



La Nueva Voz

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



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GRATIS



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www.lanuevavoz.net

Memorial Day events in Pomona recognize sacrifices of those who served

U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. P. Ernesto Aquino, a wounded warrior who served three tours in Iraq and two in Afghanistan, told elected officials and guests at Pomona Valley Memorial Park's Memorial Day service last month that "war is terrible but I can tell you that freedom is not free."



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AT POMONA CEMETERY -- Everything from the Pomona Concert Band to a bag piper and a trumpeter playing taps was in place for the 129th Memorial Day Service at Pomona Valley Memorial Park. Pictured after the ceremony, from left, are newly installed American Legion Post 30 (Pomona) Commander Richard Haro; guest speaker wounded warrior U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. P. Ernesto Aquino; and Janet Roy, general manager of Pomona Valley Memorial Park.

Aquino, guest speaker at this year's 129th Memorial Day service at Pomona Valley Memorial Park, spoke to the veterans in the audience.

"I see a lot of veterans out there right now and I want to thank you for your service that you did to our country and you continue to do service even though you are retired," he said.

He also told two Korea War veterans before the service that they were his heroes.

Aquino, who served in the Marines for 20 years, said he was born in El Salvador in Central America. He came to the U.S. at the age of nine when his country was in the midst of a civil war in the 1980s and the recruiting age for military service had dropped down to age nine.

"My parents had to make a decision whether to keep me there and maybe go to war or come to the U.S. and start a new life," he said, adding that his family settled in Hawthorne.

He was recruited into the Marine Corps in Hawthorne in 1995, and

Memorial Day events... pg. 17



'UNCLE SAM' SHOWS SPIRIT AT VETERANS STAND DOWN -- Uncle Sam was on hand for the Memorial Day opening of a week-long fourth annual "Heroes in the Shadows" San Gabriel Valley Veterans Stand Down at the Pomona National Guard Armory.

June grads in the news as Pomona graduates 1,500 seniors

June graduations were the top news stories again this year with Pomona Unified School District – and its more than 1,500 graduating seniors – leading the pack.

At the other end of the spectrum was the 2015 graduating class of only three – but with every bit as much pride in their accomplishment – at the Haynes Family of Programs in La Verne.

And, while La Nueva Voz was unable to cover every graduation ceremony, we received news of success stories from many of our friends in the community – from Dr. Enrique Medina, Director of Pomona Unified's Adult and Career Education Department, who graduated some 117 students, to Helena Gonzalez, who completed sixth grade at Pomona's La Verne Science and Technology Charter School and will attend Palomares Middle School in the fall. Her dad, Ralph Gonzalez, of Pomona's Knights of

Columbus, just wanted everybody to know.

That's the kind of graduation season it was this year in Pomona.

Back to those Pomona Unified grads, they'll be heading off to an impressive number of leading universities – from Cal Poly University Pomona, UCLA and USC to UC Berkeley and Vassar College.

"The rewards of a rich and diverse education will resonate emphatically throughout a graduate's life," said Pomona Unified Board

President Andrew Wong. "Our mission is to provide for our students the foundations of accomplishment

Pomona graduates... pg. 9



GRADUATING CLASS OF THREE -- Three graduating seniors making up this year's entire graduating class at Haynes Family of Programs in La Verne are congratulated by Haynes Director of Education C.C. Schumm.



Members of the Garey High School Class of 2015.

Members of the Pomona Adult School graduating class during their processional at this year's graduation ceremonies.



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THE WEEKEND GARDENER By Leif Green
Snails and Slugs...Ugh!

Summer is the time when your garden is showing signs of being productive, flowers are blooming and fruits are beginning to set. It is also a time when many gardeners set out on a killing spree. While I'm sure most gardeners are peace loving people, their temperament changes dramatically when it comes to snails and slugs. From the point of view of the snails and slugs, gardeners are like the villain in a Friday the 13th movie.

Snails and slugs are really easy to deal with although it does take persistence. The saying "The best defense is a good offense" is especially true with these creatures. Whatever method is used, it has to be employed on a virtu-

ally continuous basis to be effective. Here is a brief summary of methods I've tried and they all work reasonably well.

BEER: The old tried and true method of drowning them in beer works fine although I can think of a better use for this product. Still, it does seem like a humane way for slugs and snails to meet their demise. Cheap beer works the same as the more expensive brands. I guess slugs aren't very discriminating. Set the container in a cool, damp area. Make sure the container is low enough for the slugs and snails to slide up and is deep enough to drown them. Also, make sure that the container does not have a sharp lip that

would discourage them from sliding over it.

METALDEHYDE BAIT: The most common examples of these are products like Corry's pellets and Deadline which is a syrupy liquid. The drawback to this type of treatment is that these baits tend to attract dogs and birds. To reduce this hazard, use these baits very sparingly. A small amount of these baits goes a long way in keeping your garden slug free.

IRON PHOSPHATE: This is another effective agent in eliminating snails and slugs. It is slower at getting rid of them, but it has the advantage of not attracting birds or dogs.

TRAP & BURY: Place an old saucer or other item with a flat surface on moist soil. After a few days, the slugs will crawl underneath it for shelter. Remove the saucer and turn over the soil along with the slugs with a trowel or shovel; they make excellent fertilizer.

Whatever bait you use, be sure to replace it after a heavy rain. Snails and slugs show no mercy on your garden so take no mercy on them. Remember, no prisoners!

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.



GIRL SCOUTS PITCH IN FROM COOKIE SALES -- Girl Scouts from a Claremont troop stopped by Inland Valley Hope Partners this month to donate a portion of this year's cookie sales -- a total of \$173 -- along with some boxes of their famous cookies for the families served at the agency's local food pantry. The scouts from Troop #2634 Our Lady of Assumption School in Claremont are, from left, Avery Frye, Julie Alejandro, Hannah Swiatek and Claudette Villegas.

David & Margaret Foster Care and Adoption Services presents its



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For more information, contact: Meghan Anderson, (909) 596-5921 ext. 3226
 AndersonM@DavidandMargaret.org

Or register on our Eventbrite page at: <http://superheroeswalk.eventbrite.com>

The Class of 2015 graduates from Pomona Catholic accumulated over **\$3 MILLION DOLLARS** in merit and athletic scholarships to colleges and universities across the country!

This Could Be You!



Our Valedictorian, Jennifer (center), will be attending USC in the fall where she will major in Civil Engineering. She is an Edison Scholar and has been awarded the Norman Topping Scholarship at USC. Additionally, she is a Gates Millennium Scholar and received a worldwide scholarship that will fund her education for the next ten years at any school of her choice. She is the second Gates Millennium Scholar from Pomona Catholic in two years.

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THE PLACE TO BE -- If there was ever any question, the pool is the place to be this summer as temperatures rise in Pomona. Pictured in front of the pool and the water slide at the city's Ganesha Pool in Pomona's Ganesha Park are Pomona Valley YMCA lifeguards, from left, Madison Hong, Peter Gomez and Elisa Cano. Hours at Ganesha Pool -- and Washington Pool in Washington Park, the City of Pomona's pool on the southern end of town, are from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Ganesha also offers night swim hours on Wednesday and Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Lap swimming at Ganesha is from 5 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays and senior swim at Washington Pool is from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesdays and Fridays. Cost per session is \$2.50 per person. Both pools will remain open regular hours until Aug. 16, with weekend hours Aug. 22-23 and Aug. 29-30. Swimming lessons are provided by the YMCA. For more information, call (909) 623-6433.

no shame. no blame. no names.

Newborns can be safely given up at the emergency room of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center -- or at any Los Angeles County hospital emergency room or fire station -- under the California Safely Surrendered Baby Law. The law allows the safe surrender of an unwanted infant within three days of birth with no fear of arrest or prosecution for abandonment as long as the baby has not been abused or neglected.

The baby will be placed in a pre-adoptive home while the adoption process gets under way.

More than 100 infants have been surrendered in Los Angeles County and have had a second chance at life since the program began in 2001.



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STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE AT THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL -- Carter Adams, 9, of Lakewood, hands over a fresh order of strawberry shortcake to La Nueva Voz Director of Advertising Renee Barbee at last month's annual Tractor and Car Show and Strawberry Festival at the Farm Store at Cal Poly University Pomona. The strawberry shortcake booth was operated by the Farm Store and, for two bucks, it doesn't get any better than that. The annual event includes tractor rides, "U-pick" produce, horse rides, a petting zoo and more.



