



La Nueva Voz

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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



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GRATIS

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Cesar Chavez allegations prompt name change of Roundtable signature event

By Jeff Schenkel
Publisher

For 21 years, the Latino and Latina Roundtable's annual fundraiser was known as the "Cesar Chavez Breakfast" – and it has always captured a huge attendance from throughout Pomona, Southern California and beyond, growing to more than 400 supporters last month at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center – one of the biggest rooms in town each year.

This year, on very short notice due to the fast-moving nature of national news cycles, all of that changed – the name of the event was changed to the "Legacy Breakfast" after two things happened only nine days ahead of time.

First, the New York Times published the results of its investigation alleging "extensive evidence" that United Farm Workers co-founder Cesar Chavez "groomed and sexually abused girls who worked in the movement."

And second, Dolores Huerta, also a UFW co-founder, released her own statement on her Instagram page in response to the Times story.

"I am nearly 96 years old, and for the last 60 years have kept a secret because I believed that exposing the truth would hurt the farmwork-

er movement I have spent my entire life fighting for," Huerta said. "Following the New York Times' multi-year investigation into sexual misconduct by Cesar Chavez, I can no longer stay silent and must share my own experiences."

She said that as a young mother in the 1960s, she "experienced two separate sexual encounters with Cesar," was "manipulated and pressured into having sex with him, and I didn't feel I could say no because he was someone that I admired, my boss and the leader of the movement."

Huerta added that both of those encounters led to pregnancies and, "after the children were born, I arranged for them to be raised by other families that could give them stable lives."

Last month in Pomona, no longer did the Cesar Chavez name appear on banners at the Roundtable breakfast, no longer was his photograph draped across the front of the podium below the United Farm Workers logo, and no longer was his name part of the name of the annual event headlining the front page of the program booklet.

Roundtable Vice President Karina Leon, master of ceremonies for the event, set the tone in opening comments, explaining the organization's response to the develop-



La Nueva Voz file photo
Dolores Huerta

ment.

"This gathering has always been about legacy, about the stories we carry, the struggles we've endured, and the victories we've fought hard to achieve together," she said. "For many years, this event was known as a Cesar Chavez Breakfast, rooted in a legacy of labor, sacrifice, and movement building that has shaped so much of our collective history."

"However, we are also living in a time that calls for honesty, accountability, and courage," she

added. "In light of recent deeply devastating information that has come to light, our organization made the intentional decision to rename this event. This was not a decision made lightly, but it was made with care, with integrity, and with a deep respect for those who have been harmed."

"Today, we stand in solidarity with survivors and victims of sexual violence," she said. "We honor their courage. We believe them. And we recognize that true leadership requires us to hold space for



Karina Leon
Roundtable Vice President

both legacy and truth."

"This moment reminds us that our movements are not just about the figures we uplift, but about the values we live by – dignity, respect, safety, justice," she added. "These are non-negotiable."

Leon said that while the group gathered under a new name, it was expanding "what legacy means."

"We reclaim it as something that belongs to all of us, a living, evolving, and commitment to building a community where everyone can

Roundtable... pg. 6



Mental Health Your Way

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This May, Rediscover What Mental Health Means to You

May is Mental Health Month, a time to remember that just like we care for our physical health, we can take meaningful steps to support our mental well-being. Mental health isn't something that is separate from who we are. It lives in our cultures, routines, relationships, communities and in the everyday ways we take care of ourselves and one another.

Join Tri-City Mental Health in celebrating California's statewide movement, Take Action for Mental Health. This year's theme, Mental Health is Ours, encourages you to honor what is already there to support you and help you feel steady, safe and connected. There is no "right" way when it comes to mental health, but noticing what helps you can be a powerful guide to your own well-being.

Scan the QR code to RSVP and explore free local in-person and virtual events happening all month long. Follow us @TriCityMHA or visit tricitymha.ca.gov to get involved and discover resources to care for yourself and each other.



READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY AT LOPEZ -- Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, who tries not to miss an annual "National Read Across America Day" opportunity to go read to students in their classrooms, did just that last month, this time at Pomona's Lopez Elementary School. Barbee is pictured at right rear holding up the book she read to the class that day -- "A Little Spot of Kindness" by Diane Alber. And the kids in her class look, well, about as excited as you would expect them to look. Hey, better than math, right? Barbee read different books to a total of three classes during the day.

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments President Ed Reece calls 2028 Olympics an opportunity for businesses that become 'engaged'

Claremont City Councilmember Ed Reece, president of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, told members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce last week that "opportunities that come from global

engine."
"As president of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, I formed the Olympic / Paralympic ad hoc committee for the San Gabriel Valley," Reece said. "So just what that means specifically is all 31 cities that are members of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments can participate in this ad hoc committee along with stakeholders, along with representatives, will all be part of this."



Ed Reece

He said it is by bringing those resources together and bringing a unified voice that will provide economic opportunities to local businesses.
"We have a three-phase approach in regards to the Olympic Committee," Reece said, "and that first phase was around when, why, where, what and really kind of developing what are we trying to tackle here."
And, he said, while only official committee members will participate in the voting process,

Opportunity for businesses... pg. 5



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MEASURE Z / MEDIDA Z

The Kids First Funding Amendment / La Modificación Financiera Los Niños Primero

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JUNE 2, 2026**

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DEL 2 DE JUNIO DE 2026**

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Mental health and sports

By Amara Beatty and Sinthia Salcedo

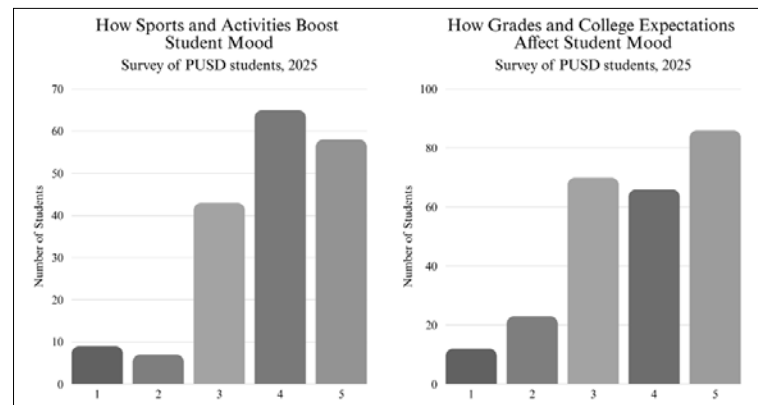
As students in Pomona Unified School District, we understand firsthand how stress, academic pressure, and mental health challenges affect high schoolers. Between schoolwork, extracurriculars, and social expectations, it can feel overwhelming. For us, sports have been an important way to manage that pressure by providing structure, support, and a space to clear our minds. That is why our service project focuses on expanding access to team sports through local nonprofit soccer leagues in Pomona. By volunteering at games and surveying student participants, we aim to support youth while also observing how athletic involvement influences mental well-being.

