full loads of laundry and dishes.

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MANZANARES FAMILY AT THE DA CENTER FOR THE ARTS -- Members of Pomona's Manzanares family were asked by officials at the dA Center for the Arts in Pomona to do a cultural presentation in honor of Native American Heritage Month which was observed nationwide this month celebrating the history, culture and contributions of Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. So they did! And in their program this month at the dA in Downtown Pomona "Friday Family Night" they sang songs, told stories and told of the history of Native Americans in Pomona, family ties to the Gabrieleno Village of Toibingna, and the history of their own family here. Pictured, from left, are Daniel Quiroga, Liz Quiroga, Jennifer Quiroga, Justasea Quiroga (in front), Lisa Quiroga, Richard Quiroga, Dani Quiroga, David Ybarra, Hope Quiroga, Dee Dee Manzanares Ybarra, and Richie Quiroga. Kids in the audience were able to make Native American necklaces to take home, thanks to Dani, Richie and Lisa heading up that part of the program.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Former Pomona Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW



Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest is currently conducting the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act Five-Year Review at former Pomona Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant (NIROP), in Pomona, California. Pomona NIROP is administratively managed by Naval Weapons Station (NAVWPNSTA) Seal Beach.

The purpose of the Five-Year Review is to evaluate whether remedies implemented in accordance with final Decision Documents remain protective of human health and the environment since the last Five-Year Review completed in 2021. The review is for remedies at sites where unlimited use and unrestricted exposure is prohibited. Sites included as part of this Five-Year Review are the following:

- Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Site 4 - Former NIROP Building 27 North Side;
- IRP Site 5 - Former NIROP Building 48 West Wall;
- IRP Site 6 - Former NIROP Building 2; and
- IRP Site 7 - Former NIROP Building 4.

IRP Site 6 includes the former Surface Processing Area (Department 52), the former Industrial Waste Water Treatment Plant (Department 62), the former Machine/Tooling Shops and Mechanical Assembly Area, the former Metal Chip Storage Area, and the former Heat Treat Area.

The selected cleanup remedy evaluated for the Pomona NIROP sites included in this review are whether land use controls (LUCs) in the form of institutional controls (ICs) are operating in accordance with the 1997 County of Los Angeles Land Use Covenant. LUCs included at these sites include soil excavation restrictions, site-wide groundwater use restrictions, and prohibition of oil/gas extraction.

In August 2026, the Navy plans to issue a draft Five-Year Review Report for review by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. The final report will be issued in March 2027. The Navy will issue a public notice announcing completion of the Five-Year Review Report. Persons with questions or comments about the review or with requests for additional information about other Navy cleanup activities at Pomona NIROP may contact the Remedial Project Manager (RPM):

RPM
Naval Facilities Engineering System
Command Southwest 750 Pacific Highway,
11th Floor
San Diego, CA 92132 619-705-5427
navfac_sw_nws_seal_beach_rpm@us.navy.mil

Information is also available for review at the Pomona NIROP Administrative Records web page (navigate to California > Pomona NIROP):
<https://www.navfac.navy.mil/Divisions/Environmental/Products-and-Services/Environmental-Restoration/Southwest/>

Food give-away... from pg. 1

off, it's two or three times down the food chain."

"And we know that there are people that are hurting – a lot of seniors, you see a lot of seniors that are coming out, you see a lot of working-class people that right now are just barely making it, and they need to put food on the table," Solis added. "This is such a wealthy country, there should not be any excuse for anybody to go starving."

In her brief opening comments to event volunteers, elected officials and community leaders, Solis said driving in she saw cars were lining up a mile in all four directions for the 9 a.m. start time, making it clear

area, and you know what?" she added. "When there's something happening and a challenge, we all come together."

City of Industry Mayor Cory Moss opened the event.

"It seems like not very long ago that we were all here on the other side of this property for a large food distribution during the worldwide pandemic," she said. "And today, food insecurity continues to impact families in our communities. Now whether that is due to economic issues or impacts from government policies, this is an issue that we can do something about."

"Today, we come together in the



City of Industry Mayor Cory Moss



Michael Flood, President and CEO L.A. Regional Food Bank

Los Angeles County officials "have to do more of these events."

