



La Nueva Voz

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Pomona Chamber of Commerce



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FREE
GRATIS

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Mayor reports 'state of city' is strong with reserves nearing \$60 million

In his first live "State of the City" address since 2019, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval assured residents, business owners and others last week that "the state of our city is strong – we're strong because we are working together, collaborating and innovating."

"Together we are shaping a city that's better for our children than it was for us, and even better for our grandchildren," Sandoval told several hundred guests at Pomona's Fox Theater. "That's creating an ecosystem where we thrive and prosper."

The 45-minute speech was loaded with production value with everything from Pomona's

Post 30 American Legion color guard, prerecorded music and on-screen projection to live music from local students and even a little poetry reading by Pomona's first two poet laureates.

And it all followed an hour-long "Taste of Pomona" arranged by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce introducing guests to several of Pomona's most popular restaurants and bakeries.

"The city's financial health is strong," Sandoval said. "By the end of the fiscal year (June 30), our reserve fund will be close to \$60 million."

"This fund is important to protect the city during difficult eco-



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval delivers his "State of the City" address on stage at Pomona's Fox Theater. The fully restored "art deco" movie palace, which opened in 1931 for first-run films for its first 50 years, has hosted acts from rock legend Jerry Lee Lewis and American Idol's Alejandro Aranda to today's latest up and coming musical groups.

Assemblymember Rodriguez, Cristina Carrizosa and Paula Lantz honored at Mayor's library gala

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, honored this month as recipient of this year's "Mayor's Award" at the fifth annual Mayor's Gala library fundraiser at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center, told guests he actually served as a library aide in school.

Gala... pg. 8



HONORED AT MAYOR'S GALA -- Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez accepts the "Mayor's Award" at this month's Mayor's fundraising gala to support the Pomona Public Library. From left are Rodriguez, his wife, Michelle, and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.

nomie times," he added. "When I first became mayor, our reserve fund was \$14 million."

For small business, he said the city will launch a grants program in August providing \$750,000 to help businesses in their recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.

And during the pandemic, Sandoval said, Pomona "stepped up" and "took ownership" to

help others in need by delivering food, helping renters obtain rental assistance, and even raised \$250,000 to support undocumented residents who might not have been eligible for government resources.

He told a nearly full house at the Fox that "the strengthening of our city's ecosystem starts with the investment we make in our

children and families, particularly our most vulnerable community members."

And he said the city's investment in its children has increased by millions of dollars over the past seven years he's served as mayor.

He pointed to the "Mayor's Youth Providers Summit" last

State of city... pg. 6

PAID ADVERTORIAL

The Tri-City Wellness Center returns to in-person activities with new extended hours

Community centers provide an important place where people can develop support systems and learn new ways to improve their wellness. Many community spaces temporarily closed or suspended in-person programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health guidelines. The Tri-City Wellness Center, a drop-in community hub located in Pomona, remained open and responsive during the pandemic and has since been easing back into offering in-person activities.

"During COVID-19, we adapted and pivoted to essential services and virtual programming with 40 telehealth groups," said Tri-City Wellness Center Manager, Gamaliel Polanco. "With recent L.A. County guidelines, we're excited to resume normal operations at full capacity and offer in-person programming to support our community."

Established in 2011 through funding from Proposition 63, known as the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), the Tri-City Wellness Center offers a variety of free services for all ages including peer and family support groups, parenting classes, employment vocational services, computer lab, educational workshops, recreational activities and community resources. The Tri-City Wellness Center, located at 1403 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA 91767, is now open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"What makes our center so unique is all of our services are free," said Polanco. "Folks can come here and if they need additional support, we can tailor our services to meet them wherever they are at. That could be family support, employment and financial assistance, mental health support, and it's all accessible for everyone."

Now more than ever, communal spaces are important for helping foster and reinforce our connections and relationships. In a recent public health advisory, the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy called attention to the "devastating impact of the epidemic of loneliness and isolation" in the United States. Before the onset of the pandemic, about half of adults in the country reported measurable levels of loneliness, which can affect our individual and collective health and well-being. The health risks associated with prolonged loneliness are dramatic — akin to smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day, per Murthy's advisory report. Social isolation and loneliness can contribute to a person having a higher risk of heart disease, stroke, anxiety, depression, and dementia, and make people more susceptible to infectious diseases.

But social connection is the solution, serving as a buffer to health problems while making individuals and communities more resilient. Meaningful relationships are one of the strongest predictors of overall health and happiness and are what provide our lives structure, meaning, joy, and connection. Access to public amenities like parks, libraries and community centers is a fundamental factor in staving off isolation through creating a sense of belonging. That's the mission for community spaces like the Wellness Center: to create an inclusive, accessible common space where people can bond through social activities and supports to find and form the "community" that they may otherwise lack.

"We offer a place where people can build social connections that are vital to their wellness," said Polanco. "We want people to know they matter and are seen when they come to the center and we are here to support them." For more information about available in-person and virtual programs, contact the Tri-City Wellness Center at (909) 242-7600.





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Athens Services is proud to be a part of the Pomona community. Based on a shared vision for the future and rooted in a deep commitment to environmental stewardship, the City of Pomona and Athens have partnered to provide residents with enhanced recycling, organics, and trash collection services. Athens is poised to serve as your community partner and strives to provide exceptional service, build strong relationships, and help support schools, businesses, and residents in becoming sustainability leaders.

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Athens Services se enorgullece de ser parte de la comunidad de Pomona. Con base en una visión compartida para el futuro y arraigada en un profundo compromiso con la administración ambiental, la ciudad de Pomona y Athens se han asociado para brindarles a los residentes servicios mejorados de reciclaje, productos orgánicos y recolección de basura. Athens está preparada para servir como su socio comunitario y se esfuerza por brindar un servicio excepcional, construir relaciones sólidas y ayudar a las escuelas, las empresas y los residentes a convertirse en líderes en sostenibilidad.

Athens está encantada de dar la bienvenida a Pomona a la familia Athens. Juntos, podemos establecer los mejores programas ambientales hoy y para las generaciones futuras. **Athens comenzará a brindar servicios a residentes y empresas el 1 de julio de 2023.**

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Photo by Renee Barbee

COMPRESSION ONLY CPR -- Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, at left, an emergency medical technician for more than 30 years, demonstrates "compression only" cardio-pulmonary resuscitation during National EMS Recognition Week at Pomona Unified School District's Mendoza Center at a class sponsored by the California Conservation Corps. Public Safety Group figures show 90 percent of those suffering cardiac arrest out of the hospital will die, but CPR performed immediately can double or even triple the chance of survival. "If the community knows CPR, the chances of surviving cardiac arrest are very high," Rodriguez said. Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz asked Rodriguez if he plans to return to work as an EMT when he terms out of the Assembly, but he said he is keeping his options open. She also asked if he plans to run for another position. "I'm keeping all my options open," he said, adding that whatever it is, he wants to be in a position to help people. Pictured with Rodriguez, who hosted the certified all-Spanish class, are parents of students in PUSD who signed up.

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PUSD grads move on to next chapter in their lives

A total of 1,624 students at nine Pomona Unified School District schools graduated this year with their principals all telling them they are proud of them for their accomplishments.

At Pomona's Village Academy High School last month, Principal Dr. Camille Ramos-Beal did a little bragging while she was at it.

She told more than 200 students, faculty, parents and friends at the Sheraton Fairplex Confer-

ence Center that Village Academy is recognized as one of America's best high schools and the highest ranked in PUSD, had 99 percent complete FAFSA (federal student financial aid) applications and earning nearly \$100,000 in scholarships, and had graduating seniors accepted into schools "as near as Mt. SAC and as far as Harvard."

"Our students enlisted in the military, helping the needy, earning food handling certifications, producing films, directing films, creating our first ever animated film entry in the Pindies, our (annual) independent film awards, creating news segments for the nightly news, entering speech and debate competitions, art competitions, performing an amazing rock concert, and we are just really looking

forward to the amazing things that our students have ahead," she said. "These are remarkable young people in front of you," Ramos-Beal added. "You should be proud and confident that our children are ready to take on the adventures ahead. To the graduates, I send my warmest congratulations." "Today marks years and

years of late nights and countless challenges to overcome," she said. "As you reflect on your time at Village Academy, remember the friendships forged, the knowledge gained and the experiences that have shaped you into the remarkable individuals you have become."

Next chapter... pg. 12



Village Academy High School students turn their tassels from one side to the other at the end of graduation ceremonies to make it all official.



PUSD Supt. Darren Knowles congratulates a Village Academy High School graduate as she walks across the stage to receive her diploma.



Dr. Camille Ramos-Beal
Principal

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Catalyst Cannabis presents first 'public benefit' contribution to Pomona

Officials representing Catalyst Cannabis Co. – Pomona, in their first “public benefit” contribution to the City of Pomona since their opening in December 2021, presented a ceremonial oversized check for \$84,704 to city officials in Garfield Park this month to help fund development of a master plan for upgrades to the park in an effort expected to continue over the next 10 years.

“Catalyst means change, right, because we want to change as much as we can the communities we’re in and improve them and ‘weed for the people’ is something that’s centered around the people,” said Elliot Lewis, CEO and co-founder of the company based in Long Beach.

Lewis said those improvements can involve labor, including their own workers, and includes the residents of Pomona.

“No matter what happens, that’s always going to be the mantra of our business,” Lewis said. “This is part of that mission which is uplifting the community and giving back to all the communities we’re in.”

“Having people reimagine what



CATALYST CANNABIS PRESENTS CHECK TO HELP FUND PARK UPGRADE -- Officials from Catalyst Cannabis Co. - Pomona presented a check for \$84,704 to the city this month to help pay for improvements to Pomona’s Garfield Park. It was the company’s first “public benefit” contribution to the city since opening 18 months ago. From left are Deliana Speights of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1428, Violeta Aguilar-Wyrick, an owner of Catalyst Cannabis, Pomona Development Services Director Anita Gutierrez, Catalyst CEO and co-founder Elliot Lewis, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Catalyst Cares Community Outreach and Campaign Operations Manager Edgar Torres, Catalyst Pomona owner Doug Alvey, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Catalyst Pomona owner Sharon Alvey, and Pomona Public Works Director Rene Guerrero.

cannabis could be, and I know there was a little reservation before we got here . . . but beyond that, I think that the actual work that we’re doing in the community, our relationship with labor and

all that, is really real and sincere stuff and we’re super proud that we’re in a position to be able to do this,” he said.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said the city decided to “start small, with few businesses” when city councilmembers approved permits for the cannabis industry.

“We said let’s prove this, let’s show that it started with two retail and two microbusinesses,” Sandoval said. “I can tell you that I have not received one single call from anyone regarding our legal dispensaries – none. And I think it’s shown how invested Catalyst is in the community. We appreciate you.”

He added that employees have been working to clean up Holt Avenue and “rocked it” during Pomona Beautification Day last month when “they had a lot of

folks out cleaning up our city, so we’re happy to have them.”

