



La Nueva Voz

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

FREE
GRATIS

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www.lanuevavoz.net



Casa Colina's annual 'Tribute to Courage' showcases celebrities, raises \$600,000 for 'under-resourced' patients

Some 840 guests – one of the largest groups ever filling the Fairplex Conference Center – raised more than \$600,000 last month at the "Tribute to Courage" gala, the primary fundraising event each year for Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare.

"What made this night so memorable was being able to honor our remarkable and coura-

Army Capt. Patrick Horan, who recovered from injuries sustained in 2007 when he was shot in the head while commanding his Stryker Brigade platoon on patrol in Baghdad.

In addition to his treatment at numerous other facilities, Horan received five hours of therapy a day – occupational, physical, speech, recreational and cognitive therapy – at Casa Colina for a year.



CASA COLINA GALA HIGHLIGHTS STORIES OF COURAGEOUS PATIENTS -- Pictured, from left, at last month's Casa Colina "Tribute to Courage" gala are guest speaker Aron Ralston; Casa Colina patients Cory Hahn, Stephanie Price and Jake Ellis; Casa Colina President and CEO Dr. Felice Loverso; Casa Colina patient Capt. Patrick Horan and his wife, Patty; and event host Bonnie Hunt, writer, producer, director and actress.

geous patients," said Dr. Felice Loverso, President and Chief Executive Officer of Casa Colina. "We are humbled by their indomitable spirits and amazing recoveries."

Special guest for the evening was Bonnie Hunt, writer, producer, director and actress, and guest speaker was Aron Ralston, best-selling author of "Between a Rock and a Hard Place" and the inspiration behind the Oscar-nominated film "127 Hours."

Ralston survived a canyoneering accident in southeastern Utah, during which he amputated his own right forearm to extricate himself from a dislodged boulder under which he had been trapped for 127 hours.

Among the patients honored was U.S.

"I believe this was the key element in the miraculous recovery he has today," his wife, Patty, said in an interview with a military publication several years ago. "Brain injury rehabilitation has given me my husband back."

All proceeds from the event benefit Casa Colina's primary free and uncompensated care fund, which helps provide care for under-resourced patients and, in some cases, temporary housing for patients' families so they may be near their loved ones during the often-lengthy rehabilitation process.

The fund allows Casa Colina to continue its unwavering dedication to its mission statement of "providing individuals the opportu-

Tribute to Courage... pg. 4

Pomona Valley Hospital opens new \$28 million state-of-the-art outpatient pavilion

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center officials held an elaborate grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony this month for a new \$28 million state-of-the-art outpatient pavilion – with guests including business and civic

rectly from community support.

"It's a tremendous facility," Yochum told reporters at the beginning of the tour.

The new Robert and Beverly Lewis Outpatient Pavilion is actually a 55,000 square foot



MAKING IT ALL OFFICIAL -- The community turned out this month for a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for a new \$28 million state-of-the-art outpatient pavilion at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center in Pomona. Pictured, cutting the ribbon, are, from left, La Verne Mayor Don Kendrick; hospital President and CEO Rich Yochum; hospital medical staff president Dr. Y.S. Ram Rao; Praful Kulkarni, of GKKworks Corp., designer and builder of the facility; Jeff Lewis, his wife, Marge Lewis, Mt. San Antonio College board member Rosanne Bader; hospital auxiliary president Sharon Statler; Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin; Beverly Lewis; Jo Fulton; Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman; hospital Board Chairman Kevin McCarthy; Charles and Noelle Magistro; San Dimas Mayor Curt Morris, a member of the hospital board of directors; Chino Hills City Councilmember Peter Rogers; and Diamond Bar City Councilmember Jack Tanaka.

leaders from throughout Pomona and surrounding communities – all to turn over the facility to the community.

"We hope that today the entire Pomona Valley feels a tremendous sense of pride in their community hospital," President and CEO Rich Yochum told about 200 visitors under a huge tent for the ceremonies. "This is your hospital. Thank you for being a part of the journey."

He had explained the day before during a two-hour "media day" tour that the facility is actually the first step in a major \$70 million renovation and improvement project at the hospital with about \$20 million coming di-



THE ROBERT AND BEVERLY LEWIS FAMILY -- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center President and CEO Rich Yochum, at right, presents recognition plaques and flowers to members of the Robert and Beverly Lewis family for their support of the hospital's new \$28 million Robert and Beverly Lewis Outpatient Pavilion. Pictured, from left, are Marge Lewis, Beverly Lewis, Jeff Lewis and Yochum.

facility with the Charles Magistro Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Services Department located on the ground floor.

Facility is 35 percent larger

The rehabilitation facility was one of the **Outpatient pavilion... pg. 16**



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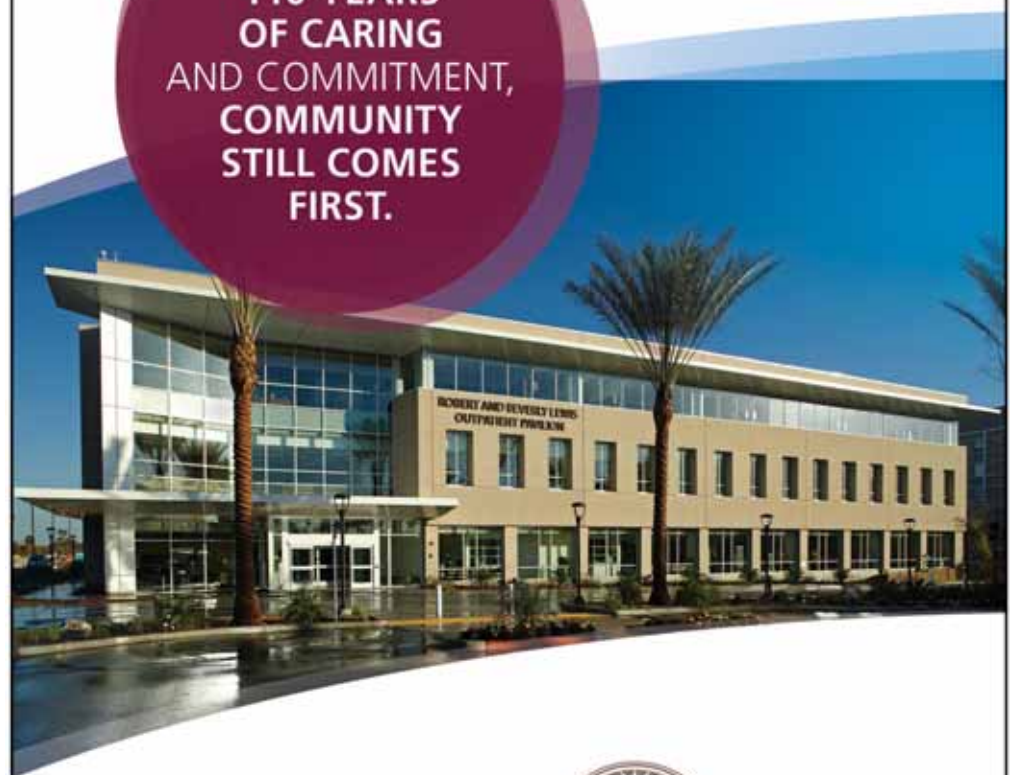
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HARVESTING SEASON'S FIRST STRAWBERRIES AT CAL POLY POMONA -- The strawberries are coming and the first berries of the season look pretty good! La Nueva Voz happened to stop by the Farm Store at Cal Poly and noticed our new friend Juan Robledo out in the net-covered strawberry patch just across a small plaza area, where some of the strawberries are grown each year above ground in pots behind Robledo with their own irrigation system. We stopped in to chat and it turned out he was harvesting some of the season's first strawberries. Pictured is Robledo, a resident of Pomona, and an orchard technician at Cal Poly, showing off some of the season's first strawberries. He has worked for Cal Poly for the past 30 years. We chatted a little more and it turned out he's Pomona City Councilmember Adriana Robledo's dad! And his daughter mentioned to us at an event the next day that she heard from her dad that very night about our running into each other. Now the annual Tractor and Car Show and Strawberry Festival is coming up soon -- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 16 -- right there at the Farm Store. So when you go, be sure to stop by and say hello to our friend Juan Robledo. And tell him La Nueva Voz sent you.