"There's still going to be another two or three weeks with people that won't have access to their CalFresh foods," she said. "Because of the government, it stopped and the payments have not come out yet."

"We as a Board of Supervisors, the five women, we voted to extend \$10 million to help provide food assistance because we knew this was going to happen," she said. "Now it's \$12 million, in addition to a million that I gave (from her office's discretionary funds), and it's going to keep growing."

"And we do need donations to L.A. Regional Food Bank," she said. "Today we have enough for 2,500 families and I don't know that that's going to be enough."

A similar county event for 4,000 families was held three days later at the San Gabriel Valley Airport in El Monte, she said.

Another was held at the Fairplex in Pomona last week for another 3,000 families in need, and one more was scheduled for earlier this week in East Los Angeles.

"I see our friends from Pomona here, I see a lot of people from this

spirit of kindness and community to support anyone who needs assistance and to ensure that no one goes hungry," Moss said.

She added that the power of compassion and solidarity "is literally the most important way to help provide relief for those struggling with food insecurity."

Michael Flood, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank in the City of Industry, told the group that his organization has been working with Moss, the City of Industry, the City of La Puente and Solis for more than five years going back to the pandemic.

"And it does take a community . . . to come together, the volunteers, the food bank staff, thank you for all of what you do," Flood said. "It takes all of us to come together in order to be able to serve our neighbors and do it with dignity and compassion."

Volunteers helping out at the event came from the California Conservation Corps, the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, the Rio Hondo Conservation Corps, the non-profit Cultiva LA, the Hsi Lai Temple monastery in Hacienda

Food give-away... pg. 16

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Photos by Renee Barbee
HALLOWEEN AT PALOMARES PARK -- The City of Pomona's 10th annual two-day "Haunted House at Palomares Park" was held last month and included a family-friendly zone with trick-or-treating, inflatables, and costume contests. A separate haunted house, which organizers said potentially could be a little scarier for younger children, was held again this year. All was free for Pomona residents and only \$10 for each day for non-residents. Pictured are some of the kids enjoying their costumes, posing for mom's pictures and taking a break, all at the same time.



Photo by Renee Barbee
POMONA'S CONFERENCE OF COLLABORATIVES -- Efren Aguilar, director of early childhood ecosystems at the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, at the podium, speaks on an ecosystem mapping exercise last month at Pomona Connects' "Conference of Collaboratives," held at the Pomona Unified School District's conference center at the Village at Indian Hill. The event was designed to encourage working together for safe neighborhoods, strong families and a healthy quality of life. Key-note speaker at the event was Capt. Ryan Rodriguez of the Pomona Police Department. An ecosystem mapping exercise is a collaborative process to create a visual representation of all the people, organizations and services that interact within a specific system or environment. It helps clarify relationships, identify gaps and opportunities, and build a shared understanding among stakeholders. For more information, visit www.pomonaconnect.com.

A woman in a purple blazer and a man in a light blue shirt are standing together and smiling. To their left is a stylized yellow Christmas tree graphic. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with trees and a brick wall.

Happy Holidays
From Team Rodriguez

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Michelle Rodriguez
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KINDNESS FESTIVAL -- Dozens of kids, parents and guests participated this month in the fifth annual "Kindness Festival," a "joyful day of kindness, connection and celebration" presented by the group Compassionate Pomona (compassionatepomona.com) and held this year in the Shaun Diamond Plaza and on Second Street in Downtown Pomona. This year's theme was "Kindness Calms Chaos." Guests heard musical performances, enjoyed dancers, singers and a poet, played games and won raffle prizes. Pictured, from left, with their certificates from Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez are organizing committee members Paulette Young, Marianne Cordova and Andy Quinones, Sophia Cohen representing Assemblymember Rodriguez (with a certificate for the Downtown Pomona District, host of the event), committee lead Renee Barbee, and committee members Jan Chase and Don Martens. Not pictured is committee member Dr. Roberta Perlman.

THE SAE JAZZ BAND -- Members of The SAE (Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise) stole the show this month at the fifth annual Kindness Festival presented by Compassionate Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Kevin Martin Del Campo, a high school junior, on guitar; Emiliano Chavez, a senior, on bass; Lorenzo Friedmann, a junior, on the drums; and Joshua Johnston, a senior, on tenor sax.



