



La Nueva Voz

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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member

Issue No. 203

Thursday, June 25, 2026

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Measure Z and Pomona's financial future win at the polls!

Measure Z, a ballot measure proposed by the City of Pomona to modify Measure Y, a citizens' initiative which was approved by the voters in 2024, was approved by voters in the June primary in better than a two to one vote, giving the city a significant

amount of budget breathing room. Measure Y, known as the Pomona Kids First charter initiative, was billed as an effort to boost programs for the kids through an annual transfer to the "Children and Youth Fund."

The problem was that annual

shift of city funds, phasing in each year until it reached 10 percent of the city's general fund dollars, was called unsustainable by city officials and was already requiring budget cuts in all city departments and forcing the city to dip into its reserve funds.

The Measure Y requirement called for a transfer of \$9 million in the 2026-2027 fiscal year budget approved by councilmembers last month, based on the current level of 6 percent of the city's general fund.

Measure Z, really a financial compromise taking the dollars allocated down a notch – albeit a big notch, now will revise the funding mechanism to an annual transfer from the general fund of 10 percent of the amount the city receives from the state in sales tax revenue. Based on recent figures, according to city officials, that formula would require a transfer of about \$2.3 million to the Children and Youth Fund.

While the city legally could not take an official position on the initiative, it communicated its informational message to the public using a variety of approaches including ads in La Nueva Voz.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval,

however, was a vocal supporter of Measure Z and distributed his own messaging to the public, including submitting an opinion article to La Nueva Voz which appeared in last month's issue.

"Pomona's children need you to vote yes on Measure Z – to make your voice heard, keep our children funded, protect essential city services and keep Pomona financially strong," he said in his submission.

Measure Z also was endorsed by the Pomona Police Officers Association's political action committee, Firefighters Local 1014 which represents county firefighters, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 1932, which represents many Pomona city employees.

The near-complete ballot results at press time were 14,224 to 6,977, or 67 percent to 33 percent, with only two more ballot updates remaining (there were a total of 13) before results could be certified.

Pomona City Council race

Meanwhile, it was incumbents' night out in the Pomona City Council race this month, with Councilmembers Nora Garcia in District 3 and Victor Preciado in District 2 coming out on top.

Based on the near-complete ballot results, it appears Garcia will win outright with 72 percent of the vote, which means that since she received more than 50 percent, she will not have to compete in the November general election.

Her challengers were Veronica Cabrera, with 21 percent, and Rita Lopez, with 7 percent of the vote.

Preciado, however, appeared to be heading for the runoff with Jacky Elizalde in November with only 45 percent of the vote, compared to Elizalde with 33 percent and Samantha Zavala-Angulo with 22 percent.

In District 5, where the vote was too close to call until the end, political newcomer Yvonne Cobarrubias avoided the runoff with just over 50 percent of the vote, defeating former Pomona Mayor and City Councilmember Elliott Rothman, who had 49.85 percent. The difference at last count before deadline for this issue was only 15 votes.

Cobarrubias was endorsed by outgoing Councilmember Steve Lusto who opted not to seek reelection for a third term. A resident of Pomona for 28 years,

Financial win at the polls ... pg. 11

Fremont graduates told to collaborate, 'be the person who makes the team better'

The 55 graduating seniors at Pomona's Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design were told by Pomona Unified School District Board member Arturo Jimenez last month that "today we celebrate not just what you have achieved, but what we can achieve together."

"You all have shown personal responsibility and independence, you turned in assignments, you passed exams, you pushed through long days and late nights,"

he said. "But if you think back honestly, you didn't get here alone – there were teachers . . . classmates who shared notes . . . friends and family who believed



Pomona Unified School District Board member Arturo Jimenez hands a diploma to Fremont Academy graduating senior Alexandra Ornelas Galeana as she poses for the cameras.

in you on the days you doubted yourself."

"Your success is personal, but it is also shared – the world you're

Graduates told to collaborate... pg. 4

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Ron Vander Molen, Victor Glover honored at Mayor's Gala

The late Ron Vander Molen, a long-time Pomona Public Library and Pomona Public Library Foundation supporter and fundraising auctioneer, and Pomona's own astronaut Victor J. Glover, Jr., received top honors at this month's 2026 Mayor's Gala.

The Pomona Public Library Foundation fundraiser, at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center on the theme "A Ticket to Adventure: Around the World in 80 Days," honored Vander Molen with the "Foundation Award" for

his support of the library and for his generosity donating works of art from his personal collection for the foundation's "live auction" at the last three Mayor's Gala events.

He also was recognized for his service to Pomona – as a planning commissioner, as president of the Ganesha Hills Association, as a member of the Fairplex Association, and as a member of Pomona Rotary and Pomona Heritage.

He died last June at the age of 72 after battling cancer. Vander Molen was a renowned expert in estate sales and was an expert in the work of California artists.

The "Foundation Award" is presented to an individual who has significantly contributed to the library through the foundation.



Astronaut Victor Glover addressed guests at the gala in a special videotape recording.




Pomona's Ron Vander Molen received the Pomona Public Library Foundation award posthumously. Pictured presenting the award to his wife, Susan Vander Molen, at right, are Foundation Immediate Past President Duane Smith, at left, and Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lustro. Susan Vander Molen is also a foundation board member.



Gala master of ceremonies Valerie Ojeda

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Vander Molen's wife Susan accepted the award on his behalf.

"I know my husband would be really proud and what was interesting is when he did the auction last year, that was the last thing he did, and he passed away the following week," she said. "So, it's pretty shocking for all of us because we didn't expect it, but thank you very much."

The "Mayor's Award" was presented to Pomona's own Victor Glover who only two months ago in April served as pilot of NASA's

astronaut to live aboard the International Space Station.

While Glover was unable to attend the event, he addressed the audience in a pre-recorded video.

"The mind of a child filled with imagination, curiosity, dreams, this is what our children do," Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said in presenting the "Mayor's Award."

"For one child, perhaps the seed was sewn at Allison Elementary School or a visit to our public library where he imagined



Pomona Public Library Foundation President Bree Devones Hsieh



Cal Poly Library Dean Dr. Marla Peppers



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval presented the Mayor's Award to astronaut and Pomona native Victor Glover. Pictured, from left, are family friend Kim Johnson, Glover's aunts Tanya Glover-Patterson and Mya Buis, and Sandoval.

Artemis II mission around the moon.

Glover, a native of Pomona, a U.S. Navy aviator and a test pilot in the F/A-18 Hornet, Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler, is one of the four humans who have traveled the farthest from Earth.

He was the first Black American

boarding and piloting a spaceship, launching into space at 25,000 miles per hour, flying around the moon, the dark side of the moon, and returning to Earth and landing in the Pacific Ocean," he added.

"That is part of the story of an American hero, a Pomona hero, Victor Glover, Jr.," he said. "One

could say that his journey . . . to the moon started in Pomona."

Sandoval said Glover's mother was a bookkeeper and his father was a Pomona policer officer.

"We've come a long way since growing up in Pomona there and going to Allison Elementary



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Graduates told to collaborate... from pg. 1

entering now is too complex for lone heroes,” Jimenez said. “The biggest problems we face in our communities, in our country and in our planet cannot be solved by isolated individuals.”

“They require people who can listen deeply, who can respect differences, who can disagree without disrespect, who can combine their strengths,” he added. “Real maturity is not just saying I can do it myself – real maturity is saying we can do more and we do it together.”

He told the graduates to continue building their skills as they move forward.

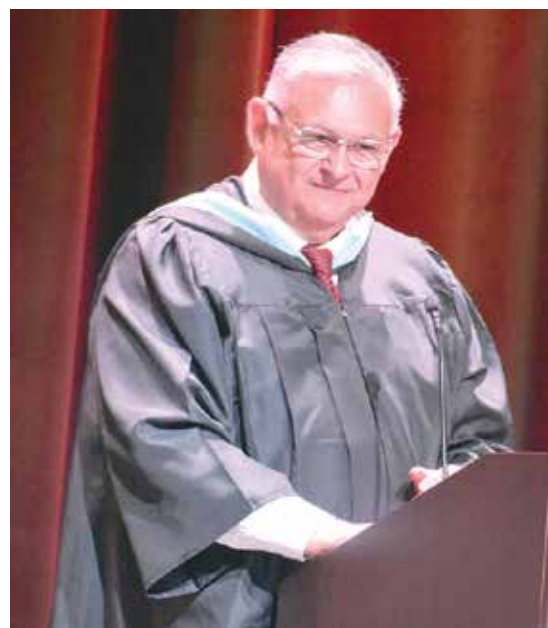
“Keep building your confidence, keep building your independence, but don’t stop there – learn to collaborate, ask for help without shame, offer help without keeping score, be the person who makes the team better, who builds trust, who pulls others up as you rise,” Jimenez said.