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NEW HOME FOR FIST OF GOLD -- A ribbon cutting and grand opening was held last month for the new home of Pomona's Fist of Gold Youth Center, a youth amateur boxing program that works with the City of Pomona and non-profits including the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs to reach at-risk youth ages 8 to 18 who will benefit most from the training and amateur boxing. Since 1993 more than 500 young people have participated in the program. The new facility is located in downtown Pomona at 273 S. Park Ave. in space shared with 300 Boxing Club, a professional boxing program. Pictured, from left, are Fist of Gold board member Jorge Grajeda, board vice president Carlos Goytia, Pomona City Councilmembers Cristina Carrizosa and Debra Martin, building tenant Peter Carabatsos, Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz, Fist of Gold board president Alex Santos, Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman, Downtown Pomona Owners Association executive director Larry Egan, Pomona City Councilmember Adriana Robledo, Fist of Gold executive director and head coach Jorge Casteneda, former Fist of Gold board member Ismael Arias, Pomona Chamber of Commerce Past President Jill Reiff, Pomona Chamber President Jill Dolan, and Victor Caceres, executive director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley. For more information, contact (909) 376-0343.



RIBBON CUTTING AT NEW CHINESE RESTAURANT FEATURES ALL THE TRADITIONS -- A ribbon cutting this month at the new Cachanilla Chinese Restaurant in Pomona pulled out all the stops to make sure all the traditions were covered -- traditional Chinese drummers, a traditional lion dance with costumed lion dancers, Chinese fireworks and even a whole roasted pig on display just inside the door. The restaurant features Chinese dishes "Estilo Mexicali." Pictured, from left, are Jimmy Yu of the restaurant, Pomona Chamber of Commerce ambassadors Renee Barbee and Stephanie Benjamin, restaurant owner Lilly Lin, Benny Ayala, representing State Sen. Connie Leyva, Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz, Pomona Chamber of Commerce past president Victor Caceres, Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman, Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin, Pomona Chamber of Commerce ambassador Gus Arias, restaurant owner Louis Liang, Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erica Frausto, and Pomona Chamber of Commerce ambassadors Vita and Frank Gonzales. The restaurant is located at 305 E. Holt Ave., Pomona. For more information, call (909) 622-0300.

Pomona's 2015 'Great Camp Out' event set for July; applications available in May

Pomona's 2015 Great Camp Out, an annual "overnighter" event for kids sponsored by the city, the police department, Community Engagement and Fairplex, will be held this year from Friday, July 10, to Saturday, July 11 at Pomona's Fairplex.

The event is free and open to the first 300 approved applicants ages 9 to 12. Parents will be able

to drop off their kids at 5 p.m. Friday and pick them up at 10 a.m. Saturday morning.

Applications will be available beginning May 4 at the front desk of the Pomona Police Department, 490 W. Mission Blvd., or in the police department's Crime Prevention Office on the second floor of Pomona City Hall.

Proof of school enrollment or

residency is required.

The popular event each year includes games, entertainment, activities, raffles, police and fire department demonstrations and exhibits and an opportunity to camp out under the stars in a fully supervised environment.

For more information, contact crime prevention at (909) 620-2318.

Tribute to Courage... from pg. 1

nity to maximize their medical recovery and rehabilitation potential efficiently in an environment that recognizes their uniqueness, dignity and self-esteem."

Casa Colina was founded in 1936 in Chino to provide rehabilitative care to children with polio. In the early 1950s, during the polio epidemic, a plan was developed to build a new hospital in nearby Pomona and, in 1959, the hospital was completed and the facility expanded its medical and physical rehabilitation services to concentrate

on treating people of all ages and disabilities resulting from neurological and/or orthopedic conditions.

A new Casa Colina medical office building opened on the campus in June 2013, and construction of a 31-bed medical and surgical hospital addition is currently underway with a scheduled opening late this summer.

For more information or to donate to the Casa Colina Foundation, visit the web site at www.casacolina.org, e-mail foundation@casacolina.org or call (909) 596-7733, ext. 2232.



CITY COUNCILMEMBER DEBRA MARTIN -- Casa Colina President and CEO Dr. Felice Loverso, at right, greets Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin and her husband, Brian, as they arrive at last month's Casa Colina "Tribute to Courage" gala.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT AND CEO JIM HENWOOD -- Jim Henwood, President and CEO of the Los Angeles County Fair Association, and his wife, Sharon, pause for a photo as they arrive at last month's Casa Colina "Tribute to Courage" gala at Pomona's Fairplex Conference Center.



CAPT. PATRICK HORAN -- Casa Colina patient Capt. Patrick Horan is greeted by Bonnie Scudder, Chief Planning and Development Officer for Casa Colina, at last month's "Tribute to Courage" gala. Scudder oversees the Casa Colina Foundation.

Preliminary hearing in shooting of Pomona police officer Shaun Diamond continued to April 29

Preliminary hearing setting was once again bumped over last week in Los Angeles for David Martinez, who is charged with capital murder for allegedly fatally shooting Pomona Police Officer Shaun Diamond last October.

Martinez, who is represented by a public defender, appeared in court last week but will return at 8:30 a.m. April 29 to Dept. 30 of Los Angeles Superior Court in the Clara Short-

ridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

He has pleaded not guilty.

Diamond, 45, was fatally shot while participating in a multi-agency SWAT operation in San Gabriel attempting to serve a search warrant last Oct. 28 as part of a Mongols motorcycle gang investigation. He died the following day.

The 19-year law enforcement veteran was the second Pomona police officer killed in the line of duty.

Pomona's Bright Prospect moves into new and larger offices expected to enable the college prep program to continue to grow

Eric Garen, founder and president of Pomona's Bright Prospect, called this month's ribbon cutting and grand opening of new offices for the organization a "milestone" that is important because it will enable the college preparatory program to continue to grow.

"It's important because we need to grow to serve the growing student population that we have," Garen said. "It started 12 years ago serving 12 students. We now have 2,000 students in the program."

And, he added, the kids – from Pomona, Montclair and Ontario – are "remarkable."

"And we want to do everything we can to help them achieve their potential and to come back to the community and make it what it can be in 10 and 20 and 30 years – a place where people want to move into and make their homes and make their livelihoods and raise their families," Garen said.

"It gives me just extraordinary pleasure to see these kids succeed," he said. "Ninety plus percent of them graduate from college, many go on for graduate degrees, we have doctors, and lawyers... just doing remarkable things."

He added that it is "remarkable" to see what the kids are capable of because of the partnership between Bright Prospect and the schools.

Garen said Bright Prospect now is starting to look at how the program can be replicated, explaining there are five other locations, most of them in California, that are interested in transferring this program to their own communities.

"We want as many kids as possible who are coming from a low income disadvantaged community to be able to take advantage of the

wonderful education that is available to them if only they have the guidance and the help and the motivation to do that," Garen said. "That's how we've been partners with the schools that are preparing them for that higher education."

In an arrangement with the Pomona Unified School District, and partially through a grant from the Ludwick Family Foundation, Bright Prospect moved out of its original offices in Downtown Pomona and into school district offices at the Village at Indian Hill.

In return, Bright Prospect will initiate its college preparatory program at Diamond Ranch and Village Academy High schools – the only high schools in the district not already participating in the program.



Eric Garen...
... Bright Prospect president and founder

Stephanie Campbell, executive director of Bright Prospect, told La Nueva Voz before the event that the budget simply was not there but that the partnership made it possible by providing office and work space, use of school buses and equipment



RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW OFFICES AT BRIGHT PROSPECT -- Officials cut the ribbon to open the new offices for Pomona's Bright Prospect inside the Village at Indian Hill. Pictured, from left, are Bright Prospect program director Tim Sandoval, Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz, Bright Prospect board member Alan Fox, Bright Prospect executive director Stephanie Campbell, Pomona Unified school board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, Ann Morgan (wife of Bright Prospect board member Steve Morgan), Pomona Unified school board member Frank Guzman, Bright Prospect student Emily Govea of Garey High School, Bright Prospect founder and board president Eric Garen, Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez, Bright Prospect board member Emmett Terrell, Congresswoman Norma Torres, Bright Prospect board member Mark Warren, Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman, Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin, Benny Ayala (representing State Sen. Connie Leyva), and Rachel Barbosa (representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis). Not pictured is Peggi Hazlett, CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

needed to take on the other two schools.

Pomona Unified School District board member Dr. Roberta Perlman told La Nueva Voz that Bright Prospect sees a student through college "and it gets so costly."

But, she added, "it transforms communities."

Campbell recognized Mark Warren, a Bright Prospect board member and owner of Mark Warren Realty and Investments and a licensed general contractor himself, who supervised the entire construction project and was there almost every day.

Pomona Unified School District Supt. Richard Martinez thanked Garen, adding that "without that vision, without his thinking, without choosing Pomona, we wouldn't be here today."

"And one thing that this district wants to do is partner up with an organization that has done so much over the last dozen years in this community," Martinez added. "Not only has Pomona benefited but the neighboring districts around us."

