



POMONA CHAMBER BOARD INSTALLATION -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce board of directors were sworn in by State Sen. Susan Rubio, at the lectern, at this month's annual installation and awards banquet at The Derby Room at Fairplex. Pictured, from left, are Jim Dale of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Daniel Thomas of Forest Lawn, Victor Caceres of the Youth and Family Club, Monique Cardenas of San Antonio Regional Occupational Program, Dr. Enrique Medina of Medina Consulting, outgoing Chamber Board Chair Annette Limon, Daniela Franco of Fuego Cocina and Cantina, Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Joe Perez of Credit Union of Southern California, Cristian Herrera of Athens Services, Jill Dolan of Mt. San Antonio College, Roberto Arnold of Multi-Cultural Business Alliance, Sal Ayala of Uniko Biz Solutions, Josh Landis of Foothill Transit, Dave Perez of Valley Vista Services, Jeff Johannsen of Pomona Hope, Frank Guzman of Pomona Pride Center, and incoming Board Chair Nef Cortez of Re/Max Galaxy. At rear are Sen. Rubio and Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles. Not pictured are Robin Farias-Eisner of Western University of Health Sciences, Kirk Pelsler of the City of Pomona, Leo Arredondo of Uppercuts Barber Shop, Grace Yao of Cal Poly Pomona, and Lanae O'Shields of Southern California Gas Co.



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Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member

Issue No. 168

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Pomona Chamber board members – including five new board members – installed, Derby Room named ‘Member of the Year’

A total of 23 Pomona Chamber of Commerce board members – including seven executive board members and five new board members – were installed this

month at The Derby Room in Pomona by State Sen. Susan Rubio who told them local communities are vibrant and thriving in part because of the work of small busi-

nesses.

“I know without you our communities wouldn’t have the tax dollars that we need to keep services for our students, for the el-

derly, so thank you each and every one of you for everything that you do,” Rubio said at the chamber’s 135th annual installation and awards banquet.

Incoming Board Chair Nef Cortez of Re/Max Galaxy in Diamond Bar took over the gavel from Annette Limon of Puzzle HR and NOW CFO, who was the first to serve a two-year term under the chamber’s revised by-laws.

Cortez, who was experiencing laryngitis at the event and was unable to address the group of 120 chamber members and friends, told La Nueva Voz in a prepared statement after the event that he was honored to have been elected to fill the position of board chair.

“I would like to thank you all on behalf of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for your support,” Cortez said in his statement.

“I am, along with our fantastic Pomona Chamber... pg. 2

Gold Line marks milestone completing rail track from Glendora to Pomona

It wasn’t a “golden spike,” that ceremonial 17.6-karat final spike that joined the rails of the first transcontinental railroad across the United States in 1869 in what was then known as Utah Territory.

But with a total of 12 area politicians speaking at ceremonies under a canopy last month with carpeting covering the rails at “D” Street in La Verne, it almost seemed like a replay of that historic event as workers armed with a golden sledgehammer drove in the final project rail clip completing the Foothill Gold Line light rail track system from Glendora to Pomona.

Claremont Mayor Ed Reece, who serves as the Foothill Gold Line Board Chair, told an audience

Gold Line marks milestone... pg. 5



MAKING HISTORY -- Foothill Gold Line officials made history last month by hammering in the final rail clip, completing the light rail track from Glendora to Pomona. Pictured with the golden sledgehammer, at center, is Leo Avalos and looking on is Adan Avalos as Gold Line CEO Habib Balian reacts, at right.

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Tri-City Mental Health awards thirteen grants to fund community wellness projects in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne

Tri-City Mental Health (TCMH) recently awarded thirteen Community Wellbeing grants to local organizations who serve youth in the cities of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne. These mini grants will be used to develop and implement sustainable projects aiming to enhance the mental, social and emotional wellbeing of children, youth and young adults, ages 0 to 25.

The Community Wellbeing (CWB) Program was developed in February 2010 by community stakeholders in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne and approved to be funded under California’s Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) plan. Through this TCMH program, communities can apply annually for grants up to \$10,000 and can be awarded for a maximum of three times to support community-driven projects that focus on improving the wellness of their members. Communities and groups either comprised of youth or funding projects that directly serve and support children and transition age youth are eligible to apply.

The thirteen awarded grantees for the 2023-24 program year are 4Kids WorldWide, Bithiah’s Family Services, Character Champions Foundation, City of Knowledge, City of Pomona, Draper Center for Community Partnerships, House of Ruth, Kennedy Austin Foundation, La Verne Youth and Family Action Committee, Pomona Pride Center, Purpose Church, Sowing Seeds for Life, and the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley.

Examples of current grant projects include: community activities and outings to improve members’ sense of connection to one another; self-esteem building workshops and mentorship programs to provide youth with tools to cope with stress; grief support groups to help youth learn to manage their mental health when facing a crisis; social-emotional skills development via restorative circles, and character building. In addition to grant funding, grantees will also be able to participate in various learning circles and network engagement opportunities to share and receive lessons learned with other communities who are participating in their program cohort.


“We are excited to partner with each of these organizations and support their impactful work,” said Daisy Martinez, Community Capacity Organizer at Tri-City Mental Health. “The Community Wellbeing Grant provides valuable resources, project support, technical assistance and information to empower communities to act on their own behalf and carry out projects that help enhance the wellness of their own community members. For emerging communities, this grant is a starting point to help foster a sense of community among their members, strengthen their existing efforts and develop unique ways to address and meet the needs of their community.”

Learn more about the Community Wellbeing Program at www.tricitymhs.org.





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Pomona Chamber... from pg. 1

board of directors, looking forward to having the Pomona Chamber of Commerce collaborating with our federal, state and county representatives, Mayor Tim Sandoval and our local elected officials, our entire business community, our education partners, and the community at large to make this a very successful year," he added.

"We are blessed to have as our CEO Monique Robles, who is the person responsible for executing the mission and the vision of the chamber," he said. "She has done an exemplary job, and we are looking forward to another great year of working together."

Limon told members that "serving as the chairwoman these past two years has been an honor," adding that Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles has shown "perseverance and determination to take the chamber to new levels" with membership at an all-time high.

Award recipients

This year's "Member of the Year" award, presented to a member providing valuable service to the chamber and demonstrating extraordinary support of the business community, went to Brandon and Monica Zennedjian, owners of The Derby Room Fairplex, where this year's event was held.

The Derby Room is a sports bar and grill offering off-track betting locations and providing high-quality menu items.

"New Business of the Year" this year, awarded to a new Pomona business that has demonstrated an active role in providing a valuable service to the community, went to 909 Open Market, owned by Chris and Mayra Verdugo.

The 909 Open Market, operating on the first and fourth Saturdays in Downtown Pomona, provides space for vendors offering food, baked goods, retail, handmade crafts and art.

"Employer of the Year" this year, awarded to a business that promotes employee growth and

demonstrates leadership in the business sector, went to Michael Thomas of America's Job Center/MCS Career Group.

Thomas, who is retiring from the organization, has played a leading role as business services manager for the Pomona operation collaborating with local, state, private and public entities providing employment

Pomona Chamber ... pg. 6



Brandon and Monica Zennedjian
 The Derby Room
 Member of the Year



Chris and Mayra Verdugo
 909 Open Market
 New Business of the Year



Michael Thomas, of America's Job Center, received this year's Employer of the Year award. Pictured, from left, are Thomas, Eva Thiel-Maiz of the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, and Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte.

Pomona Unified School District

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Marijuana opponent P3 partners with Catalyst Cannabis on underage prevention

Partnership for a Positive Pomona (P3), a non-profit drug free communities coalition, three years ago was opposing sales of marijuana in Pomona and then, after their objections were overruled by the Pomona City Council, worked to assure adults would be restricted from providing marijuana to children similar to restrictions for alcohol.

Today, now that legal marijuana dispensaries have been in full operation in Pomona for two years, P3 has made a 180-degree turn and is actually partnering with one of the marijuana outlets, Catalyst Cannabis Co. - Pomona, teaming up with Catalyst to help prevent littering in the city and, while they are at it, to prevent kids from picking up store product labels off the sidewalk or street and asking their parents questions about it.

Lilia Onate, prevention services director for the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of the East San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, organizers of P3, was asked by La Nueva Voz this month how that reversal in focus worked.

"It works where our organization understood that this was coming to our community whether we wanted

it or not, and other communities, but more importantly in Pomona," she said. "We know that we . . . are one of the only local communities that has this type of business in this area and so we really wanted to ensure that they're here, so we have to work with them and try to make cannabis as safe and protect our youth as much as we can."

Omate, who is based in the NCADD office in Covina, told La Nueva Voz they determined that "partnering with some of the cannabis organizations would be helpful in trying to promote safe use, safe disposal, ensuring that youth aren't getting their hands on it."

"So that's kind of why we decided that we would work with our cannabis businesses," she explained.

Then is it doable?

"So far we've had our struggles with some of the businesses but, you know, we feel like we're making progress," Omate said, adding that some "haven't been the most welcoming to our programming but there are some that are and Catalyst is definitely one of them."

Omate said P3 worked with Catalyst on a new version of the old

P3 "Project Sticker Shock" to develop a special sticker for cannabis retailers to affix to their checkout stand bags reminding customers to "Be a good example, throw your trash away" and "help prevent underage cannabis use."

Catalyst is the first cannabis retailer in Pomona to partner with P3 on the prevention program.

La Nueva Voz asked Omate for her reaction to the new retail sector in Pomona now that she sees how the city's cannabis ordinance is in place.

"I feel like there are good partners that can be good partners in this business," Omate said. "We're hoping Catalyst is one of them and from what we've seen currently we feel like they are a good business."

"It's beautiful inside, and it feels



P3 PARTNERS WITH CATALYST -- Pomona's P3 has partnered with Catalyst Cannabis - Pomona on an anti-littering and underage use prevention program placing reminder stickers on checkout bags that kicked off this month at Catalyst. Pictured at the roll-out displaying one of the bags and samples of the stickers are, from left, Lilia Onate of the local office of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence which created P3; Angelica Hernandez, prevention coordinator for NCADD; Edgar Torres of Catalyst Cares; Erika Gonzalez, project coordinator for P3; and Jose Mota, prevention specialist for NCADD.

like it is real business that is occurring," she added.