“The highest form of human development is not independence alone, it’s interdependence, strong individuals choosing to stand side by side,” he said. “Class of 2026, you have proven what you can do on your own – now go on and show the world what you can do with others.”

Fremont Principal Dr. Michael Sanchez told students that they showed him “resilience, community, and an unshakable pride in who you are and what you are building together.”

“As a school deeply rooted in engineering and design, you understand better than anyone that the first draft is rarely the final product,” he added. “Engineering is . . . about taking a concept, testing it against reality, weathering the stress test of late nights and tough exams and refining it until it stands strong.”

“Your high school career has been the ultimate design process – you have prototyped your passions, recalibrated after setbacks, and today you stand



**Arturo Jimenez, Board member
Pomona Unified School District**

here as a beautifully engineered class ready for deployment into the real world,” he said. “You are stepping away from the drafting board of high school and entering the testing grounds of your future.”

“Remember to keep creating, keep innovating, and never be afraid to redesign your path,” he said.

Class salutarian Juan Rodriguez told his classmates that it was perseverance that enabled them to reach their goal of graduation.

“Perseverance is one of the best traits you can have when facing life’s biggest hardships,” he said. “You all have overcome obstacles, challenges, and countless barriers throughout your journey.”

“It has been amazing being alongside each and every one of you – you all have the potential to achieve great success,” he said. “But remember one thing – be bold, be original, be invincible.”

And class valedictorian Maribel Ibarra told graduates that the challenges of high school “are what have connected us throughout these past four years of high school and have prepared us for what lies ahead.”

“Life is a challenge – everyone is going to be taking on more responsibilities, which may lead to struggles such as paying bills, getting a job, and keeping it, as well as making sure your family is taken care of,” Ibarra added. “It is normal and unavoidable – it is a process that we in life experience in order to grow.”

“Take your time in deciding

what you want to do – do not feel pressured by what others are doing because you are eventually going to figure it out,” she said. “Being successful does not happen overnight. Trust the process and continuously strive towards the reward.”

Ceremonies were held in the Pomona Unified School District auditorium.

It was the school’s 13th commencement ceremony.

The school, which includes grades seven through 12, phased in its high school grades a year at a time and its first-ever high school graduation was held in 2014. La Nueva Voz included that first-ever Fremont ceremony in its graduation coverage that year – there were 87 graduates – in its continuing high school rotation covering a different school to be featured in the newspaper each year (see www.lanuevavoz.net and click on past issues to view the June 2014 issue).



**Maribel Ibarra
Valedictorian**



**Juan Diego Rodriguez
Salutarian**



**Yeley Contreras
Associated Student
Body President**



**Debanhi Natalia Ramos Macias
Senior Class President**



School Board member Arturo Jimenez congratulates Fremont Academy graduating senior Daimen Camacho as he receives his diploma.



SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS LINE UP FOR GRADUATION CEREMONIES – Lining up for Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design graduation ceremonies in the school district auditorium last month are, from left, Fremont Principal Dr. Michael Sanchez, Pomona Unified School District Assistant Supt. for Business Services Sandra Garcia, Pomona Unified School Board member Arturo Jimenez, and Fremont counselors Lori Douglass and Veronica Castellanos.

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Mayor's Gala... from pg. 2

School, graduating from Ontario, going up to Cal Poly and off to the Navy to serve my country," Glover said in the video. "It has been such a privilege and an honor to serve in this capacity, and I've learned so much along the way."

"You know, growing up in Pomona libraries, especially public libraries and school libraries, were the first place that I got to go on journeys," Glover added. "Those flights of fantasy, you know, exploring the cosmos in your imagination and trying to build universes from places that you read about in books was truly the beginning of this exploration journey that's got us now going 252,756 miles away from the Earth to go unlock the secrets of the cosmos and our next door neighbor in the sky, our moon."

"Thank you for this honor and this recognition," he said. "My family, my crew and all of NASA appreciate you and we thank you for this."

The award to Glover, who Sandoval called a "hometown hero," was accepted on his behalf by his aunts Tanya Glover-Patterson and Mya Buis, who happens to be a library resource technician at Bon View Elementary School in Ontario, and family friend Kim Johnson of Pomona.

Glover-Patterson thanked the foundation for honoring their nephew.

"He has asked us to express his sincere gratitude for this recognition, and while his work has taken him far from home and even beyond the planet, he has never forgotten where he was coming from, and (he is) deeply honored that the hometown community has chosen to celebrate his achievements," she said, adding that Glover's grandmother was a librarian.

Buis said Glover had another commitment to the Navy and was unable to attend.

"But his love for reading is unmatched," she said. "While he was up in space, he would send us e-mails . . . he always had time to read. He is a major fan of the library – he's a lifelong learner."

Keynote speaker at the event was Dr. Marla Peppers, dean of the university library at Cal Poly Pomona.

"Throughout my career, I've seen firsthand how libraries spark a lifelong love of reading in young children while serving as an enduring source of knowledge, discovery and inspiration for learners of all ages," Peppers said. "Few places are as welcoming and inclusive as a library. It is a space where everyone belongs, and where people can simply walk in as they are."

"They are places where knowledge is shared, relationships are built, and communities grow stronger," she added. "The Pomona Public Library embodies this spirit beautifully."

She said the library at Cal Poly shares Pomona's commitment to libraries.

"We are continually seeking new ways to expand access to knowledge, remove barriers to learning, and serve both our students and the broader community," Peppers said. "We at Cal Poly Pomona are excited to deepen and strengthen our partnership with the Pomona Public Library and the foundation. Together, we can continue creating opportunities for learning, discovery and innovation."

"The impact of your work will continue to enrich lives today while helping to shape a stronger future for generations to come," she said.

Foundation President Bree Devones Hsieh told the group that they were helping support the library "because it's an essential center of connection and a launchpad for learning in our community."

"I think our library . . . is an answer to many modern challenges – we have an era where information is just coming at us," she said. "So, to have this place where we can invest in our kids' education through tutoring, in resources for the community where you can come and research jobs or research historical events, as well as a place where we send families on summer excursions to keep up learning and engagement . . . we're really excited that we can invest that in our library."

The event raised \$60,000 to support programs, improvements and resources available to the community at the Pomona Public Library through the foundation.

Community service can create lasting impact

By Caleb Lee

This year, students from Lorbeer Middle School have demonstrated how youth leadership and community service can create a lasting impact throughout Pomona and neighboring cities and communities. Through Lorbeer Middle School's California Junior Scholarship Federation Chapter 983, students dedicated their time to projects and events that promoted service, leadership, scholarship, and community involvement across the Pomona Unified School District and Pomona.

Throughout the 2025-2026 service year, Lorbeer students completed thousands of community service hours while supporting activities both on campus and throughout the city. Their efforts reflected a commitment not only to academic excellence, but also to helping others and strengthening the connection between our schools and the community.

Students first focused on improving their own campus environment. Members organized snack sales to help fund student activities, supported their "Homework Club" through peer tutoring, and created posters, decorations, and bracelets to promote school spirit and future events. They also volunteered and organized major campus activities and donation drives. These efforts encouraged students to become more involved on campus while creating a more welcoming school.

Their work soon went beyond campus into our communities. Students volunteered at beach cleanups, supported the Chalk

Art Festival, and caroled for seniors at Claremont Manor. Members also hosted booths and assisted at community events such as the Pomona Art Walk, 5K/10K Run, the Lunar New Year celebrations, and Earth Day activities in Diamond Bar. Through partnerships with neighboring schools during "Trunk or Treat" events and collaborating with more than 10 schools across the district, these students have demonstrated how service can unite communities and inspire generations to come.

In addition to volunteering at public events, students organized several initiatives to support local families and organizations in need. Members collected food and hygiene items for the Pomona Valley Food Bank, gathered soda tabs and assembled goodie bags for Ronald McDonald House in Orange County, and created holiday gift bags for families during the winter season. Students also collaborated with the INSAN Foundation through its "Striving for Humanity" initiative to help promote their mission to make the world kinder.