Research shows that youth athletics improve both mental health and cognitive functioning. Exercise releases endorphins that reduce stress, lower cortisol and adrenaline levels, and improve mood, focus, and sleep. Physical activity also supports executive functioning, working memory, attention, and processing speed.

Team sports add further benefits by fostering a sense of belonging, encouraging cooperation, and providing peer support. For students in Pomona, where community connection is especially important, sports can serve as social anchors that help youth feel included and supported.

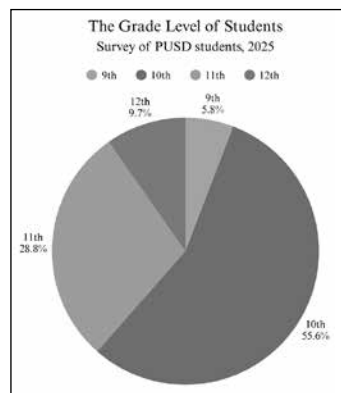
Soccer is a strong example of these benefits. The sport requires teamwork, communication, and discipline, and it reflects the cultural diversity of Pomona's community. Playing regularly helps students build confidence, emotional resilience, and stress tolerance. Structured practices and shared wins and losses strengthen social skills while supporting both mental and physical wellness. As part of our project, we volunteer at local leagues, assist teams, and observe how participation affects students' well-being over time. This year we supported a team that went on to win their league, demonstrating the positive effects of consistent encouragement and teamwork.

To share our project, we created a short video featuring ourselves and student participants. In the video we introduce who we are, discuss our experiences with stress and sports, and show how the soccer league provides a welcoming space for youth. Students explain how being active helps them manage stress, build friendships, and feel part of a supportive commu-



nity. The video highlights players learning new skills and teams celebrating together, showing the impact of accessible sports programs.

We also conducted our own research by surveying more than 250 students about stress, mental health, and athletic participation. The results showed that grades and school workload negatively affect many students' moods, while



sports and extracurricular activities have a strong positive impact on energy, mood, and stress management. Many respondents also reported that being part of a team

“everyone is welcome there.”

For example, the group is working with the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity in its planning process.

“If you are not registered with LA28 as a small business, you need to,” he said. “Go to LA28.org, get registered, share with them about what your business can provide, they’re looking for all kinds of things and all kinds of businesses.”

“Get engaged and be part of what will be the LA 28 economic

helps them feel supported and less isolated. These findings suggest that increasing access to structured athletic programs is a practical way to improve student well-being.

Our project also addresses barriers that prevent some students from participating, including cost, transportation, and limited resources. By partnering with local soccer leagues, offering low cost

or free participation, and providing volunteer support during games, we can expand opportunities for students to experience these benefits. Soccer fields become more than a place to play. They are spaces where students develop confidence, emotional resilience, and social connection.

Sports in Pomona are more than games. Through our survey, volunteer work, and the stories shared by students, we have seen how athletics improves mood, reduces stress, and strengthens community. Expanding these opportunities can help more students grow into confident, connected, and resilient individuals.

Editor’s Note: Amara Beatty and Sinthia Salcedo are both students at Diamond Ranch High School.

Opportunity for businesses... from pg. 2

engine,” he added.

Reece told the Pomona Chamber’s “Pomona Economic Leadership Luncheon” at the Village at Indian Hill conference center that in addition to his regional roles and elected roles, he is also a business owner.

“And my oldest business is 31 years old and has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Claremont for 25 plus years,” he said.

“We’re working on some strategy sessions designed around helping our partners enhance the

My 2026 Goal for Service on the CLC

By Donald Martens

Editor’s Note: Donald Martens is a member of Compassionate Pomona and was appointed last August by City Councilmember Nora Garcia to serve as a Commissioner on Pomona’s Community Life Commission.

In January, Pomona’s Community Life Commission created an ad hoc committee to discuss possible goals and recommend to the commission one primary goal to work on in the coming year. As a member of that ad hoc committee, I learned that homelessness, prostitution, littering, and civic apathy were concerns of the committee members, but we did not nail down one primary goal. Then during the March Community Life Commission meeting it was suggested that instead of creating one common commission goal, each commissioner would create a personal goal to work on. My goal for the commission is to write an article for this newspaper that encourages positive, responsible, proactive love of our community.

Humans exist and survive through relationships. Relationships have both benefits and costs. Paying taxes is only one cost. For a relationship to be successful, strong, and healthy, its members must change their priorities and values from being focused only upon themselves, to what is best for the relationship. This is called allegiance. One facet of this is to surrender some of your freedoms by obeying the laws society imposes.

If there are costs to being members who are in a relationship with their society, does that mean we

can decide to walk away from the relationship and live by ourselves? Successfully hunting and gathering for the rest of our days is complicated and difficult. It is not something society prepares you for.

Humans are a complex species with many traits that affect relationships, both personal and societal. While humans can be great contributors to society, they can also be lazy, mean spirited, and are mostly self-centered. The less we put into our relationships the weaker those relationships become and weaker relationships cannot provide all the benefits we might expect. The less benefits we get from society, the less satisfied we are being members of society and the less we want to contribute to the society. This creates a vicious circle.

From our society we members want safety, shelter, good food, good healthcare, a good education, an increased life expectancy, and more. For a society to provide all that, it must be strong and healthy with everybody pitching in their fair share and giving their allegiance to it.

Please be a full member of our society and do your part in building and nurturing positive relationships with our city and with each other to create a strong Pomona together. One thing you can do for the society is to learn the issues and vote for a healthy democracy! My suggestion on choosing a candidate is to listen to them and choose the candidate that appears to love their society and all its members.

kind of regional experience for visitors as we can enhance these opportunities,” Reece said. “Our hope is that in partnership with Pomona, we can drive a lot of economic opportunity into Pomona.”

And, he added, that would include opportunities resulting from cricket games competition in the Olympics, which will be held at Pomona’s Fairplex.

In addition to opportunities for local businesses, he said there will be job opportunities “that allow individuals to get experi-

ence if maybe an area that they’re not familiar with and be able to springboard off of that opportunity, which for you may be a new career.”