The original P3 "Operation Sticker Shock" program – conducted in Pomona each year since 2013

Underage prevention... pg. 6



A close-up photo shows the bag stickers being used in the prevention program by P3 and Catalyst Pomona.



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**Arturo Jimenez,
President**

Gold Line marks milestone... from pg. 1

of nearly 300 that all of the bridge work, all of the grade crossings and significant progress on four new stations along the route make the project three-quarters complete.

“And with today’s major milestone, the cities of Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne and Pomona . . . those cities will now and forevermore be connected by this new light rail line,” Reece said.

He added that the project remains on schedule for an early January 2025 “substantial completion” and that it is now actually under budget.

Even as the 230,630th rail clip was being installed at the ceremony, connecting the rail to the concrete tie, he said the “true finish line” was extending the rail line from Pomona to Claremont and then on to Montclair.

La Verne Mayor Tim Hepburn pointed out that as murals around his city make it clear, the rails have been important to the region “over the centuries.”

He said it was near the site of the ceremonies that the old Pacific Electric Railways, or “Red Cars,” stopped for passengers, providing in the late 19th century commuter and freight service to what was then the community of Lordsburg.

And, he added, in the early 20th century the thriving citrus industry in the region was built around rail. Former citrus packing houses, still standing and repurposed, were visible next to the rail line no more than 50 yards from the podium.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, who represents the San Gabriel Valley on the Metro board and represents Metro on the Gold Line board, called the event a “major milestone” and the fact that it is now more than 70 percent complete a “huge, huge accomplishment.”

He said his work with the two agencies allows him to witness “history being made.”

“I can’t tell you how much this project means to the City of Pomona,” Sandoval said.

“Far too many of the kids in our city have never been to the beach,” he said, or to the Norton Simon Museum or to Downtown Los Angeles.

“A kid growing up in the City of Pomona when this Gold Line is complete will be able to get on and currently it is free to our chil-

dren through our ‘K through 14’ program . . . and perhaps they will begin to dream and imagine what’s possible,” he added.

“That’s what this project means, not only the promised goals that will mean getting people out of their cars but also making sure particularly our children, our most valuable asset, have the opportunity to realize their full human potential,” he said.

“So let’s work to get this line to the City of Montclair,” Sandoval said.

Los Angeles County Supervisor



Congresswoman Grace Napolitano



State Sen. Susan Rubio



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval

Hilda Solis said she echoed Sandoval’s comments regarding the children and added it is important for the governor to know how important this project is to the San Gabriel Valley.

Solis, also a member of the Metro board, said the construction project has not been easy and has included inconvenience to communities along the line.

However, “once the Foothill Extension is complete people from Pomona will be able to hop on . . . and get to Pasadena in just 30 minutes,” she added.

Senior Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, who told participants she has represented the area for 25 years, congratulated the Gold Line for the track completion.

“The Gold Line project is the most important project in my community,” she said. “It takes thousands of cars off the road, and it gives commuters an affordable, safe, and convenient avenue to work, school, fun and everything else that they want to do . . . (it) reduces smog in our community, creates local jobs and generates business opportunities.”

State Sen. Susan Rubio said the project was under way long before she was elected to Sacramento,

when she was still on the city council in Baldwin Park.

“This is truly one of those projects that it doesn’t work unless everyone is committed, everyone is holding hands, everyone is jumping in together,” she said.

And, adding that she was a teacher for nearly 20 years, she said, “this project is about people, it is about our children, it is about connecting our communities.”

Speaking about the kids who have not had access to



Claremont Mayor Ed Reece



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez

the beach, she said “access is key for everyone in our community . . . so that everyone gets the opportunity to thrive and grow.”

In a sense, she said, everyone at the event was there “advocating for the future of our children.”

Rubio led the entire group in sending a text at the same time to the governor to make sure that the project is politically important to all of them by sending only three words – “support transit now!”

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez also urged everyone at the event over the weekend to “make

a phone call, make an e-mail, a text to leadership, to the governor, let him know how important this is because without all of our help we wouldn’t be where we’re at today.”

Gold Line Construction Authority CEO Habib Balian told the group it was important to have elected officials dedicated to a project like this “or otherwise it wouldn’t get built.”

He cited the work “that has brought us to today’s milestone with the finish line clearly in sight connecting 9.1 miles and four cit-

ies getting one giant step closer to connecting Los Angeles, the San Gabriel Valley and the Inland Empire by light rail.”

The latest extension project included 17,000 tons of crushed rock, more than 57,000 concrete ties, and 55 miles of welded steel rail.

When completed in a year and a half, the project will be turned over to LA Metro for training and “pre-revenue” service. Metro itself will determine when actual passenger service begins, according to Gold Line spokesperson Albert Ho.



Members of La Verne’s Bonita High School “Bearcats” marching band performed the national anthem at the Gold Line ceremony.

Pomona Chamber... from pg. 2

services to meet the needs of the California workforce.

The chamber's "Image Award," presented to a business that continually demonstrates pride in ownership, went to Fuego by Metro Event Center. Daniela Franco, one of the three owners of Fuego and a chamber board member, accepted the award.

Fuego is a uniquely private multi-use venue in Downtown Pomona providing everything needed for special events and business conferences.

And the chamber's "Communi-



Hector Lopez
Re/Max
President and CEO's Award

ty Service Organization of the Year" award was presented to the Multi-Cultural Business Alliance and Roberto Arnold. The award goes to a non-profit organization each year that has demonstrated outstanding dedication to service in civic and community efforts.

The winning organization works to uplift small businesses in marginalized communities by building bridges through entrepreneurship.

A new award this year, the "President and CEO's Award," was presented to Hector Lopez, co-chair of the Economic Development Committee – Pomona's Promise Initiative for the past five years. The award recognizes an individual who has contributed countless hours supporting businesses and promoting economic opportunity.

Lopez, of Re/Max commercial real estate, is an industrial and

investment agent specializing in warehouse leasing and sales. He helps both property owners and future owners meet their long-term real estate goals.

New board members

New members joining the chamber board this year were Sal Ayala of Uniko Biz Solutions, Roberto Arnold of the Multi-Cultural Business Alliance, Cristian Herrera of Athens Services, Jill Dolan of Mt. San Antonio College (a past president of the Pomona Chamber), and Dr. Robin Farias-

Eisner, President of Western University of Health Sciences.

Chamber accomplishments

Chamber President and CEO Robles, in her introductory comments at the event, told members the Pomona Chamber was one of the few area chambers that remained active during COVID partnering with the city to keep the doors open at both the chamber and at member businesses.

She said the chamber added 64 new members last year, bringing the new total to 325, the most ever.



Pictured, at center, is Daniela Franco, owner of Fuego Cocina, recipient of this year's Image Award, with incoming Board Chair Nef Cortez, at left, and State Sen. Susan Rubio.



Roberto Arnold of the Multi-Cultural Business Alliance was recipient of this year's Community Service Organization of the Year award. Pictured, at center, is Arnold receiving a certificate from State Sen. Susan Rubio.

Underage prevention... from pg. 4

– involves student volunteers with P3 placing stickers on cooler doors, bottles and six packs in liquor stores throughout Pomona, reminding customers it is illegal to provide alcohol to anyone under 21.

Interestingly, La Nueva Voz covered the roll-out news conference in 2013 on the sidewalk in front of a liquor store immediately next door to where Catalyst is located today.

P3 claims each year that studies show most of the alcohol consumed by underage drinkers is purchased by those over the legal drinking age, often parents, other family members and friends.

Stickers were placed on a total of 1,600 bags for the roll-out program and Catalyst and P3 plan to continue the program on a quarterly basis.

Edgar Torres, Catalyst Cares Community Outreach and Campaign Operations Manager, said Catalyst saw this as an opportunity to help clean up the local community.

"We were seeing that more and more children were hitting the topic with their parents . . . what's this pop, what's this mom," he said,

when they had leftover packaging from product in a cannabis store in their hand.

"So in order to mitigate that, we took the opportunity to go ahead and team up with P3 . . . to go ahead and do this sticker shock," he said, with a message of "don't litter."

But beyond that, he said Catalyst wanted to "go that extra mile" so that "children don't have to bring up this specific subject with ma and pa before the due time."

"P3 reached out to us and let us know that they have this program and if we wanted to be the champions of it and we went ahead and ran with it," Torres said.

In fact, P3 was referred to Catalyst by Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz in a conversation with Onate after a community Zoom meeting last year.

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

NCADD was established in the East San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys in 1972. It is a community-based prevention and treatment organization and works with a total of 17 community partner organizations in the area.



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Editor's Note: This page is the second in a series of six in a second phase of our "Stop-the-Hate" series. 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'

Combatting hate by looking for ways to sow love?

By Joshua Swodeck

As I sit down to write the next article in this "Stop the Hate" series, I am eager to dive into the diverse responses from the community taken from a confidential survey we have been passing around. We have focused on collecting data from a diverse group of community members by gathering surveys during Second Saturday Art Walks, Community Pull Ups, Summer Concerts, and sharing a QR code online for easy online submissions. We will continue to gather surveys throughout this series and elaborate on our findings over the next handful of months.

The first question in our survey, while broad and vague on purpose, asked participants, "On a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 is the highest level, how would you rate the level of 'hate' and 'discrimination' of any type you believe describes Pomona?" There were a few 1s and 2s. However, most of the responses were 5s and 6s, with a surprising amount of 10s. Most of those surveyed believe hate and discrimination is present within Pomona. We also asked whether Pomona had a stigma surrounding reporting hate incidents and hate crimes to law enforcement. A small minority disagreed. However the vast majority agreed or strongly agreed there was a stigma. We also received numerous suggestions on how to combat this stigma. One responder stated, "Have conversations with the community about issues revolving around this topic." Another responded, "Normalize the activity of reporting hate incidents – encourage it. Make it easy to do."

I have seen students and adults reach out to express discrimination, bullying, hate, and have noticed a nonchalant attitude from authority figures many times. I've heard some say, "they didn't mean it that way" or "you're being too sensitive." After being slapped and called a racial slur, my young Afro-Indigenous son was told that the boy who did it was just "horsing around." When anti-Semitic graffiti showed up on multiple locations in Downtown Pomona last year, after it was reported, it was going to remain until the rain subdued after a few days. It took a phone call to the mayor to get city staff to come out and buff it in the rain within the hour. A handful of years ago, when a noose showed up in front of our gallery and directly across from another Black-owned gallery, the neighborhood took it down and the city did nothing and told us it was probably just a prank. If the more obvious forms of discrimination go without much accountability, imagine all of the harder to recognize forms of hate that go unreported and unrecognized each day.