The chapter's accomplishments were recognized through many achievements during the year. Students earned more than 20 "Realize the Dream" medals, while several members completed the "Seal of Service." Furthermore, both the cities of Pomona and Diamond Bar have recognized the leadership team for this club for their exceptional dedication to volunteerism and leadership. Their efforts showed the positive impact students can make when given volunteer opportunities to lead and serve.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication of the chapter's student leaders and advisors. The CJSF 2025-2026 Service Year was led by President Caleb Lee, Vice President Kaelyn Lam, Secretary Zoey Ching, and Treasurer Nathan Asuncion, under the guidance and support of Lorbeer teachers Lashana Crutchfield and Vuthy Tim. Together, they helped turn ideas into meaningful action and encouraged students to become active leaders within their schools and communities.

As the service year has come to a close, the accomplishments of Lorbeer Middle School students show something larger happening across Pomona and our neighboring communities. Youth are proving that leadership can begin at any age, that service can bring communities together, and that students have the power to create a lasting positive impact throughout their city, as just a small action of kindness can cause a ripple effect across society!

Editor's Note: Caleb Lee is an eighth-grade student at Diamond Bar's Lorbeer Middle School, part of the Pomona Unified School District.

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A celebration of service

By Emily Shim, Volunteer

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Realize the Dream” campaign

As the 2026 school year came to a close, Pomona Unified School District honored the incredible service performed in our communities through the efforts of students, staff, and parents.

Over 34,500 hours of service was completed in collaboration with the “Realize the Dream” campaign. An awards ceremony was held last month for the students and parents who served their communities the most. The celebration was led by teacher Claudia Ruelas with appearances by Supt. Darren Knowles, Assistant Supt. Fernando Meza and school board members Dr. Roberta Perlman, Patricia Tye, and Arturo Jimenez. They made opening remarks acknowledging the massive amount of work and efforts these students had contributed in their community.

Dr. Perlman emphasized the importance of service learning, as it teaches students compassion.

“You have to be compassionate to yourself to be compassionate to others,” she said.

They also acknowledged the support behind the students of teachers Claudia Ruelas and Joseph Shim who help guide and mentor the students.

Pomona Unified School District was one of the first school districts in the country to partner with the “Realize the Dream” campaign.

The event’s goal was to

acknowledge the hard work and commitment that the students made through the year. The top five service hour earners were invited to the event. All participants received awards based upon their service. The awards ranged from bronze, silver, and gold in which the students were awarded either a national certificate or medal based upon hours of service.

The highlight of the evening was the students themselves given the opportunity to speak at the event – Altair Alvarez and Sofia Munoz from Arroyo Elementary School, Caleb Lee from Lorbeer Middle school, Miya Renfro from Lexington, and co-speakers Amara Beatty and Sinthia Salcedo from Diamond Ranch High School.

The speeches included inspiring tales of how their service had not just impacted others’ lives but their own as well.

Altair Alvarez and Sofia Munoz spoke of the impact that service has had on them at such a young age and how this will shape who they are as they move into middle school next year. Altair Alvarez discussed their personal taking away on service.

“Assisting the community helps us grow as individuals ... we will carry what we have learned and how we have grown with us for the rest of our lives,” Altair said.

Sofia spoke on how service

formed the way she moves through life.

“The true purpose of life is found in selfless service and looking beyond your needs to help others,” she said.

Both middle school speakers, Caleb Lee and Miya Renfro, spoke on how service can be used to unify one another and create understanding.

“Diversity is what makes our schools and communities stronger,” Miya said. “When we respect and support one another, we create a community where everyone feels valued and included. Service is another important part of realizing the dream.”

Caleb Lee explained how through service everyone is connected.

“Service learning is more than just an activity – it is becoming a fundamental principle, a culture that all of us students should take part in. It is a way for students from every background, every group, every story, to come together and work towards one goal, to help one another.”

Students Amara Beatty and Sinthia Salcedo spoke of their experience in how service helped them learn and grow, understanding that legacy is not about being perfect but making a difference.

They said they grew in ways

they did not expect – in patience, in humility, in the ability to listen before speaking and to trust that small actions accumulate into something real.

They said that is the legacy they want to leave for the students who come after them – not as a finished product but a living example.

Their advice to upcoming students looking to get involved but unsure where to start is that you do not have to wait until you feel ready. You do not have to have all the answers. You just have to care enough to begin.

Dr. King did not realize his dream alone, they said. He realized it alongside ordinary people who decided that their presence mattered, that their voice mattered, and that their

community was worth fighting for.

Through the “Realize the Dream” campaign, the students have become engaged with their communities and created through experience the understanding that change can come through small actions. Amara and Sinthia were invited to inspire others across the country by sharing their story through the “Realize the Dream” YouTube channel at <https://tinyurl.com/amaraandsinthia>.

The goal of the “Realize the Dream” campaign is to reach 100 million hours by 2029 to honor what will be Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s 100th birthday. This campaign is open to everyone. To learn more, visit <https://www.realizethedream.org/get-involved>.

Eligible renters receiving free package of home appliances

Pomona ACTS based in Downtown Pomona is giving up to 180 renters a free package of domestic electric appliances through Pomona Power Up to help residents reduce indoor air pollution and keep their families safe through blackouts and heatwaves.

Appliances include air purifiers, a tower fan, portable air conditioners, portable plug-in battery, electric slow cooker, air fryer toaster oven and more.

The appliances are designed to help residents lower their utility bills.

Pomona Power Up is a multi-partner initiative bringing clean energy upgrade investments to Pomona neighborhoods aimed to

help residents save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and stay safe during extreme heat or power outages.

To apply for the giveaway, visit pomonaacts.org/pomona-power-up.

Pomona ACTS is located at 175 E. Second St., Pomona. It is supported by the California Strategic Growth Council’s Transformative Climate Communities Program.

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Publisher: Jeff Schenkel

Tel: (909) 224-0244 • jeffschenkel@verizon.net

V.P. of Marketing & Operations: Renee Barbee
Cell: (909) 762-1446 • reneebarbee7@gmail.com

Layout & Design: Dora Cruz
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Subscriptions by mail \$49 per year.
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Cal Poly graduates 6,900 students in three days of ceremonies

By Victoria Miranda
Contributing writer

From May 15-17, the Cal Poly Pomona campus became a place where hopes and dreams were honored as approximately 6,900 graduates and their families gathered across 12 commencement ceremonies to celebrate years of hard work and the limitless opportunities that lie ahead.

The ceremony was filled with a huge standout sense of success as several distinguished speakers took the stage, each commending the graduates for their remarkable accomplishments and achievements throughout these years.

Cal Poly's Interim President Dr. Iris Levine also delivered a powerful speech reflecting on all these students' admirable dedication and hard work they took to get to this special moment in their lives. Her words echoed throughout the crowd as a promise of the bright future they have ahead.

Sharing her personal reflections as to what this ceremony signifies for the university's mission and future, Levine said, "Cal Poly Pomona serves an incredible community of students most of which are first generation, meaning they had no pathway before them, so when these graduates walk across this stage, that signifies a huge accomplishment for them."

She also shared some ways she feels that Cal Poly is evolving to meet the needs of students to help pave their way to success.

"We are serving the greatest number of first generation students, so that alone, those students are going back into their communities (taking what they learned) and changing the future," Levine added.

From a faculty perspective, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Dr. Campbell A. Dindmore offered advice to graduating students.

"Survive your first year – that's always the hardest – and after that, we've prepared them quite well, so I believe they will do extremely well," he said.

Sharing their personal journeys, a few Cal Poly graduates commented on how

they felt to be able to finally celebrate such a momentous occasion in their life. Mohammed Masoud, 23, an aerospace engineering major, reflected on how he stayed motivated throughout his college journey by "keeping in mind that it would all eventually be done – and here we are today on graduation day."

He also encouraged others to "be persistent, believe in yourself, and never give up."



Students, as would be expected, were all smiles during graduation ceremonies last month at Cal Poly Pomona.



Photos by Victoria Miranda
Cal Poly Pomona Interim President Dr. Iris Levine poses for the La Nueva Voz camera at graduation ceremonies last month on campus.

Kassandra Ortiz, also 23, a chemical engineering major with a minor in materials engineering, described graduation as "one of my biggest accomplishments."