“There will be more changes to come for the better,” Sandoval said. “There’s more work to be done but I can say that I’m encouraged by what’s happening, particularly along this stretch. I know that if we continue to work together we’ll get this.”

Doug Alvey, an owner of Catalyst Pomona, echoed the enthusiasm and told Sandoval the company will present the city with another check in November.

“Catalyst is super excited to be able to enter into community benefits with Garfield Park and the city and being a part of improving the park over the next 10 full years moving forward, making improvements and being a part of the community,” Alvey said. “It is very important for Catalyst as a

company to come into a community, uplift it, improve it and that’s what we’re doing here today and moving forward.”

Alvey told La Nueva Voz before the event that the city during initial talks with Catalyst requested that the company fund a master plan for the park that would “give real vision on the direction of the park over the next five, 10, 20 years.”

“So that’s what we’re doing, we’re funding a master plan and we’re hoping to have that shortly and then start implementing the plan,” he said.

Also at the check presentation was Deliana Speights, secretary-treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1428, which represents the employees at Catalyst Pomona.

“This is a beautiful, wonderful day for this Garfield Park – it has been long awaited,” she said. “It has been going through such hardships... but... we’re bringing this beautiful World War I memorial park back to life again,” Speights said.

The check represents the “voluntary commitment” made by Catalyst – all four commercial cannabis businesses in the city made the same commitment – to provide a one percent public benefit contribution based on gross receipts, according to Pomona’s Development Services Director Anita Gutierrez.

“These dollars will provide direct benefit to the surrounding community of each business,” she said in an e-mail response to a question from La Nueva Voz. “Catalyst dollars will be focused on funding improvements at Garfield Park.”

Catalyst Pomona is located at 456 E. Holt Ave., Pomona.



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JUNETEENTH IN GANESHA PARK -- Pomona’s 33rd annual day-long Juneteenth Family Jazz and Arts Festival, sponsored by Juneteenth Education, Technology, Mobile, Arts Center, Inc., was held Saturday in Pomona’s Ganesha Park, featuring music, poetry, cultural foods, arts and crafts and more. Pictured is the band “Soul Sauce” out of Los Angeles performing at the event.

Fremont Academy Eagle Scout candidate completes upgrade project in school music room

Boy Scouts are not just helping “little old ladies” across the street any more.

In fact, for those few scouts who have gone all the way to the highest level of Eagle Scout, they are doing serious projects providing service to people, schools and the community.

Created in 1911, the prestigious highest rank takes years of hard

work, service and determination.

But for Pomona’s Jonco Mladinov, he almost makes it sound like it was all in a day’s work.

Mladinov, son of Pomona’s Vehicle Parking District Commission Chairman Joseph Mladinov, saw a need and took it on as his Eagle Scout project.

It turns out he’s a student at Fremont Academy where he no-

ticed it had been years since improvements had been made to the 40-year-old storage cabinets in the school’s band room.

So, like any good scout, he decided to do something about it. He put together a team of more than 17 volunteers who came together for more than seven work sessions that ended up totaling more than 237 man-hours and jumped on a

complete renovation project which had an initial budget estimated at \$1,500.

It turned out donations came in and the budget dropped to just over \$500. (Food and drink for team members were donated.)

Bottom line? It now looks like a professional job. The group even had a ribbon cutting to show off their results.

“We used over 10 gallons of paint, 360 board feet of lumber, 300 square feet of carpet, close to 1,000 screws and gallons of cleaning supplies,” Mladinov told La Nueva Voz in his initial e-mail.

The group also consumed eight pizzas, six dozen pieces of chicken, four trays of chow mein, fried rice, bourbon street chicken, mac

School music room... pg. 17

Attendance up at this year’s LA County Fair

The 101st anniversary LA County Fair – now in the history books after its 16-day run – recorded more than 717,815 guests through the gates, up from last year, based on preliminary figures, according to a Fairplex news release.

“Our attendance shows that people are understanding the fair has permanently moved to May, and they are loving it,” said Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez. “Guests stayed longer, just like last year. I think part of that is due to the fun they are experiencing and, of course, the favorable weather.”

Perhaps equally as important, a summary of what was eaten at the fair – just from

ounce tastings of wine. The program serves the gold medal winners from the Los Angeles International Wine Competition and conducts wine, spirits, extra virgin olive oil and dairy classes for the public during the fair.

Continuing efforts begun in 2019, the fair partnered with local organizations to offer programming throughout the fairgrounds.

The 48th District Agricultural Association held its “Ag Fair” during the fair, offering schools and students a place to submit and display entries on agriculture and nutrition.

Plus Cal Poly University Pomona’s Huntley College of Agriculture provided animals for The Farm and the Big Red Barn.



RIBBON-CUTTING FOR MUSIC CABINETS UPGRADE EAGLE PROJECT -- Boy Scout Jonco Mladinov cuts the ribbon to officially mark the completion of an upgrade project he spearheaded of the music cabinets at Pomona’s Fremont Academy. Pictured with music students and art club members are, from left, Fremont Principal Roger Fasting, Brian Mundy, music teacher Alexandra Arnhold, Jonco and, at right rear, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado.

Jonco Mladinov poses in front of one of the cabinets.



Photo by Renee Barbee

HONORING A VETERAN AND LONG-TIME EARLY LA COUNTY FAIR EMPLOYEE -- Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez honored lifelong Pomona resident and La Nueva Voz friend Steve Manzanares last month by presenting him with a bound copy of the Fairplex 2022 annual report in which Manzanares was featured. Manzanares and many of his family members have a long history with the LA County Fair -- many have worked there going back to when the fair opened in 1922. Manzanares, pictured in his military uniform when he stopped by on the last day of the fair, also served in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division -- an elite airborne infantry division specializing in parachute assault operations -- and is a member of the 82nd Airborne Division Honor Guard. He worked at Fairplex for 44 years as a labor supervisor. He celebrates his 95th birthday on Dec. 26. Pictured, from left, are daughter Dee Dee Manzanares Ybarra, Manzanares, Marquez and son-in-law David Ybarra.

Chicken Charlie – included 12,000 Flamin’ Hot Cheetos potstickers, 3,000 fried s’mores on a stick, 8,000 ears of corn, 10,000 pounds of chicken, 4,000 chicken kabobs and a truck load of fries.

Midway Gourmet Dominic Palmieri sold 8,000 pounds of potatoes, a truck load of fries, 17,000 pounds of turkey legs, 900 pounds of chopped garlic for garlic fries, an entire field of corn, 8,000 pounds of sugar, an entire orchard of apples for caramel and candy apples, 4,000 pounds of popcorn, four miles of sausage for sausage on a stick, 3,500 pounds of bacon-wrapped pork belly and more.

And the fair’s wine education program served more than 20,300 individual one-

And springtime babies were born in the Big Red Barn – 22 kids and 35 lambs.

Livestock competitions were back for a second year in The Farm, with Future Farmers of America, 4H students and open classes showing their goats, sheep, llamas and more.

The FairKids Field Trip program also returned this year with more than 17,000 students and chaperones visiting the fair on Fridays before it opened to the public.

In the cleanup department, the fair did its share for the environment by recycling more than 14 tons of waste.

“We had great new attractions, a barnyard full of animals and tons of food you can only get once a year,” Marquez said. “It was a fantastic fair!”



ON A WING AND A PRAYER? -- Pomona’s favorite auto detailer Richard Ambroze poses for a photo on the wing of the first Air Force One, a specially built Boeing 707-120 on exhibit at the Seattle Museum of Flight. It was his fifth year to volunteer as a caretaker with the prestigious Air Force One Detailing Team, which has been giving the historic plane its annual cleaning and polishing for the past 20 years. The project takes about a week. The aircraft was delivered in 1959 and carried Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon. Ambroze operates Guns & Hoses Detailing in Pomona and is a former San Gabriel Valley paramedic. For more information, contact Ambroze at (626) 926-8936 or visit his web site at <http://www.gnhdetailing.com>.

State of city... from pg. 1

August in which more than 120 representatives of 35 youth service providers came together to discuss youth services in Pomona, identify the assets that already exist and highlight gaps in support.

“As a result, the city is building what we call a community dashboard that will provide information on the many public and private programs and services available throughout Pomona,” he said.

“Imagine our community-based organizations who provide services to children and youth all working together to provide comprehensive support,” he said. “I have no doubt that we will see better outcomes for our children.”

To help with this “vital work,” he said the city in collaboration with UCLA, the Pomona Unified School District and the Pomona Community Foundation received a \$750,000 grant.

And for young parents, he added, the city will launch at the end of the year a \$5 million “universal basic income pilot program” for 400 young families with parents in the 16 to 25 year age range.

“Each participating family will



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval makes a point during his “State of the City” address last week at Pomona’s Fox Theater.

receive a \$500 monthly stipend for 24 months,” he said, providing supplementary income “to spend on housing, health care, food and activities that help children thrive.”

For young people who never made it to high school graduation this year, he said the city in collaboration with the school district and community-based organizations launched a pre-arrest youth diversion program to help steer

youth in Pomona away from the legal system at the point of arrest “into community-based services that lend them support.”

“This will keep many of our youth out of the juvenile system,” he said.

“With programs like pre-arrest youth diversion and our recent award to launch a ‘California Violence Intervention and Prevention’ program, we are sending a strong message that the city cares

and is committed to working with others to create the ecosystem for Pomona’s youth and children to realize their full human potential,” he added.

In the area of city parks, Sandoval said the newly renovated Hamilton Park will be completed soon, and a new “all abilities” playground at Civic Center Plaza called “Kids World Pomona” is in the design phase with construction expected to begin next year.

And in the coming year, he said new restrooms will be added to a third of the city’s parks.

In addition, he said earlier this year the state awarded Pomona an \$11.3 million grant for the San Jose Creek Linear Park, a trail from Cal Poly University Pomona to Ganesha Park, where residents of all ages can walk or ride their bike.

“The next goal is extending this linear park from Ganesha Park to Claremont, right past the new Gold Line Station, to create one seamless ride from the mountains to our beaches,” he said. “We imagined it for many years, but now it is becoming a reality.”

In other areas:

- More than 1,400 seniors participated in city-sponsored field

trips and dances and more than 34,000 meals were provided through the Pomona Senior Nutrition Program in 2022.

- A total of 14 miles of roads and streets were repaved this past year.

- In the past year the city completed its first-ever Class IV protected bikeway on Valley Boulevard from Temple Avenue to Humane Way – a 1.35-mile bike lane with a curb separating it from the roadway.

- Market rate and affordable housing is being built all over the city including the new Jamboree Housing project with 57 affordable apartments at Park Avenue and Mission Boulevard.

- By this fall, Cal Poly University Pomona is expected to open a Bronco STEAM Innovation Hub in Downtown Pomona to provide workforce training programs and workspace and fabrication equipment to support Pomona’s small businesses.

- And Siemens USA is in the process of expanding its current site in Pomona in a \$94 million project adding 100,000 square feet of production capacity and creating more than 120 new local jobs.