While I think it's easy for some to think these types of acts are rare, the survey showed that half of all the submissions attested that themselves or someone in their family had personally been impacted by, or been the victim of, a hate crime. Most of those surveyed were not surprised that hate crimes in California have risen by 90 percent since 2012.

With the rise of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) training happening in most workplaces and schools, what can be said about its effectiveness in regard to the continued rise of hate crimes throughout California, and most significantly Pomona? Is it enough to host trainings and write better policy or will it take a much more engaging act of community building to shift the culture of hate and discrimination?

I remember the first time I visited the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles shortly after they first opened in 1993. I ended up having an insightful and thought-provoking conversation with our guide about the use of the word "tolerance." To me, tolerance is how you engage with people you really don't care for, but are required to be kind or tolerant because of policy, law, or belief system. It can feel like the bare minimum. Can you imagine if I told my wife of 21 years that I simply tolerated her instead of celebrating her for who she is and what she brings to the table? We write policy to mandate kindness instead of providing spaces to allow for community building and empathy to

grow.

I love to recall the scene in Spike Lee's iconic "Do the Right Thing" movie, where Radio Raheem tells the story of a battle between love and hate, symbolized by two large gold four-finger rings, "HATE" on his left hand and "LOVE" on his right hand. LOVE eventually wins, but it was necessary to visualize LOVE as the true enemy of HATE. In Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1957 sermon, Loving Your Enemies, he expounded, "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." So, if this is true, that only love can drive out hate, what does that sentiment look like in regard to community development, equitable policy, fair policing, or justice for those who've fallen victim to hate?



Joshua Swodeck

What does a Compassionate City look like? What kind of policy should we write in order to ensure hate is removed? Can we force people to love, or are we simply mandating tolerance? If we need to teach our community to love better, how and where should this be done? Is it something just for faith-based organizations to address? Should our police officers, elected officials, city and school district administration, or non-profits be the ones responsible for preaching and teaching love? Francis of Assisi once prayed, "Where there is hatred, let me sow love." For hatred to be truly addressed, we must individually commit to "sow love;" we must commit as a city to "sow love."

I love this quote by Paulo Coelho, author of *The Alchemist*, "When we love, we always strive to become better than we are. When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too." This all sounds wonderful. However, over half of the survey participants didn't even know about the city council's commitment to being a Compassionate City. How far is that commitment's reach? Is it just a goal, or does it have accountability and proactive strategy as its foundation? If city staff, school leadership, councilmembers, police officers, or our community leaders and influencers allow hate to happen without consequences, what kind of accountability do we need to point us back towards compassion? What does compassion even look like from a city perspective? As we continue this series, my hope is that we dive deeper past just acknowledging hate, love, compassion, or discrimination. My hope is that we can collectively imagine a city that is committed to not allow hate to freely reign without consequence or lack of justice; a city that proactively looks for ways to sow love.

Editor's Note: This is the second of six follow-up "Stop-the-Hate" feature stories taking a closer look at where we are in the United States and in Pomona. This month's story is based on preliminary results from a survey consisting of 38 questions with some answers requiring only check-marks (agree, strongly agree, etc.) and others allowing actual individual comments. Results at this point are based on nearly 100 responses. Tabulations will be updated in future months. And please let us know your comments as we go along.

Pomona Pizza named 'Small Business of the Year' for 53rd Assembly District

Pomona Pizza Company was named "Small Business of the Year" for the entire 53rd Assembly District, Pomona Police Detective Jesse Cardenas was named Pomona's "Veteran of the Year" and Rev. Jan Chase was named Pomona's "Woman of the Year" at Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez' 10th annual summer open house and community barbecue this month outside his Chino district office.

Several hundred guests were on hand for the event.

"Being able to recognize community leaders who have made such great contributions to our community is an honor," Rodriguez said. "These innovative businesses play a crucial role in creating our vibrant and successful economies right here in our own back yard and also across our state and our nation."

"Our small businesses provide good jobs and careers for our families, they put money back into our local communities through paychecks and taxes which support and improve public services," he added. "They demonstrate resiliency, dedication and commitment to our communities."

Rodriguez said Pomona Pizza Company is a small family-owned business and community space that opens its doors to public safety and many youth sports organizations. And he said the business supports the Pomona community with fundraising efforts throughout the year.

Owners Allen Vargas and his



Allen Vargas, at left, and his son, Anthony Vargas, at right, pose with Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez as they are named recipients of "Small Business of the Year" for the entire 53rd Assembly District.

son, Anthony Vargas, were on hand to receive the award.

Pomona Police Detective Jesse Cardenas, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran recognized as Pomona's "Veteran of the Year," joined the Pomona Police Department in 2003, Rodriguez said, and was

promoted to detective in 2019 and is currently assigned to crimes against persons and investigations.

He is also in his second term as president of the Pomona Police Officers' Association and is involved in many youth programs.



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez poses with Rev. Jan Chase, his "Woman of the Year" for Pomona, at his 10th annual summer open house in Chino.



Pomona Police Detective Jesse Cardenas receives his "Veteran of the Year" for Pomona recognition from Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.



Malanie Rubi Gomez received the "Everybody Loves Raymond" scholarship from Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez this year in honor of Garey High School student Raymond Garcia who was killed in a drive-by shooting. Pictured, from left, is Mrs. Loreta Garcia, Raymond Garcia's mom; Rodriguez; and representing Garey High School accepting the award on behalf of Gomez are Garey's college and career tech Audrey Yarbrough and Assistant Principal Glenda Vazquez.

Rodriguez said all of the "Veterans of the Year" in his district were being recognized for their service and their "courage, dedication and patriotism to defend our freedom will never be forgotten."

He added that they set a high standard for future generations to follow.

Pomona's "Woman of the Year" Rev. Jan Chase has served as minister at Unity Church in Pomona since 2003 where, Rodriguez said, she is committed to promoting interfaith understanding and

is active in the Parliament of the World's Religions and local interfaith groups.

He added that she has worked since 2015 with Compassionate Pomona, a coalition of leaders in education and non-profits, where she is founder and "convenor," to foster community well-being and compassion.

He said her efforts helped lead to the Pomona City Council proclaiming Pomona a "compassionate city" in 2018, "linking the city

53rd Assembly District... pg. 17

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CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING AT UPS STORE -- The Pomona Chamber of Commerce conducted a ribbon cutting last month for The UPS Store at 2063 Rancho Valley Drive, Suite 320, Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Chamber ambassador Jennifer Collaso of the Credit Union of Southern California, new store owners Mhel Mojica and his wife Diana Mojica, Chamber Executive Board members Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz and Jeff Johannsen of Pomona Hope, Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, and Chamber ambassador Joel Rosales of Modern Woodmen of America. For more information, contact the store at (909) 865-7100 or e-mail owner6673@theupsstore.com.



JUST US 4 YOUTH RECEIVES DONATION -- Pomona's non-profit Just Us 4 Youth received a \$10,000 donation last month from the Adesso Foundation to help fund additional residential space for new mothers in a "Stay Nurtured Home," according to a news release. The program is one of the organization's offerings for transitional aged youth and allows new mothers and their newborns to stay up to one year. "Wrap-around" supportive services are provided by Bithiah's Family Services for the moms who "were either on the verge of homelessness or already there." Founder and CEO Eric Vasquez said the goal is to raise \$66,000 to fund a year's worth of rent. The group also operates a transitional housing program for non-expectant women in formerly unused space in a Pomona church. Pictured, from left, at a recent check presentation ceremony are Michelle Thompson of Bithiah's Family Services, Allen Ku, president of Adesso, Eric Vasquez, and Mary Su of the Adesso Foundation.

Pomona police 'National Night Out' set for Tuesday, Aug. 1

The Pomona Police Department's annual National Night Out – an event celebrated by 20,000 communities in all 50 states across the country to cultivate better relationships between residents and law enforcement – will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1, in the Pomona Civic Center.

Included will be food, games, music and

family fun to help "build a stronger and safer community," according to the official police department flyer.

A variety of community partners and non-profits also will be on hand providing services and assistance.

For more information, contact the police department's crime prevention office at (909) 620-2318.

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Bathing in Radio Frequency Radiation: The great substitution

By Larry Ortega

In the City of Pomona we had over 250 wireless antennas and towers registered with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as of 2019; that number today is higher. We are reminded by Electronic Frontier Foundation's Ernesto Falcon that wireless connectivity to the Internet is "10,000 times slower than fiber-optics." So, right out of the gate we are talking about an inferior product, an inferior means of connecting to the Internet when we talk about wi-fi (wireless) connectivity. Justification of wireless inferiority is further supported by the Starbucks, McDonald's and Taco Bells of the world who are giving

it away for "free!"

Last month I took to my Radio Frequency Radiation (RFR) reader around south Pomona and found astonishing readings in excess of 100,000 micro watts per square meter (mW/m²) coming from the microwave towers at Washington Park and behind the Rite Aid on Garey Avenue and Rio Rancho Road. The cell tower in the highly dense neighborhood on the corner of Garey Avenue and Grand Avenue had readings as high as 5,000 – 8,000 mW/m². Building biologist Albina Molina told me that 1,000mW/m² is considered harmful. Our kids playing baseball at Washington Park are bathed in 100 times more RFR than what is already consid-

ered harmful by Molina. Pomona residents engaging in extremely valuable services offered from the Washington Park Senior Center and the several baseball fields at Washington Park are bathing in radio frequency radiation (RFR), most likely to their harm, health-wise. According to over 1,000 scientific studies that have not been refuted by the FCC, long-term and constant exposure to RFRs is biologically harmful.

Impossible! you might say. But the truth is the FCC is relying on data and studies that were conducted nearly 40 years ago, and the FCC – at that time – was only looking at "will it burn you?" and not the entirety of harm possible, like biological – DNA damage.

Many will say that's mere conspiracy theory talk. But those who lack in understanding, which includes 95 percent of elected officials that I have talked with in both the San Gabriel Valley and the Inland Empire, do not understand the difference between wireless connectivity and fiber-optic connectivity to the Internet. And many more do not under-

stand or are unaware of the unprecedented opportunity to bring in tens of millions of dollars to build out locally owned and operated fiber-optic networks, that is commonly known as municipal broadband. National models like in Chattanooga, TN and Pharr, TX, are offering one gigabyte per second, symmetrical (upload and download) speeds for \$50 per month. They simultaneously offer students on free or reduced lunch programs free access to the Internet.