As a first-generation college student, she said the moment holds special meaning because she is "able to pave the way for younger generations, such as my siblings and cousins."

Cal Poly graduates... pg. 16



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Photo by Joshua Swodeck

NEW LATINO ART GALLERY -- Executive Director Oscar Magallanes, with the scissors, cuts the ribbon this month to officially open new Pomona Chamber of Commerce member the Institute of Latino Art, located in the space that formerly housed the Latino Art Museum, which was founded by the late Graciela Nardi. Magallanes told La Nueva Voz the non-profit cultural organization will continue the commitment to dedicated space for Latino art in the region through exhibitions, public programs and education. Pictured at left rear is Heidi Ortega, director of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association. At right are Pomona City Councilmember Lorraine Canales and Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles. Not pictured at far left holding the ribbon is Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz. The art gallery, free and open to the public, is located downstairs at 281 S. Thomas St. in Pomona.

Pomona Unified launches districtwide student safety initiative for scooters and bicycles

Board members of the Pomona Unified School District unanimously approved a resolution this month honoring the memory of Simons Middle School student Angel Mendoza Lopez and launching a districtwide student safety initiative focused on scooter and bicycle education.

Lopez, 13, died in April following a traffic collision when he was riding his electric scooter home from school without a helmet and was struck by a car.

Board members said the tragedy underscored the importance of ensuring students and families understand safe transportation practices, particularly as the use of bicycles, scooters and other mobility devices continues to grow among school-aged children.

“This resolution is about honoring Angel’s life while reaffirming our respon-

sibility to educate and protect students,” said Board President Dr. Lisa Nashua. “Through awareness, education, and community partnerships, we hope to promote safe transportation practices and help prevent future tragedies.”

As part of the resolution, the school district will develop and implement a comprehensive student safety campaign focused on scooter and bicycle safety that will include age-appropriate instruction on California safety laws and responsible riding practices, outreach to students and families, and partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, transportation officials, public health organizations, and community partners.

“Angel’s passing deeply affected our entire Pomona Unified family,” said Supt.



Photo by Renee Barbee

ONE POMONA ICE CREAM SHOP EVERYONE SIMPLY MUST TRY! -- Virginia Villasenor, owner of Downtown Pomona's Delicious Freedom USA, maker of homemade garrafa ice cream and other treats, shows off one of her spectacular funnel cakes this month for the La Nueva Voz camera. Garrafa ice cream is a traditional Mexican artisanal dessert, similar to a light, smooth sorbet. Tell Virginia you saw her picture in La Nueva Voz when you stop in. She's located at 310 S. Thomas St., Pomona, and she's open Friday through Monday.



Photo by Renee Barbee

POMONA LIONS 106TH INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS -- Members of the Pomona Host Lions Club held their 106th installation and awards ceremony at Cachanilla Chinese Restaurant in Pomona last week swearing in officers who will serve for the coming year. The 2026-2027 officers are, back row, from left, Gil Smith, Treasurer; WendyAnn Stuard, President and Lion Tamer; Steve Lustro, First Vice President and Publicity Director; Don Martens, co-Community Service Director; Anne Henderson, co-Community Service Director; Ben Selters, Secretary; Jack Lightfoot, Financial Secretary; George Koploff II, Immediate Past President. Front row, from left, are Carmen Morris, Fundraising Director; Barbara Smith, Tail Twister; and Debbie McMaster, Operations Director.

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Scouting executive recognizes veterans buried in Pomona Cemetery

Long time scouting leader and commissioner Don Bloch, always a familiar face at Pomona Cemetery organizing young scouts who each year place more than 200 American flags at grave sites of veterans, told guests at this year's "Veteran's Memorial Day" program that there are 265 Civil War veterans buried in the local cemetery.

Bloch, Temescal District Commissioner of California Inland Empire Council of Scouting America, formerly Boy Scouts of America, said the original Boy Scouts – which now includes both boys and girls – was formed when William Boyce, a wealthy businessman visiting in London became lost on a foggy night.

He said a young man came up to Boyce, asked if he was lost, and helped him find his way back to his hotel. Boyce wanted to give him a tip, but the youth said he could not accept one.

"I'm a Boy Scout," the youth told him.

"With that, Mr. Boyce came back to the United States and went back to Europe, met with Lord Baden Powell, the founder of scouting, and said 'I want to form this unit in the United



ACCEPTING CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FROM THE CITY -- Pomona Cemetery General Manager Janet Roy received a certificate of recognition from the City of Pomona at last month's annual Memorial Day ceremonies at the cemetery. The cemetery was celebrating its 150th anniversary. Pictured, from left, are Pomona's Post 30 American Legion Commander Bob Radcliff, Pomona City Councilmembers Steve Lustro and Debra Martin, Roy, Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Lorraine Canales and Nora Garcia, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, and Pomona Unified School District Board member Arturo Jimenez.

States," Bloch said. "And that's how the Boy Scouts of America came to the United States."

Scouting in the United States was founded in 1910, only two years after it was established in Great Britain in 1908.

"Here at Pomona, I've been out here for the last 16 or 17 years on the Saturday mornings prior to Memorial Day," he said. "It's amazing what I've found walking the cemetery each year. We find new things every year."

He said he brought eight units



Pomona American Legion Post 30 Senior Vice Commander Mitchell Quintero lowers the American flag to half staff at Memorial Day ceremonies.

of scouts to the cemetery this year with young men and women as young as 3 and as old as 90.

"Troops that came out to place flags on the graves were my home troop, which is Chino Hills Troop 214, Boys and Girls Troop 220 in Chino Hills, Diamond Bar and Walnut Troop 777, Eastvale had a young scout and his father from Pack 803, and then we had a grandfather who went to the 1953 National Jamboree in Irvine," Bloch said. "He brought his grandson out here and told me a story about a friend of his who's buried right over here. And on his grave it doesn't say military – it



Members of the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps from Troy High School in Fullerton, under the direction of Master Chief Ed David, fire three rounds of the traditional firing squad salute.

says 'great teacher.'"

Bloch pointed out that it is difficult each year to find all the graves that were military veterans.

He told the story of Civil War veteran Harry Clay Davis, a young man from the Ohio infantry.

"Right as the Civil War broke out, he joined the infantry – he left Ohio (and) they got involved in some very heavy fighting," he said. "He made it down to Atlanta and in his unit, under hard fighting, they captured the flag from the south."

Bloch said Davis received the Congressional Medal of Honor, married his wife Martha and moved to the West Coast.

He also recognized Joe Price as "somebody that was dear to the scouting program here in Southern California."



Korean War veteran and La Nueva Voz friend Juan Rodriguez attended last month's Memorial Day ceremonies at Pomona Cemetery – something he rarely misses. He wanted to mention he is still active in Post 30 American Legion activities and goes there often with his walker. He just celebrated his 95th birthday. Happy birthday, Juan!

"Joe Price had sons, had a family here in Pomona," he said. "He was the scoutmaster for Troop 2.

Veterans recognized... pg. 15

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Pomona Concert Band announces summer concert schedule

The Pomona Concert Band's 79th annual summer concert series will kick off on Thursday, July 9, on the theme "79 years with Pomona Concert Band," featuring music the band has played over the years.

Included will be selections including "Italian Polka" and "Jurassic World."

On July 16, the theme will be "Pomona Concert Band's Got Talent," featuring many of the regular band members conducting pieces chosen from various genres.

And on July 23, the theme will be "Harbor Views and Heartland Hues" featuring selections such as "Brighton Beach," "Sag Harbor Sunset," and "Cajun Folk Songs."

"A World of Adventure" will be the theme on July 30, with selections including "Celtic Ritual," "Back to the Future" and "Bond . . . James Bond."

"Bring your dog night" is set for Aug. 6 with tunes including "The Music of Disneyland,"

"Looney Tunes Overture," and "The Wizard of Oz Fantasy."

The Aug. 13 performance on the theme "Conductor Favorites" will feature selections including "Days of Wine and Roses" and "Marching Down Broadway."

On Aug. 20, the theme is "The Williams Boys: Clifton, Ralph and John," featuring original works and arrangements by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Clifton Williams and John Williams – selections like "Sea Songs," "Sele-

tions from E.T." and "Star Wars – The Marches."

The "bonus concert" is set for Sunday, Aug. 23, at a different time – 6 p.m. – when the band will host the Golden State British Brass Band playing British band music along with many American favorites.