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ATHENS EXPLAINS UPCOMING CHANGES AT CHAMBER MEETING -- Representatives of Athens Services explained upcoming changes in Pomona’s trash collection services to members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce last week at its monthly chamber networking luncheon at Fuego Cocina in Downtown Pomona. Athens will begin serving both residential and commercial customers in Pomona beginning July 1 in an exclusive contract with the city. Pictured are Cristian Herrera, vice president of customer experience for Athens, at left, and Athens Director of Government Affairs Iso Nakasato.

Editor's Note: This page is the first in a series of six in a second phase of our "Stop-the-Hate" series. The final in the original series concludes in this issue with a "wrap up" submission by Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval (see page 11). The "phase two" series, like the original series, is made possible by a second La Nueva Voz grant awarded by the Latino Media Collaborative (www.latinomedia.org), a non-profit news media organization that creates and fosters transformative media as well as everyday news for the Latino community. The grant is funded by the California State Library. The "Stop-the-Hate" program itself is administered by the California Department of Social Services as a statewide effort to increase public consciousness about hate incidents and hate crimes, their harmful impacts on individuals and communities, their prevention, and support and resources available for healing. In both phase one and phase two, La Nueva Voz was one of only about 10 publications selected in California to receive the grants.

‘Stop-the-Hate’ Phase two – A follow-up La Nueva Voz feature series ‘Taking a closer look’

As simple as ‘loving our neighbors as ourselves’ to eliminate hate?

By Joshua Swodeck

I was approached, along with my wife, Chara Swodeck, to be part of a unique series of articles which align with the State of California's "Stop-the-Hate" programs. For many, the idea of hate seems like a distant part of our community's past, but for others, it is still a present experience.

Hate can come in various forms. It sometimes shows itself in blatant forms, such as derogatory verbiage or open exclusion. However, many times it shows up disguised with justifications, complex policies, and lack of funding or support. Through a survey, questioning community members on their experiences, we hope to bring light to many of the deeper forms of hate that may go unnoticed to those not experiencing it themselves.

My grandmother, who is a 92-year-old Indigenous woman, shared a story with me years ago about an experience she had when she left New Mexico and found a home in Palm Springs with my grandfather and my mother, who was a newborn. During this time, many Indigenous people were blatantly being treated unfairly and this was no exception for her and her family. After renting a small apartment, so small, they used a drawer as a crib, the landlord realized she was Indigenous and immediately forced them to vacate the apartment. As an orphan, raised on the Pueblo, she was no foreigner to being treated unfairly, but this devastating blow resulted in relocating to Compton to find a better place to raise her family. It also resulted in my grandparents' desire to assimilate as much as possible, meaning more relocating and repression of culture.

As I was growing up, I experienced hate and unfair treatment from teachers, police officers, pastors, business owners, and kids from the neighborhood. At the age of 9 years, I remember having to deal with disdain from my fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Abbott. She tried everything to get me removed from her class. Ironically, her husband, who taught computers, liked me, which infuriated her even more. After months of struggling, it was recommended I meet with the school counselor. It was determined I should attend the Gifted Program twice a week. Mrs. Abbott did her best to retaliate by scheduling tests and special projects on days I was at the program. I eventually got through the years and was placed with a new teacher. However her disdain for me still leaves me questioning why she felt so strong about me in this way.

Later on in life, I moved to Whittier to build a mentorship program for at-risk middle and high schoolers. I was in desperate need of a vehicle to drive kids to and from the program. My partner, a rehabilitated ex-felon, found me a car at the auto shop he worked at. It was inexpensive and ran well. However, this primer gray 1978 Monte Carlo quickly became a challenge. I found myself getting harassed regularly by officers and would find myself occasionally being thrown on the hood or placed on the curb. Many times, the car was full of students from the program. I eventually got rid of the car and purchased a Ford Aerostar, which seemed to alleviate the issue.

I recently attended a Dodger game with my family and as we drove on Broadway approaching the neighborhood east of the stadium, I was reminded of the 300 families living in Palo Verde, La Loma, and Bishop (the area now commonly known as Chavez Ravine), that were displaced from their homes and neighborhood. The City of Los Angeles cited plans to build an affordable housing project on the land, but it was eventually given to the Dodgers to build their stadium after the team's move from Brooklyn in the late '50s. Many sold their land to the City of Los Angeles, while others were forcibly removed. In any case, this process was long and painful, and these residents lost their homes and land. As we cheered on Betts, Freeman, and the rest of the team, I couldn't help but pause and acknowledge our city's desire to put baseball over those families of color.

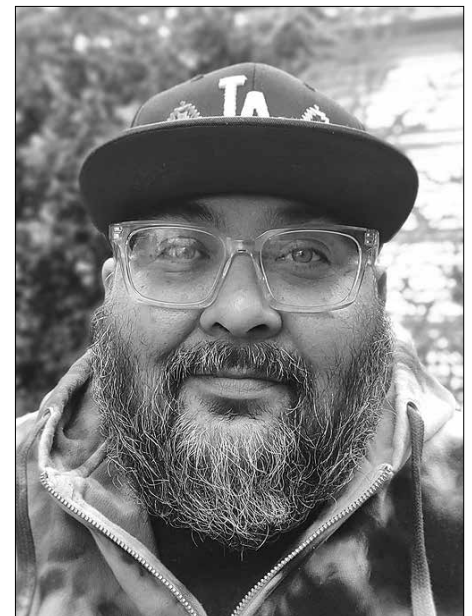
Over the years, I've seen many of my friends, family members, and neighbors treated with some form of hate. Sometimes it was because they were financially challenged; sometimes it was their race; sometimes it had to do with gender. Fast forward to 2023. In the City of Pomona, does hatred exist? Is discrimination and unjust practice a regular occurrence? If so, what does it look like? Is it blatant? Is it hidden in unjust practices? What can we do to make changes for the better?

In 2021, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program (justice.gov) released data on hate crime incidents in the United States. The 2021 hate crimes data, submitted by 14,859 law enforcement agencies, provide information about the offenses, victims, offenders, and locations of hate crimes. Of these agencies that submitted incident reports, there were 10,840 hate crime incidents involving 12,411 offenses. The bias motivations for single bias incidents were broken down with 64.5 percent due to race/ethnicity/ancestry, 15.9 percent due to sexual orientation, 14.1 percent due to religion, 3.2 percent due to gender identity, 1.4 percent due to disability, and 1.0 percent due to gender. In 310 incidents, a total of 411 victims were targeted because of more than one bias.

There's been lots of discussion about the word compassion in regard to our city and how we could do better at engaging the community. The word compassion comes from the Latin word *compati*, which means to suffer with. This series will aim to provoke each of us to not only suffer with those experiencing hate or unfairness, but to find ways to encourage and lift those who have suffered with any level of disdain or hatred. As we take on this topic, my hope is that we look for ways to come alongside those who may have experienced hate and find ways to build up our community with courage and heart. If you have experienced hate, my hope is that we find ways to heal. As a community, I can only hope that we build more safe spaces for healing and brave spaces for growth.

I am reminded of the phrase to love our neighbors as yourself. However, loving your neighbors many times requires first knowing your neighbors. Knowing your neighbors can breed empathy. Empathy has the potential to remove fear which may provoke a more authentic act of love. This love is not the goal; it is the prerequisite to a life worth living. As my wife reminds me regularly, Community Changes Everything.

Editor's Note: This is the first of six follow-up "Stop-the-Hate" feature stories taking a closer look at where we are in the United States and in Pomona. Much of the series will be based on a public opinion poll La Nueva Voz developed and which is now being circulated in the community to get "person on the street" responses, get those responses tabulated and then try to develop some specific indicators as to how the entire "hate" issue is perceived in Pomona. Chara Swodeck is handling the survey portion of this effort. In addition, we plan to produce a podcast looking at those survey results, featuring two high-profile leaders in the community, both closely working in this area. So stay with us, keep reading each month and please let us know your comments.



Joshua Swodeck

Gala... from pg. 1

That little coincidence, making a natural tie-in to his latest award, took place when he was a seventh and eighth grade student at what was then Pomona's Fremont Middle School and continued when he went on to Garey High School.

"We can't thank you enough for all that you've contributed to this city," Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said in presenting the award at the event produced each year by the Pomona Public Library Foundation. "We just appreciate you."

Sandoval told 243 guests at the event that Rodriguez was responsible for bringing funds to Pomona to help deal with "an incredible unhoused population," among other things.

Those "other things" have added up over time. Rodriguez said that in all, in his 10 years in Sacramento, he has been able to bring



Angie Castro

more than \$20 million directly to Pomona.

"It's been an honor to work with the folks in Sacramento," Rodriguez said. It's challenging but . . . it's the relationships that you build in Sacramento amongst

our colleagues from both sides of the aisle and in both houses. We're all in this together."

"It's been an honor to be here representing not only Pomona but all the other cities I represent . . . to make sure you have a voice in Sacramento," he added.

This year's "Library Foundation Award" went to Cristina



Duane Smith presents Library Foundation Award to Cristina Carrizosa.

Carrizosa and Paula Lantz, both former Pomona city councilmembers and both long-time supporters of the library.

"This foundation almost certainly would not exist if it were not for the work of these people in organizing the community and bringing us together," said Duane Smith, president of the foundation, who reminded guests the library faced the possibility of closing in 2012 due to budget limitations.

"They mobilized people and found money and made things happen in a way that I'm not sure that the library would be there today had they not done it," he added. "So, Cristina, we honor you and appreciate your leadership in mobilizing the community when the Pomona Public Library needed it most."

Carrizosa said it was concern over neglect, crime and violence in Pomona that prompted her to



Library Foundation Award winner Paula Lantz

become involved in the community.

"That situation propelled me to throw my hat into the Pomona City Council," she said. "It was difficult, but I found good colleagues like Freddie, like Paula Lantz, like many others."

While she was not born in Pomona but in another country, she said "the sense of community that Pomona has, I don't see it in any other cities around us."

And she said there's always a group advocating for something.

"This is what happened in the Pomona Library a few years ago," she said, adding that she was "very humbled and honored."

"Members of the foundation, your dedication to the Pomona Library is admirable," Carrizosa said. "You understood that in a working community like ours, books and technology can be luxuries that many families cannot afford."

"All the services that you provide the library with your support are much needed and very much appreciated," she said.

And, she noted, coming from Mexico and while learning the language, she said it was the library that made it possible for her to continue her education in college.

Carrizosa was first elected to the Pomona City Council in 1993 and served for 21 years.

Lantz was unable to attend the gala due to illness, but La Nueva

Gala... pg. 18



State Sen. Susan Rubio poses with certificate she presented to "Mayor's Award" winner Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.



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Photo by Renee Barbee

A DAY THAT WAS ALL ABOUT ROBOTICS -- Pomona Unified School District held its annual PUSD Robotics Field Day last month at Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design -- the first time the competition was held since 2019 due to the pandemic with some 55 kids on 15 teams representing six district schools participating, according to "Principal on Assignment" Elizabeth Harper. The event was open to all schools in the district for students from third grade through eighth grade. Teams were required to have a minimum of two members but could have as many as five, Harper said. Pictured at one competition site are two students racing their remote-controlled robotic devices around a track.