This begs the question: Why are big companies like AT&T, Verizon and others on a massive lobbying campaign to bamboozle lawmakers that unfettered, non-permitted, no notice wireless proliferation will close the digital divide and make America more competitive. It's called the Great Substitution. These big companies were paid billions and billions of dollars to upgrade America's telecommunication infrastructure to fiber-optics, but never delivered. The Great Substitution is a strategy to give everyone inferior wireless connectivity, so these companies

don't have to make fiber-optic upgrades. This strategy is well documented in Bruce Kushnick's "The Book of Violations and Egregious Acts: Trillion Dollar Broadband Scandal."

Now HR 3557 is being fast-tracked through Congress to literally strip all local authority away from municipalities relating to wireless tower and antenna placement. This appears to be an act of desperation by the big telecommunication interests as the public at large becomes wiser about what is really going on. We are hopeful lawmakers will heed the public call to vote NO on HR 3557.

It just makes sense for a municipality to build its own broadband network. Not doing so promotes market manipulation. We have two providers in Pomona, Frontier and Spectrum, who claim they are in competition with each other but have conveniently colluded, it appears, to charge the exact same customer-gouging prices. There are much better models that are setting national precedence in Texas and Tennessee. Pomona can do this, too.



NCNW ANNUAL LUNCHEON -- Members of the National Council of Negro Women, Pomona Valley Section, pose for the camera during their annual membership luncheon this month at Mountain Meadows Golf Course in Pomona. The theme was "Women moving forward." For information, contact Sherie Rodgers, (909) 261-0247 or gdrs33@gmail.com.



SIX FIGURE HUSTLE RIBBON CUTTING -- An official Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting this month helped open new business Six Figure Hustle LLC, a financial and business services company, located at 637 Indian Hill Blvd. in Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Chamber ambassador Joel Rosales of Modern Woodmen of America, Chamber Executive Board members Jeff Johannsen of Pomona Hope and Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Aldo Macias Arellano representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang, Diana Salcido of Six Figure Hustle, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Chamber Board members Joe Perez of Credit Union of Southern California and Daniela Franco of Fuego Cocina, and Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles.

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POMONA VALLEY VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS -- Pomona's Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley, at center, poses with his fellow board members during last month's annual achievement awards recognition ceremonies, dinner and reception for students at the Phap Van Cultural Center in Pomona. A total of 56 students were honored this year.



Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, at right, recognizes a group of outstanding area students representing the Vietnamese community at last month's annual student achievement awards. Pomona students recognized were Jimmy Tran, "top 10," GPA 4.63, John Phan, Co-Valedictorian, GPA 4.80, and Vincent Hoang, Co-Valedictorian, GPA 4.80, all students at Village Academy High School; and Engelina Phan, Summa Cum Laude, GPA 4.72, and Nathan H. Bui, Valedictorian, GPA 4.83, both students at Diamond Ranch High School.

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Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz was called up on stage with Dr. Huu Dinh Vo at the Vietnamese community's annual student achievement awards event to congratulate the students and their parents on their accomplishments during the school year.

Pomona police issue illegal fireworks citations on July 4

Pomona police officers issued seven citations related to alleged illegal fireworks this month on the Fourth of July, according to Lt. Scott Hess.

Five were "administrative citations" with a \$1,000 penalty. Those citations resulted from a police officer spotting fireworks being used and then reporting the incident to a city code enforcement officer for follow-up with a citation.

Hess said officers were not required to make contact with the individual.

An additional two fireworks-related citations with fines that vary were issued by police officers

who were able to establish illegal possession of fireworks or alleged use of fireworks in the street or an open area, for example, resulting in an officer writing a citation that is similar to a traffic ticket.

According to Hess, fines for those can be more or less than the \$1,000 citation but generally are less.

The challenge for police, he said, is being able to spot fireworks activity at just the right time while responding to unrelated calls for service at the same time.

Hess said unmarked police cars were assigned to watch for fireworks on July 4 along with regular uniform officers on patrol.

While numbers were not immediately available for last year's violations, Hess said he estimated they were roughly the same as this year.

Then what's the answer to chipping away at illegal fireworks in Pomona? He said it could be anything from education and cooperation to compassion.

Hess said he was not aware of any fireworks-related injuries in Pomona this year.

All fireworks are illegal in Pomona and, according to police spokesperson Aly Mejia, "our officers are not directed to give warnings" but take a "zero tolerance approach for fireworks."

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RIBBON CUTTING FOR EL ARABACHI -- The Pomona Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting last month for El Arabachi, a new walk-up window, online pre-ordering and "delivery available" food experience that claims it is "proudly serving the best hibachi in Cali!" And with lunch and dinner offerings including everything from filet mignon and porterhouse to salmon and lobster tail, there is literally something for everyone. Plus, catering and party trays are available. Pictured, from left, are Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, Chamber Executive Board members Jeff Johannsen of Pomona Hope and Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, business partner George Isak, owners Joey Abril and his wife Cindy, their kids Jazzy, Justin and Jeremiah, and Chamber Board member Leo Arredondo of Uppercuts Barber Shop. The restaurant, which is an expansion move from a business that started as a food truck that is still operating, is located at 1637 N. Garey Ave., Pomona. For telephone orders, call (909) 846-0539.

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



Photo by Renee Barbee

BUFFALO SOLDIERS DAY IN POMONA -- Members of the Pomona City Council present Pomona Community Life Commissioner Donna Jackson Houston with their proclamation last week declaring July 28 "Buffalo Soldiers Day" in the City of Pomona. Houston told councilmembers of two related events -- an observance of the 75th anniversary on July 26 of Executive Order 9981 signed by President Harry Truman in 1948 to integrate the U.S. military, and a celebration of Buffalo Soldiers Day itself on July 28, both scheduled to be observed on July 22 at the Pomona Branch NAACP office at the Village at Indian Hill. The Buffalo Soldiers were members initially of six African-American units of cavalry and infantry, continuing from 1866 through 1944. In 1992, Congress passed a law designating July 28 as National Buffalo Soldiers Day. Houston has been involved in a Buffalo Soldiers educational effort since learning her grandfather served as a Buffalo Soldier in the early 1900s at Camp Little in Nogales, Arizona. Pictured behind Houston, from left, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and Councilmembers Robert Torres, Steve Lustro, Nora Garcia, Victor Preciado and Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER -- Col. Irma Cooper, retired, pictured at center, was keynote speaker at an observance at the Pomona Branch NAACP office commemorating the integration of the U.S. military in 1948 and Buffalo Soldiers Day in Pomona. Cooper, who served in the U.S. Army Reserve in Iraq and Afghanistan as a registered nurse from 1983 to 2013, is a graduate of the Army War College and holds a master's degree in strategic studies. She has held three commands ranging from company to medical group. She is currently president of the NAACP of San Gabriel Valley. From left holding proclamations from both West Covina and Pomona are Jeanette Royston, president of the Pomona Branch NAACP, Cooper and Pomona Community Life Commissioner Donna Jackson Houston.



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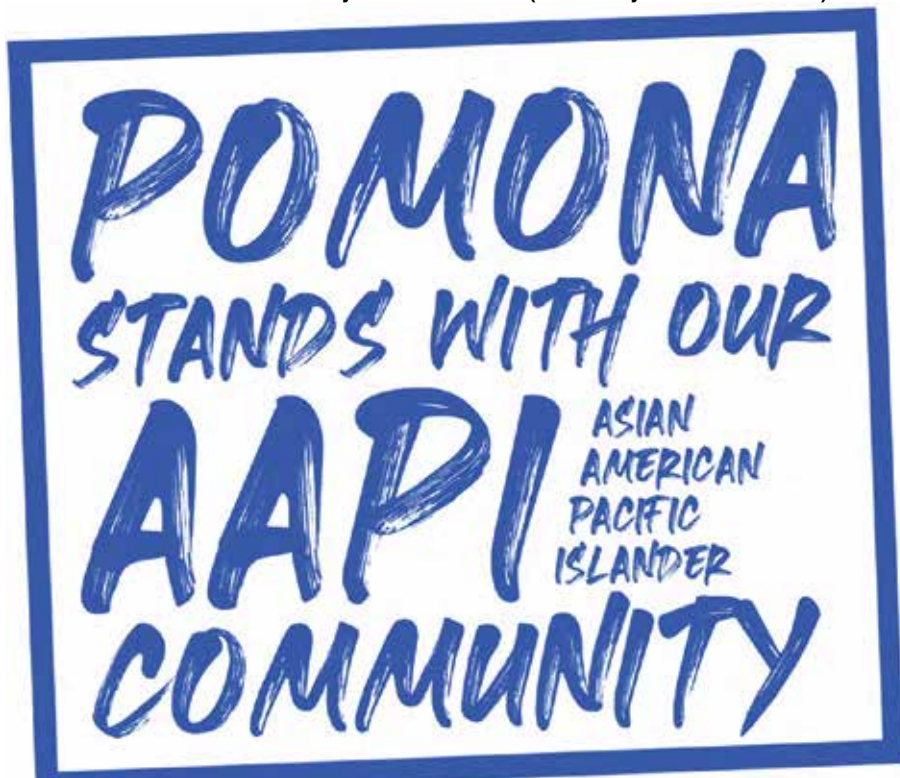
PHOTOS BY ALICE GOMEZ
ONTARIO FOURTH OF JULY PARADE -- The military was well represented in Ontario's traditional Fourth of July parade with the Inland Empire Chapter 47 of Vietnam Veterans of America winning the Judge's Choice Award. The chapter was named "Chapter of the Year" by the California State Council in 2021. Pictured driving the truck is Pomona's Jesse Gomez, a Chapter 47 Board member. And that's Chapter 47 Board member Patrick Gillis seated outside the helicopter, a Vietnam-era 1972 UH1H Huey based in Orange County. And carrying the "Judge's Choice" banner are Richard Schall, at left, and Rodney Lloyd. There were 70 entries in the parade ranging from military units to dance groups and more.