Drummer Danny Peterson of South Africa, who was the recipient of President Obama's "Lifetime Achievement Award," got the kids into the act as always accompanying him on little drums of their own on stage at this month's Kindness Festival in Downtown Pomona.



Singers Justice Raleigh, 12th grade, at left, and Addae Raleigh, 10th grade, along with Stephani Martinez, grade 9, from The SAE performed at this month's Kindness Festival bringing their professional sound reminiscent of Broadway to the event.

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Officials open Palomares Park electric vehicle chargers, the first on city-owned property

Pomona city officials, electric vehicle partners and others cut the ribbon last week opening 19 new electric vehicle chargers in the Palomares Park parking lot – the first electric vehicle charging stations on city-owned property in Pomona.

“I think this really reflects the commitment of the city and the city council and our community partners on how important it is for us to be able to create the infrastructure so that our community can access it,” Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said. “We need to remain vigilant and continue to work hard and partner together.”

“This project is a perfect example of how Pomona is building momentum and a movement for sustainability across our community,” he added.

Ata Khan, Pomona’s deputy director for the Office of Economic and Business Affairs, explained the project was partially funded by a California Energy Commission grant. The installation vendor on the project was Electric Vehicle

Charging Services.

Minh S. Le, general manager for energy and environmental services with Los Angeles County’s Internal Services Department, called the project “a major step towards clean mobility and community health.”

“We’re opening the door to clean energy, healthier neighborhoods, and more equitable access to electric vehicle infrastructure,” Le said. “Communities like Pomona have long been burdened with a disproportionate amount of local pollution and the associated health risk associated with the transportation sector.”

“In fact, our entire South Coast Air Basin is considered by the Environmental Protection Agency as a region of extreme non-attainment,” he added. “That means that all the trucks, the vehicles that we drive around here, and the way our geography is with the airflow, it creates a region where smog stays in this area, and that creates challenges.”

But he said California is shifting

away from fossil fuels for the transportation sector, and the electric vehicle infrastructure like this project is an important element in helping make that happen.

He pointed out that 29.1 percent of all new cars sold in California last quarter were electric cars. He added that California has goals of shifting away from fossil fuel cars completely starting in 2035 when the sale of gasoline and diesel light duty vehicles no longer will be allowed.

“Today, roughly eight to nine percent of the cars that are on the road right now are electric,” he said as he commended the city for providing the space for the chargers.

“Zero emission vehicles aren’t a luxury, they’re a public health necessity,” he said.

He pointed out that within a mile of Palomares Park there are at least five multi-unit dwellings, giving tenants practical access to charging.

While the Palomares project was the first city-owned charging station location in Pomona, other pri-



OPENING 19 NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS -- Officials cut the ribbon last week to open 19 new electric vehicle chargers in Palomares Park -- the first electric vehicle chargers located on city-owned property in Pomona. At left is Alex Wheeler, clean energy project manager for California’s Energy Coalition; at center, from left, are Minh S. Le, general manager for energy and environmental services, Los Angeles County Internal Services Department; Pomona City Councilmember Lorraine Canales; Adrian Valdez, recreation supervisor; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Chris Diggs, Pomona’s Water Resources Director; Julie Carver, environmental compliance supervisor in Pomona’s Water Resources Department; Latina / Latino Roundtable Executive Director Lina Mira; Marcos Molina of Day One, at rear (The Roundtable and Day One are working with Pomona ACTS. The organizations are tasked with community engagement and outreach on the charger station project.); and Enid Joffe, of Green Paradigm Consulting, consultant to charging station installation vendor Electric Vehicle Charging Services. Pomona ACTS, or Pomona Activated for Community Transformation and Sustainability, is working to address climate change and public health challenges.



An electric vehicle charger is pictured in the foreground as Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval opens 19 new chargers at Palomares Park.

Mary Montes... from pg. 6

ences, Los Angeles Chapter, in 1991, and she received the Cesar Chavez Award in 2024 from Pomona’s Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley.