CATALYST BLOOD DRIVE -- Salvador Cedeno, of Rialto, a regular blood donor at Catalyst blood drive events, gets hooked up for a blood donation this month at Catalyst Cannabis Pomona. Pictured, at left, is Edgar Torres of Catalyst, Cedeno, and La Trina Wilson of San Bernardino, donor operations site supervisor for the LifeStream blood drive event. Torres told La Nueva Voz Catalyst started its blood drives in December at their San Bernardino location and, now that cannabis users can donate blood, Catalyst is taking the lead on "breaking the stigma, educating people and filling the void on the blood shortage that we currently have." The program has expanded into a companywide effort, and Catalyst now is conducting blood drives twice a month at all 18 locations. To date, the drives have collected enough blood to save more than 1,000 lives, Torres said.



Photo by Renee Barbee

ATP GRADUATION AT POMONA UNIFIED -- Young adult students with intellectual disabilities in the adult transition program at Pomona Unified School District graduated last month in the gym at the Palomares educational center. Students ages 18 to 22 enter the program after graduating from high school and learn independent living and vocational skills like working in a thrift store, a student store, and even Golden Corral. Pictured, from left, standing, are PUSD Supt. Darren Knowles, Ryan Smith, Joaquin Rodriguez, Patrick Pizano, Joseh Cruz-Mendoza, Romy Garciduenas, Ja'Niya Shaw-Coleman, Fernando Meza, Ernesto Aleman, Samuel Lopez, and Leslie Jimenez. Seated, from left, are Jesus Nunez and Denise Martinez.

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Editor's Note: This page is the ninth and final in a series of nine special "Stop-the-Hate" features made possible by a La Nueva Voz grant awarded by the Latino Media Collaborative, a non-profit news media organization, and funded by the California State Library. The "Stop-the-Hate" program itself is administered by the California Department of Social Services as a statewide effort to increase public consciousness about hate incidents and hate crimes, their harmful impacts on individuals and communities, their prevention, and support and resources available for healing.

'Stop-the-Hate' -- A special La Nueva Voz feature series

Thoughts on the world our children are entering

By **Tim Sandoval**, Mayor, City of Pomona

On April 16, 2020 at 11:46 p.m., my wife and I welcomed a new baby boy – Roy Emiliano Lennon Sandoval – into the world. It was life changing to wake up every morning to his cries, smiles, laughter and, more recently, to hear new words roll off his tongue as he learns to communicate his thoughts and aspirations. Without a doubt, it has been the most beautiful experience I have ever had. But I also worry about the world he is entering – the world our children are entering. Of course, just a month before Roy's birth, a worldwide COVID-19 pandemic changed the way we live and interact with each other. And that spring, the senseless murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd brought to light racial and social injustices that for so long had gone unnoticed by many, and enraged Americans from all walks of life. Their anger, outrage, and frustration led people to take to the streets to protest. While there is a lot of work that remains, much of that anger and outrage has led to positive transformation. I've been fortunate to be a part of that work and to be witness to it as well.

While most are trying to change the system to work for the people, others are trying to tear it down, wreak havoc and bring hatred all over this country – El Paso, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Colorado Springs, Farmington, and closer to home, Laguna Woods. As of 2021, the Southern Poverty Law Center reports that there are 733 hate groups in the United States, including over 40 in California. In this environment, it is easy to feel hopeless and fear what lies ahead. That is not me. I'm inspired by the people of Pomona and across the country who have responded to the hatred that persists in society, not only with their words, but with their deeds. Where do we go from here? How do we replace the seeds of hate with love? While this is not the only strategy to end hatred as we know it, I do believe in my heart that we must create the ecosystem in every neighborhood in this country that allows our children and young people to realize their full human potential.

In my own personal and professional experience, I've seen the transformative effect of investing in our children above and beyond the structure of our K-12 system, which of course continues to play a key part of our children's development. Before I was elected Mayor in November 2016, I co-founded a non-profit program called Bright Prospect that helps young people, mostly from Pomona and many who came from immigrant families, go to and graduate from colleges and universities all over the country. Virtually all the students that I had the opportunity to work with since our beginnings in 2002 were the first in their family to attend college. Today, many of them have returned to Pomona to live and work as elected officials, city planners, attorneys, doctors, teachers, business owners, and a range of other professions.

But many of my students and their families have experienced hate, particularly those who share the immigrant experience. I worked with many students on their college essays and often their stories centered on their parents' journey from their homeland – Mexico, Vietnam, El Salvador, Pakistan, Guatemala, and Cambodia to name a few – to the United States in search of a better life. For many of the parents, the move to the United States was not easy, but as an alternative to remaining in their homeland in the face of war and poverty, it was a small price to pay even when they didn't always feel welcomed or accepted in this country. But for many of my students, seeing or hearing their parents experience racism and hatred was a painful part of their childhood. And yet, oftentimes, these acts of racism motivated my students to take full advantage of their educational opportunities. For me, hearing their stories was a constant reminder of why it is so important that Pomona's young people have an opportunity to get an education beyond high school. For many of my students, those educational opportunities have given them not only a plat-

form and the skills to advocate against individual acts of racism and hatred, but also to challenge and transform institutions and systems.

Now in my role as Mayor, I have the opportunity to effect change within the institution of the City. The election of Donald Trump in 2016, and the growing presence of ICE around that time, brought tremendous fear to our community. The threats became real, and mothers and fathers were separated from their children. Shortly after I was elected, I was asked to participate in a meeting with a group of parents at Garey High School, and I could sense their fear. I reassured them that the City of Pomona would not cooperate with any federal agency that tries to undermine our community, including ICE. I worked with community activists and my council colleagues to terminate a contract our police department had with ICE, which allowed them to use our jails to temporarily house undocumented community members. Later that year, the City Council passed an ordinance in connection with the passage of State Senate Bill 54, called The California Values Act. During the course of the council meeting during which we discussed the ordinance, opponents from outside the city spoke against the ordinance and shouted out, "Go back to your country. You're nothing but a bunch of lawbreakers and rapists." Racism and hatred was palpable in the room. The City Council passed the ordinance unanimously.

At the end of that council meeting, my final comment to our community was that, unequivocally, this is your city, your community; we don't want anyone to feel unwelcome here. Undoing past practices rooted in systemic racism that for centuries has legally limited the opportunities of our most vulnerable community members does not happen overnight but rather one action at a time. As a City Council, we enacted a ban on new waste and recycling businesses, which we know are all too often located next to our poorest neighborhoods. At the end of the year, we will launch a guaranteed income pilot program for transitional parents ages 16-25 that will provide them with \$500 a month for two years. And in the midst of a housing crisis that was only further exacerbated by the pandemic, we passed an inclusionary housing ordinance that ensures more moderate to low-income housing units are built in the city, and a rent stabilization emergency ordinance to assist our families facing rising rent increases. While I am proud of these accomplishments, there is more work to be done.

While Pomona is not free of hatred, I believe there's a spirit and culture of compassion and kindness, and commitment to work together to improve the lives of our most challenged community members. I have been witness to it and have had the privilege to be a part of it.

Editor's Note: Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval's column, the ninth monthly "Stop-the-Hate" column, concludes this special series which began with guest columnist State Sen. Susan Rubio in the October 2022 issue of La Nueva Voz. To read the entire series, visit www.lanuevavoz.net and click on "past issues."



Mayor Tim Sandoval

Next chapter... from pg. 3

“As you step into the next chapter of your lives, remember to remain true to yourself, follow your passions, and view inevitable challenges as opportunities for growth,” she said. “Go forth and put your mark on the world.”

Co-valedictorian Vincent Hoang told his classmates, “I stand before you both honored and terrified at the same time,” explaining he was honored because he was able to speak to the class but terrified because everything

he said would be “streamed on Facebook for all to see.”

“As a second generation Asian American growing up, academics were always a top priority,” he said, adding that as adults they will have responsibilities and will be “just dealing with our lives.”

“Wherever the future takes you, let it take you somewhere,” he said. “As we prepare to embark on the next chapter of life, I want to remind you all that the journey doesn’t end here.”

John Phan, also a co-valedictorian, told the class they all were ready to go on “to the next chapter in our lives.”

“Now we are here celebrating at the finish line and we should all be proud of how far we have all come,” he said, adding that he has come to realize all the little things that make their school special – “the smaller community, the more modern design, the solid bond between students and teachers, and the more positive environment help make the school what it is and make it stand out from all other schools in the district.”

And to the teachers, “I hope that you guys continue to inspire others in the same way that you inspired me.”

Salutatorian Jasmine Nguyen told the nearly filled conference room that “the last four years have probably been the most hectic, tiring and challenging years of my life.”

She thanked her four best friends and her teachers for helping her get through high school.

Next chapter... pg. 16



Students were all smiles as they walked off the stage with their high school diplomas.



There was no shortage of congratulatory signs in the audience at Village Academy High School graduation.



Dr. Roberta Perlman
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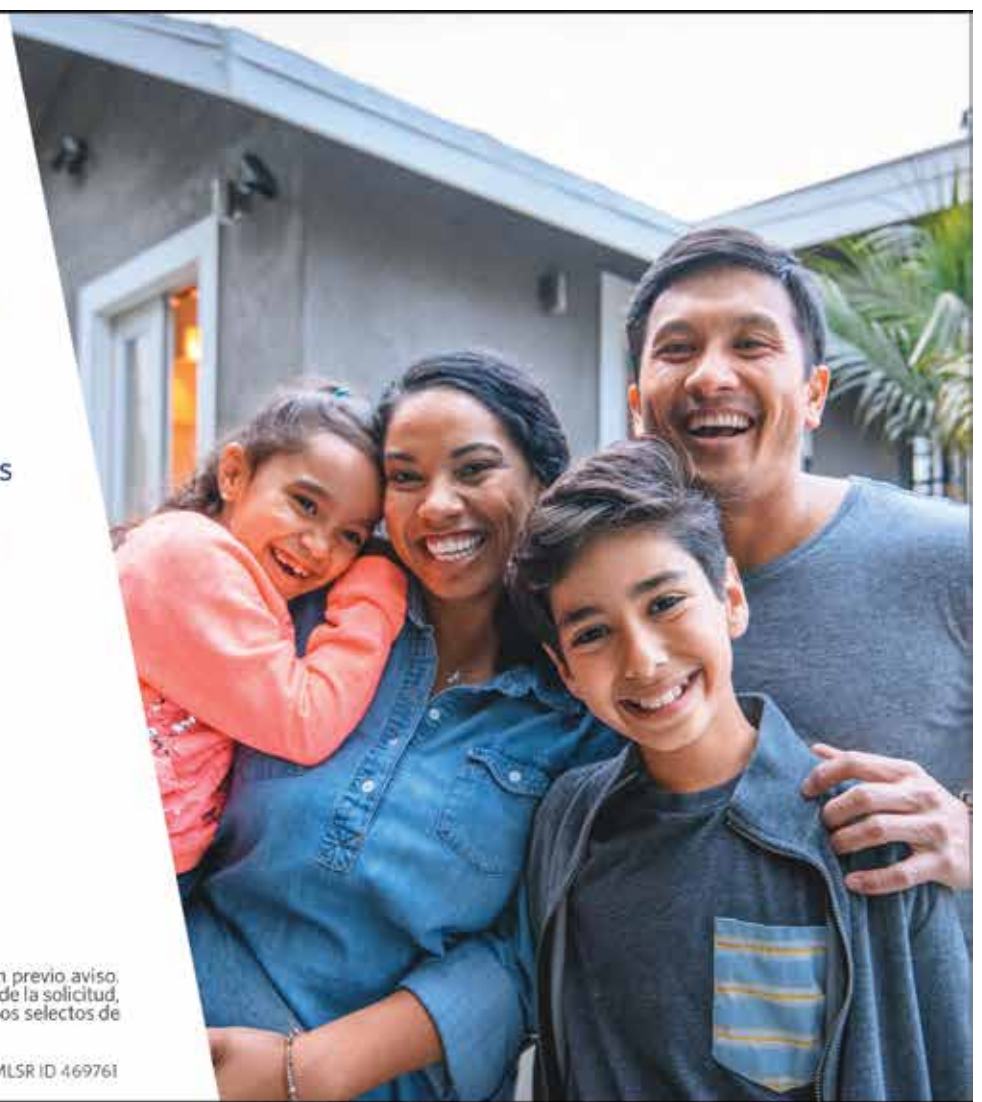
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JUNETEENTH AT HARRIET TUBMAN STATUE -- A Juneteenth observance was held on Juneteenth (Monday) in front of the new Harriet Tubman statue in Pomona's Lincoln Park, organized by historic preservationist Ray Adamyk who commissioned the artist who produced the statue honoring the American icon and abolitionist. Nearly 60 people attended the "remembrance" in the park with a total of six pastors participating in the program. Adamyk, speaking to La Nueva Voz before the ceremonies, called it "very special" recognizing the emancipation of slaves. "This is a freedom day -- not just for all African Americans but for all Americans," he said. Pictured at the lectern is Adamyk with Purpose Church Pastor Glenn Gunderson seated, at right. The statue was unveiled in Lincoln Park in March.