RIBBON CUTTING AT CALIBER COLLISION -- City of Pomona and Pomona Chamber of Commerce officials and others turned out this month for a ribbon cutting and grand opening at the new and expanded location of Pomona's Caliber Collision, located at 2542 N. Towne Ave., Pomona. The company, the largest collision repair company in the U.S., boasts of fast turn-around and backs all repair work with a written lifetime warranty honored at all company locations. Manager Michael Roth said the facility offers a "brand new state-of-the-art paint shop for our customers." Pictured cutting the ribbon are members of the Caliber team along with, from left, Joanna Valenzuela, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Pomona Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Membership Stephanie Benjamin, of OPARC in Montclair; Vanessa Wiarco, representing State Sen. Connie Leyva; Pomona Mayor Elliott Rothman and Manager Michael Roth cutting the ribbon; Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; and Chamber Ambassadors Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Monique Perez of Sam's Club in Chino, and Gus Arias, of Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan. For more information, call Caliber at (909) 482-4343.

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SWEARING IN -- Bill Reed, Past District Commander of American Legion District 18 and captain of the ritual team, at left, swears in new officers at Pomona's American Legion Post 30. Pictured, front row, from left, are Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff; First Vice Commander Michael Moore; Immediate Past Commander John Grillot; and Commander Richard Haro. Back row, from left, are Bob Bowman, executive board member; Ross Weber, chaplain and executive board member; Karen Caddel, Past Commander; and Cliff Owens, executive board member. Haro is only the second Mexican American to hold the post in more than 45 years and Moore is the first African American to hold an officer's position at Post 30.

La Nueva Voz

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NEW POST COMMANDER AT POMONA AMERICAN LEGION -- Richard Haro, center, is handed the gavel during his installation this month as new Commander of Pomona's American Legion Post 30 at the Pomona post headquarters. Pictured, from left, are American Legion District 18 Commander Peter Douglas III, based at American Legion Post 280 in Pasadena; Richard Haro; and Past District Commander Bill Reed, captain of the ritual team, based at American Legion Post 790 in West Covina. Reed told Haro that the success of the post depends on him. "Protect the name of the American Legion," he said. "We all work for the same goals - justice, freedom, democracy and loyalty." Haro said he hopes to keep lines of communication open in Post 30. "The commander is only as good as the people around him," he said. American Legion District 18 includes 24 posts.



NEW OFFICERS FOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY -- New officers were sworn in this month for the Auxiliary of Pomona's American Legion Post 30. Pictured, from left, are Immediate Past President Peggy Wendt; Linda McKay, who is continuing as Vice President; incoming President Cheryl Scholl; and Vicki Grillot, continuing as secretary/treasurer.

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Pomona video company launches 'junior reporter' academy, talent agency

Pomona's WOW Action Services, long-time providers of video content for the promotion of entrepreneurs, small businesses and non-profits, has announced the creation of a junior reporter academy and a talent agency.

Ed Pruitt, CEO, said the junior reporter academy consists of a series of classes and workshops for kids 8 to 17 who dream of becoming talk show hosts, reporters and "spokes" models.

The classes will be taught by WOW Action Services entertainment reporters.

"Our team members have appeared in movies (and on) television, and have interviewed countless celebrities as well as high ranking politicians," Pruitt said.

The WOW Action Talent Agency has been created to provide extensive opportunity and exposure for



Gabriella Ventura

clients.

"WOW Action Talent Agency provides real-life experiences and videos to add to our clients' promo reels," said Gabriella Ventura, entertainment reporter and instructor for the junior reporter academy. "As a talent/management agency, we groom, expose and oversee the growth of our clientele."

For more information about either program, e-mail WOW Action Services at citruzp@msn.com.



PREPARING THE FIELD -- Construction crews and heavy equipment have been hard at work preparing the football field at Ganesha High School in a project that will result in artificial turf, all-weather track, a new scoreboard and more -- all funded under the Pomona Unified School District's \$235 million Measure PS facilities bond.

FIRST ROLL OF ASTROTURF DELIVERED -- The first roll of AstroTurf is rolled in to the Nancy McCracken Stadium at Pomona's Ganesha High School this month where work is under way in a \$2.5 million renovation project.

(It really was the first roll -- La Nueva Voz confirmed it with the forklift driver.) Work started in April and the project is expected to be completed in time for football this fall. The rest of that load of AstroTurf -- right off the truck -- is pictured in the parking lot at left rear.



UPLANDERS SUPPORT CASA COLINA'S WOUNDED WARRIORS PROGRAM -- The Uplanders Club Charitable Organization presented a check for \$60,000 last month to benefit the renowned Wounded Warriors Program at Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare in Pomona. Proceeds for the donation were raised at the group's annual charity gala "A Night in Paris" last March in Ontario. Casa Colina's President and CEO Fellice Loverso, Ph.D., was the honored guest and speaker. The check presentation itself was at an Upland Hills Country Club luncheon. "We salute Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare for their continued commitment to care for our injured military men and women in need of medical and rehabilitation services, regardless of their ability to pay," said Tamara Warner, director of philanthropy for the Uplanders. Pictured, from left, are Loverso, Uplanders President Lis Johnson, Tamara Warner and Lisa McKay, Casa Colina's community development liaison.

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GETTING THE HANG OF IT -- Three unidentified younger robot operators get the idea of handling the remote controlled robots in a special demonstration booth operated by FIRST learning at the DARPA Robotics Challenge Finals this month at Pomona's Fairplex.

CHECKING OUT THE ROBOTS -- Jaxson Stehlin, 13, an eighth grader at La Canada High School, gets a close-up hands-on look at an intelligent co-robot at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory booth at the DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) Robotics Challenge Finals this month at Pomona's Fairplex. This particular type of robot is used to collaborate with humans for disaster and military scenarios. Teams from around the world competed before an audience in the Fairplex Grandstand at the event for \$3.5 million in prize money awarded to the teams that best demonstrated human-supervised robot technology for disaster response. Team Kaist, a team from the Republic of Korea, took first place for the \$2 million prize. Second place and \$1 million went to Team IHMC Robotics of Pensacola, FL. Third place and \$500,000 went to Tartan Rescue of Pittsburgh.

'Readiness' hearing, preliminary hearing finally set in shooting of Pomona Police Officer Shaun Diamond

A preliminary hearing has been set for July 28 for David Martinez, who is charged with capital murder for allegedly fatally shooting Pomona Police Officer Shaun Diamond last October.

The hearing will follow a "readiness hearing" scheduled for July 15 in Dept. 30 of Los Angeles Superior Court, again before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Sergio Tapia.

The developments came in a "preliminary hearing setting" this month – a hearing which itself had been continued for four times in the case over the last eight months since charges were filed on Oct. 30.

A spokesperson for the Los Angeles District Attorney's office, however, said the delays were not unusual because of the complexity of the case, coupled with the fact that the defendant is no longer represented by a public defender but has obtained private counsel, attorney Edward Esqueda, who needed

additional time to get up to speed on the case.

Deputy District Attorney Andrew Kim handled the June 3 hearing for the prosecution. Kim told the court he expected the preliminary hearing to require a full day rather than the originally anticipated four hours.

The case eventually will be assigned to another department for trial. The preliminary hearing itself may be assigned out or may be held in Dept. 30 of the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Martinez 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.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN -- Members of the Pomona Police Department participated in the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run this month, an event which includes more than 3,500 officers carrying the torch more than 1,500 miles through more than 200 communities -- all to raise awareness of the Special Olympics movement worldwide. Pomona officers picked up the torch from runners from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in Walnut and handed it off to runners representing the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Chino Hills station. The run supported Southern California's Special Olympics athletes. A second run is scheduled later this summer leading up to the actual lighting of the Olympic torch in the Coliseum in Los Angeles where this year's world games will be held beginning July 25. Pictured, front row, from left, are Special Olympics athletes Jimmy English, Austin Frederick and Michael Evans, and volunteers Karina Sevesind, Ellie Congalton and Savana Sanders. Pictured in rear, from left, representing Pomona police, are Sgt. Steve Congalton, Officer Dan Watkins, Corporal Mark Medellin and Reserve Officer Dave Sevesind.

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NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE NURSES -- The neonatal intensive care nurses from Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center pose with a display of their latest equipment last month at the 11th annual Wine Tasting fundraiser sponsored by the hospital's Foundation at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center. The event raised funds to support the neonatal intensive care unit and pediatric unit. To date, the event has raised close to \$600,000 which has allowed the hospital to purchase life-saving equipment for its tiniest patients.



WINE TASTING ORDER OF THE DAY -- Wine tasting was the order of the day last month at the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Foundation's 11th annual wine tasting at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center. All of the wines available for tasting were on sale with all proceeds donated to the Foundation's Neonatal and Pediatric Fund. This year's proceeds will be used to purchase "NICVIEW," a secure on-line camera system that promotes family bonding by providing real-time viewing of an infant in the neonatal intensive care and pediatrics units.