Also speaking at the event focusing on local economic trends and opportunities was Jennings Imel, vice president for congressional and public affairs for the western region of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce based in Woodland Hills, and Ata Khan, Deputy Director of the City of Pomona’s Office of Economic and Business Affairs.

Roundtable... from pg.1

thrive, be heard and be safe," she said. "This space today is about resilience, it is about the power of community, it is about honoring the strength that lives with each of us, especially in moments that challenge us to grow and do better."

"So, as we begin this morning, I invite you . . . to remember that our collective strength has always been and will always be our greatest force," she said. "Thank you for your courage, and thank you for continuing to build a legacy rooted in truth, accountability, and love."

And, of course, as news stories recounted at the time last month, cities, counties, non-profits and others immediately went to work formulating their own plans to go to work changing the names of streets, parks and buildings that had been named in honor of the

late civil rights leader. Street signs and building signs in many instances were even covered up on a temporary basis.

But at the Roundtable Legacy Breakfast, the entire room seemed able to pivot quickly to its traditional spirit of recognizing honorees.

The Jose and Rose Calderon Lifetime Achievement Award, created only last year when it was given to the Calderons as they stepped down from the Roundtable board, was presented posthumously to labor and immigrant rights champion Kent Wong, former director of the UCLA Labor Center.

Under Wong's stewardship, the University of California established labor centers at all nine campuses. Wong also led efforts to create similar centers at three universities in Mexico and built relationships with labor education programs throughout Asia. He died last October.

Roundtable President Emeritus Jose Calderon presented the award to Marshall Wong, Kent Wong's brother.

Calderon said Wong was able to secure \$15

million in funding from the state legislature for the purchasing and renovation of the UCLA Labor Center.

In accepting the award, Wong said his late brother was a "larger-than-life figure, a nationally and internationally known labor activist and champion of immigrant rights."

"He used his position to build international solidarity between the U.S. labor movement and unions in developing nations, most recently the Philippines," Wong said. "When he passed away last October, the world lost a true hero, and the progressive movement lost a visionary, bridge builder, and elder statesperson."

He said his brother was inspired by the "great movements" of the 1960s and, as a teenager, his first involvement in any kind of organizing was as a volunteer with the

United Farm Workers Union.

Wong said his family was pledging \$1,000 to support the work of the Roundtable.

A "Si, Se Puede Award" was presented to labor and immigrant

rights leader David Huerta, statewide president of the Service Employees International Union and SEIU-United Service Workers West.

Roundtable... pg. 15



Lidia Manzanares
Roundtable President



Mia Lee, at left, presents a "Si, Se Puede" award to Chara Swodeck.



Pomona Mayor
Tim Sandoval



State Sen. Maria Elena Durazo, at right, presents a "Si, Se Puede" award to David Huerta.

Los Angeles County reevaluating Cesar Chavez honors, establishing 'Farmworkers Day'

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved two motions last month to review county recognitions of Cesar Chavez and to rename the holiday as "Farmworkers Day," which will continue to be observed on the last Monday in March.

The motions were introduced by Board Chair Hilda Solis, with Supervisors Lindsey Horvath and Janice Hahn as co-authors.

The actions follow recent survivor testimonies, including those shared by labor leader Dolores Huerta, describing abuse involving Chavez.

"I am deeply shaken by the abuse involving Cesar Chavez, including the horrific account shared by my close friend, Dolores Huerta, and other survivors, Solis

said in a statement issued prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting. "These allegations are grave and deeply painful, and they demand a thorough, transparent and trauma-informed response."

"I stand with Dolores and with every survivor who has carried these experiences in silence," she added. "I know the courage it takes to come forward after so many years, especially when it means confronting powerful legacies and reliving profound personal trauma."

"Survivors must be believed, supported, and treated with dignity," she said. "They must never again be made to feel that their voices are secondary to any movement or individual."

She said the county's review will

explore renaming of parks, streets, county facilities, real property, monuments and other county programs bearing Chavez' name.

"We can continue to honor the farmworker movement and its enduring contributions while also confronting difficult truths," she said, "and ensure that our public recognitions reflect our shared values."

"The abuses of one man should not diminish the extraordinary sacrifices and accomplishments of the farmworker movement," said Supervisor Janice Hahn, who said the allegations have been "heartbreaking" for so many people.

"Renaming this holiday 'Farmworkers Day' celebrates the courage of the workers, families and

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La Nueva Voz

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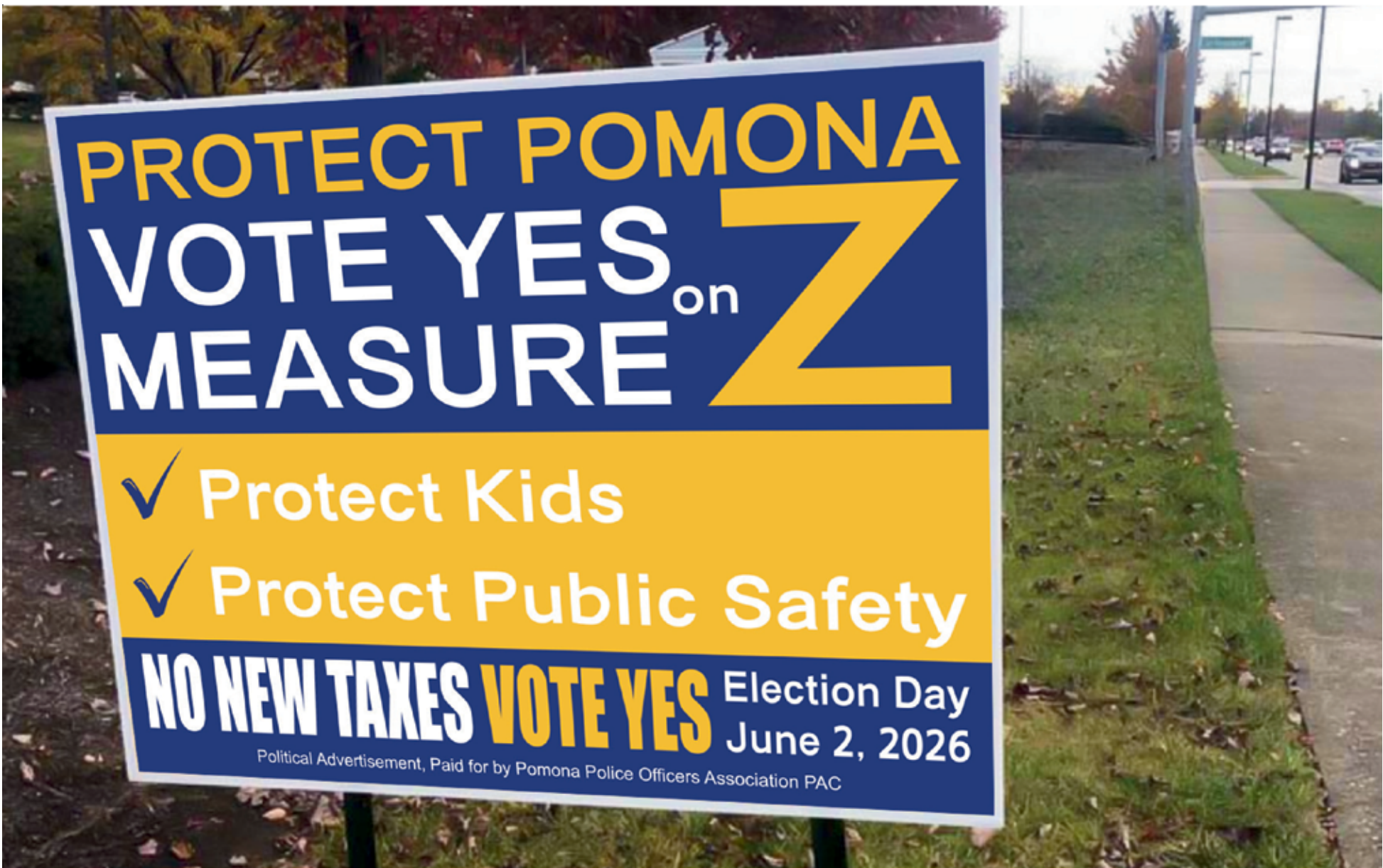