God's Pantry named Sen. Rubio's 2023 'Nonprofit of the Year'
 Pomona's God's Pantry has been named by State Sen. Susan Rubio as the 22nd Senatorial District's 2023 "Non-profit of the Year."
 An official senate resolution signed last month by the senator said the award was in connection with California Non-profits Day as celebrated by the California Association of Nonprofits, and recognized God's Pantry's "outstanding record of community support."
 "The relationship between a community and nonprofit organization is a vital and interdependent one, deriving strength from the civic involvement and dedication of those who engage with such organizations," the resolution continued.
 God's Pantry was founded in 2012 to bring aid to families in local communities who are most in need offering workforce and reentry programs, along with a food pantry feeding 8,000 families every month and more.
 Founder of the organization was Tom Sweeney, a God's Pantry Board member and Principal of SEEO (School of Extended Educational Options), a Pomona Unified School District public charter school.

Roosevelt High Class of '74 sets 'Zoom' bingo fundraiser for 50th reunion
 Roosevelt High School's (Gary, Indiana) Class of 1974 will hold its 50th reunion virtual bingo fundraiser next month featuring "Zoom" bingo with prizes, fun and good times, all to help support the upcoming reunion.
 Cost is \$25 for five games for the event, scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 26.
 Deadline for payments is Aug. 5.
 To register, request a registration form by e-mailing bowlinghi@aol.com, attention Richard Nichols, registration host.
 Complete the bingo registration form online and bingo boards will be mailed after payment is received.

Public service ad courtesy of La Nueva Voz (created by Joshua Swodeck)



ASHE SOCIETY RIBBON CUTTING -- Ashe Society's Pomona store, a cannabis company and a new Pomona Chamber of Commerce member, held its official ribbon cutting last month. It was the company's second location. Owner Elaine Lu said the first location in Santa Ana grew out of the family's commercial real estate business which owned property that happened to be located in a cannabis zone. The Pomona store, in a newly constructed from the ground up building, is just down the street from Pomona's historic Phillips Mansion at 2547 Pomona Blvd. Lu said the company is woman owned and all-women operated and also plans to eventually launch a growing facility on site. Pictured cutting the ribbon are, from left, Chamber ambassador Blanca Angel of KW Premier Properties, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona's Development Services Director Anita Gutierrez, Elaine Lu, Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Chamber ambassador Victor Khair of On-Site Expert Computer Services, Chamber Board member Roberto Arnold of Multi-Cultural Business Alliance, and Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles. For more information, call (909) 292-7625.

#StopAsianHate

Officials break ground for \$444 million highway project in Diamond Bar and City of Industry to fix state's worst truck bottleneck

Federal, state and local officials convened to break ground at Diamond Bar Golf Course in Diamond Bar last month to kick off construction of a \$444.12 million highway project to fix what was called the state's worst truck bottleneck.

Identified as a regional priority project, the work will alleviate severe safety and congestion challenges at a "hazardous confluence," according to a news release.

The project will tackle the intersection of State Route 57/60 in a "confluence chokepoint relief project" for a freeway intersection that is considered "one of the most problematic freeway segments in the United States."

Spanning two miles between the City of Diamond Bar and the City of Industry, this heavily traveled and critical freight highway corridor carries more than 350,000 vehicles daily connecting Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Due to lane drops and hazardous weaving between trucks and commuters, the confluence area is ranked as the worst truck bottleneck in California and the seventh

worst in the nation, according to the American Transportation Research Institute.

Key improvements will include the reconfiguration of ramps and interchanges, the addition of mainline and bypass lanes, and the reduction of hazardous lane-weaving movements.

The project is expected to alleviate traffic congestion, enhance commuter safety, improve air quality and facilitate a more efficient movement of goods along this vital trade corridor of national and regional significance, the release continued.

Once complete, the project will bring significant benefits to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, intermodal and manufacturing facilities and export-oriented industries located in Southern California.

The project is a partnership of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, Metro, Caltrans and the cities of Industry and Diamond Bar.

It is being funded by state SB 1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program funds, Measure M local sales tax funds, and federal Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant funds.

Opera from the movies set for next week in Claremont in free concert open to the public

Vineyard Touring Company, a Claremont-based non-profit regional opera company, will present a free public concert featuring opera from the movies next week in Claremont.

Included will be music from "The Godfather III," "Mission Impossible," and "A Room with a View."

The concert is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 3, at the Woman's Club of Claremont, 343 W. 12th St., Claremont. A reception with the artists will follow.

For information, call (909) 229-4410.

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Prince of Peace Church, I.C.I. in Pomona held its annual Vacation Bible School this month. Children from the surrounding community stopped by to learn old Bible stories with relevant messages helpful to today's society. Children participated in games, received gifts, and had an evening filled with fun, pizza and ice cream! Prince of Peace church is located at 895 E. 7th St., Pomona. For more information about church services, please call 909-750-0331.



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Mitchell Todd, Joel Diaz, Nina Hernandez, Rudy Urrea
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Members of Prince of Peace church in Pomona walked the streets on a very hot day to hand out a goodie bag to the surrounding community. Items included: rice, beans, household and self care items. Special thanks to Leslie Jensen of Chaffey Joint Union High School who donated the items to make this happen! The Garfias family of Pomona also donated pizzas to hand out to neighborhood kids. Pictured is Becca Arreguin, president of the youth group who organized the activity. Prince of Peace church is located at 895 E. 7th St. in Pomona. To make a donation to support this cause, please call (909) 750-0331.



Sixth to eighth grade students of the Pomona Unified School District honor choir performed their summer piano sessions at the district auditorium last month to a full house, including members of the school board. The audience was entertained with tunes such as "A Lovely Day" and "As It Was" directed by music teacher Ryan Robinson. Playing the piano was music teacher Michael Smith.

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Don't suffer silently through a concussion!

By Elliott Block, D.O. and David Patterson, M.D.

Physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians, Concussion Program
Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

There is a common misconception that “nothing can be done to treat a concussion,” or that “only professional athletes get concussions.” Neither is true. In fact, people sometimes go years without a proper diagnosis.

It's true that some concussions “self-resolve,” and the overall prognosis for concussion is favorable. While most symptoms resolve, even one concussion can cause long-term consequences. These can include vision issues, headaches, nausea, sleep disruption, and cognitive difficulties, to name a few. Concussions can make performing even the most mundane, everyday tasks seem difficult – let alone participating in the activities you love.

If you've been diagnosed with a concussion, or suspect you have one, and your symptoms won't subside, it's nothing you've done wrong. There is a significant variability among concussions and brain injuries – truly, no two are the same. So, if you're feeling like you should have recovered already but haven't, stop suffering silently and get the help you need!

There are more options than ever before for specialized concussion care. Many healthcare providers offer ImPACT (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) or other reliable diagnostics to identify and develop a treatment plan for concussions. Based



Elliott Block, D.O.



David Patterson, M.D.

on the results of such tests, you may be referred to any range of services or treatment modalities, including physical or occupational therapy to help with activities of daily living, neuro-optometry for vision issues, or neuropsychology for guidance through recovery.

Be sure to find a reputable program that uses validated diagnostics and rehabilitation techniques. Such service providers typically have clinicians on staff who possess specialty certifications in brain injury medicine, psychiatry (physical medicine and rehabilitation), neurologic rehabilitation, and more. There is also a range of specialized equipment to help patients with concussion regain function and independence, including balance machines, met-

ronomes, and interactive touchscreen therapy devices.

No two brains – and therefore no two recoveries – are the same. It's important to acknowledge that you are having symptoms of a concussion, and to understand that there are many effective ways to address this common condition. Don't wait. You don't have to “tough it out” after a head injury!

Editor's Note: Overseen by board-certified physiatrists, the Concussion Program at Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare is dedicated to empowering individuals whose quality of life has been negatively impacted by a concussion or mild traumatic brain injury (TBI). For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call (909) 596-7733, ext. 3800.

Affirmative action decision needed alongside class-based solutions

By Jose Calderon, President
Latino and Latina Roundtable

The 6 to 3 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court rejecting affirmative action at colleges and universities comes at a time when there is an increasing trend of competition for resources with some students and conservative organizations claiming that there is “reverse” discrimination in the admissions policies of numerous colleges. The decision comes at a time when there is increasing competition for limited local and federal education funds and when racial discrimination is being written off as though it did not exist anymore. Memory is short, and some critics have forgotten how segregation divided this country not too long ago.

Today, there are those who argue that affirmative action has resulted in the development of a growing middle class among underrepresented minorities. They also argue that such policies do not serve the needs of those who are stuck at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder. What they fail to point out is how affirmative action has helped in opening the doors to social mobility for some of these same individuals now in the “middle class.”

Critics also argue that we need “class-based” solutions such as full employment, national health

care and quality education that can pull everyone up simultaneously. What they fail to point out is how people of color, even if they reach middle-class status, confront unequal resources and a glass ceiling that prevents them from moving into managerial positions.

Critics are hiding behind the argument that we need to strive for a “color blind” society, arguing that affirmative action only serves to divide working people by allowing one group to benefit at the expense of another. This logic leaves out that specific groups, because of racism and sexism, have been historically excluded or left at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder. It leaves out the historical existence and use of special preferences for those who are more privileged, such as the children of large donors or alumni.

Affirmative action has not only resulted in diversifying our campuses with more women and students of color, but it has also been part of a movement to diversify the curriculum. Affirmative action has helped to pave the way for underrepresented groups to attend college, to graduate and to write the histories of individuals who have been excluded or left out. Affirmative action has been part of including these voices, to explain why one group got stratified at one level as compared to another and to interpret why some groups were institutionalized at the lowest levels of society.

There would be no need for affirmative action if every individual who wanted to attend college were granted that right.

In the meantime, we need to support efforts that consider race, ethnicity, gender, and economic status in admissions policies. Real unity among all those concerned will be brought about as we direct our energies to the policy-making arena and promote the idea that there is no contradiction in preserving affirmative action alongside “class-based” solutions.

Editor's note: The U.S. Supreme Court's decision on affirmative action last month has made it unlawful for colleges to take race into consideration as a specific factor in admissions.

53rd Assembly District... from pg. 8

officially to the international compassionate city movement” and inspiring the birth of compassionate communities in similar movements in La Verne, Upland and Claremont.

Samantha Alexa Boizo-Jimenez, a graduate of Pomona's Garey High School, was selected out of a field of 35 applicants in the 53rd Assembly District for this year's California Latino Legislative Caucus \$5,000 scholarship.