Pomona Eagles Special Olympics golf tourney set for July 13

The Pomona Eagles 23rd annual "Special Olympics Golf Classic," rescheduled due to rain, will be held next month at Mountain Meadows Golf Course in Pomona.

All proceeds from the Monday, July 13 fundraiser will benefit the athletes of Pomona Valley Special

Olympics which is run 100 percent by volunteers. The funds make possible free year-round athletics programs for the athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Registration gets under way at 11 a.m. and the shotgun start of the four-person scramble is scheduled for 2 p.m. The tournament is

limited to 144 golfers.

Cost per golfer is \$130.

Sponsorships are still available ranging from tee sponsor at \$100 to gold sponsor at \$625.

For more information or to pre-register, contact Russell Evans at (909) 319-7693 or Pegi Evenson at (909) 618-3164.

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MEETINGS IN ENGLISH

Thursday, July 16 @ 10 am

Thursday, July 16 @ 2 pm

MEETINGS IN SPANISH

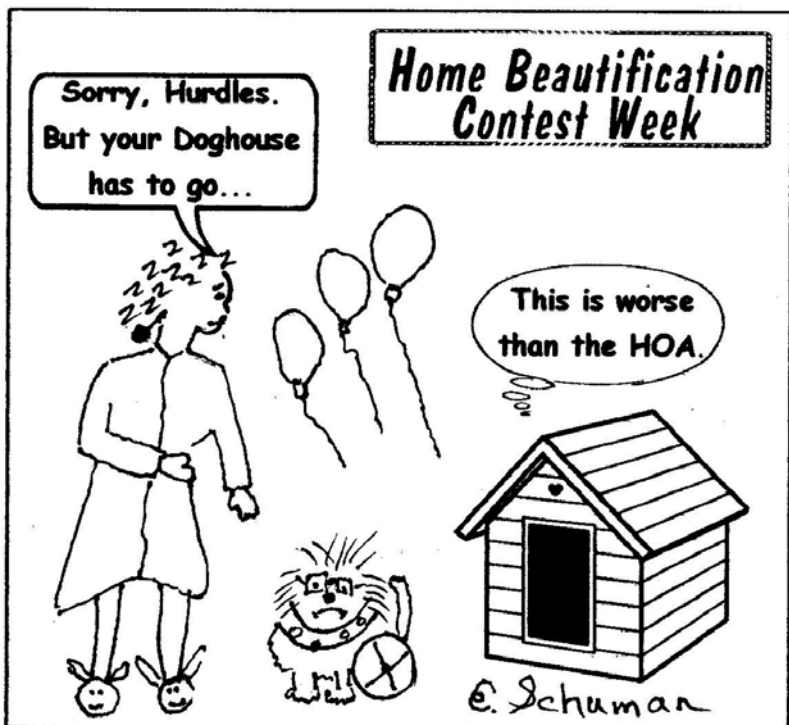
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Jueves, 9 de julio @ 2 pm

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Hope & Hurdles

by Evy Schuman

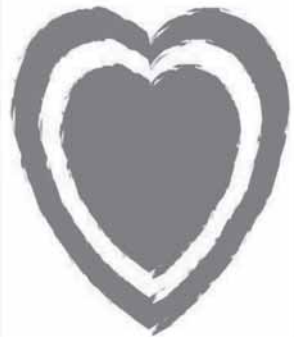


EDITOR'S NOTE: "Hope & Hurdles," an on-going feature appearing in La Nueva Voz, was created by artist Evy Schuman as an attempt to "poke fun" at the little things that trouble us all from time to time. Evy, who is also a published writer on the subject, created the cartoon series to show her work at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

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FRIENDS OF POMONA PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY -- Volunteers, donors and city employees with 20 years or more of employment at the library were honored last month by Friends of the Pomona Public Library at a 60th anniversary luncheon at the Kellogg House on the campus of Cal Poly University Pomona. The event included entertainment by students from Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise. Pictured with the students, from left, are "Friends" board members Leslie Albert, Secretary; President Gwen Robinson; Eunice Russell, Community Liaison; and Evelyn Perrine, Treasurer. The group is also looking for new volunteer board members interested in becoming involved as the board reorganizes on July 1. Volunteer applications are available on the web site at friendspomonalibrary.org.



RECOGNIZING A VETERAN EDUCATOR -- Annette Durham,

7-Eleven franchisee in Pomona, recognized retired English teacher Agnes Moreland Jackson at her customer appreciation day last month. Jackson, a native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, who received a PhD from Columbia University, taught English everywhere from Spelman College in Atlanta to Cal State University Los Angeles, Pitzer College in Claremont and the University of Redlands, where she received her undergraduate degree. Pictured with Jackson are her husband, Hal Jackson, and Durham. Both honorees received gift certificates for dinner donated by Pomona Valley Mining Company in Pomona in recognition of their service.

Pomona Rotary wins trivia bee

The Pomona Rotary team took first place last month in the 26th annual Pomona Public Library Trivia Bee held at Pomona's Ebel Club.

Second place went to the City of Pomona Administration team.



CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY -- It was customer appreciation day at 7-Eleven's store at 1550 Murchison Ave., Pomona last month (Dudley Avenue and the San Bernardino Freeway) as franchisee Annette Durham decided to give back to the community. One of the honorees at the event was Pomona resident Joseph Borda, 93, who served as a Navy seaman in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He told La Nueva Voz he piloted a landing craft in the Normandy Invasion with 58 U.S. Marines on board -- and every one made it onto Omaha Beach. Pictured with some of Borda's medals are, from left, his wife, Betty; Borda; and Durham, who has been in the 7-Eleven system for more than 35 years. Borda was selling copies of his book telling the story of his life with proceeds going to Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

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

Foster Care:

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

Faith Based Coalitions:

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

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

Mental Health:

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

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

Pomona graduates... from pg 1

and to develop the skill sets necessary to meet the challenges in the 21st century. We applaud the Class of 2015 and wish them the best of luck.”

Diamond Ranch High School led the way with 450 graduates, Garey checked in with 313, Pomona High had 270 and Ganesha eked out 250. Village Academy High School logged 95 graduates, Fremont Academy had 68 and there were 28 graduates at Palomares Academy.

Park West High graduated 43 students and the School of Extended Education Options and the Pomona Alternative School combined to graduate 39.

A steady increase in the district's graduation rates since 2010 continued this year, climbing from 71.8 per-

Pomona's Fairplex that the Class of 2015 was characterized as bold, ambitious, supportive, compassionate and having the qualities of leadership.

“We are so very proud of you,” he told the graduating seniors. “I am



Dr. Enrique Medina

Salutarian Rebekah Harrison thanked her dad for his support and thanked her mom for teaching her to never settle for less than she deserves and for never letting her quit. “The world was our playground,” Harrison said, explaining that it seemed like only yesterday they were in kindergarten but now it was up to them to “follow it, do it, dream about it.”

“We will only succeed if we push ourself and take a risk,” she added. “Learn from your mistakes.”

Valedictorian Karely Lozano Gutierrez told her classmates it was important to enjoy every moment and live, write a book, learn every single instrument.

“These things are not impossible – you can be the embodiment of greatness,” she said. “Here I am and I'm going to do it.”

She told the grads that all of them have opportunity ahead of them.

“You are to yourself what your thoughts are,” she said. “You are to everyone else what your actions are.”

Pomona Adult School

“You are living proof that success can be reached no matter how difficult the road can be,” Dr. Enrique Medina told his adult school grads. “You are the reason we are here today” to celebrate your success story.

Edgar Morales, who was receiving his high school diploma, said he had been working in warehouses but went to the adult school in 2013 to complete his high school requirements. He rode his bicycle 20 miles each day to attend classes, but said graduation has opened many more doors for him.

proud of the culture of leadership development that has evolved. You have set new standards for our juniors to embrace.”

He urged the graduates to “be strong in your conviction” and continue their personal growth and continue to lead by example.



Edgar Morales



John Lopez

cent in 2010 to more than 83 percent today, topping the state average of 80.8 percent and the Los Angeles County average of 78 percent.

Garey High School

Garey High School Principal Stacey Wilkins told his graduating class in ceremonies in Building 4 at

Ronald McDonald House Charities awards scholarships to Southern California students

Four area students were among 115 of Southern California's brightest high school seniors who were awarded college scholarships from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California to help reduce the financial burden of college tuition, fees and other educational expenses.

The Southern California chapter awarded a total of \$362,000 in scholarship funds to 115 exceptional high school seniors who live in Los

Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura Counties.

They were honored recently at an awards luncheon at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in downtown Los Angeles.