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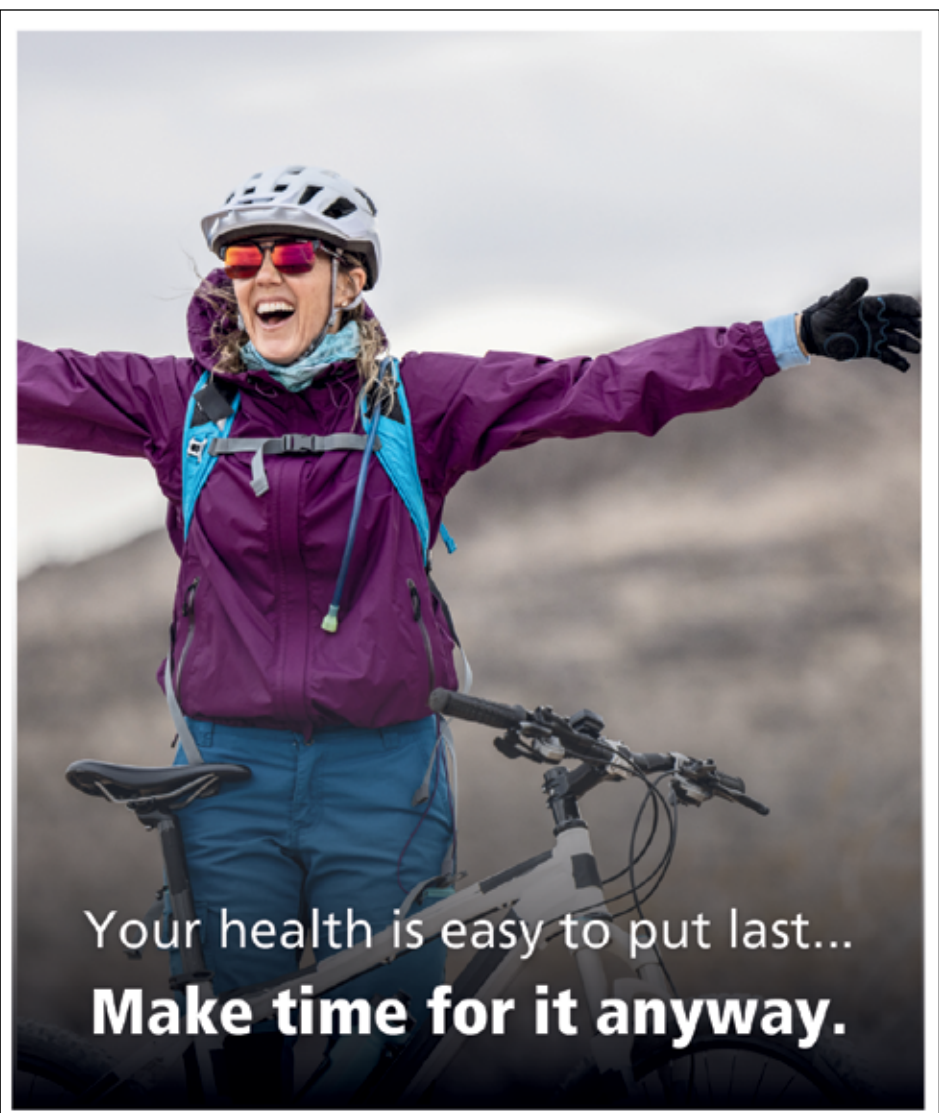
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Photo courtesy of Alejandro Ibarra of the Office of State Sen. Susan Rubio
OFFICIALS CUT THE RIBBON AT NEW CORE OFFICES IN POMONA -- Representatives of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and elected officials helped cut the ribbon last month to officially open the new Pomona offices of CORE, a community collaboration focused on giving young people a second chance at education and the tools for a career pathway. The non-profit works with individuals ages 16 to 32 and empowers individuals to overcome barriers, gain knowledge and pursue fulfilling careers. Joining with CORE leaders and representatives are, from left, Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Pomona City Councilmembers Victor Preciado (at rear) and Lorraine Canales, "honorary" Pomona Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Kobe Carrillo, his mom, an "official" Chamber Ambassador, Domenica Carrillo, of On Time Photo Booth Rentals, and Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles. CORE offices are located at 363 S. Park Ave., Suite 104A, Pomona.