Rodriguez told guests she is “someone who has demonstrated a strong work ethic, a thirst for knowledge and self-improvement, and a high level of intellect and insight.”

And this year's “Everybody Loves Raymond” scholarship award went to Malanie Rubi Gomez, also a Garey High School graduate, who has planned on going into construction since she was young.

According to Rodriguez, her father taught her how to use tools and equipment and, because of that background, she chose engineering as a career. She plans to attend Cal Poly University Pomona in the fall majoring in mechanical engineering and plans to get a contractor's license so she can help her stepdad in his growing scaffolding business.

“She is an amazing example of selflessness, hard work and perseverance,” he said.

While she was unable to attend the event, representatives from Garey High School accepted the honor on her behalf.

The \$1,000 scholarship award for a Garey High School senior was created by Rodriguez when he was a member of the Pomona City Council in honor of Raymond Garcia, a 16-year-old Garey High School student who was going into his senior year when his life was cut short in a drive-by shooting.



Samantha Alexa Boizo-Jimenez, a graduate of Garey High School, receives this year's California Latino Legislative Caucus scholarship from Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.

VIRTUAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS SET

Pomona's Promise's Focus on Parks and Our Youth

**By Stephanie Campbell
Member,
Compassionate Pomona
and Pomona's Promise**

As far back as the 1990s, youth have been the driving force behind many positive policy changes in Pomona. Young people were strong voices advocating against gun shows at venues in the city, for a moratorium on business licenses to gun shops and liquor stores, to not permit gun sales by pawn shops or by Walmart in our city, and for a policy for smoke-free parks.

Continuing this heritage, a team of 20 high school age youth has been meeting for the past year to ascertain the views of high school age youth in particular about Pomona's parks and, in the process, to develop concrete skills related to community activism and leadership. This is a project funded by All Children Thrive, and being carried out by Pomona's Promise.

In every sounding that Pomona's Promise has taken to ascertain community members' concerns about our city, the condition of our parks is one of the issues that has consistently risen to the top. Pomona only has just over a third of the average amount of green space per capita compared to the Los Angeles County average, and many parents don't feel that our city's parks are safe or inviting. Fortunately, there are many efforts taking place in Pomona at this time to improve our parks, starting with our city government. Renovations at Hamilton Park are near completion, and in the coming year new restrooms will be added to a third of the city's parks. Additionally, the city has been awarded \$11.3 million to develop a trail for walking and bike-riding that will connect the Cal Poly University Pomona campus to Ganesha Park. Also, Clean and Green Pomona has formulated a well-thought-

out proposal for a "kid-friendly Pomona park system" based on many months of holding community workshops and conducting surveys. Their proposal identifies a number of key challenges and opportunities, and proposes several policies to make the plan a reality.

As Pomona's Promise's contribution to this movement, our youth team developed a survey that was conducted at the end of the school year. Among the activism and leadership skills that are built into this project are the process of developing a survey, the logistics of launching and promoting it, analyzing the data obtained, formulating policy goals to respond to the conclusions, and presenting the conclusions to elected officials and the com-

munity at large. With the assistance of the All Children Thrive support staff, the youth team is now being guided in the analysis of the survey results. Topping the list of general concerns were safety, cleanliness, trash, and lack of maintenance. However, the survey questions, developed by the youth team, allowed respondents to give their opinions about specific parks that they frequent. For example, 87 percent of the 54 who responded specifically about Ralph Welch Park said they felt safe at that park, and the thing they do most there is hang out with friends.

Pomona's Promise is also currently conducting a series of four policy training workshops, which are open to the community broadly in addition to youth. The dates

are June 28, Introduction to Policy; July 12, Understanding your Local Policy Context; July 26, Designing Policy Strategies; and August 9, Planning Your Next Actions. The sessions are conducted virtually at 4 p.m. Interested attendees need to register at <https://forms.gle/id6XqK7Wg326tZ2cA> and will be sent the link.

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Pomona Lion Don Martens awarded club's top honor

Pomona Host Lions Club member Don Martens was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellow award, the club's highest award, for his service to the community during last month's 103rd installation and awards ceremony at El Rancho Mexican Restaurant in Claremont.

Outgoing President Anne Henderson said the award was for Martens' many hours of service to the club and the community, from helping on Tuesday's with Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval's clean-up program to his work with Compassionate Pomona and Clean and Green Pomona.

Martens also received a "Proud Lion" pin for completing a program familiarizing a new member with the functions of the club.

Incoming President WendyAnn Stuard received the Harry J. Aslan Fellow award for promoting a Lions student speaker foundation that raises money for scholarships, and Steve King, the club's director of operations, received the Kay K. Fukushima Fellow award from the California Lions Foundation for his "dedi-

cated humanitarian services." He has served as a Lion for 23 years and as president for three terms.

In her outgoing speech, Henderson told the group activities for the year included everything from purchasing required insurance to be able to distribute new books to first graders and renting a storage unit for books donated from Fairplex that were left over from the "unaccompanied minors" program to completing



Incoming Lions President WendyAnn Stuard receives the Harry J. Aslan Fellow award from Anne Henderson.

a service project at Pomona's Lopez Farm and providing Easter baskets for House of Ruth.

Club members also have been cooking once a month



Members of the Pomona Host Lions Club installed for the 2023-2024 year last month are, from left, Ben Sellers, Bob Stuard, Don Martens, Steve Lustro, Gil Smith, WendyAnn Stuard, George Kopiloff, Anne Henderson, Jo Fulton, Barbara Smith, Steve Storbakken, and Steve King.



Pomona Lion Don Martens receives the Melvin Jones Fellow award from outgoing President Anne Henderson.

for the homeless at Pomona's Hope for Home services center.

And Stuard told members the reason the club has lasted more than a century is its ded-

ication to the community and the number and quality of service projects.

Her theme for the year is "created for service."

She added that Lions and



Pomona Lion Steve King receives the Kay K. Fukushima Fellow award from Anne Henderson.

others who volunteer do what they do "because we are wired to do good work and to serve."

Stuard said her goal for the coming year is "to continue

Top honor... pg. 21

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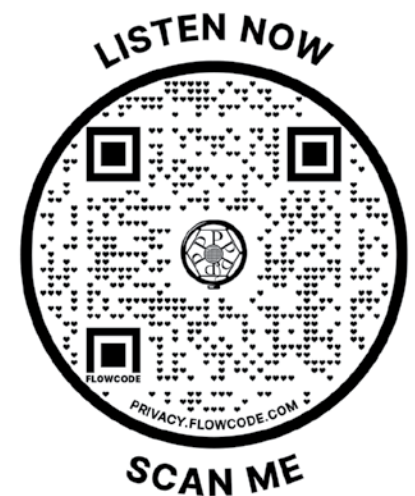
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Nota del editor: La Nueva Voz está agregando esta página con contenido en Español a petición e interés de los lectores. Un lector frecuente del Centro Comunitario del Parque Washington preguntó si este periódico pudiese incluir al menos "solamente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

Miembros de la junta de la Cámara de Pomona, incluidos cinco nuevos miembros de la junta, instalados, Derby Room nombrado "Miembro del año"

Un total de 23 miembros de la junta de la Cámara de Comercio de Pomona, incluidos siete miembros de la junta ejecutiva y cinco nuevos miembros de la junta, fueron instalados este mes en The Derby Room en Pomona por la senadora estatal Susan Rubio, quien les dijo que las comunidades locales son vibrantes y prósperas en parte porque del trabajo de las pequeñas empresas.

"Sé que sin ustedes nuestras comunidades no tendrían los dólares de los impuestos que necesitamos para mantener los servicios para nuestros estudiantes, para los ancianos, así que gracias a todos y cada uno de ustedes por todo lo que hacen", dijo Rubio en la reunión 135 de la cámara. Banquete anual de instalación y entrega de premios.

El presidente entrante de la junta, Nef Cortez de Re/Max Galaxy en Diamond Bar, asumió el mando de Annette Limon de Puzzle HR

y NOW CFO, quien fue la primera en cumplir un mandato de dos años según los estatutos revisados de la cámara.

Cortez, quien estaba experimentando laringitis en el evento y no pudo dirigirse al grupo de 120 miembros de la cámara y amigos, dijo a La Nueva Voz en una declaración preparada después del evento que se sentía honrado de haber sido elegido para ocupar el cargo de presidente de la junta.

"Me gustaría agradecerles a todos en nombre de la Junta Directiva de la Cámara de Comercio de Pomona por su apoyo", dijo Cortez en su declaración.

"Estoy, junto con nuestra fantástica junta directiva, deseando que la Cámara de Comercio de Pomona colabore con nuestros representantes federales, estatales y del condado, el alcalde Tim Sandoval y nuestros funcionarios electos locales, toda nuestra comunidad empresarial, nuestros so-

cios educativos y la comunidad en general para hacer de este un año muy exitoso", agregó.

"Tenemos la suerte de tener como directora ejecutiva a Monique Robles, quien es la persona responsable de ejecutar la misión y la visión de la cámara", dijo. "Ha hecho un trabajo ejemplar y esperamos otro gran año de trabajando juntos."

Limon dijo a los miembros que "servir como presidenta durante los últimos dos años ha sido un honor", y agregó que la presidenta y directora ejecutiva de la cámara, Monique Robles, ha demostrado "perseverancia y determinación para llevar la cámara a nuevos niveles" con una membresía en su punto más alto.

Destinatarios del premio

El premio "Miembro del año" de este año, otorgado a un miembro que brinda un servicio valioso a la cámara y demuestra un apoyo extraordinario de la comunidad

empresarial, fue para Brandon y Monica Zenedjian, propietarios de The Derby Room Fairplex, donde se llevó a cabo el evento de este año.

The Derby Room es un bar deportivo y parrilla que ofrece lugares de apuestas fuera de la pista y ofrece elementos de menú de alta calidad.

El "Negocio nuevo del año" de este año, otorgado a un nuevo negocio de Pomona que ha demostrado un papel activo en la prestación de un servicio valioso a la comunidad, fue para 909 Open Market, propiedad de Chris y Mayra Verdugo.

El Mercado Abierto 909, que opera el primer y cuarto sábado en el centro de Pomona, brinda espacio para vendedores que ofrecen comida, productos horneados, venta al por menor, artesanías hechas a mano y arte.