Local student recipients included Luis Torres of Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School, Nicole Calvario of Chino High School in Chino, Lemuel Cardenas of Alta Loma High School in Upland and Andy Zhang of Claremont High School in Claremont.

Students were selected on criteria including grade point average, community involvement, leadership

skills, letters of recommendation and financial need.

The scholarship funds are made possible through fundraising efforts of McDonald's Operators' Association of Southern California, McDonald's corporate staff, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California and the global Ronald McDonald House Charities office.

Since 1990, the Southern California chapter has awarded more than \$5.2 million in scholarship funds to more than 3,200 local students to help make their dream of a college education a reality.

He said he is going into aviation and has a plan for college.

“Nothing is ever over until you stop trying,” he said.

John Lopez, who received his computer numeric controlled (CNC) machinist credential, told his fellow graduates that the adult school gave him a second chance and that he is now working on fulfilling his dream working for NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) as a machinist.

“Do not be afraid of failure – it is simply a part of success,” he said. “I take my past year very seriously.”

And while he said he is “absolutely terrified” about the future,” he said “the dreams change and that's ok.”

Haynes Family of Programs

The three graduating seniors making up this year's entire graduating class at Haynes Family of Programs in La Verne were told during graduation ceremonies to “dream large” and “go forth and make a difference in this world.”

Robert Mason, Haynes Board First Vice Chairman, and President of R.H. Mason Insurance Managers, told the graduates he remembers learning reading, writing and arithmetic in high school which provided a foundation for his future.

“Without these, I could have never built a future for myself,” he said.

He urged the graduates to take the next year to decide what they want to do for the rest of their life.

“Pick something that you really like,” he said, because

then they'll be good at it.

Teacher Ryon Olivas told the graduates he admired their confidence, their trust in themselves, their curiosity, their generosity and their passion.

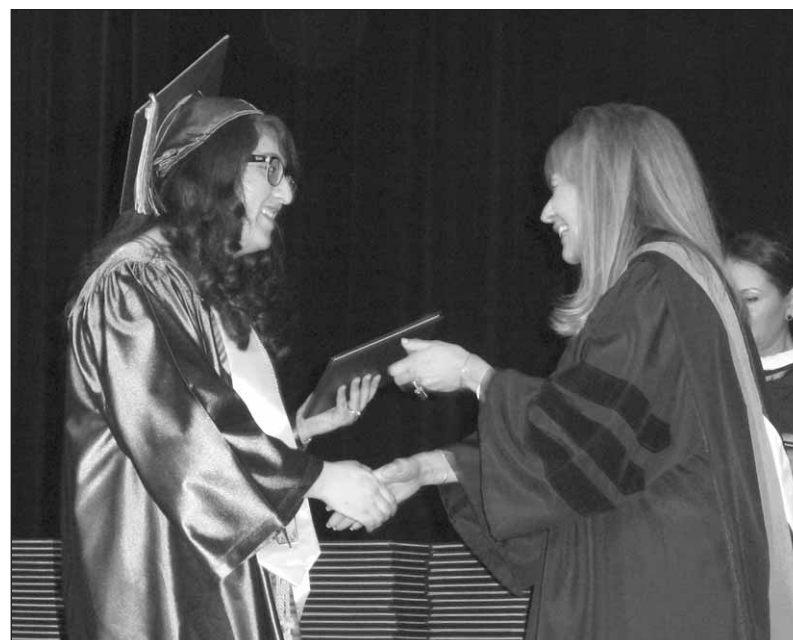
The Haynes Family of Programs provides specialized treatment and educational services to children with special needs relating to emotional development, autism, Asperger's Disorder, learning disabilities, neg-



Rebekah Harrison
Garey High School Salutarian



Karely Lozano Gutierrez
Garey High School Valedictorian



Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman presents one of 313 diplomas during graduation ceremonies for Garey High School.

Find back issues fast
in our archives at
www.lanuevavoz.net.

Sponsorship opportunities available as Pomona Rotary's 'Hot August Night' goes Hawaiian style

Sponsorship opportunities are still available as Pomona Rotary's fourth annual "Hot August Night" fundraiser goes Hawaiian style this year.

A table for 10 and a full page ad in the program is \$2,000, a table and a half page ad is \$1,500 and the table with a quarter page ad is \$1,000.

This year's event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23, at Pomona's Fairplex Conference Center. Individual tickets are \$75 or \$700 for a table for 10.

Proceeds support the Pomona Police Department's Explorer Program and the Robert and Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center.

Checks payable to Rotary Club of Pomona can be mailed to Pomona Rotary, care of Beth Brooks, P.O. Box 7787, La Verne, CA 91750.

For more information, contact Beth Brooks, (909) 229-5921, or Carol Wilt, (909) 573-4634.

For sponsorship information, contact David Speidel at (909) 629-3000.

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'LA DANZA DE LOS VIEJITOS' -- The City of Pomona Youth Orchestra presented "La Danza de los Viejitos" ("The Elderly Dance") at its spring concert last month in the Pomona Unified School District auditorium. Pictured are the dancers, from Pomona's Lincoln Elementary School's Folklorico, directed by Mrs. Paula Rafael. The Youth Orchestra is pictured on stage at rear, conducted by Carlos Mares, music director.



INTRODUCING CITY OF POMONA YOUTH ORCHESTRA -- Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa introduces the spring concert of the Pomona Youth Orchestra as master of ceremonies Professor Manuel Castillejos looks on. Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz was also a special guest at the event.



STRING SECTION -- Musicians from Alcott Elementary School tune up while waiting for the show to get underway at last month's spring concert of the Pomona Youth Orchestra.



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*Pólizas sólo en inglés. Ahorros promedio están basados en la información reportada a nivel nacional por clientes automotrices de Allstate por las pólizas escritas en el 2013. Ahorros actuales varían. Allstate Indemnity Co. Northbrook, IL. © 2014 Allstate Insurance Co.

Churches plan 'Stop the violence' prayer march for July

Representatives of Pomona churches and other community leaders will hold a "Stop the Violence: Prayer March" to proclaim "Peace in the City of Pomona," with marchers gathering for a rally at Pomona City Hall on Saturday, July 11.

Marchers will begin their walk at 8 a.m. at Renacimiento Community Center, 2383 Chanslor St., Pomona. The walk is essentially north on San Antonio Avenue from south Pomona to Holt Avenue, west on Holt and south on Garey Avenue to the civic center.

The rally in the Pomona civic center is scheduled for noon to 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Rev. Victor Zesati, Victory Outreach Pomona Spanish, at (909) 525-8435 or (909) 568-9734.

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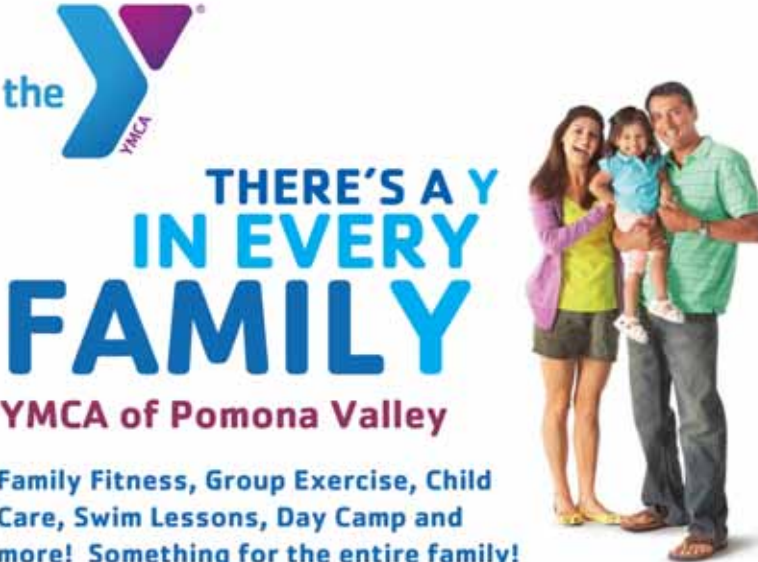
La Nueva Voz!

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY REPORT

Grand opening set for Farmers Insurance in La Puente

Insurance agent Hector Zaragoza has scheduled a grand opening of his new Farmers Insurance office next month in La Puente. The event is scheduled for 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, July 10, at 15825 Main St., Suite A (second floor), La Puente.

Members of the La Puente City Council and other officials have been invited to attend. For more information, contact (626) 363-9246. -- Victor Velazquez Ramirez Community news reporter



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WARMING UP FOR COMPETITION -- Denise Bargo of Oceanside works with international champion "Finess's Mister Gabriel Shoreline-West," a 20-month-old dog, before competition of the Great Dane Club of California during the five-day Mission Circuit Dog Show at Pomona's Fairplex last month. The show holds its annual event here over the Memorial Day weekend.