TEAMSTERS SUPPORTING MEASURE Z -- Representatives of Teamsters Local Union 1932 set up shop in the Pomona Civic Center Plaza last month to provide information about Pomona's Measure Z on the June 2 primary election ballot. Pictured, center, is Teamsters business agent Jorge Rivera explaining the issues as Jose Dorado, at right, looks on. Dorado, a City of Pomona employee in the city's vehicle fleet department, is a shop steward. The Teamsters are calling for a "yes" vote for Measure Z "to protect Pomona's future," Rivera said. "Measure Z does not raise taxes -- it protects funding for kids and fixes the structure to keep Pomona financially stable and prevent the kind of budget crisis that leads to deep service cuts," Rivera added. "Without this fix, the city could face real consequences like reductions in police and fire staffing, slower emergency response times, cuts to park and recreation programs, reduced library hours, and fewer resources to maintain streets and neighborhoods." He said Measure Z "ensures Pomona doesn't have to choose between supporting kids and maintaining the essential services our community depends on."

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Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez introduces legislation to keep infants safe

Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez has introduced Assembly Bill 1628, the “Keeping Infants from Danger Act,” which extends California’s “Safe Surrender Law” from 72 hours to 30 days. “AB 1628 reflects long over-

due protections that modernize California’s Safe Surrender Law to better meet the realities facing new parents today,” Rodriguez said. “At a time where women’s rights are constantly under attack, it is imperative we take the necessary steps to

codify the strongest protections possible for women and ensure every infant has a safe start to life.” She said by extending the surrender window, the measure provides parents with additional time to make informed,

compassionate decisions, while prioritizing infant safety. The measure, which strengthens the state’s commitment to protecting newborns and reducing dangerous infant abandonment, is making its way through various committees.



Photo by Renee Barbee

GROUP SHOT AT POMONA OPTIMISTS’ TEA FOR THE SOUL -- Interested in supporting Pomona Optimists, or just seeing a group shot of everybody who attended this month’s annual “Tea for the Soul?” Here’s a shot you’ll see only in La Nueva Voz. And nobody blinked (we checked)! Pictured on stage, from left, are panelist Dr. Elizabeth Rega, associate vice president for academic community engagement at Western University of Health Sciences, Rev. Jan Chase, Optimist Board Secretary M. Joyce Bakersmith, Treasurer Fernando Meza, President Sonia Molina, Jasmine Cheng representing State Sen. Susan Rubio, Roxanna Gracias representing Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez, Optimists Debra Martin and Ruby Jung, Pomona City Manager Anita Scott, Pomona City Councilmember and Optimist Lorraine Canales, and Pomona Unified School District Board member and Optimist Dr. Roberta Perlman.

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Contact me at: ElectRothmanForPomona@gmail.com

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Photo by Renee Barbee

Pomona Police Officer Glenn Sabey shows off one of his many talents serving sandwiches (with the bread crusts trimmed, of course) to a table of Pomona High School students and their mentors for the day at the annual Pomona Optimist Club’s “Tea for the Soul” event this month at the Ebell Museum ballroom. Optimists each year invite high school ladies to the well-attended, dressy (hats and all) and elegant event and have some of the city’s top leaders serve them everything from tea and fancy sandwiches to desserts, all to show them how they should expect to be treated by gentlemen.

La Nueva Voz...

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Photos by Renee Barbee

Pomona Unified School District Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, center of bottom photo, and Donna Jackson-Houston, Pomona Community Life Commissioner and president and founder of the Nogales Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Association, center of top photo, are honored with certificates by the NAACP Pomona Valley Branch at their "Women of Distinction" celebration of Women's History Month last month at the Village at Indian Hill in Pomona. The event highlighted "the achievements, resilience and impact of women who continue to shape our communities and generations to come." Pictured at left in both photos is master of ceremonies MaLynda Cooper, a member of NAACP, and NAACP President Jeanette Royston is pictured at right.



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis presented comments last month and presented certificates to honorees at the NAACP "Woman of Distinction" event at the Village at Indian Hill. Theme of the event was "Honoring the Strength, Celebrating the Legacy, Inspiring the Future."

Interested in who has been arrested by Pomona Police in Pomona?

Please check our weekly listing at <http://www.lanuevavoz.net> and click on "Arrest Logs" on our home page.

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Athens Services gifts trucks to Fairplex CTEC as learning tools



Athens Services officials, Fairplex officials, Pomona city councilmembers and automotive students from Pomona’s CTEC pose in front of a brand new 2026 Athens trash truck used in Pomona following ceremonies in which Athens donated a 13-year-old trash truck to CTEC for use in training. Pictured, front row, from left, are Iso Nakasato of Athens, Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez, Pomona City Councilmembers Lorraine Canales, Debra Martin and Nora Garcia, Mayor Tim Sandoval, and City Councilmember Victor Preciado.

Athens Services officials joined with representatives of Pomona’s Fairplex, Pomona city councilmembers and a whole lot of students from the Career and Technical Education Center at Fairplex last month outside the Millard Sheets Art Center on the LA County Fair campus as Athens handed over the keys to two commercial vehicles to be used in an on-site automotive training program.

The vehicles, a huge 2013 Mack TerraPro trash truck, originally owned and operated by the City of Pomona, and a Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck, once a supervisor’s truck, will be used by students as a hands-on learning tool giving them the opportunity to work on real equipment, understand compressed natural gas engines and hydraulic systems, and develop welding skills on the same heavy-duty materials used in the field.

Fairplex CTEC’s program is based in the AXC Petersen Garage at Fairplex, where it provides students with an educational opportunity that can grow into a career.

Iso Nakasato, senior director of government affairs at Athens, told the students that the trash truck she called “Big Mack” was “finally ready to retire.”

“Big Mack is coming home to Pomona . . . to help young people establish new careers and help

them get educated with mechanics and welding and hydraulics,” she said. “Students will learn hands-on what does it mean to work with these trucks.”

Roberto Viramontes, executive director for The Learning Centers at Fairplex, the educational non-profit arm of Fairplex, explained his program includes everything from a child development center to field trips, arts programming and youth engagement work in Pomona.

He called the equipment donation “an opportunity for our students to apply all the technical skills that they’re learning, whether it’s an automotive technology or welding, to really apply it to some of these key resources that we’ll have here now on site.”

Viramontes said Athens also supports CTEC’s open house once every academic semester.

“With this kind of contribution to the CTEC program today, it’s the kind of exposure that can be life-changing,” he said. “It creates direction, opportunity and confidence in the students that we serve.”

His program works with area school districts as well as the San Antonio Regional Occupational Program.

Fairplex President and CEO



Pictured is a 2013 Mack TerraPro trash truck and a Chevrolet Silverado “supervisor’s” pickup truck donated by Athens Services to the Career and Technical Education Center at Fairplex where students will keep them running and, we’re guessing, “humming” for years to come.