She taught and was director of multicultural education at El Rancho Unified School District in Pico Rivera, she was an elementary school teacher and a consultant in the bilingual program at what was then Fremont Junior High School from 1962 to 1965, and she received a Ford Foundation Global

Fellowship in 1974, a program that focuses on leadership for social justice.

She is survived by her only child, her daughter Dr. Lisa Montes Tan, her son-in-law Dr. Michael Tan, and her grandson Jacob Tan.

Her daughter said she “will be remembered as someone who spread love and the desire to help others.”

A funeral mass was held at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Pomona with Todd Memorial Chapel coordinating the services.

vate charging stations are scattered around the city at nearly a half a dozen locations including Winco, Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, Metro-link station parking lot in North Pomona, 7-Eleven and others.

Enid Joffe, a consultant with Green Paradigm Consulting, a firm that helps get charging stations up and running with grant money and workforce development, and a consultant to Electric Vehicle

Charging Services, told La Nueva Voz after the ribbon-cutting that statewide, California already is nearing its 2025 goal of 250,000 charging stations.

She said the Siemens manufacturing plant location in South Pomona is one of the nation’s leading providers of charging stations. She added that there are more than 70 manufacturers in the industry nationwide.

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New housing project... from pg. 9

you attend any sessions or classes or therapy or anything like that?

A: I do. I'm currently a client at Tri-City (Mental Health). I'm receiving mental health issues. I'm in mental health services for mental health issues. I feel like I'm part of an establishment of healing and peace.

Q: That's great. Do you know about Ethel Gardner, Kennedy Austin Foundation?

A: I don't.

Q: I'll put you in touch with her with your permission. She deals with a lot of stuff that you've been through.

A: I'm excited to meet this person and I'm all for it.

Q: Great. So when did you personally get here?

A: I moved in here Oct. 17.

Q: Do you pay any rent here?

A: I don't. I'm part of a project based for me and I'm considered like a lottery ticket that I won. I'm a winner.

Q: So are you planning on getting a job or do you have any way of taking care of yourself financially?

A: Yeah, I want to go back to school. I do want to get back into employment but unfortunately, you know, I got to do part-time so with my mental health issue I'm working on trying to get to full-time . . . if that's possible that's just a long-term goal and it's just like something you know I have established.

Q: Great, wonderful. I am glad that you found the place to live and I thank you very much for your time.

A: I'd like to give my appreciation to Chris Hartmeyer Apartments, as well as the people that allowed me to be here. It gave me the opportunity to see what it's like to really live life in society as a normal civilian.

In addition to affordable homes, Chris Hartmeyer Apartments provide residents with on-site health and supportive services.

The community is named after Rev. Chris Hartmire, a close ally of Cesar Chavez who helped build the United Farm Workers movement. A four-story mural unveiled at the grand opening honors both men as symbols of unity and resilience.

"Today's celebration and opening of Chris Hartmire Plaza is an example of how the ideals and values of (Chavez) remain steadfast in our work," said Manuel H.

Bernal, president and CEO of the Cesar Chavez Foundation. "The life work of Cesar Chavez and Rev. Hartmire was defined by humility, conviction and service to others. Chris Hartmire Plaza reflects that enduring vision . . . by creating a community where people feel seen, supported and empowered to thrive."

It includes 30 one-bedroom, 30 two-bedroom and 30 three-bedroom apartments for households earning between 30 and 60 percent of the area median income. It includes apartments reserved for veterans, people with disabilities, and individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Residents have access to on-site health and wellness supportive services through a partnership with Tri City Mental Health, along with a 6,756-square-foot federal qualified health center operated by East Valley Community Health Center that will open next year.

The health center will provide medical, dental and mental health services to residents and the surrounding community.

"Our partnership with the Cesar Chavez Foundation brings vital supportive and health resources to residents which is critical to their well-being," said Ontson Placide, executive director of Tri City. "This collaboration helps ensure access to quality care right where people live."

According to state and local data, the opening of the facility comes at a critical time for California, where the state faces a shortage of more than 1.2 million affordable homes for extremely low-income renters, and 78 percent of those households spend more than half their income on housing.

In Pomona, nearly two-thirds of renters are cost-burdened, spending more than 30 percent of their income on rent, according to a foundation news release.