POSING FOR LA NUEVA VOZ -- Robert deCrevecoeur of Oceanside takes a moment to show off his Siberian Huskies before heading in to competition for the only Siberian Husky club at last month's Mission Circuit Dog Show at Fairplex. Pictured, at left, is Cosmo, age 7, with his cousin, Lance, age 4. At the time of this photo, Lance was heading inside to the championship round.




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City of Pomona

Fair Housing Community Workshop



Date: Tuesday - June 30, 2015
Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Location: Pomona City Hall
 Council Chambers
 505 South Garey Ave.
 Pomona, CA 91766

Ciudad de Pomona

Taller Comunitario de Vivienda Justa

Fecha: Martes - 30 de Junio, 2015
Hora: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Lugar: Pomona City Hall
 Cámara de Consejo
 505 South Garey Ave.
 Pomona, CA 91766



The City of Pomona invites your participation in a workshop to receive information on fair housing rights and discuss fair housing issues in our community.

La Ciudad de Pomona le invita a participar en un taller para recibir información sobre derechos de vivienda justa y a discutir sobre temas de vivienda justa en nuestra comunidad.



Please also complete a short survey to assist with this effort.

The survey can be found online at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/Pomona_AI

Tambien le invitamos a ayudarnos en este esfuerzo al llenar una encuesta.

La encuesta se encuentra en linea en:

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For questions or additional information please contact:

Cecilia Muñoz, Housing Analyst
 (909) 620-2198 | Cecilia_Munoz@ci.pomona.ca.us

Para preguntas, o información adicional, por favor póngase en contacto con :

Cecilia Muñoz, Housing Analyst
 (909) 620-2198 | Cecilia_Munoz@ci.pomona.ca.us



The City of Pomona will provide reasonable accommodations toward the inclusion of all participants, including language accommodations. Please contact Cecilia Muñoz at (909) 620-2198. Ample time is required to determine the needs of each request.

La Ciudad de Pomona proveera alojamiento razonable para incluir a todos los que deseen participar. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Cecilia Muñoz al (909) 620-2198. Se requiere suficiente tiempo para determinar las necesidades de cada solicitud.

Summer leadership series for teens begins at P³

Partnership for a Positive Pomona (P³) is holding a summer leadership series designed to get teens off the couch and into the community.

Included will be workshops on resume writing, leadership skills development and generally how to stay involved throughout the summer and school year.

Meetings, already under way, are

from 3 to 5 p.m. on Fridays at the Garfield Neighborhood Center, 563 N. Mountainview Ave., Pomona.

Participants will be eligible for a special youth training at Disneyland with free park admission.

New members are welcome at any point in the series.

For more information, visit P³ at facebook.com/youthforp3.



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Photo courtesy of Navy Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cody Hendrix
POMONA NATIVE WORKS ABOARD USS RONALD REAGAN -- Electronics Technician 3rd Class Diego Martinez, a native of Pomona, installs a power monitor in an SPN-46 radar aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). The aircraft carrier is homeported in San Diego at Naval Base Coronado.

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LAKER GIRLS GIVE GOLFERS PROPER SEND-OFF -- The Laker Girls were on hand again this year to give golfers a send-off -- and a photo op -- in the 18th annual Haynes Family of Programs Golf Classic at Glendora Country Club, the area's most popular golf tournament and the only major fundraiser this year for the kids at Haynes in La Verne. Pictured before the shotgun start on the 10th tee with the clubhouse and putting green in the background, from left, are Alanna; Haynes Board Member Beverly Lee; Brittany; Haynes President and CEO Dan Maydeck; Sujun; Haynes Board Vice Chair Norm Dominguez, Chairman of the golf tournament for the seventh consecutive year; and Kaela. Proceeds of the tournament each year benefit children living at the Haynes Family of Programs and attending the special education school on campus.

Sowing Seeds seeks help from community in filling pantries during peak summer demand

Kids who rely on free or reduced cost meals programs in school turn to food pantry programs during summer vacation – a time that food supplies are very low because of high demand, according to Fran Robertson of Sowing Seeds for Life.

For this reason, Sowing Seeds for Life is turning to the community to

help.

“Every can, every dollar helps to ensure a better summer for children in need,” Robertson said.

To host a food drive in your company, church or neighborhood, contact Sowing Seeds for Life at (909) 392-5777.

Pantry days in La Verne are the

first and third Wednesday, second Friday for seniors and last Saturday for veterans. Pantry day in Pomona is the second Saturday at Charisma Life Church.

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NOW IS THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT SUMMER...VACATION

When it comes to planning a vacation, it's important to decide early on where you want to go and how much it will cost. That way you can determine how much money to set aside each month to save for the trip. Often money is a reason why people don't take vacations. If that's an issue, Credit Union of Southern California Senior Vice president of Marketing and Development Michelle Hunter suggests seeking assistance from a credit union. “Many credit unions offer workshops on saving for items such as vacations,” she said.

Here are some tips to consider when planning a vacation:

- Open a savings account specifically for vacation funds. Put a little money aside all year.
- Don't forget the unknowns. Set aside an extra 10 to 15 percent for emergencies or surprises.
- Research non-traditional accommodations. A lodge at a state park or a weekly house rental can be more economical than a traditional hotel stay.
- Consult your financial institution. Many credit unions offer vacation loans with affordable interest rates. Keep the term to 12 months to ensure it is paid off prior to your next vacation.

For more information, contact Credit Union of Southern California at **866.287.6225**, or stop by its Pomona branch at 435 W Mission Blvd, Suite 100. Spanish-speakers are available to assist.



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NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT DAVID & MARGARET -- David & Margaret Youth and Family Services in La Verne built a brand new playground using community volunteers -- all in one day last month with the help of 200 volunteers -- in partnership with KaBoom! as well as The Walt Disney Company, Club Penguin and others. Pictured are volunteers moving a newly-assembled piece of playground equipment into place on what was formerly an empty lot. Also included were shaded seating structures, picnic benches and an outdoor classroom. More than 390 kids will be able to use the new playground. KaBoom! is a national non-profit dedicated to giving all kids -- particularly those growing up in poverty -- the childhood they deserve filled with balanced and active play so they can thrive. Since 1996, it has collaborated with partners to build, open or improve nearly 16,300 playgrounds by engaging more than one million volunteers and serving 8.1 million kids.



POMONA CITY CHAMPIONS -- It doesn't get much better than this -- players on Pomona's Ted Greene Little League Junior Minor Mets are the 2015 Pomona City Champions in the Junior Minor Division. The Mets helped keep the trophy at Ted Greene Little League for the second year in a row. The kids played well all season, losing only one game, and fought even harder during the tournament to bring home the win. Pictured enjoying the moment of celebration are, front row, from left, Andrew Santellan, Lauren Lopez, Raymond Romero and Isaiah Estrella. Second row, from left, are Reggie Nephew, Thomas Jennings, Gabriel Perez, Johnie Reyes, Adrian Lopez and Robert Morales. Back row, from left, are coaches Demian Lopez and Rigo Romero, managers Sergio Santellan and David Lopez, coach Rafael Morales, team mom Jacqui Perez, and coach Danny Perez. Congratulations to all!



ASSISTANCE LEAGUE INSTALLS NEW BOARD -- Members of the Assistance League of Pomona Valley installed a new Board of Directors this month at an event at Red Hill Country Club in Rancho Cucamonga. Pictured, from left, are Carol Holmes, public relations; Lynne Kirchhoff, third vice president, resource development; Jessica Ortega, treasurer; Kathy Jarvis, chapter liaison; Sharon Goodrich, strategic planning; Kathee Elliott, first vice president, membership; Cathy Harden, president; Cathy Rockwell, recording secretary; and Rene Sippel, second vice president, philanthropic. Not pictured is Maria Craig, corresponding secretary.



LETTING GO OF THE PAST -- Gabby Miranda, at left, gets the audience involved dancing last month as she sings "Let it Go" from the 3D computer-animated musical fantasy at the sixth annual talent show presented by Pomona's Tri-City Mental Health Center at the Wellness Center in Pomona. Miranda told the audience the song reminds her to let go of the past and enjoy today and tomorrow.

'GETTING DOWN' AT TRI-CITY -- Francine Smith knocked 'em dead last month with her version of Gladys Knight's "Midnight Train to Georgia." "Talent" included everything from music and dance to poetry and interpretative photography. Tri-City's transitional age youth supervisor Jose Montenegro served as master of ceremonies in the show designed to help promote a road to recovery by living well. Performers normally attend support groups at Tri-City.