The final concert is set for Aug. 27 on the theme "An American Musical Journey of 250 Years." Selections will feature "Hail to the Spirit of Liberty," "Beauty and the

Beast" and "Salute to the Armed Forces."

Concerts are held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at the G. Stanton Selby Bandshell in Ganesha Park, 1575 N. White Ave.

For more information, visit the web site at www.pomonaconcertband.org.

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Financial win at the polls... from pg. 1

Cobarrubias has served as a Landscaping Assessment District Committee member for six years.

In her campaign, she called for enhancing community policing, improving neighborhood infrastructure and promoting fiscal responsibility.

Other results

In other races impacting Pomona, State Sen. Susan Rubio (D – 22nd District) will face off against Mike Netter (R) in the runoff in November. Rubio netted 62 percent of the vote to Netter's 35 percent.

And incumbent Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez (D – 53rd District) will go up against Rafaela Romero (R) one more time in the November general election. The latest numbers showed she had 62 percent compared to Romero's 38 percent.

Congresswoman Norma Torres (D – 35th District) received 60 percent of the vote against opponent Mike Cargile (R) who had 40 percent. The two will fight for the seat one more time in November.

In another battle, this one for the 38th Congressional District seat, long-time Pomona friend and supporter Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, a Democrat, who is terming out at the county and seeking the open 38th District seat, appears to be heading into a runoff in November in her race against Republican Pedro Antonio Casas.

The latest numbers show Solis has 48 percent of the vote compared to Casas with only 36 percent. Solis and Casas were the "top two" in a field of four candidates.

Solis previously served in Congress from 2001 to 2009 before resigning to become U.S. Secretary of Labor under President Obama.

The 38th Congressional District includes areas of Los Angeles and Orange Counties from Diamond Bar, La Habra and Hacienda Heights to Norwalk, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Whittier, and parts of the City of Industry.

State Sen. Maria Elena Durazo handily came out on top in a field of five candidates for Solis' First District Los Angeles County Supervisorial seat (which includes Pomona) with 61 percent of the vote. Because that is well above the "50 percent plus 1 vote" level in the race for the local county office, she will win outright once ballots are certified without having to compete in a "top two" runoff in November.

The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's office will certify votes cast in Los Angeles County by July 2.





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COMMUNITY TURNS OUT TO CELEBRATE 90TH BIRTHDAY FOR POMONA'S VERNON PRICE -- It was birthday greetings and decorations all around Saturday as a room full of neighbors and friends turned out to celebrate and offer well wishes to Vernon Price on his 90th birthday at Cachanilla Chinese Restaurant in Pomona. Price is currently president of the Optimist Club of Los Angeles, and the event also included that group's quarterly meeting. Price was born in Manila, Arkansas, a small town with a population of 1,500, and, according to his biographical information, was raised on a farm with crops including cotton, corn and soybean. They also had pigs, chickens, cows, a beef cow and a pond where ducks landed while migrating. He attended his first school, Shady Grove, for the first eight years of his education in a one-room schoolhouse in the country. He graduated from North Phoenix High School in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1954, and attended Arizona State College on a baseball scholarship where he majored in business. He also studied industrial engineering at Florida State University. His career included managing a bowling alley in Mesa, Arizona, working at JC Penney department stores in San Bernardino, El Centro, Fresno and Laguna Hills, and working in industrial training and consulting in Dallas and Los Angeles. He was president of Bergwall Education Systems in Garden City, New York, and a consultant for Education Corporation of America before forming Price & Associates, industrial education consultants, in Los Angeles before becoming sales and marketing manager for Arnold Palmer Golf Course Management Company in Los Angeles. He retired in 2004. He was active in the American Legion and Lions Club in Mesa, Rotary and Optimist Club in Pomona, and has served as president of the Optimist Club of Los Angeles since 2021. He even ran for Mayor of Pomona in 2004 but was defeated by Eddie Cortez, Pomona's first Latino mayor. Happy birthday, Vernon!



ANNUAL POMONA CHAMBER 'CORNHOLE' TOURNAMENT -- Nearly 100 participants turned out for the second annual Pomona Chamber of Commerce Cornhole Tournament fundraiser this month at The Derby Room at Pomona's Fairplex. The "Toss for Success" competition, tossing bean bags into slant board targets with holes, brought together members of the community, local businesses and cornhole enthusiasts for a day of friendly competition, networking and fundraising. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Young Ambassador's Program of the Pomona Chamber to support programs that promote young entrepreneurs, foster community growth and strengthen the Pomona economy. Pictured, from left, are first place winners Norma, Andy, Andres and Aziel Quinones.

Photo by Renee Barbee



City of Pomona officials and representatives of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon last month to recognize new chamber member RestoreHer Place, inside The Union on Garey in Pomona. Pictured with the scissors is Sandra K. Webster, owner and founder. The faith-based transitional living facility on North Reservoir Street in Pomona with a 24-month residential program is dedicated to helping homeless single women, single mothers and formerly incarcerated women. It helps at-risk women rebuild their lives by providing safe housing, mentorship and childcare support. At left is Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, third from right is Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia, and at far right is Pomona Councilmember Lorraine Canales. For information, contact restoreherplace3@gmail.com or call (909) 620-7838.

Student safety initiative... from pg. 8

Darren Knowles. "While no action can undo this tragedy, we hope to honor Angel's memory by helping educate students and families about transportation safety and by working together to prevent future tragedies."

The school district will work with school sites and community partners during the coming school year to develop educational resources and awareness efforts that are age appropriate, compassionate and focused on prevention.

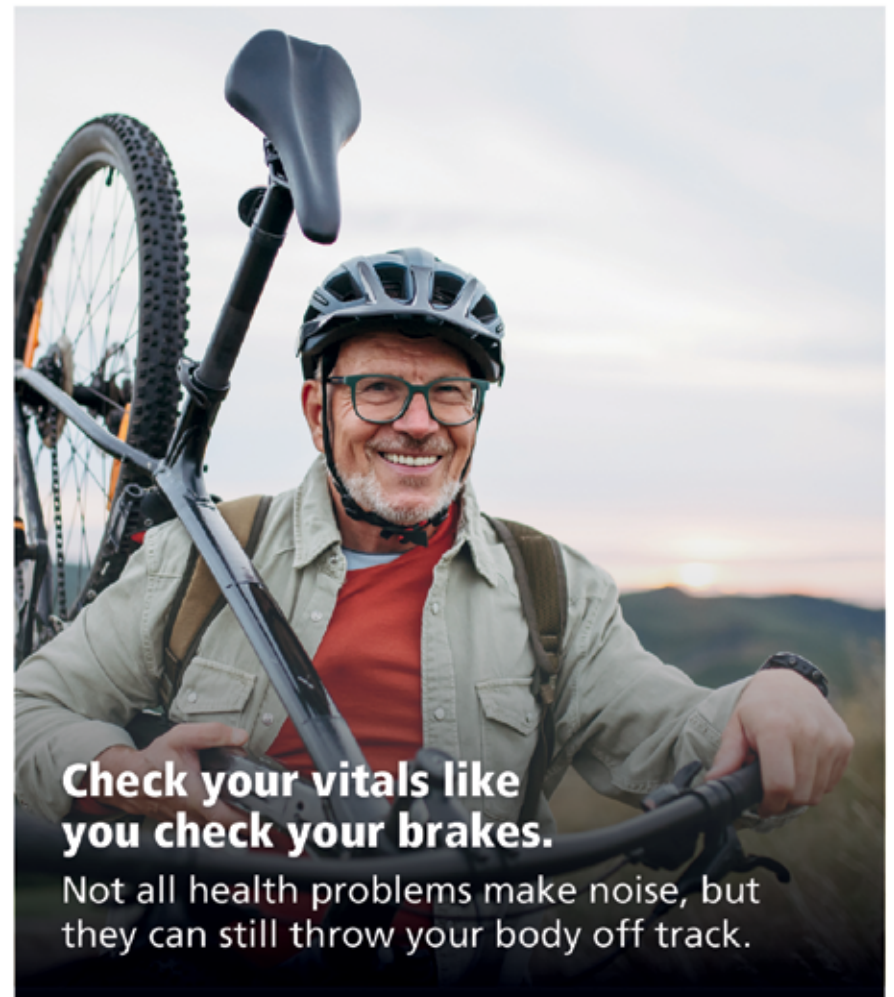
School board members also formally expressed support for Assembly Bill 1569, California legislation intended to strengthen electric bicycle and scooter safety education in California schools.