The new offices are located in The Village at Indian Hill, 1460 E. Holt Ave., Suite 74.

The mission of Bright Prospect is to empower low-income students to gain admission to, succeed in and graduate from four-year colleges and universities.

The program accomplishes this by providing a comprehensive counseling and support system throughout the students' high school and college years.

It now has 1,952 students in the program – 1,117 in high school and 835 in college.

Bright Prospect hopes to serve between 2,500 and 3,000 high school and college students by 2018.

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LAST MINUTE DETAILS -- Pomona businessman John Pena and Pat Bell of House of Ruth go over a few last minute details last week before the shotgun start of the second annual "JP Group" Golf Tourney in Pomona. Pena, producer of the event, told La Nueva Voz the tournament was sold out again this year and that it was "starting to be a community event and raise some more money and for people to have a great time." Pena said last year's tournament raised \$24,000 and this year's was nearing the \$38,000 level. He added that all of the proceeds would go to the House of Ruth and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley.

TALK ABOUT CONFIDENCE! -- La Nueva Voz stopped by last week to cover the warm-up for the second annual "JP Group" Golf Tourney and Pomona State Farm agent John Forbing suggested we take his picture with the trophy because he was "going to win it anyway." Well, we did and so did he -- Forbing's foursome came in with a 57 in the "best ball" event, the "low gross" score and the lowest score registered in the tournament. Forbing told La Nueva Voz this weekend it was OK to "run the picture" and that the trophy will be on display in his office until next year's tournament. Others in his foursome were Alex Abasta, Ray Andersen and George Fisher. The tournament each year -- played at Pomona's Mountain Meadows Golf Course -- benefits House of Ruth, which assists women and children exposed to domestic violence, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley.



WORKING ON THE SWING -- Downtown Pomona Owners Association Board member Ismael Arias of The UPS Store gets in a few practice swings before last week's second annual "JP Group" Golf Tourney.



FIRST ANNUAL BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS 5K RUN/WALK -- About 30 runners of all ages (some were still coming in at photo time) running in comfortable "marine layer" overcast skies participated last weekend in the first annual Boys and Girls Clubs of Pomona Valley 5K run/walk in Pomona's Phillips Ranch. The start/finish line was at Country Crossing Park but the 5K route circled through Phillips Ranch on the jogging trails. Pictured are most of the kids with the winners after the race and just before a picnic and award ceremony. The winners, holding on to their trophies, are, front row, from left, Giselle Iniguez-Chavez, 9, second place; Madison Encinas, 11, first place, and Cristian Euceda, 13, third place, all of Pomona. The winning times were right around 40 minutes and 30 seconds. Editor's note: Euceda explained to La Nueva Voz that he would have done better but his group took a wrong turn.

RESTAURANT REVIEW – OPINION

Papa John's Pomona: Better ingredients, no customer service?

Looking for pizza without something? If that "something missing" is customer service, Papa John's Pomona definitely has it missing at Foothill Boulevard and Garey Avenue.

The Director of Advertising and Public Relations at La Nueva Voz is pretty well known around Pomona, but they don't know her -- and they obviously don't know public relations -- at Papa John's Pomona.

La Nueva Voz stopped in for a carry-out order this weekend with a special request to use the lactose intolerant customer's non-dairy cheese in place of the regular house brand.

It seemed like a simple enough request -- in fact, other pizza restau-

rants from Warehouse Pizza in La Verne to Pizza Place in San Dimas regularly substitute the customer-provided cheese for this "special needs" order. And, while we're at it, even that same Papa John's store in Pomona has provided such a custom pizza once before in the past.

In fact, this weekend, La Nueva Voz had even phoned ahead to discuss the order.

But at the counter, the order-taker heard the request and called for backup and the assistant manager (you can't miss him -- he may be 19 but looks 14 and wears dark glasses while working inside the store at night) said it would not be possible -- "company policy," you know.

No apology, no offer of an alternative, no thanks for coming in, no customer service.

La Nueva Voz went away -- not only with no pizza but with the distinct feeling the young crew chief just didn't know how to handle a special request but didn't want to admit it -- to the customer or to his fellow young workers.

Papa John's Pomona. Maybe the slogan should be "our way or the highway." Or maybe "if you want to have it your way, go to Burger King."

La Nueva Voz contacted the store during business hours this week for a response but no adults there were willing to return calls.

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Daniel Naranjo of Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise wins Pomona Rotary's annual music competition

Daniel Naranjo of Ontario, a senior at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise who plans to attend Citrus College and Cal State University Fullerton before going on to become a music teacher, won first place in last week's annual Dan Stover music competition at Pomona Rotary.

Pomona Rotary President Janet Roy, general manager of Pomona Valley Memorial Park, said the competition and scholarship program was established in the year following the death of Alhambra Rotarian Stover, a music educator who provided a positive role model for students.

Naranjo performed a medley of three instrumental songs – "Snowflake," his original piece; "Spanish Caravan" by the Doors and "Dee" by Randy Rose.

Runner-up in the competition at last week's Rotary luncheon meeting at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel in Pomona was Lukas Romero of Upland, also a senior at the School of Arts and Enterprise. Lukas said he hopes to eventually attend the Berklee College of Music in Boston after a year at the Los Angeles Music Academy and eventually become a professional musician.

Third place went to Elias Aguiar, another senior at the School of Arts of Enterprise. Aguiar, of Pomona, said he hopes to attend Cal Poly University Pomona where he will study math and work toward becoming a math professor.

"What an asset the teens in our community are and not a deficit," said Matthew Henry, Pomona Rotary's youth chairman and CEO of Pomona Valley YMCA, who coordinated the competition. "I think our future is bright seeing the teens that we've had coming before us the last couple of months (in essay, speech and music competition)."

Judging was based on tone quality, technique, interpretation of music and general effect.

The winner received a \$350 scholarship and the runner-up a \$150 scholarship, and the winner now goes on to regional and district competition.

Diamond Ranch grad serves with Navy strike fighter squadron

Petty Officer 1st Class Walter Rodriguez of Pomona, a graduate of Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School, is serving with the U.S. Navy's Strike Fighter Squadron 122, also known as the "Flying Eagles," and is stationed at Naval Air Station Lemoore in Lemoore, California.

Rodriguez is serving as an aviation maintenance "administrationman" with the squadron, which the Navy designates as VFA-122, and works with the Navy's most lethal and versatile strike fighter aircraft, the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, where he is in charge of record-keeping.

The Super Hornet takes off from and lands on Navy aircraft carriers and is capable of conducting air-to-air combat as well as air-to-surface combat.

It is approximately 61 feet long, has a loaded weight of 51,000 pounds, and a maximum speed of 1,190 miles per hour.

"I enjoy working with all the different people in this squadron," Rodriguez said in a Navy news release, adding that he is proud of the work he is doing as part of the squadron's 1,140-member team, helping to protect America on the world's oceans.

"We verify that all record keeping and all inspection intervals are maintained and up to date so the aircraft

is fit to fly," Rodriguez said.

"The sailors here are the epitome of a team," said Cmdr. Ernie Spence, VFA-122's commanding officer.



Petty Officer 1st Class Walter Rodriguez... graduate of Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School

"Everyone here is professional, skilled in their job, and they are great team players which enables us to accomplish our mission."

The Flying Eagles are the Navy's West Coast Fleet Replacement Squadron for the Super Hornet. They train aircrew and maintainers to prepare them to go to the fleet and join the squadrons that fly the Super Hornet.

VFA-122 trained aircrews have flown combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve.



Elias Aguiar, at right, accompanied by Jannett Ibarra of Pomona, performs during Pomona Rotary annual music competition. Both are seniors at Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise.



Lukas Romero... Pomona Rotary music contest runner-up



Janet Roy... Pomona Rotary President



Daniel Naranjo... Pomona Rotary music contest winner



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Hope & Hurdles

by Evy Schuman



EDITOR'S NOTE: "Hope & Hurdles," an on-going feature appearing in La Nueva Voz, was created by artist Evy Schuman as an attempt to "poke fun" at the little things that trouble us all from time to time. Evy, who is also a published writer on the subject, created the cartoon series to show her work at a creative writing class she co-facilitates at Pomona's Tri-City Wellness Center.



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA FOCUSES ON HEALTHY HEART -- The Epsilon Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha joined with its Sigma Rho chapter and community supporters last month for its first 5K Heart Walk to enhance awareness and prevention of heart disease and strokes. Pictured are participants and organizers in a "photo op" before the walk which, of course, was followed immediately by an "energized" warm-up. According to an Alpha Kappa Alpha news release, research shows that one in three women will die of heart disease and stroke each year with numbers disproportionately affecting African-American women. The group encouraged everyone to make a serious effort to improve overall eating habits.