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

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

- Pomona City Hall lobby
- Pomona library
- Claremont library
- Claremont City Hall lobby
- La Verne City Hall lobby
- La Verne Senior Citizens Center
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce, 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Pomona Unified School District administration building lobby
- Western University of Health Sciences 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



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Memorial Day ceremonies at Pomona Valley Memorial Park



Karen Caddel, Past Commander of Pomona's American Legion Post 30, at left, and Vicki Grillo, Treasurer of Post 30's Auxiliary, place a wreath in honor of women who have served in the military.



Members of the Pomona High School Junior ROTC under the direction of Lt. Col. Michael Murphy conduct the ceremonial posting of national colors and unit standards.

Memorial Day events... from pg. 1

served his first tour in Iraq in 2003.

"I was lucky enough to be alive because I went through two IED (improvised explosive device) explosions," he said. "It almost cost me my life but thank goodness I'm here."

He said today he spends much of his time going around and talking to veterans in V.A. hospitals "just to let them know that no matter how hard it can get . . . because when I got injured I came back from Afghanistan on my second tour, I was in a wheelchair, I was told I was never going to walk again, my injuries were so severe to my back that I really wasn't able to feel anything from my waist down."

"But just like any Marine, you tell him that he can't do anything, marines are going to go and do it," he said, so he became determined to walk and went from the wheelchair to a walker and then to a cane.

"You see me walking now," Aquino said. "Now my next thing will be to get out of my cane and be walking again normally."

He said he also suffered traumatic brain injury "which causes me to black out, out of nowhere."

"I just got to say that anybody out there that has any type of, I hate to use the word disability, they say that I am 100 percent disabled but I don't see it as a disability, I see it more as a challenge," he said. "So I have some challenges that I need to overcome."

"And I do it every day, I try to overcome those challenges," he added. "And I challenge every one of you that has challenges like me to overcome those challenges and just look for a better day. You know every time you wake up it's a good day because you are alive and I thank God for that, to be alive."

Elected officials

Congresswoman Norma Torres called Aquino's comments "an inspiration" and "a reminder of the commitment of immigrants that have come to this country and have participated in the American dream and have sacrificed so greatly for it."

"So thank you so much, Marine, for your service," she said. "Our great country would not be what it is today but for the men and women who throughout our history have been willing to give their lives for something greater than themselves. Today we honor their sacrifice and their bravery."

She said her 35th Congressional District has lost 17 lives to the current conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan alone.

"While we recognize the men and women who have given their lives for their country, let's



Pomona Eagles President Bobby Estrada, at left, and Virginia Madrigal, a trustee for the Pomona Eagles Women's Auxiliary, place a wreath to honor fallen veterans.



Pomona's American Legion Post 30 Color Guard under the direction of Second Vice Commander Robert Radcliff (carrying wreath) places memorial wreath in honor of those who have served.



State Sen. Connie Leyva



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez



Congresswoman Norma Torres

L.A. County human relations director says 'flash points' for major urban race riots sparked by police misconduct go back to 1940s

The executive director of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission told representatives of a coalition of groups in Pomona that throughout history – in Los Angeles County and nationwide – the “flash points” for major urban race riots “came from police misconduct incidents.”

Robin Toma, speaking on “Community-Police Relations: Strategies & Remedies,” pointed to “flash points” like the Watts riots of 1965 and the Rodney King rebellion in 1992.

But he said the history of the county’s Human Relations Commission dates to the Zoot Suit riots of 1944.

“That was a time when people were being attacked on the streets of Los Angeles because they were wearing zoot suits, because they represented a vilified minority, young Latino men, who were being perceived as not supporting the war,” Toma said.

He said as a result of news media coverage at the time, “military folks on leave” were getting into fights with them on the streets for days.

“Those riots were so intense that they actually spread across the country,” all the way to New York, he added.

That series of events “created the

need for the county government . . . to pull together a committee on interracial progress . . . to address these issues and that became the Commission on Human Relations in the '50s,” he said.

Police community relations critical to healthy communities

“We know that police community relations are critical to healthy communities,” Toma said. “When they are not well, communities are not well. When there are people who fear the police as much as they fear criminals, that is not a healthy situation.”

“I think we’ve come a long way over the many years but there are many things that still need to be done,” he added.

Part of the problem, he said, is the role of the police is to contact people when something “wrong” has happened, and that a shift in this thinking in the '80s for police to become a part of the community was “critical.”

“The L.A. Sheriff’s Department has a big challenge because the first place they send their deputies after they graduate from the academy is to the jail, so their first experience is with people who are incarcerated,” Toma said. “And that’s where they spend their formative years on the job in developing their relationship

toward community.”

“They have to unlearn that when they’re going out in the community and realize that not everyone in the community has committed a crime



Robin Toma . . .
L.A. County Human Relations Commission

or (is) about to commit a crime or coming from that world,” he said.

Toma pointed to police departments that have tried to create community relations units, and said “those are very valuable” because they are “establishing relations with community leaders before the trouble hits.”

And he said another part of the

issue is that systems are in place that came out of a paramilitary history, explaining that police departments have long been recruiting from the military.

Toma said people in the military are “not being trained to de-escalate conflict necessarily, you’re being trained . . . how to use force effectively.”

Paramilitary structure in police department not conducive to healthy policing

He said the paramilitary structure in the police department is not conducive to the kind of relationship in the community needed for healthy policing and healthy intergroup relations.

Another problem is the way national policy about policing is disseminated with a patchwork of police agencies, each with its own policies.

In Los Angeles County, he said there are 88 cities with 46 independent police agencies and a sheriff’s department that covers unincorporated areas and contracts with a number of cities.

“So for there to be a change in policy, it doesn’t just happen through a national decision,” Toma said. “The United States can say we want to take steps to end racial profiling and we want to take these steps and that’s a great speech but it does not have the effect of law for the agencies.”

He said the only way it can have effect is if it is tied to funds from the U.S. Department of Justice or if there is a threat of a lawsuit.

Other than that, he said, it is up to communities and community groups to reach their individual police departments.

Toma cited a policy that required all recruits to pass the use of force test with a standard service handgun that was difficult for women with a

smaller hand to use. The policy resulted in blocking women from becoming police officers since they would fail at a much higher rate than men.

And he said this was happening “even though there were guns that were perfectly functional that were smaller . . . and when you switch to that, lo and behold the number of women on the police force increased.”

More female police officers led to fewer use of force incidents

“One of the things that also came with having more female officers was you had greater de-escalation of force, you had less use of force incidents because, as it turns out, not surprisingly, women are much better at de-escalating incident intentions than men are generally speaking,” Toma said.

He added that “the issue of police misconduct or distrust of police is deep in this country” and that “one of the things that’s going to help is for police and community to recognize that prejudice isn’t today the kind that people will come up to you and say things to you based on your race.”

“Police are like any other group with power, there must be a check and balance, there must be a system of accountability to curb the human temptation to abuse power,” he said. “We give tremendous authority to police officers. We give them the power to arrest and to kill if justified.”

The event, part of an on-going dialogue on community and police relations, was presented by the Pomona Valley Branch NAACP. Co-sponsors included the Claremont area League of Women Voters, Latino and Latina Roundtable of San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, Kennedy Austin Foundation, Democratic Club of Claremont, La Nueva Voz, National Council of Negro Women, Laguna Technical College and Pax Christi USA Pomona Valley.



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Memorial Day events... from pg. 17

also remember the families that have been left behind, the ultimate sacrifice," Torres said.

State Sen. Connie Leyva, who said she is the granddaughter of two World War II veterans and a daughter of a Vietnam veteran, said "we would not have what we have without the men and women who serve every day."

"Today I want to say thank you to all the fallen soldiers but I also want to ask each one of us to do something in their memory and their honor every day," she added.

And Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, a Pomona resident who said he has an uncle who served in World War II buried in the cemetery at Pomona Valley Memorial Park, thanked Aquino for his hard work and dedication.

"Today we give thanks to all the men and women who have served our country for our freedom," he said. "It's not just today, it's every day."

Veterans Stand Down

The five-day fourth annual "Heroes in the Shadows" San Gabriel Valley Veterans Stand Down got under way with an opening ceremony later the same day at the

everything from help finding jobs and seeking assistance to housing, medical, legal assistance, counseling and more.

The theme of the event was "honoring the fallen by serving the living."

"Vet hunter" Joe Leal, an advocate for homeless heroes, served as master of ceremonies during opening ceremonies and commented on the timing of beginning the week-long event on Memorial Day.

"To me, it is a perfect time to have it because that's how you honor

Lantz who presented Gomez with a certificate of honor signed by Pomona Elliott Rothman and all members of the City Council.