The educational program will be implemented in Angel's name.



Photo by Renee Barbee

CHECKING PROGRESS ON THE NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN -- Kids from Pomona Hope walked across the street last week to inspect progress and have a look at some of the first plants at the Center Street Community Garden that has been undergoing a complete refurbishment by City of Pomona water department employees. Pictured in the background are some of the "above ground" planter boxes that will be filled and planted. Other community garden "plots" (individual garden beds) will be at ground level. The old garden was completely cleared last year and construction was under way in November. The project was funded in part by "Measure H" funds and a grant from the Golden State Environmental Justice Alliance. Pomona Hope Executive Director Jeff Johannsen said Pomona Hope kids and others in the surrounding community had used the site as a garden on city-owned land for 15 years and when the site was in danger of being put up for sale for development, the city was able instead to use Measure W funds to permanently designate the property as public green space and to renovate the property with raised beds, new fencing, a water fountain, solar shade and more. The garden is located at 401 N. Gibbs St., Pomona. Pomona Hope operates its after-school programs next door in Pomona's First Presbyterian Church.



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Construction on the new Center Street Community Garden in Pomona is not quite complete, but members of the community turned out this month for a ceremonial ribbon-cutting to mark its upcoming opening. Pictured, from left, are Pomona City Manager Anita Scott, Pomona Hope Executive Director Jeff Johannsen, Pastor Adam Donner of Pomona's First Presbyterian Church, Joshua Swodeck, Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia, and Chara Swodeck.

Local allegations of ICE abuses documented in public hearing

By Jessica Fallon

More than 100 community members attended a public hearing last month at The Union in Pomona, where testimony was given by nearly a dozen residents and workers about their experience with detentions and encounters with federal immigration agents.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and his task force organized the event over the span of several months in partnership with several local organizations, including the Inland Communities Organizing Network (ICON), Gente Organizada, ICE Out of Pomona, and the Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley.

ICON brought this model for a public hearing to Pomona after a similar hearing in Los Angeles last November organized by Mayor Karen Bass and the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), with whom ICON is affiliated.

Testimonies documented alleged experiences of physical and mental harm, not only by detention of their family members, particularly those who provide primary income, but in the subsequent navigation of complicated legal processes.

Participants heard from a mother whose husband and 10-year-old son allegedly were chased and detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and reportedly have received confusing

and conflicting advice as they move forward with court hearings. They now fear going outside.

Another speaker was an elderly woman whose husband reportedly remains in custody and has not been receiving his heart medication despite multiple pleas to authorities.

A mother of five in severe financial hardship said she fears eviction after the deportation and detention of her husband.

The above stories and more were sent to U.S. Congressman Robert Garcia, who is the ranking member on the House Oversight Committee. The goal, according to Sandoval, is “to tell these stories because somebody at the federal level has to be held accountable for these unconstitutional acts against our community.”

Testimony was also provided by teachers with the Pomona Unified School District who called attention to the declining enrollment due to students’ fear of immigration officers.

“Fear has become a part of the curriculum for many of our students due to the terror of ICE and U.S. Border Patrol enforcement activities in our community,” one teacher said. “In this school year, we’re witnessing a crisis of disappearing families. We have seen a severe decline in enrollment.”

She provided these same remarks at a Pomona Unified School District board meeting this month.

During her final remarks, Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia surmised that in addition to the harm and terror being inflicted upon the community by raids, she is struck by the downstream and generational harm sure to come, “because it’s a chain reaction; if our residents can’t afford to pay their bills, if they can’t afford to eat, then that affects other aspects of our economy and our city.”

“This is going to harm our city and our community because it’s going to increase the hunger, the homelessness, and just the lack of affordability,” Garcia said.

According to organizers, the goal of the hearing would not stop at advocating for accountability but extends toward the continued cultivation of shared community care.

The speakers commented on the shared sense of care and the relief inherent in finally being heard in a public and official setting.

Allegations of abuse... pg. 16



Pictured are Garey High School students who were among 150 Los Angeles area students presenting their "Teach Democracy Civic Action Project" last month that focused on social issues relevant to their communities. The Civic Action Project Expo, hosted in Los Angeles by Teach Democracy, is the culminating event for participants in a program that engages 200,000 middle and high school students nationwide to apply what they learn in the classroom to examining and addressing real-world issues that matter to them. The event was held at The California Endowment, a non-profit private statewide foundation dedicated to improving health and racial equity across California. A total of 13 Garey High School students participated with projects on youth mental health, preventing gang violence, teen vaping, alcohol abuse and government corruption. Their presentation on alcohol abuse was recognized as one of the outstanding presentations at the event. From left with their poster are Garey High School students Leilony Gonzalez, Michelle Mendoza, Jocelyn Velasquez and Joshua Carvejal.



Photo by Kamille Hemsworth

INSURANCE AGENCY BRANCHING OUT -- Isabel Valdovinos, a Pomona Chamber of Commerce member and ambassador, cuts the ribbon in ceremonies in the Pomona Chamber office in Downtown Pomona to mark her new business name Athena Premier Insurance Services. She has been in the insurance business for the past six years and started with Farmers Insurance, but now can offer other carriers as well as Farmers. Pictured, from left, are Chamber Ambassadors Domenica and Frank Carrillo of On Time Photo Booth Rentals, Victor Khair of OnSite Expert Computers, Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Pomona City Councilmember Lorraine Canales, daughter Alexis Valdovinos, Isabel Valdovinos and daughter Bella Valdovinos, Chamber Board member and Chamber Ambassadors Chair Ron Garner, Jr., Chamber Board Chair Daniel Thomas, and Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles. For information, call (909) 653-5252 or e-mail isabel@athenapremierinsuranceservices.com.

Veterans recognized... from pg. 10

He was also very instrumental in the Old Baldy Council in forming youth leadership programs such as Foxfire and Buckskin.”

Bloch explained Old Baldy Council folded into California Inland Empire Council and the San Gabriel Valley Council, which folded into the Greater Los Angeles Council.

“But on his headstone in the

new section, it does not say anything about war or military – it has the fleur-de-lis, which is the world symbol for scouting,” Bloch said.

Bloch’s district represents about 1,400 youth in Chino, Chino Hills, Corona, Norco and Eastvale.

He said scouting was celebrating its 116th anniversary

this year. Pomona Cemetery was celebrating 150 years.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval thanked the guests for attending the event including “many of you who have been coming to this every year.”

“Today we honor and remember the men and women, approximately 1.2 million people who lost their lives in war so that we can enjoy the freedom and liberty we are all privileged to have,” Sandoval said. “I remember as a young boy my father, who never fought in war but was a member of the California National Guard, had a lot of friends in the ’60s who went to Vietnam.”

“And I didn’t really fully appreciate or understand it at the time, but a lot of them didn’t come back,” he said. “They lost their lives there.”

“And I think sometimes what we forget in addition to the loss that a family has experienced, it’s also a loss in the community, it’s a loss for that family, and oftentimes that has a very devastating effect on the respective families,” he added.



Pomona Eagles head trustee Dick Lotz, at left, places a ceremonial wreath at Memorial Day ceremonies at Pomona Cemetery with the help of Pomona’s Post 30 American Legion Commander Bob Radcliff. Both Lotz and Radcliff are U.S. Army veterans.



Guest speaker Don Bloch



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval

Free drive-through diapers, health screenings set for Saturday

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and the YWCA San Gabriel Valley are hosting a free drive-through diaper distribution and family health resource fair Saturday at the hospital.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the event which also will include free health screenings for blood pressure, blood glucose, and asthma / lung capacity.

In addition to diapers, other baby essentials such as wipes, formula and diaper rash ointment will be available.

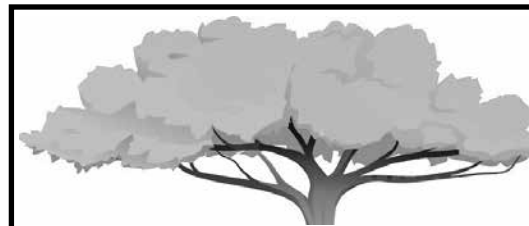
Pomona Valley Hospital, the largest birthing hospital in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, is located at 1798 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

“And so that’s why it’s so important for us to come together to recognize and to acknowledge the sacrifice that the men and women made so that we could have moments like this to be free, to be free of war, and to be amongst each other,” he said.