Iso Nakasato



Roberto Viramontes



John Harrington

Walter Marquez added that he appreciates the fact that Athens “is willing to partner with us today and believe in the students.”

He said this coming together of Athens, the City of Pomona and Fairplex shows “the importance, the belief and the trust that we have in the students and in the faculty of what you guys can grow up . . . in these classrooms

and learn and achieve of what’s to come, and how you guys can then turn around and impact this community.”

Athens Senior Vice President of Government Affairs John Harrington said the donation is just the type of thing Athens enjoys – “just giving back to the community,” in this case for hands-on learning.

“It’s not just the truck, it’s all the equipment on the truck, how to fix things, how to keep things maintained, this is how our future professionals, our service professionals, learn,” he said. “Book learning can only take you so far.”

“We do strongly believe in investing in communities and workforces, and these students here are



Photo by Renee Barbee

BETA MU CHAPTER CITIZENSHIP AWARDS -- The Beta Mu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, a worldwide organization of women educators, has recognized students in local school districts for more than 25 years. They handed out scholarships to this year's 13 recipients last month in ceremonies at Pomona's Trinity United Methodist Church. Pictured, front row from left, are Angelica Barajas-Guerrero of Ganesha High School; Yuri Morales of Pomona High School; Rachel Torres Armenta of Chaparral High School; Alexa Mowbray of Claremont High School; Andrea Hernandez Aragon of Village Academy High School; and Jayla Hernandez of Park West High School. Back row from left are Marquis Biddle of Diamond Ranch High School; Ricardo Garcia-Romo of Garey High School; Gabriel Casteel of San Antonio High School; Aria DeLeon of San Dimas High School; and Abby Hurtado of SEEO High School. Not pictured are Isabella Maven of Bonita High School and Naomi Rivas-Dimas of Fremont Academy High School.



Photo by Kamille Hemsworth, Office of Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez

JUST US 4 YOUTH GRAND OPENING -- Pomona's non-profit Just Us 4 Youth, a 12-year-old organization that mentors "at promise" urban youth, held a grand opening this month for its new community center. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Robles, Chamber Ambassadors Domenica and Frank Carrillo of Pomona's On Time Photo Booth Rentals, NAACP Pomona Valley Branch President Jeanette Royston, Just Us 4 Youth Board President Peter Hidalgo, government affairs for Spectrum and Board member of Mt. San Antonio College, Just Us 4 Youth Executive Director Jose Rivera, Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin (at rear), State Sen. Susan Rubio, Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Pomona City Councilmember Lorraine Canales, Chamber Board Chair Daniel Thomas, Chamber Executive Board member and Ambassador Jeff Johannsen of Pomona Hope, and Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado. The facility, in a newly renovated building, is located at 330 W. Orange Grove Ave., Pomona.

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Representatives of the Pomona Public Library were honored by members of the Pomona City Council this month who proclaimed April 19 - 25 as "National Library Week" in the City of Pomona. The theme of National Library Week this year was "Find Your Joy." Receiving their proclamation from Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia, at right, and all set to carry it across the Civic Center Plaza to hang it on the wall at the library are, from left, library clerk Sarina De La Torre and children's librarian Crystal Orosco.



City of Pomona photo

Athens gifts trucks... from pg. 12

the future," he said. "We just want to make this next generation of skilled professionals grow, and I'm just proud to be here to hand over the keys."

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval told the group that a college education is not the only path.

"It's important to have paths like this for young people who are in high school, who move on and want to work (on trucks)," he said, "to learn and to grow and to perhaps one day get a good paying job at a place like Athens."

The "Big Mack" donated to CTEC was one of 22 trash vehicles placed in service by the City of Pomona 13 years ago to upgrade its aging fleet.



Fairplex President and CEO
Walter Marquez



Mayor Tim Sandoval

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Photo by Renee Barbee

LIBRARY EASTER BUNNY POSES WITH KIDS -- The official City of Pomona Public Library Easter bunny (OK, it is really Allan Lagumbay, the library's special collections expert) spent the day posing for a city photographer and one parent after another last month at the library's annual "Spring Event."

Roundtable... from pg. 6

According to the program notes, Huerta, since joining SEIU in 1996, has focused on improving the lives of working families and advocating for California's immigrant communities.

He was arrested last June while observing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids in Los Angeles, sparking nationwide protests and an outpouring of support from labor, community and immigrant rights organizations.

The award was presented by State Sen. Maria Elena Durazo, who called the recipient "a son of the movement" whose grandfather came from Mexico and whose father was a union man.

"He grew up understanding that dignity for working people is not handed to you, it takes organizing," she said.

Huerta told guests what is happening in this country today is not new.

"We have so much to learn and we have so much to give because what we are seeing right now in this moment in history is not new to this country," he said. "We have seen what they've done to black people. We have seen what they've done to the indigenous community, to the nation, and we see what they're doing today."

"I firmly believe that right now,

our community, right now that is in the crosshairs of this country, of this president, will be the saviors," he said. "They will be the ones who saved this democracy."

"Whether you've jumped the border, whether you were born here, whether you were in a legacy of slavery, we are the ones who have created this democracy," he said. "We have defended this democracy and we will continue to defend this democracy."

"But the only way we're going to be able to take down the tyrant in the White House, who is an authoritarian . . . is by being in solidarity with one another," he added.

A second "Si, Se Puede Award" was presented to Chara Nicole Swodeck, founding president and CEO of Pomona's African American Advisory Alliance.

According to the program notes, she is a long time Pomona community leader dedicated to cultural visibility, economic empowerment, and neighborhood equity. She is board chair of the Innovation Hub Advisory Board at Cal Poly Pomona and she serves as a Historic Preservation Commissioner for the City of Pomona.

During the pandemic, she co-led Pomona Connect, building a city-wide communication pipeline for vulnerable residents, securing a \$300,000 grant and launching a summer jobs program employing transitional age youth and formerly incarcerated residents.

She has created annual cultural celebrations including Kwanzaa Joy Celebration, Pomona Children's Festival, and GIRL Takeover at the LA County Fair.

In accepting the award, Swodeck said she was really receiving an award for "something that's . . . just what we're supposed to do."

"I feel like we're supposed to be in community with each other, and we're supposed to make sure that my neighbor is good," she added.

"To stand in a space . . . inspired by the legacy and grassroots leaders like Dolores Huerta, like the Farm Workers Union, a lot of you that are doing the work . . . is extremely humbling, but also affirming," she said.