LET THE GAMES BEGIN -- Actually, the games got underway a couple of weeks before this month's official Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting and grand opening, and business was already picking up by the time this photo op came along. The new store, Game Nights Cafe, at 151 E. 2nd St., Pomona, has everything from computer games to dinner (brought in from Metro Ale House down the street) and games in the basement. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles; chamber board member Daniela Franco (holding the ribbon at rear), an owner of Fuego Cocina; Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang; Jenny Macias, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez; Nathaniel Swank and his dad Kylan Swank, owner of the business; chamber executive board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado; and chamber board member Joe Perez, of the Credit Union of Southern California.





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Pomona Police Officers' Association holds successful car show



Pictured is the Buick Riviera that won the "Mayor's Trophy" at the car show.



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presented a certificate this month to the Pomona Police Officers' Association to recognize the group's service to the community. The car show outside The Derby Room on the Fairplex campus raised funds for the department's Pomona Police Explorer Post 160 program. Pictured, at left, are Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Mayor Tim Sandoval and his son Roy. And pictured, at center, from left, are Detective Fernando Flores, organizer of the show and a former Police Explorer; Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis; Sgt. Jesse Cardenas, president of the Pomona Police Officers' Association, and Rodriguez, along with some of the police explorers volunteering for the day.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval poses for a photo with John Flores of Fontana, winner of the "Mayor's Trophy" at the car show for his burnt orange Buick Riviera.



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and his wife, Michelle, pose with their grandson Tanner Rodriguez, 3, at the car show. Michelle said he's the youngest of their three grandchildren.



Pomona's M. Joyce Bakersmith and Vernon Price admire a custom pickup with the license plate "Ed's Cat," owned by Eddie Alaniz of Corona. Eddie's dad, Ed, rebuilt the truck in honor of his wife, Kathe. "The only thing original is the emergency brake," Alaniz said, adding that his parents thought it would be unique. Ed Alaniz served as a Pomona police officer for 30 years, including serving as jailer. He passed away in 2021. His son, Eddie, also serves in law enforcement with the California Department of Corrections. The truck has been in his family since 1984 and once belonged to Pomona's own Walt Barkley, a retired Pomona police officer. The truck won trophies for "Best Paint" and "Best Truck."

Retired Pomona police officer Walt Barkley and his wife Sylvia with their replica police car owned by the Pomona Police Officers' Association. Walt celebrated his 81st birthday the day after the car show. Happy Birthday, Walt!



Foothill Family opens 10,000 square foot facility in Pomona

Officials with the Pasadena-based Foothill Family social services non-profit held a ribbon-cutting ceremony this month to officially open their new \$4 million, 10,000 square foot facility which initially will house 25 “Early Head Start” staff members providing services from home visitation for mothers and young children to pregnant and parenting teens support and even early childhood workforce apprenticeships.

The facility is located in the former Social Security Administration building at 960 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona, and the \$4 million price tag includes both building and improvements, according to a Foothill Family spokesperson.

Approximately 60 percent of the funding came from private sources, including a lead gift from Hunt Enterprises, a real estate company based in Lawndale.

The remainder came from the Office of Head Start, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as part of Foothill Family’s Early Head Start contract.

Priscilla Hunt, at the age of 92 still a philanthropist and CEO and president of the commercial real estate investment company that owns and manages 4,000 rental properties, shopping malls and commercial properties, told guests she came to this country from the

Philippines in 1953 where she lived a modest lifestyle.

“I believe that if you are best, you should share,” she told an audience of nearly 60 employees, elected officials and friends.

Known for her philanthropy herself, she urged those in the audience to always help others and help their communities – “even by saving \$20 a month by not going to Starbucks or McDonald’s.”

And on the ribbon cutting, she said “that’s like a graduation, you throw your cap in the air.”

“So this is the ribbon cutting of the beginning of a great, bright future for Foothill Family,” she said, adding that despite all the money she has donated to the organization, she leads “a very simple life.”

“I don’t travel, I stay most at home and going to work,” she said.

“This beautiful facility will house a lot of children from all walks of life,” Hunt said. “I am sure that they will have a very good future.”

State Sen. Susan Rubio told the group her 18 years working as a teacher “highlighted for me the need for these types of services.”

She added that she has spent most of her years in the senate advocating for families.

“So this just works with where



POMONA’S FOOTHILL FAMILY MOVES TO NEW LOCATION -- Pomona’s non-profit social services agency Foothill Family opened its new \$4 million facility in Pomona this month to be able to provide more services to mothers, children and more. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Board member Renee Barbee and President and CEO Monique Robles; ninth from left, Tami Mitsumori-Miller, chief clinical officer, Foothill Family; and, at center, Julietta Perez, chair, Foothill Family Board of Directors; Mike Buchanan (at rear), co-chair, Foothill Family Pomona Campaign Executive Committee; Steve Allen, Foothill Family CEO; State Sen. Susan Rubio; Priscilla Hunt of Hunt Enterprises; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Danette Lew, Foothill Family clinical director of 0 to 5 programs; Ryan Moore, Hunt’s grandson and an entrepreneur and filmmaker; Anita Lawler, co-chair, Foothill Family Pomona Campaign Executive Committee; and, at rear, James Siegrist, Foothill Family chief operating officer.

my heart is, education, taking care of our children, taking care of our communities,” Rubio said.

And she told Hunt that “you have an advocate in me.”

“I will continue to push and advocate if I can help in any way,” she said. “You have me as a partner.”

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval thanked Hunt and the Hunt family for making this investment for families in the community.

And he thanked the staff of Foothill Family.

“It doesn’t happen without people who believe in this work, people who believe that this is es-

sential to the health and wellness of our communities,” Sandoval added.

“We know that the best investment that we can make is in our children and families, and we’ve undertaken an effort as a city in collaboration with the school dis-

Foothill Family... pg. 19



Photo by Renee Barbee

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH AT WESTMONT -- Four students from Pomona’s Westmont Elementary School were honored last month as “students of the month” by the Optimist Club of Pomona, meeting at Fuego Cocina in Downtown Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Optimist vice president Sonia Molina, April honoree Frank Li (third grade, represented by his sister, selected for academic excellence and sports), May honoree Nina Crespo (first grade, selected for academic excellence), Optimist President Lorraine Canales, May honoree Evangeline Becerra (second grade, for citizenship), April honoree Sebastian Hernandez (fifth grade, for academic excellence and biliteracy achievement), and Pomona Optimist past president M. Joyce Bakersmith, also a past Optimist district governor. Westmont Principal Cynthia Badillo also participated at the event.

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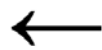
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Next chapter... from pg . 12

And she said her graduating class had so many different personalities yet “got along like siblings get along.”

“Congratulations, Class of 2023 – go on to be good workers and leaders of society,” she said.

Interim Assistant Supt. Silvia San Martin accepted the 63-member “Class of 2023” for graduation, and Pomona Unified School Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman congratulated the students, reading them a specially modified version of “Oh the Places You’ll Go” by Dr. Seuss, changing the words a bit for the occasion, and senior counselor Lorraine Canales, receiving a rousing cheer from the students,

lined the graduates up to receive their diplomas.

PUSD includes a total of 38 schools serving about 22,705 students.



Jasmine Nguyen
Salutatorian



John Phan
Co-valedictorian



Vincent Hoang
Co-valedictorian



Lorraine Canales, senior counselor at Pomona’s Village Academy High School, lines up students to receive their diplomas.



“Graduation Party in Heaven” was the theme of a sign in memory of graduating class member Araceli Villalvazo, who passed away in 2020 at the age of 14. The sign was carried in to graduation ceremonies by her mom, Victoria Garcia, and members of her family and the printed program for the graduation included her photo “in memoriam.” She lost her life in a traffic accident in Montclair.

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ON THE SPOT ESSAY AWARD WINNERS -- Pictured are six of the 10 "On the Spot" essay award winners in the Pearls of Service annual competition. From left are Lauren Carter of Ayala High School, Gabrielle Taylor of Mission Vista Academy, and Simone Davis, Malia Logan, Alisjsa Taylor and Lyrique Wilson, all of Rancho Cucamonga High School.



A.B. MILLER HIGH SCHOOL WINNERS -- Pictured from A.B. Miller High School in Fontana are four more winners of Pearls of Service annual competition for "On the Spot" essay awards. From left are Sanaa McGlothen, Devina Abercrombie, Jaline Vencibi and Alyssa Brown. Essays focus on career goals, volunteering experience, effects of the pandemic and thoughts on justice. Winners receive a certificate and a monetary award.



RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS -- Winners of this year's Pearls of Service annual renewable scholarship competition are Jaline Vencibi, at left, and Ahiranayl Miles. Both winners are graduates of A.B. Miller High School in Fontana and received scholarships with a \$4,000 value which can be renewed for three more years if the students remain enrolled with a full-time course load and maintain an acceptable grade point average.

School music room... from pg. 5

'n' cheese, four dozen chicken wings and more than 10 cases of water and drinks.