He also pledged to work with his colleagues on the Pomona

City Council over the next year to update the list of names included on a monument at Pomona’s Memorial Park.

“I’m going to work with my colleagues to figure out the path to making sure that every Pomona man or woman who has lost their lives in war is recognized,” he said.



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- LaunderLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



Allegations of abuse... from pg. 14

“That’s why it’s so, so important for us to come together, to show support, to work together,” Sandoval said.

As seen last month, in a compassionate Pomona, community members will do just that.

Editor’s Note: Jessica Fallon submitted this article on behalf of Compassionate Pomona. She is a member of First Christian Church Pomona, where she is active in the Inland Communities Organizing Network, which helped organize the public hearing.

Cal Poly graduates... from pg. 7

Nam Bui, 28, also an aerospace engineering major, credited his professors and peers for helping him succeed in such a demanding field. Reflecting on his college experience, he said that “studying with my friends all night and relaxing around campus was the most beautiful thing.”

Offering advice to incoming freshmen, Bui encouraged students to “stay persistent and never give up, while finding a good group of friends to keep you motivated.”

Foothill Gold Line Authority awards construction manager contract for Pomona to Claremont extension

Board members of the Foothill Gold Line Authority last month voted unanimously to award the construction manager contract for the 2.3-mile Pomona to Claremont A Line Extension to SSH Joint Venture.

The group is made up of Skanska USA Civil West California District, Inc., Stacy and Witbeck, Inc., and Herzog Contracting Corp.

The contract award came on the heels of a competitive procurement process that saw bids from four well-qualified teams, according to a news release.

The construction manager contract is the second of two major contracts now awarded to deliver the Pomona to Claremont project using the “Construction Manager at Risk” delivery method adopted by the board for the project last year.

“Today’s award is a major step forward to getting the Metro A Line to Claremont,” said Foothill Gold Line Board Chair and Claremont Vice Mayor Ed Reece. “SSH is a highly experienced team, and they will put that know-how to work over the next year to support the final project design, currently being developed by Parsons (Parsons Transportation Group, Inc.), to ensure the design is optimized for constructability and effectiveness.”

He said the team also will be able to become deeply engaged in all aspects of the project’s planning so they can provide the Construction Authority a price to build the project that eliminates unnecessary risk and is based on the most efficient construction plan possible.

The contract award includes the

authorization for \$6.3 million to be used for the initial 18-month preconstruction phase.


Included will be providing “constructability” reviews, value engineering, third-party coordination and cost estimating and other activities that will help inform the design.

After the project design reaches about 85 percent completion, SSH Joint Venture will have the possibility of building the project if the team successfully negotiates a construction services contract with an acceptable price, anticipated in fall 2027.

“We are confident that SSH is an excellent selection, and we look forward to their efforts in the months ahead that will support the best design possible while also developing the best approach to **Gold Line awards contract... pg. 19**

The following public service ads are courtesy of La Nueva Voz

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Info on student group programs at AGRIScapes:
www.agriscapes.cpp.edu
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Contact Pastor Doug Brissette, Greater New Foundation Fellowship Church, 841 S. Main St., Pomona, in a building designated a historic landmark by the Pomona City Council!

(The church building, constructed in 1922 and 1923, originally was the home of Pomona’s Mount Zion Baptist Church, believed by historians to be the city’s first Black church to hold on-going programs.)

Info: greaternewfoundfellchurch@gmail.com

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Love pickleball and other similar sports? Don't be sidelined with an injury!

Benjamin Kamel, DPM, FACFAS

Garey Orthopedics (On the campus of Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare)

Pickleball, tennis, and paddle sports are more popular than ever, uniting people of all ages for friendly competition and exercise. These sports offer great physical and social benefits but also come with the risk of foot and ankle injuries. Fortunately, with proper precautions, you can keep playing the sports you love.

Quick movements, lateral shifts, and sudden stops involved in pickleball and similar sports put strain on the lower body, especially the feet and ankles. Common injuries include:

Ankle Sprains – A misstep or a sudden pivot can cause painful ligament damage.

Achilles Tendonitis or Ruptures – Repetitive stress or a sudden burst of movement can inflame or tear the Achilles tendon.

Plantar Fasciitis – Frequent stops and starts can lead to heel pain from inflammation.

Stress Fractures – Overuse or high-impact movements can result in small fractures.

Tendonitis and Overuse Injuries – Repetitive play without proper rest can lead to chronic pain and stiffness.

Many sports-related foot and ankle injuries can be prevented. Consider these tips:

Wear Proper Footwear – Invest in court shoes with good lateral support and cushioning to reduce



Benjamin Kamel, DPM, FACFAS

impact on your feet and ankles.

Warm Up and Stretch – Stretching your calves, Achilles tendon, and plantar fascia before and after playing can reduce strain and improve flexibility.

Strengthen Your Lower Body – Exercises that build ankle stability and leg strength can help absorb shock and prevent falls.

Use an Ankle Brace or Support – If you have a history of ankle injuries, protective gear can reduce your risk of re-injury.

Listen to Your Body – Don't ignore persistent pain or discomfort. Taking breaks and getting treatment early can prevent more serious conditions.

If you experience persistent pain or an injury, seek treatment. Foot and ankle specialists provide customized care through physical therapy, bracing, or advanced treatments like injections or surgical intervention. With the right approach, you can heal faster and return to the game stronger.

Take the proper steps to protect your feet and ankles, so you can enjoy the sports you love for years to come.

Editor's Note: Dr. Kamel sees patients at Garey Orthopedics, on the campus of Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare in Pomona. For information, call (909) 593-7437.



Photo by Kamille Hemsworth

NEW CHILD CARE CENTER IN POMONA -- Director Sara Nava cuts the ribbon this month to officially open Gibbs Development Child Care Center, a new Pomona Chamber of Commerce member. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, Chamber Ambassadors Domenica Carrillo of On Time Photo Booth Rentals and Victor Khair of OnSite Expert Computers, Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Chamber Board Vice Chair Jeff Johannsen of Pomona Hope, Chamber Board Chair Daniel Thomas representing Pomona Rotary and, at far right, Chamber Executive Board member Jill Dolan of Mt. San Antonio College. The facility is located at 676 N. Gibbs St., Pomona, on the Trinity Church campus. For information, contact gibbscentercare@gmail.com.

LA County Fair 2027 theme to be 'Dig in!'

Pomona's Fairplex officials this month introduced the theme 'Dig in!' for the 2027 LA County Fair.

The 2027 Fair will be held from May 6 through May 31, with a fresh new season of food, fun, exhibits, entertainment and unforgettable Fair memories.

The 2026 LA County Fair wrapped up its 104th anniversary celebration on Sunday, May 31, after 17 days of creativity, curiosity, competition and carefree fun on this year's theme "Play Your Way."

Preliminary attendance figures showed 642,081 guests attended this year's Fair where they were invited to experience the Fair their own way, officials said – whether that meant riding roller coasters, discovering new hobbies, meeting farm animals or simply sharing a funnel cake with family and friends.

"This year's Fair reminded us that play looks different for everyone," said Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez. "For some, it's screaming on a carnival ride. For others, it's discovering art, tasting something new, or spending time together."

How did the vendors do this year?

Chicken Charlie's cooked more than 10,000 pounds of chicken,

sold 5,000 ears of corn, used 2,000 mangos for the new fried manguitas, sold 2,000 \$10 "value meals," and used 100 pounds of fresh garlic.

And the Midway Gourmet transformed 2,000 pounds of green grapes and 400 gallons of chocolate into the popular chocolate covered grapes, popped 2,500 pounds of popcorn into fresh kettle corn, served more than 1,000 gallons of "dirty sodas," and served more than 40,000 pounds of watermelon as "candied watermelon on a stick."

The vendor also sold enough corn dogs to stretch nearly four miles end to end, and turned a rail car's worth of potatoes into curly fries and French fries, roasted two fields of corn and served it on the cob, and sold two 40-foot shipping containers filled with cotton candy.

The FairKids Field Trip Program welcomed 19,492 students and chaperones, including participants in FairStars Day, a sensory-friendly experience featuring reduced lights and sounds for neurodivergent guests.