The following clubs and organizations meet on a weekly or monthly basis in Pomona:

- Pomona Youth and Family Master Plan
- Partnership for a Positive Pomona (P3)
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Pomona Owners Association
- Parent Teacher Associations
- Parent Teacher Organizations
- Family Support and Resource Center
- Parent Leads Community Engagement Group
- Family Support and Resource Center
- Kennedy Austin Foundation
- The Network (formerly AOD – Alcohol and Other Drugs)
- Day One
- Assistance League of Pomona Valley
- NAACP Pomona Valley Branch
- Assistance League of Pomona Valley

Service Organizations:

- American Legion
- Rotary Club
- Kiwanis Club
- Pomona Host Lions Club
- Eagles
- Elks Club
- Optimist Club

Gang Prevention/Intervention:

- San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps
- Rock of Faith
- Set Free Ministries

Domestic Violence:

- House of Ruth
- Project Sister

Foster Care:

- Pomona Valley Children & Family Collaborative
- Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services
- Children, Youth and Family Collaborative

Mental Health:

- Tri-City
- Nami
- Faith-Based Mental Health Collaborative

Faith Based Coalitions:

- Inland Valley Council of Churches
- Superintendent's Faith-Based Roundtable

If you would like to have your club or organization listed above, please contact: Renee Barbee at 909-762-1446 or by email at reneebarbee7@gmail.com



RIBBON CUTTING AT DAVITA KIDNEY CARE IN POMONA -- DaVita Kidney Care, the dialysis division of DaVita HealthCare Partners and a leading provider of kidney care in the United States, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony last month at its second dialysis center in Pomona. The new 11,500 square foot facility, expected to serve more than 200 patients with a staff of 40, is located at 2703 S. Towne Ave., Pomona. "We view ourselves as a community first and company second and look forward to serving the Pomona community," said DaVita's Regional Operations Director Bryan Laychak. "Dialysis isn't easy, but we strive to offer some of the best clinical outcomes in the industry in a caring and welcoming environment." Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman said the city is "excited to have DaVita open here," adding that it could help turn the Home Depot shopping center into a medical corridor by attracting other medical-related facilities.

Pictured cutting the ribbon are, from left, Juan Villasenor, regional facility administrator, and, back row, from left, Pomona Chamber of Commerce President Jill Dolan, Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto, DaVita's facility administrator Jill Young and Regional Operations Director Bryan Laychak. Handling the scissors, at center, are, from left, Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa, Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman and Dr. Edward Barnes, medical director of the new facility.

According to a company fact sheet, one in 10 adults in the United States has kidney disease and many don't know it because it is often symptomless until later stages. If left untreated, it can progress to kidney failure, requiring a transplant or dialysis. Kidney disease is the ninth leading cause of death in the United States.



The new DaVita dialysis center in south Pomona is expected to serve 200 patients. For more information about the facility, contact Jill Young at (909) 590-4930.

TOURING THE FACILITIES -- Jill Young, facility administrator for DaVita's new Pomona facility, at left, shows off the new dialysis equipment while giving a tour to Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman and Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa.





TRI-CITY MENTAL HEALTH DANCES TO 'STAMP OUT STIGMA' -- Employees and patients from Pomona's Tri-City Mental Health and other supporters gathered in Downtown Pomona last week to dance to the popular song "Happy," by Pharrell Williams, as part of their celebration of "Green Ribbon Week" (March 16-20), which was created to increase mental health awareness and help eliminate the fear and discrimination that keeps people from seeking help before symptoms worsen. Last week's theme was "Let's Flash Green on the Scene" as a group of about 100 danced their way to portable music along Second Street before assembling for a brief rally. Local restaurants provided discounts throughout the day to dancers wearing their green ribbons.

DANCING TO END THE STIGMA -- Gilbert Saldate of Tri-City Mental Health dances to the music with an unidentified supporter to help end the stigma that prevents those in need from seeking help when it comes to mental health. Saldate told the group that while this was the first year of the outreach effort, Tri-City plans to continue this every year in an effort to "stamp out the stigma."

Cheyenne Rimando of Pomona, daughter of a former Miss Pomona, wins junior title, to compete again next month

Cheyenne Rimando, 13, of Pomona, who last December was crowned Miss Junior California America 2016 at the fourth annual Junior National Pageant Association's Miss Youth America pageant, will compete again next month, this time in the Miss Anaheim Teen California 2016 competition in Irvine.

Rimando, a model, actress and dancer who has already walked for a designer fashion show produced by Orange County Fashion Week and was also scheduled to walk at Los Angeles Fashion Week, was crowned Miss Junior California America at the pageant at the Hilton-Irvine.

Contestants competed in sportswear, casual wear, evening gown and interview categories during the two-day event.

The upcoming Miss Anaheim Teen California pageant is a preliminary to the Miss California Teen USA pageant.



Cheyenne Rimando

Her mother, Toni (D'Alessio) Rimando, was crowned Miss Pomona in 1985 and her grandfather, Paul D'Alessio, taught and served as a counselor in the Pomona Unified School District for more than 37 years.

by giving a championship effort in everything we do."

Welker, who received a master's degree in sports management from Jacksonville State University, launched his coaching career at Uni-

PVW annual 1K – 5K fun run/walk set for May at Fairplex

PVW (Pomona Valley Workshop) has scheduled its annual 1K – 5K Fun Run/Walk for adults with disabilities for Saturday, May 9 at Pomona's Fairplex, which is the premier sponsor of the event.

This year's event will be held in memory of Sandi Spetnagel and will get under way with registration at 7 a.m., the 1K run at 8 a.m. and the 5K run at 8:45 a.m.

A pancake breakfast will continue from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Registration for the run is \$15 for kids 12 and under, \$25 for 13 and over, and \$20 for team members (minimum eight members).

On-line registration is available at active.com.

PVW's mission is to assist adults with disabilities in reaching their potential in vocational and socialization skills so they may achieve their highest level of employment and community integration.

For additional information or to become an event sponsor or a team sponsor, contact Sharon Paredes at (909) 624-3555, ext. 239, or by e-mail at sharon@pvwonline.org.

Welker appointed new head football coach at Pomona's Diamond Ranch

Diamond Ranch High School has appointed veteran athlete and accomplished college and high school coach Jimmy Welker as its new head football coach.

The appointment was approved by the Pomona Unified School District board this month.

"Diamond Ranch and its athletics program has been anxiously anticipating Coach Welker's arrival and we are pleased that he is here," said Pomona Unified school board president Andrew Wong. "It's exciting to know that the Panthers football program will be headed by such a talented athlete and coach, who can be a role model to our student-athletes and lead them to victory."

Welker, a four-sport athlete who earned multiple varsity letters in football, basketball, baseball and track and field while at Notre Dame High School, has been coaching football for the last six years. He will begin serving as head coach at Diamond Ranch immediately.

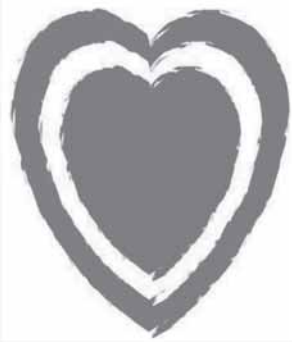
"This is a program with a rich tradition of producing high quality student-athletes, but more importantly, high quality people," Welker said. "I'm looking forward to teaching our players how to strive for excellence and success, both on and off the field,

versity Lab High School in Baton Rouge, LA, as the co-offensive coordinator and quarterback coach in 2008.

He has also coached at Notre Dame High school, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Jacksonville State University in Alabama, and, for the last two seasons, Redondo Union High School.