Brian Mundy, who sits on the Parking District Commission with his dad, opened his workshop to the volunteer team so they could cut and plane the lumber for the shelves, giving the project a professional touch.

Decorative painting on the outside of the renovated cabinets was provided by members of the art club at Fremont.

Then how does it feel to have the project under his belt?

"It feels like a legacy that I'm leaving behind on the school before I leave," he said, adding that he views it as "helping the community in what will be an improvement for many years to come."

At the same time, he just liked

helping the school, he told La Nueva Voz at the ribbon-cutting, since he's been there for six years – from seventh grade through grade 12.

"I have a strong attachment to this school," he said.

"It's been fun to do this," he added. "All those memories of me helping and me having fun here will always stick with me."

Mladinov said he plans to go to Mt. SAC in the fall and might end up going into a career in finance, but he's still "extremely iffy" about that.

Asked if he'll come back to Pomona after he completes his education, he said he'll go "wherever life takes me."

To reach the point of Eagle Scout, Mladinov had to spend six

years at the second highest rank of "Life" and achieve enough merit badges in addition to completing one Eagle project – the band room upgrade – where he was the main overseer.

And all the requirements have to be deemed satisfactory by the scout leader, the beneficiary of the project and the board chairman of the scouts.

He expects to receive his Eagle Scout award around mid-summer at a special troop meeting.

But the band students at Fremont and teacher Alexandra Arnhold are already enjoying the band room storage cabinet make-over now and will continue to do so for years to come.

Congratulations, Jonco, and good job!

Pomona's live concert series continues in Civic Center Plaza

The City of Pomona's live concert series will continue in the Civic Center Plaza with performances scheduled for June 29, July 28, Aug. 31 and Sept. 29.

All concerts are set for 6 to 9 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

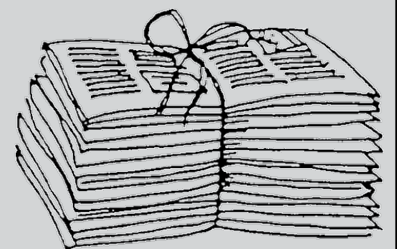
Full details are expected to become available on the city's web site and Facebook page.

City councilmembers allocated funding to expand the free community concerts over the next four years, according to a city news release.



POMONA OPTIMISTS AWARDS -- Graduating seniors at Pomona High School received a total of 37 awards during a seniors awards ceremony last month at the school. Members of the Pomona Optimist Club presented two awards of their own to several of the students and one, Ethan Dennis Pleasant, apparently was the big winner -- he received a total of six of the awards, including one from the Pomona Optimists. He received Webb, National College Resources Foundation and Esperanza Scholarships, along with a Pearls of Service Award, a Counselor Award and the Optimist International Scholarship "My Future in Ties" award. He will be attending Morehouse College in the fall. Want to help? Go to <https://vraise.org/816dSu>. Pictured is Ethan with Pomona High School senior counselor Liliana Fasting.

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- 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
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



Voz reached out to her after the event and obtained notes she had prepared thanking the foundation for “this very humbling honor.”

“It is really wonderful to be recognized for doing something that is so near and dear to my heart,” she said. “And I also want to thank my husband Fred for putting up with all the early morning and late-night meetings that went into saving our Pomona Public Library.”

“When we started this journey more than 10 years ago, we didn’t even know there was (a foundation), and I also didn’t know many of the folks . . . who have become the heart and soul of the library and the foundation over the last several years,” she added.

Lantz said when she made “that desperate plea” at the city council meeting for “those interested in keeping the library open to come

to the library for a meeting,” she had no idea how many would attend and how many were willing to work on the effort.

“As a result, we got help from the county and state to assist in rearranging the interior so it could be managed more efficiently and, while it closed for a couple of weeks so those changes could take place, it ultimately remained open,” she said.

“Someone once said, ‘never waste a crisis,’ and I think the library supporters really took that to heart,” Lantz said. “The foundation has raised millions of dollars through fundraisers like this and grants from the county and state.”

She added that former State Sen. Connie Leyva was responsible for several million dollars used to modernize the entryway, streamline the checkout process

Gala... from pg. 8

and upgrade the computer system. She thanked Smith, his wife Shirley and all the others “that have helped us bring the library into the 21st century.”

Lantz was elected to the Pomona City Council in 1991 and served for more than 25 years.

Honorary tiles will be placed in the library recognizing both Carrizosa and Lantz.

This year’s event, this year on the theme “The Magic of Books,” raised more than \$85,000 for the library, according to Smith.

Sandoval thanked guests for supporting the library.

“I think all of you know how important it is for every city to have a great public library and how important it is to our children and how important it is to our community,” he said, adding that he thanked the Pomona Public Li-

brary Foundation for its work in making the event happen.

The Pomona Public Library is 136 years old and, as Sandoval pointed out in the event program, “I can’t think of any other city service that has the support enjoyed by our library.”

Foundation Board member Angie Castro introduced a video highlighting signature library programs funded by the foundation, like the homework club and summer excursions. She also recognized Pomona Unified School Board members Dr. Roberta Perlman, “who worked tirelessly on this,” and Arturo Jimenez, founder of the program.

“Tonight is a beautiful example of everything that is beautiful about Pomona,” she said.

“The Pomona Public Library Foundation is the fundraising sup-

port organization of our Pomona Public Library,” Smith said in the program notes. “Working with the Board of Library Trustees, the Friends of the Pomona Public Library, Save/Support Our Pomona Public Library and the library staff, the foundation invests in programs, equipment and services that supplement the operations of our library.”

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LOPEZ FINANCE EXPANDING INTO POMONA -- Lopez Finance LLC, based in Rancho Cucamonga, held an official Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting last week in Downtown Pomona as the company became the chamber’s newest member and expanded its services into Pomona. The company is a tax, mortgage and finance consulting firm. Pictured at left are Pomona Chamber board member Daniela Franco and Anthony Moreno, representing State Sen. Susan Rubio; cutting the ribbon is Natalye Lopez, President of Lopez Finance; and, at right, Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles and Executive Board member Renee Barbee. For information, visit the web site at www.lopezfinancelc@gmail.com or call (909) 550-7679.

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Wounded U.S. Army veteran attributes his life to his fellow soldiers

Staff Sgt. Jarod Behee learned the hard way why they say you never volunteer in the U.S. Army when an enemy bullet in Iraq penetrated the Kevlar of his helmet, entered his skull and exited the other side.

“In an instant the life I knew was over,” said Behee, who was guest speaker at this year’s annual Memorial Day service last month at Pomona Valley Memorial Park.

But the self-described “stubborn” soldier who many feared would end up “a permanent resident in a cemetery like this one” defied the odds and lived to tell the story of his fellow soldiers racing to get him to an Army field hospital in Iraq.

From there it was on to Kuwait, Germany, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda and then eventually to Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare in Pomona.

Behee, who told guests at the annual ceremonies that “by being here today you show a very deep patriotic commitment to our nation,” said it was “humbling” to “be in my hometown surrounded by so many who bravely sacrificed everything for our freedom and so many concerned Americans.”

He said he enlisted in the Army at 19 in 1999.

“If you served in combat arms at the time, you knew your life



Commander Roberto Arnold
Post 30 American Legion



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval



Staff Sgt. Jarod Behee



Congresswoman Norma Torres

was going to change,” he said. “But I didn’t know how much mine would change.”

“I found out on my second tour in Iraq in the military,” he said, adding he was “bored with our mission and wanted something more exciting.”

“I wanted to have a meaningful tour,” he said, so he volunteered for post security.

From the severe traumatic brain injury as he described it to getting where he is today was harder than any training he had to go through in the Army.

It was at Casa Colina that he was taught to walk and talk and dress and bathe himself again.

And it was at Casa Colina where the miracle continues, he said, “and I’m living proof that the miracle continues,” although he admits his speech may not be



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez

completely correct.

But he said it was “the men and women who are laid to rest in this cemetery (who) wrote a blank check for our country” and “it’s because of their courage and willingness to fight we’re able to mark this holiday.”

“It is very possible that I might



American Legion Riders Post 30 President Bob Radcliff, at left; Cheryl Scholl, past president of the Post 30 American Legion Women’s Auxiliary; and Sons of Legionnaires member Jack Peterson place the American Legion memorial wreath during Memorial Day ceremonies.

have died in a previous war but definitely would not have lived if it weren’t for the willingness of my fellow soldiers who risked their lives to save me.”

Behee told the audience wheth-

er they were veterans or survivors “or anyone who enjoys the safety and prosperity that comes with being American, all of us owe a debt of gratitude to the fallen who died

Attributes... pg. 23



Members of the Lutheran High School of La Verne Naval Junior R.O.T.C. conducted their 21-gun firing squad salute.

Foothill Family... from pg. 15

trict, community-based organizations, the Pomona Community Foundation, to invest 10s of millions of more dollars in our children, and our families,” he said. “But we don’t want to just throw money at it, we want to understand what exists, what doesn’t and how we can be more surgical and intentional about how we invest those dollars.”

By making certain the money is spent in neighborhoods where there is the greatest need, he said, “the idea is that every child who grows up in the City of Pomona, no matter what neighborhood they live in . . . has the opportunity to

realize their full human potential.”

Foothill Family moved into an office on Fourth Street in Downtown Pomona in April 2017 and moved into the new location last month.

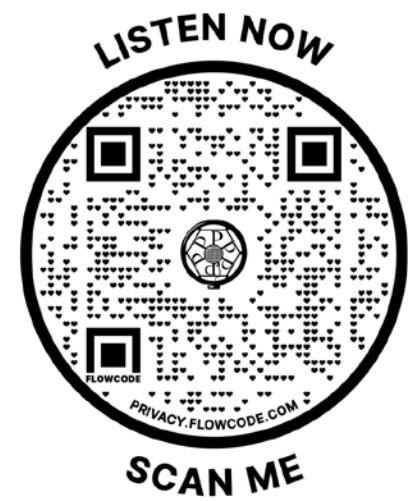
The new location will enable an expansion in both staffing and programming for up to 60 employees supporting the full array of services that Foothill provides.

Foothill also will continue to seek Pomona specific program funds to provide targeted services to meet the unique needs of the community.

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Nota del editor: La Nueva Voz está agregando esta página con contenido en Español a petición e interés de los lectores. Un lector frecuente del Centro Comunitario del Parque Washington preguntó si este periódico pudiese incluir al menos “solamente una página” en Español. Entonces, buen amigo, aquí lo tienes. Esperamos que nuestros lectores nos den a saber lo que piensan.

El alcalde informa que el “estado de la ciudad” es sólido con reservas cercanas a los \$60 millones

En su primer discurso en vivo sobre el “Estado de la ciudad” desde 2019, el alcalde de Pomona, Tim Sandoval, aseguró la semana pasada a los residentes, dueños de negocios, y otros que “el estado de nuestra ciudad es fuerte; somos fuertes porque estamos trabajando juntos, colaborando e innovando”.