El "Empleador del año" de este año, otorgado a una empresa que promueve el crecimiento de los empleados y demuestra liderazgo en el sector empresarial, fue para Michael Thomas of America's Job Center/MCS Career Group.

Thomas, quien se jubila de la organización, ha desempeñado un papel destacado como gerente de servicios comerciales para la operación de Pomona, colaborando con entidades locales, estatales, privadas y públicas que brindan servicios de empleo para satisfacer las necesidades de la fuerza laboral de California.

El "Premio a la imagen" de la cámara, presentado a una empresa que continuamente demuestra orgullo por ser propietario, fue para Fuego by Metro Event Center. Daniela Franco, una de los tres propietarios de Fuego y miembro del directorio de la cámara, recibió el premio. Fuego es un lugar exclusivo de usos múltiples privado en el centro de Pomona que ofrece todo lo necesario para eventos especiales y conferencias de negocios.

Y el premio "Organización de servicios comunitarios del año" de la cámara fue otorgado a Multi-Cultural Business Alliance y Roberto Arnold.

El premio se otorga cada año a una organización sin fines de lucro que haya demostrado una destacada dedicación al servicio en los esfuerzos cívicos y comunitarios.

La organización ganadora trabaja para mejorar las pequeñas empresas en comunidades marginadas mediante la construcción de puentes a través del espíritu empresarial.

Este año se entregó un nuevo premio, el "Premio del presidente y director ejecutivo", a Héctor López, copresidente del Comité de Desarrollo Económico - Iniciativa Promesa de Pomona durante los últimos cinco años.

El premio reconoce a una persona que ha contribuido incontables horas apoyando negocios y promoviendo oportunidades económicas.

López, de Re/Max Commercial Real Estate, es un agente industrial y de inversiones que se especializa en arrendamiento y venta de almacenes. Ayuda tanto a los propietarios como a los futuros propietarios a alcanzar sus objetivos inmobiliarios a largo plazo.

Nuevos miembros de la junta

Los nuevos miembros que se unieron a la junta de la cámara este año fueron Sal Ayala de Uniko Biz Solutions, Roberto Arnold de Multi-Cultural Business Alliance, Cristian Herrera de Athens Services, Jill Dolan de Mt. San Antonio College (ex presidente de la Cámara de Pomona), y el Dr. Robin Farias-Eisner, presidente de la Universidad de Ciencias de la Salud de Western.

Logros de la cámara

La presidenta y directora ejecutiva de la cámara, Robles, en sus comentarios introductorios en el evento, les dijo a los miembros que la Cámara de Pomona era una de las pocas cámaras del área que permanecieron activas durante la asociación de COVID con la ciudad para mantener las puertas abiertas tanto en la cámara como en los negocios miembros.

Ella dijo que la cámara agregó 64 nuevos miembros el año pasado, elevando el nuevo total a 325, la mayor cantidad hasta ahora.

Gold Line marca un hito al completar la vía férrea de Glendora a Pomona

No era una "punta dorada", esa punta final ceremonial de 17,6 quilates que unió los rieles del primer ferrocarril transcontinental a través de los Estados Unidos en 1869 en lo que entonces se conocía como Territorio de Utah.

Pero con un total de 12 políticos del área hablando en ceremonias bajo un dosel el mes pasado con alfombras que cubrían los rieles en la calle "D" en La Verne, casi parecía una repetición de ese evento histórico cuando los trabajadores armados con un mazo dorado conducían en el clip de riel del proyecto final que completa el sistema de rieles de tren ligero Foothill Gold Line de Glendora a Pomona.

El alcalde de Claremont, Ed Reece, quien se desempeña como presidente de la junta directiva de Foothill Gold Line, dijo a una audiencia de casi 300 personas que todo el trabajo del puente, todos los pasos a nivel y el progreso significativo en cuatro nuevas estaciones a lo largo de la ruta completan tres cuartos del proyecto.

"Y con el hito principal de hoy, las ciudades de Glendora, San Di-

mas, La Verne y Pomona. . . esas ciudades ahora y para siempre estarán conectadas por esta nueva línea de tren ligero", dijo Reece.

Agregó que el proyecto sigue según lo programado para una "finalización sustancial" a principios de enero de 2025 y que ahora está realmente por debajo del presupuesto.

Incluso mientras se instalaba el clip de riel 230,630 en la ceremonia, conectando el riel con el tirante de concreto, dijo que la "verdadera línea de meta" era extender la línea de riel desde Pomona a Claremont y luego a Montclair.

El alcalde de La Verne, Tim Hepburn, señaló que, como lo dejan claro los murales alrededor de su ciudad, los rieles han sido importantes para la región "a lo largo de los siglos".

D i j o que estaba cerca del sitio de las ceremonias donde los antiguos Ferrocarriles Eléctricos del Pacífico, o "Carros Rojos", se detenían para los pasajeros, brindando a fines del siglo XIX servicio de pasajeros y carga a lo que entonces era la comunidad de Lords-

burg. Y, agregó, a principios del siglo XX, la próspera industria de los cítricos en la región se basó en el ferrocarril.

Las antiguas empacadoras de cítricos, aún en pie y reutilizadas, eran visibles junto a la vía férrea a no más de 50 yardas del podio.

El alcalde de Pomona, Tim Sandoval, quien representa al Valle de San Gabriel en el tablero de Metro y representa a Metro en el tablero de la Línea Dorada, calificó el evento como un "gran hito" y el hecho de que ahora se complete en más del 70 por ciento como un "gran, gran logro".

Dijo que su trabajo con las dos agencias le permite ser testigo de "la historia que se está haciendo".

"No puedo decirles cuánto significa este proyecto para la ciudad de Pomona", dijo Sandoval. "Demasiados de los niños de nuestra ciudad nunca han ido a la playa", dijo, o al Museo Norton Simon o al centro de Los Ángeles.

"Un niño que crezca en la ciudad de Pomona cuando se complete esta Línea Dorada podrá subir y actualmente es gratis para

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Sometimes when you go on a campout you just have to take time to take it easy, sit down at a picnic table and enjoy a bag of Cheetos.



It wouldn't be the Pomona Police Department's summer day camp without a little rock climbing at Pomona's Fairplex. The event included games, bicycle safety, face painting and even the landing of the Pomona Police helicopter.



Don Martens worked the Pomona Host Lions booth at this year's Pomona Police summer day camp. Pictured is Don practicing up on making those huge soap bubbles that float across the lawn.



Pomona Police Sgt. Ernie Rios chats with Fairplex staff members Benny Ayala and Natalie Chaidez during this month's Pomona Police Department summer day camp at Fairplex. Rios said about 100 Pomona kids ages 8 to 11 attended the event which for the first time was a one-day activity to help police build relationships with the community. Rios oversees the department's quality of life unit which includes the community programs unit, now headed by Corporal Angela Torres. "They've done a fabulous job," Rios said, adding that "the success of this event impacts our community."



Kids at the Pomona Police day camp had all sorts of activities including this inflatable play place for a little jumping, sliding, throwing things and more.

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this great tradition of service for a great service organization alongside a great group of people."

In addition to Stuard, other officers for the 2023-2024 year are First Vice President George Kopiloff, Second Vice President Steve Storbakken, Secretary Ben Selters, Treasurer Gil Smith, Financial Secretary Jack Lightfoot, Director of Community Service Anne Henderson, Co-directors of Fundraising Jackie Allen and Carmen Morris, Director of Membership Activation Jo Fulton, Director of Membership Recruitment Don Martens, Director of Operations Steve King, Director of Publicity Steve Lustro, Immediate Past President Anne Henderson, Lion Tamer Bob Stuard and Tail Twister Barbara Smith.

The Pomona club's Past District Governor Gil Smith was the installing officer.

The Pomona club is part of Lions District 404, which includes 35 clubs in Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties.

nuestros niños a través de nuestro programa 'K hasta 14'... y quizás empiecen a soñar e imaginar lo que es posible", agregó.

"Eso es lo que significa este proyecto, no solo los objetivos prometidos que significarán sacar a las personas de sus automóviles, sino también asegurarnos de que nuestros niños, nuestro activo más valioso, tengan la oportunidad de desarrollar todo su potencial humano", dijo. "Entonces, trabajemos para llevar esta línea a la ciudad de Montclair", dijo Sandoval.

La supervisora del condado de Los Ángeles, Hilda Solis, dijo que se hizo eco de los comentarios de Sandoval con respecto a los niños y agregó que es importante que el gobernador sepa cuán importante es este proyecto para el Valle de

San Gabriel.

Solis, también miembro de la junta de Metro, dijo que el proyecto de construcción no ha sido fácil y ha incluido inconvenientes para las comunidades a lo largo de la línea.

Sin embargo, "una vez que Foothill Extension esté completa, la gente de Pomona podrá subirse... y llegar a Pasadena en solo 30 minutos", agregó.

La congresista sénior Grace Napolitano, quien dijo a los participantes que ha representado al área durante 25 años, felicitó a la Línea Dorada por la finalización de la vía.

"El proyecto Gold Line es el proyecto más importante en mi comunidad", dijo. "Saca miles de autos de la carretera y brinda a los viajeros una vía asequible, segura

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y conveniente para ir al trabajo, la escuela, la diversión y todo lo que quieran hacer... (él) reduce el smog en nuestra comunidad, crea empleos locales y genera oportunidades comerciales".

La senadora estatal Susan Rubio dijo que el proyecto estaba en marcha mucho antes de que fuera elegida para Sacramento, cuando todavía estaba en el concejo municipal de Baldwin Park.

"Este es realmente uno de esos proyectos que no funciona a menos que todos estén comprometidos, todos se tomen de la mano, todos participen juntos", dijo.

Y, agregando que fue maestra durante casi 20 años, dijo, "este proyecto se trata de personas, se trata de nuestros niños, se trata de conectar a nuestras comunidades".

Hablando de los niños que no han tenido acceso a la playa, dijo que "el acceso es clave para todos en nuestra comunidad... para que todos tengan la oportunidad de prosperar y crecer". En cierto sentido, dijo, todos en el evento estaban allí "abogando por el futuro de nuestros niños".

Rubio lideró a todo el grupo enviando un mensaje de texto al mismo tiempo al gobernador para asegurarse de que el proyecto es políticamente importante para todos ellos enviando solo tres palabras: "¡Apoyen el tránsito ahora!".