Jimmy Welker...
... named new head football coach at Diamond Ranch



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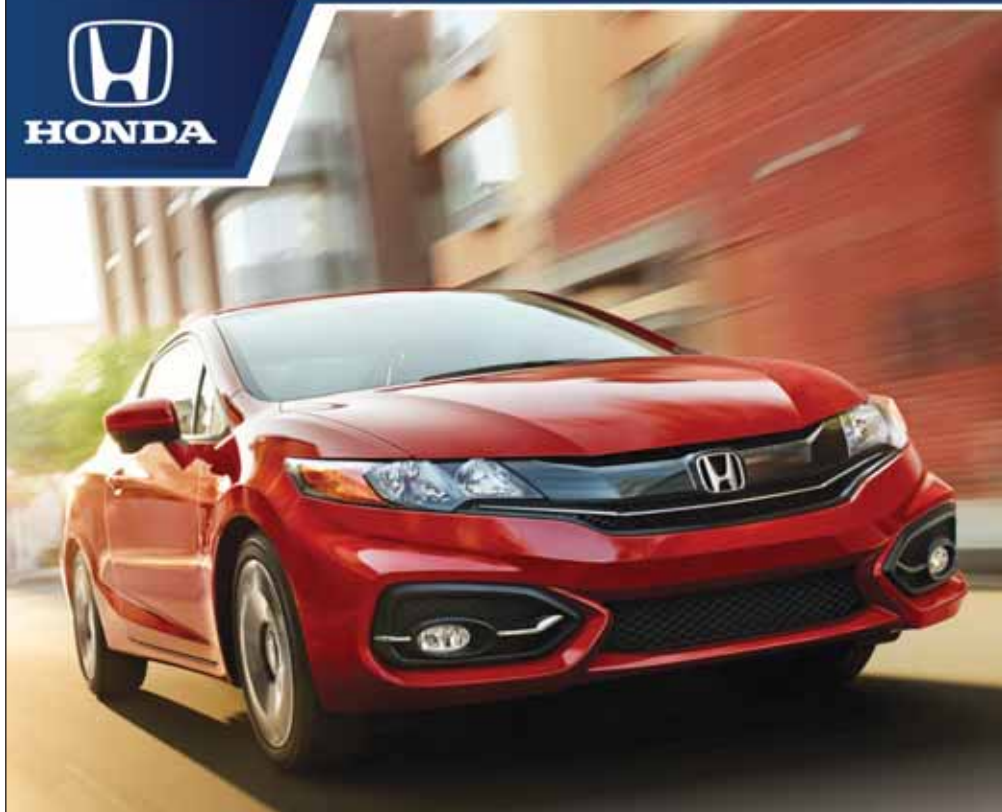
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SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

-- The Pomona Youth and Family Master Plan Promoting Academic Achievement Task Force, in conjunction with Pomona Unified School District, hosted its fifth annual Sarah Ross Science Fair last month at Cortez Mathematics and Science Magnet School in Pomona. Winners are taking their projects to the 65th annual Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair this week at the Pasadena Convention Center. Middle and high school students throughout the school district compete each year with winners selected in individual and group categories for both the grades 6 through 8 category and the grades 9 through 12 category. Winners of this year's individual junior category pictured with their certificates of appreciation are, back row, from left, Jason Westrick, Danny Marquez and Christopher Figueroa. Front row, from left, are Neema Muteti, Katrina Luk, Ethan Howard, Jerry Knudtson, Faith Tham, Delaney Kohler and Max Ding.



SMOKING MACHINE SHOWS WHAT HAPPENS TO CIGARETTE SMOKE IN THE LUNGS -- Ever wonder exactly what happens to cigarette smoke once it enters the lungs? One science project at last month's fifth annual Sarah Ross Science Fair at Cortez School in Pomona gives you enough information to toss your cigarettes for good! Vidamaria Valencia, 14, a freshman at Garey High School in Pomona and a resident of Chino Hills, used a plastic bottle filled with cotton that actually "smokes" the cigarette to answer some of those questions. Need more? The smoke causes increased secretions into the trachea and bronchi, leading to chronic cough and sputum, and the increased secretion is associated with risk of secondary infections, destruction of the surface of the alveoli (emphysema) resulting in a decrease in airflow, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease including bronchitis, among others. Pictured, from left, are Vidamaria and her mother, Teresita Zamora.

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MARCHERS FROM VICTORY OUTREACH PREPARE FOR ANNUAL 'PEACE AND UNITY' WALK -- Victory Outreach Pomona marchers unfurl their banner near the front of the line in the staging area in the Pomona Unified School District headquarters parking lot this month at the beginning of Pomona's third annual "Peace and Unity Stop the Violence" march and rally. The march wound through an area of Pomona just south of the civic center from Garey Avenue to Hamilton Boulevard and looped back to the civic center for a rally featuring representatives of area churches.

READY TO ROLL -- One group of marchers is all set for the third annual "Peace and Unity Stop the Violence" march and rally -- in memory of Christopher Continola, Jr., who died in 2013 at the age of 20. Continola on the t-shirts -- and other victims of violence on the poster -- were remembered by the marchers. Pictured, from left, are Marilyn Moreno of Pomona, Nicole Quesada of Wilmington, Nashand Godinez of Pomona and, in front, Jessica Esparza, 25, of Pomona.



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- ❧ Clients have seven hours for the party and the use of the full service kitchen plus four hours the day before to decorate.
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- ❧ Clients may use any caterer of their choice and may bring in their own sodas, water, and alcoholic beverages.
- ❧ The ballroom includes a beautiful oak bar with antique bar stools, a lovely entrance hall, nice restrooms, movie screen and stage.
- ❧ The large kitchen is equipped with ice machine, serving carts, wine cooler, large refrigerator, four ovens, 10 burners, and ample counter space.
- ❧ The site has ample enclosed parking.
- ❧ And the building is a designated local historical landmark!
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The facility is open for viewing on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. For additional information or to schedule an appointment at another time, please call (909) 623-2198.



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¡Usted está invitado! Acompañenos en la próxima jornada de reuniones comunitarias en formato de puertas abiertas "open house," para conocer la información más reciente sobre el diseño y el arte de las estaciones, la financiación del proyecto, y mucho más. Los artistas de las estaciones sólo asistirán a la reunión pública en sus respectivas ciudades; sin embargo, la información sobre las seis estaciones y los artistas de las estaciones estará disponible en todas las reuniones comunitarias.

Horarios/lugares de las reuniones comunitarias

No habrá ninguna presentación formal.
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Jueves, 16 de abril (6-8 PM)

La Verne Community Center
3680 "D" Street
La Verne, CA 91750

Martes, 21 de abril (6-8 PM)

Montclair Senior Center
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763

Jueves, 23 de abril (6-8 PM)

Glendora Public Library,
Bidwell Forum
140 S. Glendora Avenue
Glendora, CA 91741

Miércoles, 29 de abril (6-8 PM)

Alexander Hughes Community
Center - Padua Room
1700 Danbury Road
Claremont, CA 91711

Jueves, 30 de abril (6-8 PM)

San Dimas Senior Center
201 E. Bonita Avenue
San Dimas, CA 91773

Jueves, 7 de mayo (6-8 PM)

Palomares Park
Community Center
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Pomona, CA 91767

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STREET MACHINE AND MUSCLE CAR NATIONALS AT FAIRPLEX -- The classics were on display throughout the fairgrounds, owners had plenty of opportunities to motor around the grounds to show off their pride and joy, and photo opportunities were everywhere -- you just had to be careful not to trip over a photographer down on the ground to get that special shot -- at the 2nd annual O'Reilly Auto Parts Street Machine and Muscle Car Nationals at Fairplex this month. There was even some burn-out competition and a challenging Hotchkis Autocross course racing the time clock around the cones. More than 1,000 hot rods and muscle cars filled Pomona's Fairplex for the two-day event.

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David & Margaret upgrade of group home made possible by Ahmanson Foundation grant

David & Margaret Youth and Family Services in La Verne has completed renovations to Tarr Cottage, one of the facility's four on-campus group homes for female youth, aged 11 through 18, from foster care and probation, in a project made possible by grant funding from the Ahmanson Foundation.

The cottage, which houses up to 10 older foster youth reaching emancipation age, was built in the

1960s and was in need of extensive bathroom renovations, window and flooring replacement, attic insulation and remodeling of all 10 bedroom closets.

Renovations took about three months to complete.

David & Margaret currently is seeking additional foundation support to conduct similar renovations within the remaining three cottages.

The agency also recently broke

ground on a permanent supportive housing project called Cedar Springs for youth who are transitioning out of foster care and into independent living.

The project will include a 36-unit apartment complex, as well as a warehouse, store, café, and a Youth WorkForce Training Center to help transitional age youth gain on-the-job skills and become self-sufficient.

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APRIL 22 -- EARTH DAY.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of Earth Day!

Locally, there are lots of ways to participate in Earth Day events, but remember, saving water should be an EVERY DAY event for us.

To learn more about events or things you can do, visit:
www.earthday.org

To learn about water conservation and rebates visit:
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Outpatient pavilion... from pg. 1

first between San Bernardino and Pasadena when it was created in 1954. The new location is about 35 percent larger than the former facility which was built in 1975.

A second floor includes five outpatient operating rooms just steps away from the hospital emergency room itself, along with high-end surgical equipment, state-of-the-art radiology machines and specialized air exchange systems.

And administrative offices, a new board meeting room and conference rooms are located on the third and top floor after relocating from a separate building behind the hospital to make room for the construction of a new emergency room entrance, emergency room parking and an expanded emergency room, Yochum said.