“Juntos estamos dando forma a una ciudad que es mejor para nuestros hijos de lo que fue para nosotros, e incluso mejor para nuestros nietos”, dijo Sandoval a cientos de invitados en el Teatro Fox de Pomona. “Eso es crear un ecosistema donde prosperamos y prosperamos”.

El discurso de 45 minutos incluyó presentaciones de calidad, desde la escolta de la Legión Americana Post 30 de Pomona, música pregrabada y proyección en pantalla, hasta música en vivo de estudiantes locales e incluso una pequeña lectura de poesía de los dos primeros poetas laureados de Pomona.

Y fue acompañado por “Sabor de Pomona” organizado por la Cámara de Comercio de Pomona que presentó a los invitados varios de los restaurantes y panaderías más populares de Pomona.

“La salud financiera de la ciudad es sólida”, dijo Sandoval. “Para el final del año fiscal (30 de junio), nuestro fondo de reserva estará cerca de los \$60 millones”.

“Este fondo es importante para proteger la ciudad durante tiempos económicos difíciles”, agregó. “Cuando me convertí en alcalde por primera vez, nuestro fondo de reserva era de \$14 millones”.

Para las pequeñas empresas, dijo que la ciudad lanzará un programa de subvenciones en agosto que proporcionará \$750,000 para ayudar a las empresas a recuperarse de los impactos de COVID-19.

Y durante la pandemia, dijo Sandoval, Pomona “intensificó” y “tomó propiedad” para ayudar a otros necesitados entregando alimentos, ayudando a los inquilinos a obtener asistencia para el alquiler e incluso recaudó \$250,000 para apoyar a los residentes indocumentados que podrían no haber sido elegibles para los recursos del gobierno.

Le dijo a una casa casi llena en el Fox que “el fortalecimiento del ecosistema de nuestra ciudad comienza con la inversión que hacemos en nuestros niños y familias, particularmente en los miembros más vulnerables de nuestra comunidad”.

Y dijo que la inversión de la ciudad en sus niños ha aumentado en millones de dólares durante los últimos siete años desde que él se desempeñó como alcalde.

Señaló la “Cumbre de proveedores de jóvenes del alcalde” en agosto pasado en la que más de 120 representantes de 35 proveedores de servicios para jóvenes se reunieron para discutir los servicios para jóvenes en Pomona, identificar los activos que ya existen y resaltar las brechas en el apoyo.

“Como resultado, la ciudad está construyendo lo que llamamos un panel comunitario que brindará información sobre los muchos programas y servicios públicos y privados disponibles en todo Pomona”, dijo Sandoval.

“Imagínese nuestras organizaciones comunitarias que brindan servicios a niños y jóvenes trabajando juntas para brindar un apoyo integral”, dijo. “No tengo ninguna duda de que veremos mejores resultados para nuestros hijos”.

Para ayudar con este “trabajo vital”, dijo que la ciudad en colaboración con UCLA, el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Pomona y la Fundación Comunitaria de Pomona recibieron una subvención de \$750,000.

Y para los padres jóvenes, agregó, la ciudad lanzará a fin de año un “programa piloto de ingreso básico universal” de \$5 millones para 400 familias jóvenes con padres en el rango de edad de 16 a 25 años.

“Cada familia participante recibirá un subsidio mensual de \$500 durante 24 meses”, dijo, proporcionando ingresos complementarios “para ocupar en vivienda, atención médica, alimentos y actividades que ayuden a los niños a prosperar”.

Para los jóvenes que nunca llegaron a graduarse de la escuela secundaria este año, dijo que la ciudad, en colaboración con el dis-

trito escolar y las organizaciones comunitarias, lanzó un programa para jóvenes previo al arresto para ayudar a alejar a los jóvenes de Pomona del sistema legal en el momento de arresto “en servicios comunitarios que les presten apoyo”.

“Esto mantendrá a muchos de nuestros jóvenes fuera del sistema de menores”, dijo.

“Con programas como este y nuestro reciente subsidio para lanzar un programa de ‘Prevención e Intervención de la Violencia de California’, estamos enviando un fuerte mensaje de que a la ciudad le importa y está comprometida a trabajar con otros para crear el ecosistema para la juventud de Pomona y los niños desarrollen todo su potencial humano”, agregó Sandoval.

En el área de los parques de la ciudad, Sandoval dijo que el recientemente renovado Hamilton Park se completará pronto, y un nuevo patio de juegos para “todas las habilidades” en Civic Center Plaza llamado “Kids World Pomona” está en la fase de diseño y se espera que la construcción comience el

próximo año.

Y en el próximo año, dijo que se agregarán nuevos baños a un tercio de los parques de la ciudad.

Además, dijo a principios de este año que el estado le otorgó a Pomona una subvención de \$11.3 millones para el Parque Lineal San Jose Creek, un sendero desde la Universidad Cal Poly de Pomona hasta el Parque Ganesha, donde los residentes de todas las edades pueden caminar o andar en bicicleta.

“El próximo objetivo es extender este parque lineal desde Ganesha Park hasta Claremont, justo después de la nueva estación Gold Line, para crear un viaje continuo desde las montañas hasta nuestras playas”, dijo. “Lo imaginamos durante muchos años, pero ahora se está convirtiendo en una realidad”.

En otras áreas:

- Más de 1,400 personas mayores participaron en excursiones y bailes patrocinados por la ciudad y se proporcionaron más de 34,000 comidas a través del Programa de Nutrición para Personas Mayores de Pomona en 2022.

- Un total de 14 millas de cami-

nos y calles fueron repavimentadas el año pasado.

- El año pasado, la ciudad completó su primera ciclovía protegida Clase IV en Valley Boulevard desde Temple Avenue hasta Humane Way – un ciclovía de 1.35 millas con una banqueta que la separa de la carretera.

- Se están construyendo viviendas asequibles y a precio de mercado en toda la ciudad, incluido el nuevo proyecto Jamboree Housing con 57 apartamentos asequibles en Park Avenue y Mission Boulevard.

- Para este otoño, se espera que Cal Poly University Pomona abra un centro de innovación Bronco STEAM en el centro de Pomona para brindar programas de capacitación laboral y equipos de fabricación y espacio de trabajo para apoyar a las pequeñas empresas de Pomona.

- Y Siemens USA está en proceso de expandir su sitio actual en Pomona en un proyecto de \$94 millones que agrega 100,000 pies cuadrados de capacidad de producción y creando más de 120 nuevos empleos locales.

Asambleísta Rodríguez, Cristina Carrizosa y Paula Lantz honradas en la gala de la biblioteca del alcalde

El asambleísta Freddie Rodríguez, honrado este mes con el “Premio del Alcalde” en la quinta recaudación de fondos de la biblioteca de la Gala del Alcalde en el Centro de Conferencias Sheraton Fairplex, dijo a los invitados que él de hecho trabajó como ayudante de biblioteca en la escuela.

Esa pequeña coincidencia, que tiene un vínculo natural con su último premio, tuvo lugar cuando era estudiante de séptimo y octavo grado en lo que en ese entonces era la Escuela Intermedia Fremont de Pomona y continuó cuando ingresó a la Escuela Secundaria Garey.

“No podemos agradecerte lo suficiente por todo lo que haz contribuido a esta ciudad”, dijo el alcalde de Pomona, Tim Sandoval, al presentar el premio en el evento producido cada año por la Fundación de la Biblioteca Pública de Pomona. “Simplemente te apreciamos”.

Sandoval dijo a 243 invitados en el evento que Rodríguez era

responsable de traer fondos a Pomona para ayudar a lidiar con “una población sin hogar asombrosa”, entre otras cosas.

Esas “otras cosas” se han sumado con el tiempo. Rodríguez dijo que en total, en sus 10 años en Sacramento, ha podido traer más de \$20 millones directamente a Pomona.

“Ha sido un honor trabajar con la gente de Sacramento”, dijo Rodríguez. Es desafiante pero. . . son las relaciones que construyes en Sacramento entre nuestros colegas de ambos lados del pasillo y en ambas cámaras. Estamos todos juntos en esto.”

“Ha sido un honor estar aquí representando no solo a Pomona sino a todas las demás ciudades que represento. . . para asegurarse de tener una voz en Sacramento”, agregó.

El “Premio de la Fundación de la Biblioteca” de este año fue para Cristina Carrizosa y Paula Lantz,

ambas ex concejales de la ciudad de Pomona y ambas promotoras de la biblioteca desde hace mucho tiempo.

“Es casi seguro que esta fundación no existiría si no fuera por el trabajo de estas personas para organizar la comunidad y unirnos”, dijo Duane Smith, presidente de la fundación, quien recordó a los invitados que la biblioteca enfrentaba la posibilidad de cerrar en el 2012 debido a a las limitaciones presupuestarias.

“Movilizaron a la gente y encontraron dinero e hicieron que las cosas sucedieran de una manera que no estoy seguro de que la biblioteca estaría allí hoy si no lo hubieran hecho”, agregó. “Entonces, Cristina, te honramos y apreciamos tu liderazgo en la movilización de la comunidad cuando la Biblioteca Pública de Pomona más lo necesitaba”.

Carrizosa dijo que fue la preocupación por la **Gala... pág. 21**

Antonia's Story

By Antonia Rios

Parent Partner & Outreach Manager, Parents Anonymous
Member, Compassionate Pomona

Being a Native American, Hispanic mother of seven, grandmother of four and a kin provider for 15 years, I came from a life where compassion wasn't really given, shown, or taught. We were to be seen and not heard. Sharing feelings or communicating feelings or fears was not something we had the space to express. Love was given by family gatherings, cooking food, and movie nights. Celebrating our birthdays was a big thing in our families. It was the time to show we were loved. The way I grew up was being raised by strong firm hard working single women in my family who dedicated all their time Monday through Saturday working and leaving Sunday for family.

Making a big move to Pomona to change my surroundings and environment was a scary step

in my life. I felt at the time, "It couldn't hurt so why not." I never knew that the city of Pomona would be a place that I would ever call home. This big new move was about to change my life in a big way. I began to surround myself with new people but still was very scared to connect with anyone, making sure I wasn't inviting or allowing myself to put down my walls in fear of harm.

I walked into my very first Parents Anonymous® Parenting Support Group that began to change me inside out. The compassionate facilitators and parents in those groups gave me a safe space to address my underlying fears and concerns that I had carried my whole life. I had never experienced compassion, support, judgement, or a free space to share before in my life. I felt shame for being a single parent and a woman of color covered in tattoos. Step-

ping into a group of parents or someone in a parenting role in a time where I have never felt supported ever was transformative. I was able to feel safe enough to open up, share, talk, cry and ask for help in areas I thought would never change.

I have to say that the moment I met the CEO and President of Parents Anonymous®, was one of the scariest times in my life. I worried about why the CEO and President wanted to meet me. I was a nobody. I was just a person who was messed up as a young child, teen, youth, and adult. Why would someone that important want to meet me. The moment I met Dr. Lisa, she was kind, respectful, gentle, and showed compassion to me. Dr. Lisa shared how important I was and how valuable I was, that I am a resilient parent and that I matter.