The project was made possible through a coalition of public and private partners, including the City of Pomona, the State of California, Citi and UnitedHealth Group.

It was described as a new affordable housing community linking housing, health and hope to address a critical need in Pomona where nearly two-thirds of renters are cost-burdened and affordable housing is increasingly out of reach for working families.

'Celebration of life' set for David Lee

A celebration of life will be held next month for chemical engineer and educator David Joe Lee, Sr., co-founder with his wife, Linda Wright-Lee of Pomona's Wright On Time Youth and Family Services, Inc., who died last month. He was 83.

Viewing is scheduled for 10 a.m. and services for 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 5, at Mt. Zion Church, at 224 W. California Street, Ontario, where he was a member. Interment will be immediately afterwards at Bellevue Memorial Park in Ontario.

A native of Yuma, Arizona, Lee was the eighth child of Luther and Rebecca Lee. He met Linda Wright in 1989 and the two were married in 1992.

He became the first Black person to earn a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering at the University of Arizona – Tempe. He worked summers in the watermelon patch to supplement money from his parents and to ensure he had enough money for tuition, room and board.

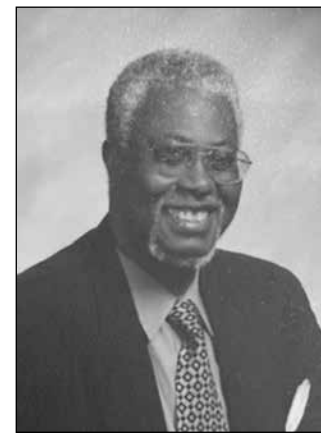
Lee was a member of the alumni Beta Nu chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, an international historically Black fraternity. He served as an elder at South Hills Presbyterian Church in Pomona, and he was an associate member of the National Council of Negro Women Pomona Section.

He had one son, David Lee II, with De Gloria Lee.

Lee worked as a chemical engineer for Hunt Wesson Foods in Fullerton until he retired, and taught high school algebra for nine years in the Pomona Unified and Chino Unified School Districts.

He also served as a mortgage broker buying and "flipping" properties.

David and Linda created several business ventures includ-



David Joe Lee, Sr.

ing a weekend mathematics and "English as a Second Language" tutorial program at Chino High School and Wright On Time Youth and Family Services, a non-profit organization with credentialed teachers working to prepare youth and

family members for life through training in parenting and anger management as well as mentorship and tutorial support, where he served as executive director of the tutorial program.

He is survived by his wife Linda Wright-Lee and members of their "blended" family – David Lee II, La Ron Densen, Glenn A. Wright (wife Selena), Cynthia A. Walker (husband Robert T. Walker), Gerald Wright, brother Jewel Lee, and six grandchildren.

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



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Pomona Valley Memorial Park is a nonprofit corporation.

Pomona Kiwanis open local ‘See’s’ store for the holidays

Members of the Pomona Kiwanis Club have opened a See’s Candies store in Downtown Pomona, making it possible to buy holiday candy right here in Pomona.

President Mitch Stein said the store opened last Friday at 101 S. Main St., Pomona, just north of Second Street.

Hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week except Thanksgiving through Dec. 22 and the store is completely staffed by Kiwanis volunteers.

“This isn’t just about sweets – it’s about community, opportunity and giving back,” Stein said. “It’s been decades since Pomona had a See’s shop – this is a milestone for us.”

He added that all profits will go straight into local causes – scholarships for high school students and outings for foster siblings who don’t often get a chance at new experiences.

“Every purchase helps a Pomona student attend college or gives a foster child a day they’ll remember,” he said.

An impressive choice of selections is available. And customers can visit the shop, order online at pomonakiwanis.com, or call (909) 255-1070 (call for large corporate orders or delivery within Pomona).