Third floor offices include everything from marketing, contract administration and financial services to case management, compliance, hospital foundation and more.

He added the result of the future emergency room part of the project will be an increase of 40 percent in the size of the hospital's emergency room.

Lewis family proud to make contribution to community

Jeff Lewis, son of Beverly Lewis and the late Robert Lewis, told guests at the ribbon cutting that they were all "so proud as a family to have been able to make a contribution to the valley that provided us with great opportunity over a period of 47 years that we were in business here in Pomona."

His father founded the Foothill Beverage Company in 1956, and the company became one of the biggest Anheuser-Busch distributors in the country.

Lewis thanked those responsible for the project – "those here at the hospital who had the vision to come up with this type of facility to expand the services that are provided here in the valley by the medical center, the people in the foundation who went out and raised the funds to make it possible" and even the workers who physically constructed the building.

The Robert and Beverly Lewis Outpatient Pavilion is made possible through donations from Beverly Lewis, Charles Magistro, the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Auxiliary and the estate of Jack J. Fulton.

"The facility is designed in a way that really reflects the future of rehab, where exercise is as much a part of treatment for pain management as medicine," said Joe Baumgartner, Director of Rehabilitation



The Robert and Beverly Lewis Outpatient Pavilion.



HERALDING THE OPENING -- Trumpeters heralded the opening this month of the new Robert and Beverly Lewis Outpatient Pavilion at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.



Registered Nurse Martha Soto describes the state-of-the-art equipment -- including a mechanical dummy used for training purposes -- in one of the outpatient operating rooms in the hospital's new outpatient pavilion.

Services at the hospital.

The physical therapy and rehabilitation center itself serves patients across a full range of abilities – from student athletes recovering from injuries to people who have suffered debilitating heart attacks and strokes. The facility offers the latest exercise equipment, including integrated technologies and software systems.

It sees between 90 and 120 patients a day in rehabilitation and about 20 to 30 patients a day in wound care with a staff of about 25.

Focus of design to keep patient in mind

"The focus of our whole design here was certainly to keep the patient in mind," Baumgartner said – from convenient parking for patients who often lack mobility to speech pathology in a separate area to provide a quiet environment and more.

"The concept now is that rehab

obviously requires on-going management – not just the six weeks or so of care," Baumgartner added. "Many times to keep your health you're going to have to continue to go. We have a large component of patients who come in now after they've completed their formal rehab to actually continue on our gym program, our wellness program."

He said that allows patients for a reasonable cost to use the same equipment, be medically supervised and then continue on with their rehab.

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, a 437-bed, acute care, not-for-profit medical center serving eastern Los Angeles and western San Bernardino Counties, has been a four-time recipient of the 100 Top Hospitals in the nation in the past 16 years. For more information, visit the web site at www.pvhmc.org.



A physical therapist works on a patient on a table in the new Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Services Department.



Patients work out on treadmills in Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's new Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Services Department.



An unidentified patient works with her therapist, Jiansan Ding, at right, on hand therapy working with different sizes of gravel-like substances. The therapy is useful for anything from carpal tunnel to major trauma, fractures, lacerations, tendon injuries and even stroke patients to help regain normal use of hands and shoulders.



Registered Nurse Martha Soto, director of perioperative services, shows off the new pre- and post-operative bays in the hospital's new outpatient surgery center on the second floor of the outpatient pavilion.



Hospital volunteer Claudette Branham gets strapped in to try out a special track suspension mechanism used to rehab stroke and neurological patients. Physical therapist Amy Newmark, at right, makes sure she's strapped in just right.



Director of Rehabilitation Services Joseph Baumgaertner briefs reporters on the new outpatient pavilion on "media day."

State Sen. Leyva introduces legislation to improve drinking water quality and safety at schools in California

State Sen. Connie Leyva has introduced legislation that would require yearly testing of drinking water at schools in California to ensure water quality and safety.

Currently, the extent of water quality issues at school sites throughout the Inland Empire and California is largely unknown and unaddressed. Senate Bill 334 requires that, where schools find that their water is not clean, school districts must provide alternative sources of clean water.

According to Leyva, a recent NBC4 Los Angeles television news investigative report found that the Los Angeles Unified School District may be allowing on-going exposure of students and school staff to lead-tainted water due to old plumbing.

The report was a follow-up to a 2008 investigation that discovered similar high levels of lead in Los Angeles-area school drinking water.

Beyond an annual water testing requirement, SB 334 would increase the number of water sources available on school campuses to one source per 100 students. Currently, 38 of 50 states nationwide already require at least one fountain per 100 students, while California only requires one per the first 150 students and one per each 300 students thereafter.

According to Leyva, water consumption and proper hydration is essential to students' health and academic performance. And, she added, students need to be able to access clean drinking water in various locations on school grounds in order to be able to concentrate and remain fully engaged.

Sowing Seeds for Life holding annual 'chocolate bunny drive,' opens new food pantry in Pomona

La Verne-based Sowing Seeds for Life is kicking off its annual chocolate bunny drive with a goal of receiving enough bunnies to give Easter baskets to 200 kids at the organization's April 1 food pantry.

To donate funds to purchase the bunnies or to donate the candies, contact Fran Robertson at (909) 392-5777, ext. 232, or by e-mail at fr Robertson@sowingseedsforlife.org by March 31.

Sowing Seeds for Life is located at 1350 Arrow Highway (in the DPI Labs building) in La Verne.

The non-profit organization recently opened a new food pantry in Pomona, serving the community from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the Charisma Life Church, located at 305 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona.

All Los Angeles County residents are welcome but are required to show identification for proof of residency.

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'CABER TOSS' A HIGHLIGHT OF CELTIC FAIRE -- Caber toss demonstrations were a highlight of the Celtic Faire at Fairplex this month as volunteers from the O.C. Highlanders, the San Diego Black Sheep and other clubs -- all part of the Scottish American Athletic Association -- showed off what they do best. The caber toss is a traditional Scottish athletic event in which competitors toss a large tapered pole called a "caber."



SHEEP HERDING DEMONSTRATION -- A sheep herding demonstration was presented at this month's Celtic Faire at Fairplex, courtesy of So Cal Herding, although it looked like the dog was doing most of the work.



GETTING INTO THE ACT -- There was even a castle at this month's Celtic Faire where the kids could get into the act.



AN INTERVIEW WITH THE QUEEN -- Queen Doreen grants an interview to two admirers in The Queen's Tea Room at the Celtic Faire, all designed by the Fairplex creative department. Doreen Collins has worked for Fairplex and the Los Angeles County Fair for the past 30 years. Pictured, from left, are Jadyn McGinley, 8, and Ashlyn McGinley, 10, of San Clemente, and Queen Doreen. "She was pretty cool," Ashlyn said. And her sister, Jadyn, said she especially liked her crown.



FAIRPLEX TURNS GREEN FOR A WEEKEND -- Pomona's Fairplex turned green for the weekend as the annual Celtic Faire came to town this month. Pictured are members of the 42nd Highlanders Regimental Pipes and Drums, based at the Queen Mary in Long Beach, providing the traditional bagpipe music. The annual event includes everything Irish, Scottish, Welsh and more -- from food and beer to entertainment -- all to make it possible to step into the past and enjoy the many rich Celtic traditions in a recreated Celtic village.

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JOUSTING COMPETITION -- A member of the Imperial Knights participates in the jousting competition at the annual Celtic Faire this month at Pomona's Fairplex. Pictured is a knight demonstrating how to loop a "small ring" as he passes at full speed.



ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF POMONA VALLEY HOLDS 'OPERATION SCHOOL BELL' -- Members of the Assistance League of Pomona Valley held one of their "Operation School Bell" clothing give-aways last week with an estimated 200 recipients and their children lining up throughout the day. Assistance League President Sharon Goodrich, a member for the past 27 years, said the group, founded in 1932, holds the give-aways for children five years old through the eighth grade five times a year at their headquarters, located at 693 N. Palomares St., Pomona. The school clothes are new and a "community closet" for moms, grandmothers and aunts are "gently used." All recipients are screened by the Pomona Unified School District and meet specific income requirements. A team of eight volunteers and two board members were hard at work at last week's give-away program. Pictured in a shirt aisle are guest Alondra Lazaro of Pomona and her 10-month-old son Emanuel; volunteer Jennie Hayes of Covina; and President Sharon Goodrich and Operation School Bell Operations Chairman Stephanie Roberts, both of Claremont. Donations are always needed -- especially pants -- and can be dropped off at the Assistance League's dental center next door on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. For more information, visit the web site at www.alpv.org.