"The work I do is rooted in



Lina Mira
Roundtable Executive Director

the idea that empowerment grows when we honor our culture, we honor our history, we honor our shared identity," Swodeck said. "We build space where we're celebrating our culture, the pride that we have for our culture, and the love that we have for our community, and the nonsense that is going on right now is not who we are."

She described an African adage about a goat.

"Basically, if you see a goat eating up, tearing up the garden in your neighbor's yard, you don't ignore it, you take care of it . . . because if you let it go . . . it's going



Jose Calderon, at right, presents the Jose and Rose Calderon Lifetime Achievement Award to Marshall Wong, who accepted it on behalf of his late brother, Kent Wong.

to be in your yard tomorrow," she said.

"Leadership means that when serving others, helping create spaces where people can stand in their power and work collectively, advocate for a stronger future for our communities," she said. "And in many ways, this work parallels the unifying efforts of the Latino

Roundtable. Our shared future truly depends on it."

The award was presented by Mia Lee of Conceptual Art Therapy in Pomona.

Rose Calderon presented the "Community Star Award" to labor union activist David Estrada, Executive Board Secretary of the

Roundtable... pg. 16



La Nueva Voz archives photo
A portrait of Cesar Chavez is placed beneath the United Farm Workers logo at the Latino and Latina Roundtable breakfast podium as it appeared in years past.

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Roundtable... from pg. 15

Roundtable.

The award was created in 2016 to acknowledge a Roundtable member each year for working on issues of the community, building unity and leadership, and working for a society where all people are treated with justice, equality and dignity.

She said Estrada has served as a labor leader for the past 49 years,

He continues to be a strong voice in the labor movement and a committed organizer, serving as San Gabriel Valley co-chair of the California Alliance of Retired Americans and as a delegate to both the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the Inland Empire Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

And he has made many contributions to the Roundtable.

shared values into real change” which, he said, “over the last half century has brought me more joy and satisfaction than I can put into words.”

He said he accepted the award “not on my own but on behalf of all of you in this room.”

“Let’s keep fighting together – the best days for working families are still ahead of us,” he said.

“Social Justice Scholarship” recipients this year were Manuel Maris, Maricela Vazquez and Michael Papias, all students at Mt. San Antonio College, and Sarah Venegas, a USC graduate, a first-generation college student, and an incoming graduate student in the USC Rossier Educational Counseling program this fall.

Roundtable Executive Board



Rose Calderon, at left, presents "Community Star Award" to David Estrada.

development, lobbying for equitable access to higher education, advocating for environment justice, and partnering with Pomona Unified School District to train parents on their rights in the event they were detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and creating plans for their children to be taken care of.

“We cannot change our past, but we can learn from it and set the example for accountability,” she said, adding that it is important to ask the “tough questions” like “what are we doing to prevent the abuse,



This year's Roundtable Social Justice Scholarship awards were presented to, from left, Michael Papias, Maricela Vazquez, and Manuel Maris. Not pictured is Sarah Venegas.

and has served as a mental health advocate and a community activist.

“David Estrada has devoted his life to uplifting those who work with their hands and their hearts,” she said.

According to the program notes, Estrada has spent his life uplifting working people. Through his career with the Service Employees International Union, he rose to national leadership as a National Coordinator for the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions, AFL-CIO in Washington, D.C., advocating for fair wages, safe conditions and workers’ rights.

In accepting the award, Estrada thanked the unions he worked with through the years for allowing him “the chance to fight for fair wages, safe workplaces and dignity that every worker deserves.”

“To the nonprofit organizations and community groups that I have been blessed to serve alongside, thank you for trusting me with the work of protecting immigrants and lifting up working families,” he added. “And to the elected leaders here, city council members, mayors, candidates I have been proud to help elect, thank you for letting me walk with you as we turned

Reevaluation... from pg. 6

organizers who changed this country for the better and reminds us all that this legacy belongs to a collective, not to any one individual,” she said.

A state holiday honoring Chavez

similarly has been renamed “Farmworkers Day.”

A report from county officials was due back within 21 days outlining recommendations for the review process.

President Lidia Manzanares, in her second year as president and the first woman president of the organization, recapped the work the Roundtable is doing in areas of economy and workforce de-

neglect, and exploitation of women, girls and children, what are we allowing to take place in our own homes... (and) are you supporting and mentoring women in leadership.”

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Courtesy photo
 Pomona Police Department Capt. Alyssa Bostrom was named Assembly District 53's "2026 Woman of the Year" last month in ceremonies on the floor of the Assembly in the State Capitol in Sacramento hosted by the Legislative Women's Caucus. The event was part of a Women's History Month celebration. "Her leadership, dedication to public safety and commitment to protecting victims make her truly deserving of this recognition," Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez said in a news release. Bostrom has served on the Pomona Police Department for more than 20 years. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis, Bostrom, and Rodriguez.



Photo by Renee Barbee
 POMONA REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL PANEL -- Representatives of Pomona participated in a panel discussion on "Prenatal-to-Three Impact Lab" last month at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center. The program was part of a two-day conference produced by the National League of Cities and UCLA's Early Childhood Ecosystems as part of a nine-month initiative to drive local action for the prenatal-to-three population. It focused on strategies to address key contributors to poor maternal and infant outcomes, and efforts to provide healthy environments, financial stability and safe homes to achieve thriving children, families and communities. Panelists from Pomona are, from left, are Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, early childhood development advocate Leticia Casillas Sanchez, a veteran of Pomona's Promise, Pomona Chamber of Commerce ambassador Frank Carrillo of On Time Photo Booth Rentals, a community activist and parent advocate, and Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles.



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National Anthem, Pomona Concert Band
Color Guard ceremonies will be provided by
Pomona American Legion Post 30

Pomona schools make 'San Gabriel Valley Honor Roll'

By Victoria Miranda
 Contributing writer

Five area schools were among 36 schools named "San Gabriel Valley Honor Roll Schools" last month in annual San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce award ceremonies in Rowland Heights.

Included were four Pomona Unified School District schools that made the list – Village Academy High School and Golden Springs, Ranch Hills and Pantera Elementary Schools.

Also added to the "Honor Roll" was Pomona's IPoly (International Polytechnic High School) on the Cal Poly Pomona campus.

The event, part of an "Educational Results Partnership," sheds light on educational systems and the need to bridge the gap between education and employment for students.

Theme of the event held at the Rowland Unified School District's Performing Arts Center was "Bridging the Gap – Excellence in Education."