Photo by Rodney Tanaka

KIWANIS OPEN NEW SEE’S STORE IN POMONA -- Pomona Kiwanis President Mitch Stein, at center, cuts the ribbon last week with the help of a whole lot of Kiwanis members to open a new See’s Candies store in Downtown Pomona that will remain open through the holidays selling candy to raise money for local kids. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Robles, Chamber Board member Daniel Thomas, Kiwanis member Kim Johnson, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Diane Elias of Kiwanis, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, Pomona Chamber Ambassador Frank Carrillo of On Time Photo Booth Rentals, Gino Elias (at rear) of Kiwanis, Stein, Pomona City Councilmember Lorraine Canales, and Pomona Chamber Ambassador Dominica and Kobe Carrillo of On Time Photo Booth Rentals.



GRAND OPENING FOR GNG BOXING -- Pomona’s GNG Boxing, a new and inspiring business dedicated to empowering youth through the sport of boxing, cut the ribbon this month to officially open at 253 S. Park Ave. The business was founded by Virgil Castillo, a tribal member of the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, who provided funding support for the boxing program. Pictured, from left, are owner Virgil Castillo, GNG’s Leo Santa Cruz, Coach Abraham Lopez, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, and State Sen. Susan Rubio. At far left, just out of the shot, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Board member Daniel Thomas and President and CEO Monique Robles.

Food give-away... from pg. 10

Heights and others. Notices went out to residents in 15 area ZIP codes for the event in an effort to reach those impacted by the federal government shutdown and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s suspension of funding for SNAP/CalFresh food benefits, as well as the Trump administration’s refusal to comply with a court order to allocate reserve funds for SNAP-eligible Americans.

Solis said while previous food distributions were in response to events no one could have prevented, “this crisis is a deliberate, man-made disaster.” “The Trump administration’s decision to withhold food benefits has forced families into desperation and uncertainty,” she said. “When Washington abandons its responsibility to serve the people, Los Angeles County steps up.” “We will continue doing everything we can to make sure no one in our communities goes hungry,” she said.

Solis’ first supervisorial district is home to some 340,000 residents who rely on SNAP benefits to put food on the table.

There were no eligibility requirements for those lining up to receive family-sized boxes of free food including frozen chickens, fresh fruits and vegetables, bags of rice and oats, and peanut butter, canned goods like pasta sauce, mixed fruit, tuna, beans and chicken noodle soup, and even packages of baby wipes.

For more information about free food resources, visit the web site at <https://dpss.lacounty.gov/en/food.html>.

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Photo by Renee Barbee

OPTIMISTS HOLD INSTALLATION AND AWARDS BANQUET -- Sonia Molina was sworn in as new president of the Pomona Optimists at their annual installation and awards banquet this month held at the Eagles lodge in Pomona. And outgoing president Lorraine Canales received a special award recognizing her 15 years as president. Optimist member Ruby Jung received a "President's Citation, Outstanding Optimist Club Member" for her years of service. Pictured presenting Jung the award, from left, are Molina, Jung, and Canales.



Photo by Renee Barbee

VETERANS DAY IN POMONA -- Congresswoman Norma Torres, in conjunction with the City of Pomona, Fairplex and others, held a Veterans Day celebration and cookout on Veterans Day this month at Pomona Memorial Park featuring food, entertainment and vendors, honoring all who have served. "Thank you so much for making the time to come here today to give thanks to those who sacrifice so much for our freedoms that we enjoy here in our community," Torres said, adding that her staff has returned \$20 million back to the community that was owed by the federal government. "I think the federal government gets an 'F' grade for refusing to provide the services that we promised to our veterans, to our seniors, and to anyone else who reaches out to the federal government and their claim is denied." "Liberty, freedom and justice would not be possible without the men and women who have served this country," Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said as he extended a happy Veterans Day to guests. Cal Poly Pomona provided mariachis for the occasion. Torres added she was flying back to Washington that night because "we really need to get the government opened again for all of you." Pictured, from left, are Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; Dr. Huu Vo, President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley; Torres; Thich (Reverend) Chon Tri of the Phap Van Buddhist Temple in Pomona; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval (at rear), Vietnam War veterans and others.



TURNING THE TABLES ON RENEE -- Students at Pomona's Madison Elementary School turned the tables on Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz last month asking to interview her instead of the other way around. The students were "Art and Civic Theatre" (A.C.T.) students who produce a "news hour" at school. Questions ranged from "How did you get involved in the local La Nueva Voz?" and "How do you find specific topics to write about?" to "How do you typically conduct an interview for local news stories?" The two-part interview was conducted in a session at 9:15 a.m. and another at 11:15 a.m. enabling students in different classes to become involved in the process. Pictured is Barbee with the students.