POMONA VIETNAM VETERAN JESS GOMEZ HONORED -- Community volunteer Jess Gomez of Pomona, a Vietnam veteran, receives recognition from the City of Pomona "in appreciation of your service" from Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz at the Veterans Stand Down. Pictured, from left, are "Vet hunter" Joe Leal, an advocate for homeless heroes, who served as master of ceremonies; Alice and Jess Gomez; and City Councilmember Paula Lantz.

the fallen by serving the living and what better way to honor our fallen and the wounded by doing this, by being able to serve veterans and families," Leal said.

He thanked all of the groups participating in the event and called it a true team effort.

"This has been a dream of mine for quite a while and several homeless providers know that this is something I've been working on in terms of homeless shelters and provisions for many years," said Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz.

She said the City Council has adopted a resolution designed to help end homelessness among veterans in Pomona.

Vietnam veteran Jess Gomez of Pomona, a community volunteer, was recognized for his service by



SERVICES FOR VETERANS AT 'STAND DOWN' -- Everything from haircuts to manicures to blankets and other supplies was available to veterans at the five-day fourth annual Veterans Stand Down at the Pomona National Guard Armory last month.



Bagpiper Orion McCabe

Pomona National Guard Armory in the Pomona Civic Center.

Hundreds of veterans and their families, many of them homeless, were on hand on Memorial Day and throughout the week to receive services from dozens of organizations –

"Jess and I have gotten to know each other," Lantz said. "He and his wife (Alice) have volunteered hours and hours. They have worked tirelessly on various projects trying to improve our library and our library service."

Gomez, who served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1968 and in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966 received the recognition "in appreciation of your service in the United States Armed Forces."

"On behalf of the City of Pomona, we honor and thank you

for your dedication and sacrifices to our country," the certificate read.

Speaking first, his wife said "being married to this man for 45 years that it means a lot to be recognized and said 'thank you' to as a Vietnam vet just as all of you."

And Gomez said the recognition was a "total shock," adding that "in a heartbeat if I had to go back to Vietnam, I'd do it."

He spoke of Aquino and others who served two or three tours, adding that "I just feel so guilty I didn't go back."

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Pomona's PUPIL Foundation recognizes scholarship recipients, continues to fund innovative learning opportunities

Sam Tharpe, President of Pomona's PUPIL Foundation (Pomona Unified Partners in Learning), told a room full of student scholarship recipients, parents and educators at the second annual scholarship luncheon last month that Pomona Unified has had a good year and that the foundation is continuing to "dribble that money right back down to our wonderful children."

Tharpe, a retired principal who served for 30 years in the school district, spoke to a near-capacity crowd at the Avalon at Pomona's Fairplex.

He said the school district received "gold ribbon" awards for seven schools from the California Department of Education, two "golden bell" awards from the California School Board Association, had three high schools listed as "top schools in the nation" by U.S. News and World Report, and was one of the top 100 school districts in the

country honored at the White House 2014 National Connected Superintendents Summit for educational excellence through digital technology.

He told La Nueva Voz that the foundation is continuing to raise money for schools that "really can't afford to get technology into sciences in our classrooms."

"This is what the foundation is about," he said. "That's what we do. We help the schools that can't afford to buy it. Some schools like Diamond Ranch don't have the technology because they can't afford the programs."

Other scholarships recognized at the annual event came from utilities, businesses, non-profits, private sources and other donors.

Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez thanked the parents "for really being there."

"We've been with your kids for the last 13 years, and I want to thank you on behalf of Pomona Unified School District, the board of education, our community, for taking the time to sacrifice to ensure that your kids were receiving the highest honors and getting the grades in school," he said.

He also thanked the business community, the non-profits and other partners.

"You have done wonderful work," Martinez said. "The fundraising that you have done in such a short time has been so critical for us, for our students, and yet they've done such a great job and of course



THREE GENERATIONS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT -- Melissa Rocha, 18, a graduating senior this month at Pomona's Garey High School, is joined by three generations of her family who attended the PUPIL Foundation second annual scholarship luncheon last month in her honor. Rocha, who received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Gas Company, graduated with a 3.9 grade point average. She plans to attend UC Davis and major in philosophy in the fall. Pictured, from left, are grandmother Lidia Rocha of Pomona, mom Eva Rocha, sister Kimberly Rocha, 11, a student at Pomona Unified's Diamond Point Elementary School in Diamond Bar, Melissa Rocha and Bob Cruz, public affairs manager for the Gas Company.



SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON -- PUPIL Foundation President Sam Tharpe presents opening comments at last month's second annual scholarship luncheon at the Avalon at Pomona's Fairplex.

that cannot be done without the service organizations, without the business organizations, without the churches that have been involved, the independent philanthropy."

"It is not only corporations, it is not only those non-profits, but it's also those individuals that believe our kids can . . . be great leaders once they return to us," he added.

And he congratulated the graduating Class of 2015 for their accomplishments.

"I am a proud superintendent but

I feel more like a proud papa . . . because of all the greatness," he said.

PUPIL was created in 2013 – during a period of declining funding for education – to promote innovative student learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, arts,

agriculture and math.

To date, the foundation has distributed more than \$100,000 in philanthropic funds to upgrade learning equipment at District schools and help sponsor events such as the Ross/McCracken Learning Expo.



CHAMBER HEARS FOOTHILL GOLD LINE PROJECT ON TRACK -- Sylvia Beltran, community outreach coordinator for the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority, appeared at this month's Pomona Chamber of Commerce networking luncheon at O'Donovan's Restaurant and Pub in Pomona to tell members the planning phase for the 12.3-mile Foothill Gold Line extension from Azusa through Pomona to Montclair is well under way. Planning is funded but another \$1 billion is needed to fund construction of the segment -- funding which is expected to come from a proposed sales tax ballot measure scheduled for next year. With funding, the extension to Montclair can break ground as early as 2017 and be completed five years later. The project includes a local station next to the North Pomona Metrolink station.



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

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Pomona Concert Band announces summer concert series schedule

The Pomona Concert Band kicks off its 68th annual summer concert series with a Thursday, July 2, concert titled “Celebrating the Wind Band.”

The concert features music written specifically for concert band and will include “American Overture,” “Abracadabra,” and “1st Suite in E flat.” The band is directed by Linda Taylor and Jorge Garcia. Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz will serve as master of ceremonies.

On July 9, “Band Favorites” will include “West Side Story,” “Suite of Old American Dances” and “Entry of the Gladiators.”

“Bonus” concerts in the series include hosting the Claremont Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, July 12, once again featuring an Instrument Petting Zoo for children to try out instruments beginning at 6 p.m. The

concert begins at 6:30 p.m.

The Thursday, July 16 concert is titled “Hits from the Brits” and will include “Three Celtic Dances,” “Yorkshire Ballad” and a special performance by the Los Angeles Police Pipe Band.

On July 23, the theme will be “More Band Favorites” and will include “Scottish Rhapsody” and “The Symphonic Beatles.”

And on Aug. 6, guest conductor James Christensen, who spent 37 years with Walt Disney Productions, will bring his best band arrangements to life.

“Pomona Concert Band’s Got Talent” is scheduled for Aug. 13 as many regular band members conduct the band on pieces they chose for the band.

The Aug. 20 concert is “Show-time” featuring music from Broad-

way and Hollywood.

And the second “bonus” concert is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23, when the Pomona Concert Band hosts the Golden State British Brass Band.

The final concert of the season is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 27, and is titled “American Flourish,” featuring patriotic music and music that displays real Americana – from “76 Trombones” to “Stars and Stripes Forever.”

All regular concerts begin at 8 p.m. Thursday evenings in the G. Stanton Selby Bandshell behind the Community Center building in Pomona’s Ganesha Park, 1575 N. White Ave. All performances are free and the public is encouraged to bring a lawn chair, visit the band’s concession stand or bring a picnic basket and enjoy an evening of music.



FARM TO TABLE DINNER EXPERIENCE BENEFITS HOUSE OF RUTH -- Supporters of House of Ruth, which assists families victimized by domestic violence, enjoyed a dinner they won't forget this month at the “farm to table” dining experience in the middle of a newly expanded urban farm at Pomona’s Fairplex. A gourmet meal was prepared outdoors by Chef Vincent Cavalli, using fresh ingredients straight from the farm. A wine sommelier was on hand to present the ideal wine pairings. Pictured enjoying dinner in the middle of the farm, from left, are House of Ruth Board member Sara Domonoske and friends Jean Stoll and Len Seligman. House of Ruth has been serving the area for the past 37 years.

Local veterans working to bring traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall to Chino

Veteran members of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars have formed a non-profit committee and are working to bring the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of Antelope Valley to the City of Chino in time for next year’s Independence Day activities.

The Antelope Valley Wall, one of two mobile Vietnam War memorial walls that travel around the United States, is a half-scale replica of the permanent Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., and contains all 58,300 names of the men and

women who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.