El asambleísta Freddie Rodríguez también instó a todos en el evento durante el fin de semana a "hacer una llamada telefónica, enviar un correo electrónico,

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California University of Science and Medicine in Colton becomes accredited, ushering in a new era of excellence in education

The California University of Science and Medicine in Colton, a health and life sciences university that includes colleges, a research institute and a graduate school of medicine, last month was granted its initial institutional accreditation by the WASC Senior College and University Commission, one of six regional associations accrediting public and private schools, colleges and universities in the U.S.

The accreditation, which was effective retroactively to May 1, 2022, means that classes of 2022 and 2023 now are considered to have graduated from an accredited university.

It also recognizes the university's unwavering dedication to maintaining rigorous academic standards, promoting student success, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement, according to a news release.

The accreditation is based on factors ranging from faculty qualifications, curricula, educational resources and student support services to governance and institutional effectiveness.

Because of the university's new status, new avenues are expected to open in areas of program expansion, collaboration, partnerships

and research opportunities.

It is also expected to help attract and retain highly qualified faculty members, cultivate a diverse student body and more.

"The entire community at CUSM is excited to reach this significant milestone of WASC accreditation," said Paul Lyons, M.D., President and Dean. "Everyone in our community has been a part of achieving this milestone due to the ongoing focus on providing the best medical education possible to our students."

"The impetus behind founding CUSM was to create a university focused on teaching the art and science of medicine to students from a wide variety of backgrounds," said Prem Reddy, M.D., CUSM founder and board chair. "The Inland Empire area of California is experiencing a physician shortage and is the perfect location to create opportunities, find immensely talented future physicians, and support healthcare equity for all communities."

As CUSM embarks on a new era, it remains steadfast in its mission to inspire, motivate, and empower the next generation of medical doctors and healthcare providers, according to the news release.



California University of Science and Medicine in Colton receives accreditation from WASC Senior College and University Commission.

"The university's commitment to delivering quality education, groundbreaking research and community engagement remains stronger than ever," the release continued.

The university was founded by Reddy in August 2012 initially as Eastern California College of Med-

icine in the Inland Empire which ranks in the lower half of counties in California in the number of physicians per capita.

Reddy, also founder of Prime Healthcare Services and Prime Healthcare Foundation, believed the establishment of a medical school could provide an impact on

growing health disparities, disease burden and the regional physician shortage.

The foundation has provided \$70 million toward the establishment of the school, and the Dr. Prem Reddy Family Foundation has committed another \$20 million.



Photos by Renee Barbee

The Fourth of July parade in La Verne was a bigger hit than ever before with highlights including everything from cars to "Pop Warner Cheer" to Rotary and flags, flags, flags!

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



GRAND RE-OPENING AT HILLTOP JAMAICAN -- Ya Mon, it was a packed house Saturday for a grand re-opening and ribbon-cutting at Pomona's Hilltop Jamaican Restaurant and Lounge in Downtown Pomona. The restaurant, located at Second Street and Garey Avenue, claims to be home to "the best Jamaican patties on this side of the Caribbean." And there's even a market. But look at that menu! They've got jerk chicken, curry chicken and barbecue chicken. And they've got jerk turkey burgers and salmon burgers, coconut curry scallops and shrimp, rum cake, lemon cake, red velvet cake and vanilla cream cheesecake. Get the idea? The list goes on. Owner Veronica Hylton told the crowd of city officials, Pomona Chamber of Commerce officials, customers and friends that the restaurant has been in business for 30 years. It moved from its Holt Avenue location to Downtown Pomona three years ago. Pictured, from left, are Chamber Board member Roberto Arnold, of Multi-Cultural Business Alliance; Anthony Moreno, representing State Sen. Susan Rubio; Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz; Maurice Autrey, President of the Southern California Black Chamber of Commerce; John Barrios, Hilltop's operations manager; owner Veronica Hylton; Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado; Hilltop's general manager Thomas Churchill; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; and Chamber Board member Joe Perez, of Credit Union of Southern California. The restaurant is located at 117 W. Second St. For information, call (909) 629-6407.



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enviar un mensaje de texto a los líderes, al gobernador, hacerle saber lo importante que es esto porque sin toda nuestra ayuda no lo haríamos". No estar donde estamos hoy".

El director ejecutivo de la Autoridad de Construcción de Gold Line, Habib Balian, le dijo al grupo que era importante tener funcionarios electos dedicados a un proyecto como este "o de lo contrario no se construiría".

Citó el trabajo "que nos ha llevado al hito de hoy con la línea de meta claramente a la vista conectando 9.1 millas y cuatro ciudades acercándose un paso gigante a conectar Los Ángeles, el Valle de San Gabriel y el Inland Empire por tren ligero".

El último proyecto de extensión incluyó 17,000 toneladas de piedra triturada, más de 57,000 durmientes de concreto y 55 millas de rieles de acero soldado.

Cuando se complete en un año y medio, el proyecto se entregará a LA Metro para la capacitación y el servicio de "pre-ingresos". Metro mismo determinará cuándo comienza el servicio real de pasajeros, según el portavoz de Gold Line, Albert Ho.



Photo by Renee Barbee

MAKING IT TO 104 -- Jane Jablonski, an Indiana native who lived in El Monte from the 1940s until moving into Park View Place, a senior living facility in Covina, celebrated her 104th birthday last week with friends and family at a special birthday dinner. She told La Nueva Voz before the celebration that she doesn't think about her age but feels lucky to have lived this long and still be in "very good health." "You have to be on the watch when you get to be my age," she said. And what is the secret to a long life? "There isn't a secret -- you find something that fits you and your body and stick with it as long as you can," she said. "Don't listen to anyone else."

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Cesar Chavez Foundation to build \$75.8 million affordable housing project in Pomona

Cesar Chavez Foundation officials broke ground last month in Pomona for a new \$75.8 million Chris Hartmire Plaza, featuring 90 units of affordable housing for low-income families and veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness, that will even include an on-site health clinic for both residents and the community at large.

The clinic was made possible through a partnership with East Valley Community Health Center, and another arrangement with Pomona's Tri City Mental Health will provide residents with on-site access to social service programs.

The project, which will be con-



Paul Chavez, son of Cesar Chavez and president of the Cesar Chavez Foundation, speaks last month at groundbreaking for a new \$75.8 million affordable housing project in Pomona. A photo of his father appears at left.



Pictured in a ceremonial shovel shot at the Chris Hartmire Plaza in Pomona are, from left, Lindsay Kerby, Deputy Director, Loan Origination, and Debbie Thiele, Managing Director, Western Region, both of The Corporation for Supportive Housing, a financial partner for the project; Claremont City Councilmember Jed Leano, San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust Chair; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; John Hartmire, son of the late Chris Hartmire; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Cesar Chavez Foundation President Paul Chavez; Steve Cain, CEO, UnitedHealthcare of California, another financial partner; and Pomona City Councilmembers John Noite and Steve Lustro.



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval



Alfredo Izmajtovich



Alicia Mardini, CEO East Valley Community Health Center



Pictured is an architectural rendering of the Chris Hartmire Plaza, a 90-unit affordable housing project in Pomona, expected to take two years to complete.

structed on the 2.3-acre site of an old IHOP restaurant at 1321 E. Holt Ave. across from the old Indian Hill Mall (now The Village at Indian Hill), was named after the late Rev. Chris Hartmire who worked with Chavez even before the formation of what became the United Farm Workers Union.

Paul Chavez, president of the foundation and son of Cesar Chavez, told the group Hartmire was an important part of the movement and it was appropriate to name the project in his honor.

"It's the right thing to do to honor the memory of a good and decent man and a true servant," Chavez said. "Many people talk to us and they tell us how my father was a hero to them. But the fact of the matter is that he never saw himself as a hero."

Chavez added that he believes his father was uncomfortable with recognition "because he understood that there were many people that made tremendous sacrifices and achieved great

things whose names were largely lost to history."

"And so this celebration this morning reminds us about those countless other heroes that have served the community and made a difference, and Chris Hartmire is at the top of that list," he added.

"He was there at the beginning with my father when my father . . . began organizing farmworkers," he said.

The Pomona project, expected to be completed in two years, is the foundation's sixth project in Los Angeles County developed in the last five years, according to foundation Executive Vice President Alfredo Izmajtovich. He said the group is developing 5,000 units in four states and has another 900 units in the pipeline over the next two years.

He added that the City of Pomona was a "wonderful partner never losing patience with us" in the project that he said was almost seven years in the making.

"What a beautiful day to honor

a civil rights leader that was one of the most important American leaders in the 20th century with affordable housing," said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.

He thanked the foundation "for the work that it took to make this happen."

"We are so, so thankful to have this project in the City of Pomona," he said.

Alicia Mardini, CEO of East Valley Community Health Center, operators of the 6,756 square foot health clinic to become part of the project, said they have never provided a facility inside a residential development in their 50 years of providing services to the region.

But she said they "rethink the way" they deliver services to the community every time they open a new clinic.

And in this one, "we are going to provide medical, dental and mental health services and the expectation is that the welfare of the community . . . everyone that comes to this clinic will be able

to flourish and live up to their potential," she said.

"That's really the purpose of delivering health care services," she said. "We believe that health care services are a right for everyone."

"This is a wonderful project and we look forward to being part of it," she added.

Izmajtovich said the foundation hopes to replicate the clinic aspect of the project in other developments in the future.

Hartmire died last year in Claremont at the age of 90, according to his son, John Hartmire, who appeared at the event.

The site for the project had been owned by the Pomona Unified School District which sold it to the foundation.

The project will include a publicly accessible "pocket park," along with common areas, a community center, a playground and laundry facilities.

It will include 30 one-bedroom units, 30 two-bedroom units and 30 three-bedroom units reserved

for low-income families, along with units reserved for persons with disabilities.

Foundation Chief Operating Officer Manuel Bernal said the organization has an annual budget of \$43 million and more than 300 employees who are "stewards" of nearly \$800 million in assets.

The foundation focuses on affordable housing development, an education fund, a communications fund, and the National Chavez Center in Keene, California, which protects and promotes the legacy of Cesar Chavez, inspiring young Americans into civic action.

The mission of the foundation is to carry on the work of Cesar Chavez uplifting the lives of Latinos and working families by inspiring and transforming communities through social enterprises that address essential human, cultural and community needs.

It is headquartered in Keene, California, and has offices in Los Angeles, Phoenix and Fresno.