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Photos courtesy of Pomona Unified School District

We didn't want to leave this impressive group out -- staff members at Pomona Unified School District's administrative headquarters all dressed up for Halloween. Now we don't want to identify some and not others, plus we figure we might have trouble coming up with names on these anyway, but don't they all just look good? We do see some emojis on the right and some Dia de los Muertos on the left. Oh, and that's Pomona Unified School Supt. Darren Knowles in the back row, just right of center, dressed as a, well, as a superintendent. Looking good, gang!



Students in costume at Golden Springs Elementary School in Diamond Bar pose for the camera -- but they are still a little scary, right? Plus, we're pretty sure there's a teacher or staff member or two under all of that. Halloween storybook parades in full costume were held Friday morning on Halloween day for at least 13 of the Pomona Unified School District elementary schools. A special thanks to PUSD's Public Relations Specialist Hayley Chacon for rounding up all the photos for La Nueva Voz.



We just don't think they could be any cuter. These are all first graders at Pomona's Lopez Elementary School lining up for their storybook parade around campus.



Fourth graders at Lopez Elementary School pose for the camera, all dressed up in their favorite storybook character costumes for Halloween.



We're sorry but these students at Pantera Elementary School in Diamond Bar are just the definition of cute as they pose in their storybook parade costumes for Halloween last month.



Photos by Renee Barbee

It was Dia de los Muertos at Second Saturday in Downtown Pomona this month with nearly a dozen altars honoring deceased loved ones in the street, in the trunks of cars and on Shaun Diamond Plaza.





REBUILDING A COMMUNITY GARDEN -- Pomona water department workers hose everything down after cleaning out Pomona Hope's existing Center Street Community Garden at 401 N. Gibbs St., Pomona. Pomona Hope's Executive Director Jeff Johannsen said the City of Pomona was able to purchase the garden to make it a permanent green space. It will be rebuilt from the ground up and will retain the "plot holder" model with a choice of in-ground or raised bed gardening. The crew spent about a week clearing the old garden space. Next steps will include installation of irrigation and construction of the individual community garden beds. They filled up a good portion of a "roll off" trash container with debris cleared from the space. Pictured at right, with the hose, is Danny Aceves, Jr. as Nicolas Orozco looks on. Mark Alvarez, not pictured, bulldozed the garden to clear the debris. The garden is just across the street from Pomona Hope, which operates its after school programs in Pomona's First Presbyterian Church.

Assemblymember Rodriguez to hold 'Holiday Open House & Toy Drive'

Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez will hold a "Holiday Open House & Toy Drive" next week at her district office in Chino. spread cheer to local children this season.

Guests are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy to help The event -- complete with tamales while supplies last -- is free and open to the public and will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 13160 7th St., Chino.

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I'm looking for a reliable, reasonable house cleaning person. We are selling our home, and we need to have it cleaned once all the repairs are done. It's a four-bedroom house with two baths. It's 1540 sq. feet. If anyone is interested in buying a home in Westmont on Phillips Drive let me know. It has a built-in pool, new energy efficient heater, blue mixed pebble surface, a covered patio, and a brick gas built in BBQ. It has a spa tub in the main bathroom. Newly painted inside and exterior. It's on the corner of Phillips Drive & South View Place.

Contact:
susanperales2@gmail.com.



Deadline for tickets Monday for Pomona Chamber 'Holiday for Heroes'

The Pomona Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual "Holiday for Heroes" luncheon for both members and non-members at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5, in Pomona.

Each year Pomona Chamber members at holiday time present the celebration to honor the police officers, firefighters and veterans who courageously serve the community every day.

Always a special chamber "signature" event, it brings to-

gether community leaders, businesses and residents to recognize the outstanding service and dedication of these local heroes.

The event will be held at Fuego by Metro Event Center, 205 E. Second St., Pomona. Cost for members is \$60 and for non-members \$80.

For ticket and sponsorship information, visit the web site at www.pomonachamber.org. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Deadline is Dec. 1.

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