"We have to keep making sure our kids are prepared and that we are helping them make the connection from high school all the way to whether it's junior college or university, there has to be college/career readiness, it's important," said Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles.

The IPoly award emphasized the school's work in civil education, and it recognized IPoly's commitment to empowering students through its "Senior Capstone Project" that focuses on seniors engaging with real world issues and taking meaningful civil action.

"It is truly an honor to be granted this recognition," said IPoly Interim Assistant Principal Dr. Angie Cantu, "and now to be integrated with this organization for the San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce for the further opportunity to collaborate and support the initiatives that they have set for themselves."

"So (we are) looking forward to



Photo by Victoria Miranda
 Representatives of Pomona's IPoly High School show off their awards at last month's San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce ceremonies recognizing this year's "San Gabriel Valley Honor Roll Schools." From left are Heather Nichols, IPoly's community outreach associate; IPoly's Interim Assistant Principal Dr. Angie Cantu; and Jamie Smith, equity and access administrator for IPoly.

this opportunity and to expand/provide IPoly's horizons on community collaborations and contributions as well," she added.

Aziz Amiri, CEO of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, shared his personal perspective as to why this event meant so much to him.

I could not."

In addition to the Pomona schools, others added to the "Honor Roll" were seven schools from Covina Valley Unified School District, seven schools from Hacienda-La Puente Unified, six schools from Rowland Unified, four schools from Walnut Valley



Courtesy photo
 Pomona Unified School District made the "San Gabriel Valley Honor Roll Schools" list again this year in ceremonies last month on the theme "Bridging the Gap -- Excellence in Education" held at Rowland Unified School District's Performing Arts Center. From left are Pomona Unified Schools Supt. Darren Knowles; Ranch Hills Elementary School Principal Ashley Hedrick; Pomona Unified School District Board member Patricia Tye; Golden Springs Elementary School Principal Margaret Grosjean; Dr. Camille Ramos-Beal, Educational Services' director of accountability and assessment; and Pantera Elementary School Principal Dr. Lacey Lemus.

"I am a three-time refugee so when I went to school I never got to finish and with events like these, I recognize what I missed," he said. "So, the way I look at children I think to myself wow, these children have opportunity and (we need to do) anything we can do to engage them or encourage them to do what

Unified, and six schools from West Covina Unified.

Also named "Honor Roll Districts" were Covina Valley, Hacienda-La Puente and Rowland Unified School Districts.

For more information, visit the Regional Chamber's web site at www.rcsgv.com.

Reclaiming calm: Managing stress through movement

By Patty Roney, PT, DPT

EDS Program Outpatient Therapy

Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

Stress is a universal experience. While a small amount can sharpen focus, chronic stress interferes with our fundamental well-being. The first step to management is awareness. Your body often signals stress through a rising heart rate or shallow breathing. When you notice these physical shifts, you can use the following strategies to bring your system back to baseline.



Patty Roney, PT, DPT

of intentional deep breathing can measurably decrease your heart rate and blood pressure, snapping the cycle of acute stress.

The endorphin effect

Physical activity – particularly aerobic exercise – acts as a natural "de-stressor"

by stimulating the production of endorphins. These are the body's natural mood elevators and pain relievers. The best exercise is the one you enjoy enough to do regularly. Whether it is pickleball, swimming, cycling, or a session at the gym, consistency is the key to maintaining a sense of well-being.

The power of nature

While a brisk walk provides a cardiovascular boost, a stroll in nature offers unique restorative benefits. Visiting local trails or botanical gardens has been shown to boost immunity and reduce anxiety. While walking, practice sensory grounding:

What specific birds can you hear?

What do the local flowers smell like?

This shift in focus pulls your mind away from stressors and into the present moment. For an added boost, bring a friend; social connection and laughter are some of the most potent stress-killers available.

The sleep connection

Finally, regular exercise improves sleep quality. Getting the recommended 7 to 9 hours of rest restores the body and sharpens concentration. When you are well-rested, you are better equipped to handle daily challenges with a clear mind.

By making movement a non-negotiable part of your daily routine, you can transform your physiological response to stress and reclaim your peace of mind.

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The 40-second reset

Breathing exercises are the fastest way to "hack" your nervous system. For maximum impact, sit with a relaxed, upright posture to allow your lungs to expand fully.

- The Extended Exhale: Inhale for a count of 4; exhale slowly for a count of 8. A longer exhale signals the brain that it is safe to relax.

- Box Breathing: Inhale for 4, hold for 4, exhale for 4, and hold for 4.

Remarkably, just 40 seconds

Simons Middle School student on scooter dies following collision with SUV

A 13-year-old Pomona boy riding an electric scooter without a helmet was fatally injured in a collision with a Chevrolet Tahoe SUV while apparently on his way home from classes at Simons Middle School last week according to officials.

Pomona police and Los Angeles County fire paramedics from County Fire Station 185 responded to the accident that occurred just before 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, in the 1600 block of South San Antonio Avenue.

The victim, Angel Roman Mendoza Lopez, rode off the west sidewalk of San Antonio Avenue and into the roadway against opposing lanes of traffic, according to Pomona Police Department Traffic Bureau Sgt. Maxwell Moya.

He was riding his scooter in a northeast direction, and the motorist was traveling southbound on San Antonio, Moya said in response to an inquiry from La Nueva Voz.

Moya added that the accident occurred near a school zone area.

The victim was transported to Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center but succumbed to his injuries two days later.

Driver of the Tahoe was identified by police as Samantha Anaya, 18.

The accident is still under investigation by police traffic officers.

Pomona Unified School District issued its own press release regarding the after-school accident.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of one of our students," said Pomona Unified School Supt. Darren Knowles. "Our thoughts are with Angel's family during this incredibly difficult time. As a district, we are committed to supporting our school community and ensuring that students and staff have the care and resources they need."

"Angel was a part of our Simons family and this loss is heartbreaking," said Simons Principal Tara Noelte. "Our hearts are with his family, and we are focused on caring for our students and staff as they process this loss together."

The district is in communication with the family and continues to offer support, according to the press release.

Counseling and mental health services also are available for students and staff who may need support.

A GoFundMe link for donations to help the family is available at <https://gofund.me/943f85131>.

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\$35.00 for adults. Kids 12 and under are invited to sit with their family and play for \$15.00 each.

Adult tickets include 20 Bingo cards.

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To RSVP by May 1, you can call the Pilgrim office at 909-622-1373.

Michelle

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