After this meeting, I became more involved with the organization and the community as an advocate for all parents, children, and youth that have experienced a similar journey. The compassion that was given to me I give back to others. I became involved in Compassionate Pomona which allowed me to engage with the Pomona community and help support my peers with clothing, food, and furniture. I never thought that I can be in an environment where compassion is the foundation, and the emotional support is surrounding me like the air that I breathe. I feel very blessed because I went from feeling hollow to being fulfilled.

Editor's Note: Antonia is the Chair of the Parents Anonymous National and California Parent Leadership Team and is a resident of Pomona.



Antonia Rios

Hearing and your health: What you need to know

By Christopher L. Stone, AuD, C-AAA

Director, Audiology Center

Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

Have you found yourself struggling to hear in everyday conversations with friends, family, or coworkers? Maybe you've noticed you can't pick up some of the dialogue in the movie you're watching. There are many reasons our hearing can decline as we age. What's important is identifying the cause of that decline and slowing its progress, so that you can get the most out of the hearing you have left. This starts with getting screened by a licensed audiologist.

It's possible you may benefit from assistive technology such as a hearing aid. Perhaps you've been hesitant to see an audiologist or even consider such a step. But here are a few reasons that might help to convince you.

Hearing loss affects relationships

When our hearing starts to decline, we often attempt to hide it from friends and family or play it off. But it's actually best to loop your loved ones in. They are important allies in helping you get the most out of the hearing you have left. Whether it's adjusting their speaking volumes, turning to make sure you can see their faces, or turning off background noise, those around you play an impor-

neglencia, el crimen y la violencia en Pomona lo que la impulsó a involucrarse en la comunidad.

"Esa situación me impulsó a lanzar mi sombrero en el Concejo Municipal de Pomona", dijo. "Fue difícil, pero encontré buenos colegas como Freddie, como Paula Lantz, como muchos otros".

Si bien no nació en Pomona sino en otro país, dijo que "el sentido de comunidad que tiene Pomona, no lo veo en ninguna otra ciudad a nuestro alrededor".

Y dijo que siempre hay un grupo que aboga por algo.

"Esto es lo que sucedió en la Biblioteca de Pomona hace unos años", dijo, y agregó que se sintió "humilde en gratitud y honor".

"Miembros de la fundación, su dedicación a la Biblioteca de Pomona es admirable", dijo Carrizosa. "Ustedes entendieron que en una comunidad trabajadora como la nuestra, los libros y la tecnología pueden ser lujos que muchas familias no pueden pagar".

tant role in helping you adjust to your hearing challenges.

Hearing loss may precede other negative outcomes

When not addressed and acknowledged, hearing loss can contribute to social isolation, which in turn is a risk factor for any number of negative health outcomes, including depression, substance abuse, heart disease, and diabetes. Staying active and socially engaged improves your quality of life and helps you maintain better overall mental and physical health. Sometimes that requires assistive technology.

Hearing loss can contribute to cognitive decline

When you're not engaged in meaningful conversations over time, it can alter your brain's ability to process speech and communicate. People with hearing loss need to work harder to hear and process speech, and this often comes at the expense of memory. According to the American Academy of Audiology, hearing loss leads to social isolation, which is also a known risk factor for dementia.

The bottom line is that choosing **Gala... de la pág. 20**

"Todos los servicios que brindan a la biblioteca con su apoyo son muy necesarios y muy apreciados", dijo.

Y, señaló, viniendo de México y mientras aprendía el idioma, dijo que fue la biblioteca lo que le permitió continuar su educación en la universidad.

Carrizosa fue elegida por primera vez para el Concejo Municipal de Pomona en 1993 y sirvió durante 21 años.

Lantz no pudo asistir a la gala debido a una enfermedad, pero La Nueva Voz se acercó a ella después del evento y obtuvo apuntes que ella había preparado agradeciendo a la fundación por "este gran honor".

"Es realmente maravilloso ser reconocida por hacer algo que es tan cercano y querido para mi corazón", dijo. "Y también quiero agradecer a mi esposo Fred por aguantar todas las reuniones temprano en la mañana y tarde en la noche que se dedicaron a salvar

to do nothing about hearing loss can cause more than just an inconvenience for family and friends – it can affect your overall physical and mental health. Don't let hearing loss dictate your future – see an audiologist today!

Editor's Note: The Casa Colina Audiology Center is offering free hearing screenings for adults who



Christopher Stone

may be experiencing hearing difficulties. Licensed audiologists and a hearing aid dispenser provide the most comprehensive assessment and hearing care available in the region. For more information, or to schedule a screening, call (909) 450-0304.

nuestra Biblioteca Pública de Pomona".

"Cuando comenzamos este viaje hace más de 10 años, ni siquiera sabíamos que había (una fundación), y tampoco conocía a muchas de las personas. . . quienes se han convertido en el corazón y el alma de la biblioteca y la fundación en los últimos años", agregó.

Lantz dijo que cuando hizo "esa súplica desesperada" en la reunión del consejo de la ciudad para que "aquellos interesados en mantener la biblioteca abierta vinieran a la biblioteca para una reunión", no tenía idea de cuántos asistirían y cuántos estaban dispuestos a trabajar en el esfuerzo.

"Como resultado, obtuvimos ayuda del condado y el estado para ayudar a reorganizar el interior para que pudiera administrarse de manera más eficiente y, aunque cerró durante un par de semanas para que pudieran realizarse esos cambios, finalmente permaneció abierto", ella dijo.

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There was a little bit of everything at the “626 Golden Street / Heart of the Foothills” event last month -- a day-long collaboration between La Verne, San Dimas and Pomona in which streets were closed and activities, well, just happened -- from dancing in the street to jumping in the bubbles and bicycling to Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval being dunked in the dunk tank. It was all produced with the help of Active SGV, an organization working to create a more sustainable, equitable and livable San Gabriel Valley.



CONGRATULATIONS, JADE! -- Jade Thiel-Maiz, 17, daughter of Eva Thiel-Maiz, of the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, was among the 63 graduates this year at Pomona’s Village Academy High School. Jade plans to attend Mt. SAC for her first two years of college and then transfer to Menlo College in Atherton, California, to obtain her degree in business administration management. Pictured is Jade with her mom.



SHINING A LIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH -- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center hosted a “Mental Health Awareness Day” community resource fair last month including everything from painting and coloring workshops to mental health and wellness organizations and public health agencies sharing information on services and resources available to support mental and behavioral health. Pictured, above, is the hospital’s booth on “Break the silence, end the stigma” and, at right, the booth for Tri City Mental Health, which provides mental health services to Claremont, La Verne and Pomona. Other participants included NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and Pomona’s House of Ruth, which serves women and families escaping domestic abuse. Pictured, from left, in the hospital booth are emergency department team members Ganelle Ayres, emergency department nurse manager; Kimberly Tan and Malia Silva, both registered nurses; Sherrie Cisneros, substance use nurse navigator; Darla Martinez, administrative assistant; and registered nurse Natalie Saldana.



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Attributes... from pg. 19

defending our grand country.”

Congresswoman Norma Torres told the audience that Memorial Day was a time to honor the “heroes who laid down their lives defending our freedom.”

“When I think of the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice, I am reminded that we as a nation must do more to support our veterans when they return home . . . not just the veterans but their families,” she said.

She said as an Air Force mom she understands the risk they take on when they report to duty.

“Our soldiers put their lives on the line for something much greater than themselves and we are forever in their debt,” she added.

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez said there are 3,000 veterans in Pomona and more than one million in California.

He said Memorial Day is a time to “give thanks and really remember what they did, they did the ultimate sacrifice by losing their lives to provide the freedom that we enjoy here today.”

And Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said it is important to remember those who have been lost in war.

“It has not only impacted certainly our communities but has impacted our families in this country,” he said. “Our freedom would not be possible without them.”

“I think it’s important for us to recognize that every single day our ability to be able to do the things that we do would not have happened without the courageous and brave men and women sac-

rificing their lives so that we could have freedom,” he said.

Anthony Moreno, representing State Sen. Susan Rubio, brought greetings from the senator and

said the day is important to him as well since his two grandfathers served in the military – one in World War II in the Army and the other in Vietnam in the Marines.

Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, told the gathering that “today we reflect and pay respect to our nation’s heroes.”

She said more than 1.3 million servicemen and women have “sacrificed their lives to defend our freedom.”

Commander Roberto Arnold of Pomona’s Post 30 American Legion served as master of ceremonies at the event. He told guests he plans to step down from his position after several years as commander, making way for a change in leadership at the post.

Arnold said the Memorial Day service would be his last event as commander, although he will continue to be available during the transition as an advisor.



Members of the Pomona Concert Band performed as always at last month’s Memorial Day services at Pomona Valley Memorial Park.



Bob Radcliff, at rear, president of American Legion Riders Post 30, and Jack Peterson, a member of Sons of Legionnaires, lower the American flag and raise it to half staff during Memorial Day ceremonies.



Dick Lotz, head trustee of the Pomona Eagles, at center, and Patti Marquez, president of the Eagles auxiliary, place a memorial wreath during Memorial Day services in Pomona.

Pomona Concert Band announces 76th annual summer concert series

The Pomona Concert Band’s 76th annual summer concert series kicks off on Thursday, July 13, in the Ganesha Park bandshell with “Fanfare and Flourishes,” featuring music from “West Side Story,” Gershwin’s “Embraceable You” and more.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval will service as master of ceremonies for the evening.

On July 20, program theme will be “Band Members’ Favorites,” with music from “The Music Man,” “Cascading Trumpets,” “Suite of Old American Dances” and more.

“Songs of Influence” including

“Funeral March of a Marionette” and others is set for July 27, and “Pomona Concert Band’s Got Talent” will be Aug. 3, featuring regular band members conducting pieces they have chosen for the band.

For Aug. 10, the theme is “Concert in the Park” with “Pie in the Face Polka,” “An Irish Rhapsody” and more, and on Aug. 17, a “Bandology” theme will celebrate music written for the wind band including “Overture for Winds.”

“A Salute to Disney” is set for Aug. 24, and “Americans We” featuring music celebrating the United States is scheduled for

Aug. 31.

A bonus concert is set for 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27, with the band hosting the Golden State British Brass Band.

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. (with the exception of the bonus concert) and are free to the public in Ganesha Park, located at 1575 N. White Ave., Pomona.

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Join Us!

Foothill Gold Line Track Completion Ceremony

Saturday, June 24, 2023 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Ceremony to begin promptly at 10:00 am

Event Location: D Street Railroad Crossing

(City of La Verne, CA, Just North of Arrow Highway)

Join local and regional officials, the project contractor, station artists, and the entire Foothill Gold Line team as we drive in the last of the project's 230,630 rail clips to complete the new light rail track system – and begin the countdown to construction completion for the four-station Foothill Gold Line from Glendora to Pomona. **All are welcome!**

Event Parking: 2021 D Street, La Verne CA 91750 (ULV Parking Structure)

Arrive by Bus: map your route - www.foothilltransit.org

NOTE: D Street will be closed to vehicles between Arrow Hwy and 2nd St.



Foothill Gold Line

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