NEW 'BOOKS FOR KIDS' PROGRAM -- A new program at the Assistance League of Pomona Valley is the "Books for Kids" program in which each child visiting the facility receives one new book and several gently used books. Sorting the latest batch of incoming books are, from left, volunteers Betty Butler of Claremont and Audrey Crabtree of Alta Loma.

Inland Empire United Way merging with high desert counterpart

Desert Communities United Way (DCUW) this summer will merge with Inland Empire United Way (IEUW) of Rancho Cucamonga to form a larger organization that will better serve the needs of both regions.

In addition to the Pomona Valley and East San Bernardino County, IEUW's service area now will include DCUW's high desert region including Victorville, Apple Valley, Hesperia, Adelanto and surrounding areas.

According to a news release, the organization will maintain local offices and staff in both Rancho Cucamonga and Apple Valley.

"Our mission is to invest in the lives and futures of those in need in the Inland Empire, and we look forward to partnering with local agencies, residents and businesses to

help even more individuals in the high desert over the coming years," said IEUW Board Chairman Bob Cole.

The merger is designed to stem a decline in DCUW's annual budget and to create synergy between the two organizations which already share a common vision and several similar programs.

"Based on the local economic downturn, we face significant challenges to generating the kind of support needed by our community and feel this merger better positions the organization to strengthen our local impact," said DCUW Board Chairman David North.

The merger is expected to be completed by June.

For more information, visit the web site at www.dcuw.org or www.ieuw.org.

Pomona Chamber 'Legislative Luncheon' set for next month

Sponsorship opportunities with special packages are still available for the Pomona Chamber of Commerce 2015 Legislative Luncheon, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 17, at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Hotel.

The event will provide participants opportunities to learn where their legislators stand on important issues.

In addition to a panel discussion and question and answer session, the event will provide an opportunity to network with area officials and stakeholders invested in the Pomona Valley.

Community members will have an opportunity to submit questions, topics and issues prior to Friday, April 10. Questions should be submitted to Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erica Frausto at frausto.eric@pomonachamber.org.

For more information, contact the Pomona Chamber at (909) 622-1256.

Pomona's Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe to participate in Pomona College Pow Wow

Pomona's Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe of Native Americans will participate in next month's annual Native American Pow Wow at Pomona College in Claremont.

The theme this year will be "Tradition for Life – Education for the Future."

Included will be dancers, drum groups, music and more at the intertribal gathering celebrating Native American culture and honor traditions.

The "Grand Entry" is scheduled for noon Saturday, April 4, on the

Smith Campus Center Lawn, 170 E. Sixth St., Claremont, at the college.

A fruit stand will be provided by the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe, and about 20 Native American artisans will showcase traditional and contemporary styles of art, with hand-crafted beadwork, pottery, quillwork and silver-smith available for purchase.

The Pow Wow at Pomona College began in 2011 to honor the ancestors and the tribal homelands on which the college is located.

Inland Valley Hope Partners golf tourney set for May

Golfers will tee off to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless at this year's 19th annual Inland Valley Hope Partners Golf Classic set for Thursday, May 14.

Check-in starts at 11 a.m. with a putting contest at Sierra Lakes Golf Course in Fontana, followed by a complimentary Tommy's Original lunch.

The shotgun start is set for 1 p.m. Entry fee for an individual golfer is \$225 or \$800 for a foursome, and "dinner only" tickets are \$40.

Sponsorship opportunities are

still available.

For more information, contact Kami Newman at (909) 622-3806, ext. 105, or by e-mail at kamin@inlandvalleyhopepartners.org.

Inland Valley Hope Partners has been providing services to those living in poverty since its inception in 1968. Today, it provides food, short-term shelter and other supportive services to more than 80,000 men, women and children each year with food pantries in Pomona, Ontario, San Dimas and Claremont.

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- 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 maternity lobby, outpatient services, emergency room
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., 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
- LaundryLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 954 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- CVS Pharmacy, 150 W. Willow St., Pomona





GOING FOR WORLD RECORD -- La Nueva Voz friend Pete Fahey of Pomona holds his tape measure to his world record dandelion last week to see how it is measuring up. Pete and his wife Susie called in to tell us they plan to contact Guinness World Records to make it official. As of last week, Pete said the dandelion measured in at 75 inches (he's standing on a six-foot ladder). The world record of 70 inches was recorded in 2011. Pete said the dandelion just showed up in a crack in the driveway and has never been watered except by the rain at their house near Alvarado Street and Towne Avenue. And it has only been growing for two months! We figure those things must grow like weeds in that part of Pomona.

THE WEEKEND GARDENER By Leif Green

Snakes in your garden!

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." – Audrey Hepburn

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." – Abraham Lincoln

With the unseasonably warm weather, cold blooded animals will become more active, including snakes. Pomona and the surrounding hills have a wide variety of snakes including garter, racer, gopher and of course, the rattlesnake. Snakes like to hide in tall grass, stacks of wood, leaves and rock piles. If you have any of these in your garden, you have, or will have at some point, a snake in your garden. Some snakes are excellent climbers and may be found hiding in trees or bushes. Many people don't like snakes primarily because their method of movement seems "creepy." If one can get past that, snakes provide many benefits in the garden.

By their nature, snakes in Pomona are reclusive and work very hard to stay hidden. Coloration and patterns are one method snakes use to stay hidden or blend in with their surroundings. Another method to avoid predators is to imitate another snake, usually a rattlesnake. Gopher snakes have coloration and scale patterns similar to a rattle snake. I'm sure many gopher snakes have met their demise at

the hands of a gardener making an incorrect identification. Rattlesnakes have a distinctive flat, triangular head, slit pupils in their eyes like a cat and a ring pattern by the tail. Gopher snakes on the other hand have a rounder head, round pupils and no rings on the tail. Other snakes, such as some racers, can vibrate their tail in tall grass making a sound similar to the rattle on a rattlesnake.

Given the opportunity, snakes, including the rattlesnake, will retreat if discovered. Bites from the rattlesnake usually happen only if the snake is threatened or startled. When hiking, stay on well worn trails and avoid tall grass or other areas where snakes like to hide. The California Poison Control Center reports that there are approximately 800 rattlesnake bites each year with only one or two being fatal. A quarter of rattlesnake bites are dry, that is, no venom is injected. While most rattlesnake bites are not fatal, all require immediate medical atten-

tion. Other snakes may also bite if cornered, but since they don't have fangs or venom, they are a much smaller threat.

Snakes also provide a benefit to your garden. Their diet includes



Leif Green

insects, gophers, moles, mice and other rodents, slugs, other snakes and generally anything smaller than themselves. Snakes do not dig holes or harm vegetation. They keep insect and rodent populations in check. Best of all, snakes provide these

benefits quietly and will do their best to avoid the gardener.

So if you see a snake in your garden, just ignore it. The snake will likely be in a frantic state looking for a place to hide... from you!

Editor's Note: Leif Green, the author's pen name, grew up in Pomona and graduated from Cal Poly University Pomona with a master's degree in biology. Gardening has always been his hobby and his column is presented as a public service.

Free spring story time schedule open to public at Upland Library

An entire series of "spring session story times" and youth services programs has been announced by the Upland Public Library.

All events are in the Brodie Room at the library and are free and open to the public.

"One-Derful Ones Story Time" will be held at either 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. Wednesdays for one-year-olds

and their parents.

"Toddlertime" will be held at either 9:30 a.m. or 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays for children between the ages of 2 and 3.

"Preschool Story Time" is set for 11:15 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays for children 3 through 5.

"Afterschool Adventures" is held at 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays for begin-

ning readers ages 5 through 9.

And "P.J. Story Time" is held at 6 p.m. Thursdays offering a time to curl up and listen to great bedtime stories.

The Upland Public Library is located at 450 N. Euclid Ave., Upland.

For more information, contact (909) 931-4213



Enroll now in St. Joseph Elementary!

Enrollment is now open for Transitional Kindergarten through Eighth Grade students attending St. Joseph Elementary in Pomona for the Spring semester.

Operating since 1898, St. Joseph Elementary today is a 14-room school which includes nine classrooms, a library, a new computer lab, a music room, a conference room and an after school care room.

- Curriculum follows the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and includes instruction in core subjects of religion, math, science, social studies, English, reading/ literature and spelling.
- Supplemental subjects include handwriting for grades one through four, computer class, art class, music and physical education.
- The school is fully accredited. Religious activities include Mass every Thursday, prayer "buddies" and sacraments. Academic activities include science and math fairs and academic "bees." Social activities include Christmas and Spring plays, cultural awareness and parents/grandparents open house.
- A full sports program is offered.
- Services include before and after school care, tutoring, WiFi Internet in all classrooms and hot lunch.