The wall will be displayed at Ruben S. Ayala Park from June 30 to July 5, 2016.

Committee members are already meeting regularly at the Chino Community Building, 5443 B St., Chino, and meetings are open to anyone who would like to be a part of the project, according to a spokesman.

Subcommittees have been formed to promote, fund and coordinate the project and a variety of on-going fundraising events have been sched-

uled.

Committee members also will be attending community events in surrounding cities to help promote the event and distribute information about the wall.

Organizers are continuing to accept donations and support from veterans, families of veterans, businesses, corporations, organizations and individuals.

Donations can be monetary, materials, in-kind or support as a volunteer.

Donation levels are \$1,000

(gold), \$250 to \$500 (silver) and \$100 (bronze).

The organization is a 501(c)3 non-profit making it possible for donations to be tax deductible.

For more information, contact Ed Denzin at (909) 973-3350, and for information on the Antelope Valley Wall, visit the web site at www.avwall.org.

A belated Father’s Day poem in honor of fathers everywhere

Dad

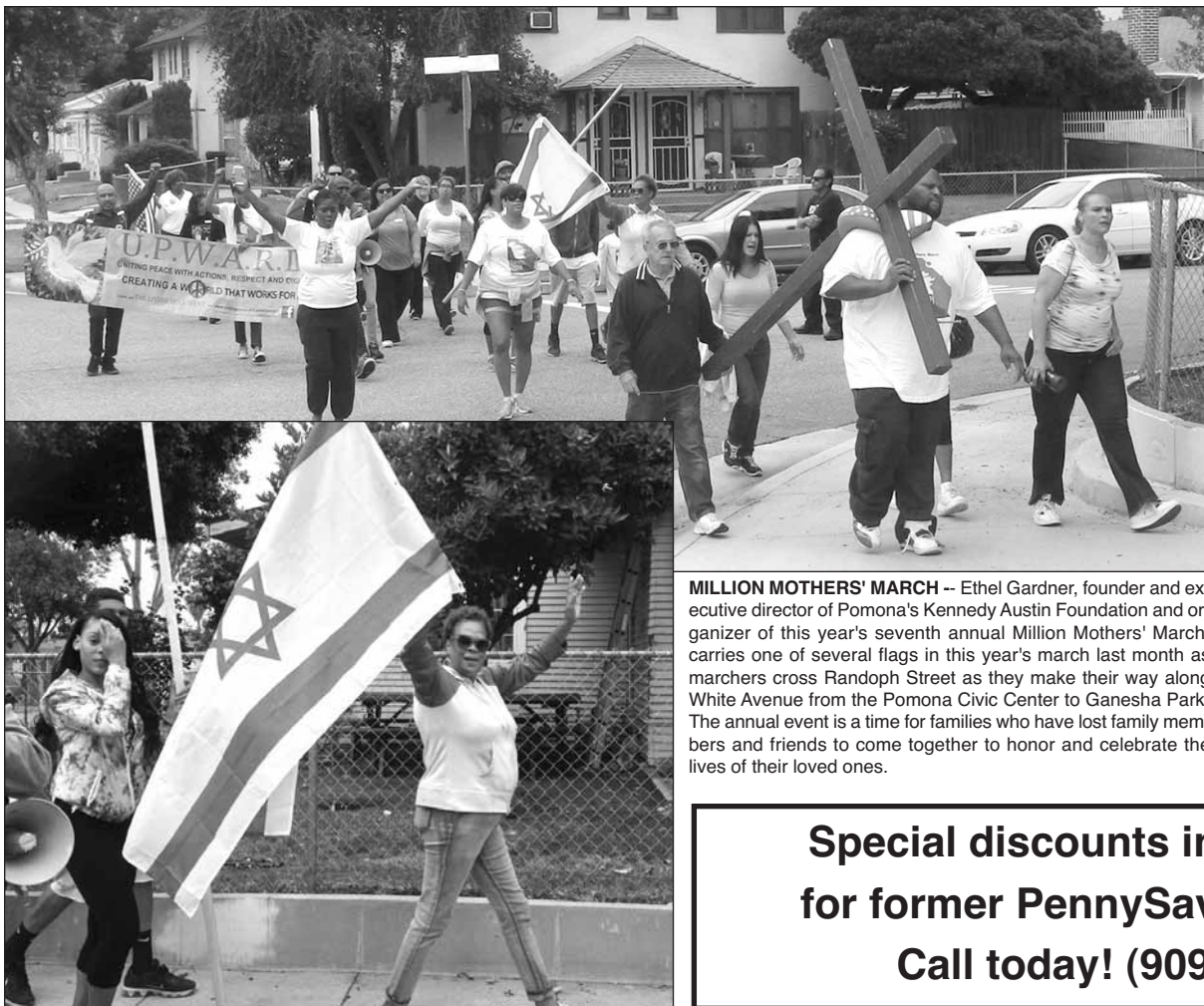
I know you probably don’t realize how much you mean to me. But many times I’ve prayed that you try to understand how much I am hurting, deep inside. I’ve asked the Lord so many times to help me be a better son. I am opening my heart, Dad, because I want to try to make you understand that I really need you to love me just the way I am . . .

Dad, I wish that you could be proud of me for being able to live my life, even though it’s been so difficult at times. I know that you had dreams for me, but so did I . . .

Dad, sometimes I wish that I were still a little boy so that, once again, you could hold me in the palm of your hand – and lift me up, and gaze at me with pride . . .

Dad, someday we’re all going to be gone and I want to leave this world knowing that you love me just as much as I love you. Dad, don’t you know how much I need you now, even though I am a grown man? Please don’t hurt me, Dad, because it breaks my heart and it’s tearing me apart. Dad, I pray that someday I can become the man that you hoped I would become . . .

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MILLION MOTHERS’ MARCH -- Ethel Gardner, founder and executive director of Pomona’s Kennedy Austin Foundation and organizer of this year’s seventh annual Million Mothers’ March, carries one of several flags in this year’s march last month as marchers cross Randolph Street as they make their way along White Avenue from the Pomona Civic Center to Ganesha Park. The annual event is a time for families who have lost family members and friends to come together to honor and celebrate the lives of their loved ones.

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AMBASSADORS VOLUNTEER AT CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON -- The Pomona Chamber of Commerce ambassadors turned out to volunteer recently at the Chamber's annual legislative luncheon at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel in Pomona -- all working under Chamber Vice President of Membership Stephanie Benjamin, of OPARC, in Montclair. Pictured, from left, are ambassadors Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Susie Calderon, representing Westpac Wealth Partners of Diamond Bar; Gus Arias, of Pomona's Inter Valley Health Plan; Stephanie Benjamin; and ambassadors Monique Perez, of Sam's Club in Chino, and Teresa James, of 777 Place Apartments in Pomona. Congratulations and good job to all!

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This material was made possible by funds from the Proposition 99 tobacco tax initiative from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.



PAINTING POMONA PURPLE -- Relay for Life volunteers were out early on a Sunday morning this month to "paint Pomona purple" to remind the community that the annual American Cancer Society fundraiser is scheduled for Pomona June 27-28 at Pomona's Fairplex. Purple ribbons -- about 150 of them -- and Relay for Life posters went up on light poles, street signs and store windows throughout the Downtown Pomona area, courtesy of a team of about 10 volunteers. Pictured going to work on getting the ribbons up at Garey Avenue and Second Street are, from left, Sophia Martini, community manager for Relay for Life, and Diane and Gino Elias, co-chairs of this year's Pomona Relay for Life committee. And pictured in the accompanying photo is a poster on a light pole downtown. Teams are still forming for the event. The Pomona relay was closing in on \$20,000 raised with two weeks left before the event. Some four million people participated in more than 6,000 Relay for Life events worldwide last year to raise money for cancer research, education and prevention programs. For more information, visit relayforlife.org/PomonaCA or call (800) 227-2345.

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Photo by Barbara Smith
NEW LIONS PRESIDENT SITS IN WITH BAND -- Denny Mosier, newly installed president of Pomona Host Lions Club, sings and plays a number with Jeff Schenkel and the Sunnyside Up Band following the club's 95th installation of officers. Pictured, from left, are Charles Dollison on the keyboard; Mosier and Schenkel on guitar; and Charlotte Chamberlain on the upright bass. Not pictured, in rear, is Mike Rinearson on the drums.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD AT POMONA HOST LIONS -- Ricky Ortiz, at left, outgoing president of Pomona Host Lions Club, presents the "President's Pin" to new president Denny Mosier this month at the club's 95th installation of officers dinner at Pomona Valley Mining Company. Mosier's theme for the coming year is "Light the Way: Better your Community."

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