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OPINION

E-cigarettes – a fashionable health crisis

By Jennifer Ferguson

Since the late 1800s, cigarette smoking has been a widespread trend throughout the nation. It was not until the 1950s that evidence of the ill effects accumulated. Since then, there has been a decrease in smoking cigarettes, but an increase in another device called the “e-cigarette.”

As defined by the U.S. Food and Administration, e-cigarettes are electronic cigarettes that are battery-operated products designed to deliver nicotine, flavor, and other chemicals that turn into an aerosol that is inhaled by the user, including the highly addictive nicotine that’s in it.

The California Department of Public Health claims that aggressive marketing has led to an increase in e-cigarette use and experimentation by youth. Studies have proven this to be true. In 2013 it was reported that 17 percent of high school seniors reported using e-cigarettes compared with 14 percent using conventional cigarettes.

With the increase in smoking and increase of poisonings, health concerns are in its path. As shown in history, the traditional cigarette became an issue as it was promoted as the “cool” thing to do. This promotion and idea is repeating but replaced with the e-cigarette.

The e-cigarette is being promoted as a fashionable device and a healthier alternative even though there are dangers within it. Although e-cigarettes have not been around long enough to show the long-term effects, concerns are rising from the toxins inside and increase of smoking. It took long-term use for the community to realize the dangers of the traditional cigarette, and a question that should be asked is: Is society going to wait until it’s too late and our community’s health is threatened again?

Some people may argue that e-cigarettes are supposed to wean people off smoking. False, there has been no scientific evidence that these devices wean people off smoking. In fact, studies have shown that

89 percent of e-cigarette users are still using them one year later and e-cigarette users are a third less likely to quit cigarettes. Others argue that they are healthier than traditional cigarettes because they contain no tobacco.

True, there is no tobacco but instead e-cigarettes contain dangerous toxins. These toxins include formaldehyde, lead, nickel, and acetaldehyde, all of which are known to cause cancer and reproductive harm. These chemicals are inhaled by the user and then travel through the brain, organs, and lungs. These chemicals are problematic and who’s to say that these devices are safer than the traditional cigarette.

Increases in youth smokers, poisons, smoking, chemicals, and risks all are negative. But hypocritically, from candy to fruit flavors and appealing designs, smoking is now being promoted as a positive fashionable statement. Promotion hides the negatives and as a result a fashionable health crisis is on the rise – fashionable due to the trendy designs, health crisis due to the effects.

Sure, the attractiveness of these devices is appealing, but the inside is where the ugly sits. Ask yourself, are we truly promoting a healthier lifestyle or are we leading our youth and community into a fashionable health crisis?

As citizens, there is a solution to this growing trend. California Senate Bill 140 (State Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco) was introduced to help prevent the increase of youth smokers and second hand smoke and restrict the use of e-cigarettes in workplaces, restaurants and other public places. If approved by the legislature and signed into law by the governor, Senate Bill 140 will help protect the community’s health from damaging toxins.

Editor’s Note: Jennifer Ferguson, a graduate student working on a master’s degree in social work at USC, currently is a mental health professional in Pomona. She became interested in the topic because her father smokes cigarettes.

Pomona’s ‘Relay for Life’ sets annual ‘kick-off’ potluck at Eagles Lodge

Pomona’s “Relay for Life” annual cancer fundraiser and cancer awareness program will hold its “kick-off” potluck next month at the Eagles Lodge in Pomona.

The event, which is open to the public, will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, at the Eagles Lodge, 954 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona.

The theme for this year’s “Relay for Life” is “Come one, cure all Carnival.” The actual 24-hour-long relay walk begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 27, at Pomona’s Fairplex.

It concludes at 10 a.m. the following Sunday morning.

Organizers pointed out that cancer has touched everyone’s life and the relay is a time to “remember, celebrate and fight back.”

Teams are already being formed to raise money toward fighting cancer. Teams and team members can sign up free at relayforlife.org/pomonaca.

For more information, please contact Cedric (Gino) or Diane Elias at (909) 997-4529 or (909) 997-4530.

Activist Dolores Huerta to speak at ‘Save Our World’ event in Montclair

United Farm Workers co-founder Dolores Huerta, who in the 1960s and 1970s was instrumental in strikes against California grape growers, will be the keynote speaker next month at “Save Our World,” an environmental and social justice special event in Montclair.

The event, sponsored by UPWARD (Uniting Peace with Ac-

tions, Respect and Dignity), will be held from noon to 5:45 p.m. Saturday, April 11, at Monte Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 9185 Monte Vista Ave., Montclair.

Included will be music, dancers, poetry, an art auction, raffles, food, a peace walk and more.

For more information or to assist or sponsor, contact Gustavo Ramirez, (909) 243-5148.

Assistance League sets 16th annual golf tourney for May 11 at Red Hill Country Club

The Assistance League of Pomona Valley has set its 16th annual fundraising golf tournament for May 11 at Red Hill Country Club in Rancho Cucamonga.

Registration gets under way at 8:30 a.m. followed by brunch and contests before a shotgun start at 11 a.m.

Reception with a hosted bar is set for 4 p.m. with an awards dinner scheduled for 5 p.m.

Cost for an individual player is \$385.

For registration information or sponsorship opportunities, contact co-chair Rene Sippel at (951) 218-4851.

The Assistance League of Pomona Valley, a chapter of the National Assistance League, provides a variety of services that assist underprivileged children in families in local communities.

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OPENING DAY CEREMONIES -- The entire Ted Greene Little League, including players and coaches, pauses in the infield during the singing of the national anthem.



ORGANIZING FINAL MOMENTS OF OPENING DAY -- Jacqui Perez, special events coordinator for Pomona's Ted Greene Little League, handles the final details before opening day ceremonies this month at Ted Greene Park in Pomona. Perez also serves as team mom for two teams -- T-ball Rays and Junior Minor Mets.



MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBER TOSS FIRST PITCH ON OPENING DAY AT TED GREENE LITTLE LEAGUE -- Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman makes a few comments before throwing out the first pitch on opening day at Pomona's Ted Greene Little League in Ted Greene Park. Pictured, from left, are Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin, Rothman and league president Brenda Quintana. Quintana presented Rothman and Martin with plaques thanking them for their generosity and continuing support.

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LEAGUE PHOTO ON OPENING DAY -- All six teams in Pomona's Pony United Youth Baseball League in John F. Kennedy Park pose for La Nueva Voz (along with about 14 parents taking their own photos) during opening day ceremonies this month. The league, which includes players ages 3 to 14, doubled in size in its second year. Have a great season, guys!

MAYOR THROWS OUT OPENING PITCH -- Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman throws out the opening pitch (but it was La Nueva Voz that snapped the photo with the ball in mid-air, just before the basketball backboard) for opening day of Season Two of Pony United Youth Baseball League this month in Pomona's John F. Kennedy Park. "It's the way it's supposed to be," Rothman said, "and hats off to all who helped make this park look so good." Pomona Unified School District Board Vice President Adrienne Konigar-Macklin thanked league president Carlos Goytia and others for providing a park the community can be proud of. And Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte thanked Goytia, the coaches and the team moms. "This place is almost too crowded," he said. Goytia told league parents and players that bringing youth baseball back to the park was important to him since he played on the last team to play there some 33 years ago in the Pomona Northwest Little League. "This park is beautiful and we're taking back this park," Goytia said. "These are our kids. They deserve that." Pictured, from left, are Mayor Rothman, league president Carlos Goytia, league vice president George Grajeda and league board member Rubio Gonzales.



READY TO PLAY BALL -- Aiden Barajas, age 3, a Stallions team member in Pomona's Pony United Youth Baseball League, is all ready to play some ball on opening day.

ABC7's Bri Winkler, a stroke survivor, to headline Pomona Valley Hospital's annual 'Power of Red' event

The Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Foundation will hold its eighth annual "Power of Red" fundraiser next month at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Hotel to raise awareness for cardiovascular disease in women.

This year's program will be modeled after the television talk show "The View" to provide an evening of inspirational stories, female health education and prizes.

Bri Winkler, meteorologist and reporter at television station ABC7 in Los Angeles and a stroke survivor, will share her personal story and moderate the discussion.

Hospital Foundation members host this event each year in support of the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" campaign. All proceeds from the event benefit the hospital's Stead Heart for Women, a program that offers information on risk factors, lifestyle modification, diet and exercise to women in the community.

"Sign-in" for the event is at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, with the program scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m.

"Dinner only" cost is \$60 or dinner with Power of Red membership and a special gift is \$100.

Registration is on line at www.pvhmc.org/Foundation/Special-Events/Calendar-Registration.asp.

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