And the Fair recycled more than 70 tons of waste, proving that fun and sustainability can go hand in hand, officials said in a news release.



Photo by Ryan Houston

Members of the Nogales Buffalo Soldiers performed the "Presentation of Colors" Saturday at the 36th annual Pomona Valley Juneteenth Jazz and Arts Festival at Pomona's Ganesha Park. The reenactors were honoring the 160th anniversary of the formation of the original Buffalo Soldiers, historic United States Army regiments exclusively composed of Black Americans and formed by Congress beginning in 1866. Pictured, from left, are troopers Vince Acosta, retired U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division; Donna Houston, President and Founder of Nogales Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Association; Rachel Hilliard (at rear), President of San Diego 9th and 10th Buffalo Soldiers; and Dr. Larry Thornton, of Los Angeles Buffalo Soldiers. Houston's grandfather, Lucius Jackson, was a Buffalo Soldier in the Army's 25th Infantry. Dr. Trudy Coleman (not pictured), creator of the local Juneteenth celebration, is Founder and CEO of Juneteenth Education Technology Mobile Arts Center, Inc., a non-profit working to raise self-esteem for the underserved and youth.

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Pomona Police Capt. Bostrom named 'overall Woman of the Year' for entire 53rd Assembly District

Pomona Police Capt. Alyssa Bostrom, a 23-year veteran of the department currently serving as Division Commander of Investigative Services, was named "overall Woman of the Year" for the entire 53rd Assembly District by Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez at her second annual summer barbecue and awards presentation in Chino.

"She has served as a patrol officer, gang officer, crisis negotiator, field training officer and two assignments as a motor supervisor," Rodriguez said, adding that while a lieutenant, she provided oversight to the department's quality of life unit, managing the homeless encampment action and response team, mental health evaluation unit and community programs unit.

Bostrom also helped build the framework for the "Real Time Information Center," an initiative that has significantly improved emergency response and community safety.

"In its first year, the infrastructure facilitated 100 percent homicide case solvability rate in



Pomona Police Capt. Alyssa Bostrom receives the "Overall Woman of the Year" award for the entire 53rd Assembly District from Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez.



Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez presents Upland's "Educator of the Year" award to Garey High School's Anthony Bonner.

2025," Rodriguez said.

Pomona's "Woman of the Year" was Kim Johnson, a life-

long resident of Pomona and a Garey High School graduate, who is a mother of three and a

grandmother.

"Kim's leadership is reflected through community, including co-founder of 'Christmas on Columbia,' a cherished local tradition that brings neighbors together every year," Rodriguez said. "She is also an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Pomona and the African-American Advisory Alliance, (and) has served as city commissioner, helping promote safety and unity in our community."

"Through her lifelong commitment for service, Kim continues to make meaningful and lasting impact for the City of Pomona," she added.

Pomona's "Educator of the Year" was Edward Tomkins, who for the past 10 years has served as a science teacher at Pomona Catholic High School, where he currently serves as chair of the science department.

"In this role, he inspires students every day by combining strong academic standards with passion for scientific curiosity," Rodriguez said.

Pomona's American Legion Post 30 Commander Robert Radcliff, a member of the Pomona community since 1979 who Rodriguez said was "a dedicated veteran who served the country in the United States Army from

1966 to 1970 including two years in Vietnam," was recipient of Pomona's "Veteran of the Year" award.

"A devoted family man, Bob was married for 54 years and is a proud father of three children with a growing legacy of nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren," Rodriguez said. "He has been a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles in Pomona since 1990, where he has served numerous leadership roles, including president, vice president, chaplain and trustee."

She added he also was a founding member of the Pomona Legion's Riders and continues to support fellow veterans through his involvement with the American Legion.

"Since 1995, Bob has served as captain of the Honor Guard, participating in countless ceremonies to honor those who have served," she said. "He also currently serves as commander of American Legion Post 30 in Pomona, where he leads programs, supports veterans and mentors the next generation."

Pomona's "Small Business of the Year" was Golden Times Jewelers, located at 3172 S. Garey Ave., Pomona, which was recognized for its quality crafts-



FOUR CAL POLY STUDENTS RECEIVE ATHENS SCHOLARSHIPS -- Four Cal Poly Pomona environmental studies majors last week received \$2,000 scholarships each from Athens Services in a check presentation ceremony inside Athens' Pomona office, with a mural of an Athens truck in the background. Athens recognizes local students each year with the scholarships. Student applicants were required to live, work or intern in Pomona and to write essays on why they chose an environmental studies major and what their plans are upon graduation. From left are Athens Operations Supervisor Luis Sanchez Heredia; Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, who has assisted in the selection of the essay winners for the past three years; student recipients Maria D. Gonzalez and Rigoberto Rincon; and Iso Nakasato of Athens Services. Not pictured are student recipients Addison Van Vliet and Alejo Morales.

Earth Day poetry, music workshop supports students impacted by Eaton Fire

By Victoria Miranda
Contributing writer

Aveson Global Leadership Academy hosted its own poetry workshop sessions on Earth Day April 22 in Pasadena in an effort to support students affected by the Eaton Fire, which spread through nearby Altadena.

The workshop gave students a space to honor what they endured, come together with classmates, and look ahead with hope as their community begins to rebuild after such loss.

The first workshop opened with a poetry session centered on Earth Day themes of land, memory, and renewal. Writer and storyteller Lance Anderson led the segment, introducing students to Joni Mitchell's classic song "Big Yellow Taxi" as a starting point.

He used the song to illustrate the layered impactful messages beneath the surface. Anderson highlighted how the song's emotional resonance and environmental message evoke different interpretations, much like poetry

itself. Drawing from this, students created their own poems reflecting on the Eaton Fire – expressing personal perspectives on loss, renewal, and the lasting mark the event left on their community.

"Poetry is a form of art that can truly save our souls. This kind of creative process helps students express the issues surrounding traumatic experiences and encourages them to break free from mental ruts," Anderson said.

The second part of this workshop focused more on the songwriting aspect as an expressive art form. Musical artist Cynthia Brando led this section, and shared her own personal life experiences and how songwriting has helped her navigate through her own journey.

"Music is the universal language, it's the one thing everyone listens to, so start small and build up," Brando said. Students then got together in small groups and began to share with one another different types of lyrics that were in correlation with what they felt either in the moment, or had felt



Photo by Victoria Miranda

MUSICAL APPROACH TO HEALING -- Musician Cynthia Brando demonstrates how music can help reflect on experiences of living through the Eaton Fire. The presentation was part of a workshop in Pasadena on Earth Day.

in the past. It was another way for them to come together as a community and reflect on what they had all been through.

Site director Aaron Gerwer shared his thoughts on why workshops like this help guide students in a positive direction.

"Learning happens in so many different ways," Gerwer said. "The more types of learning experiences we can offer students, the more they can transfer what they do in the classroom to the real world and create change."

"We have to create these opportunities so that students are culturally and socially aware and able to connect their work to what is happening in the world," he added.

Coordinator of community cul-

ture and engagement Arlynn Page said these workshops create an impactful focus for the community.

"What children need most is exposure so they can make a choice as to what they want to immerse themselves in," Page said. "Programming like this, where we are trauma informed, gives us more dignity as we lean into our healing."

The workshop provided students with a healthy and supportive space to process their experiences, connect with one another, and articulate what they had endured as a community.



SOROPTIMISTS COMPLETE ANNUAL CLEAN-UP OF GANESHA GROVE -- Members of the Soroptimist of Pomona - Claremont club completed their annual Redwood Grove Clean-up and Tree Planting recently in Pomona's Ganesha Park. The annual effort takes place in a grove created by the club years ago just across from the main entrance to Fairplex Gate 1. Pictured are volunteers including City of Pomona parks employee Rodrigo Castillo at far left, members of Cal Poly Pomona's Sigma Delta Alpha fraternity, Diamond Ranch High School student Julian Iniguez-Chavez (at rear), students from Cal State Fullerton, Pomona's Garey High School and others. In front at left is Soroptimist President Lucille Lyons. The group first planted redwood trees in the grove in 1971 as a special project to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Soroptimist International's founding. That year 50 redwood trees were planted. From 1971 to 1976, the chapter planted a total of 250 trees. Today, the grove includes walkways, picnic areas, a memorial, more than 200 trees and nearly 600 commemorative bricks marking the site. For information on Pomona-Claremont Soroptimists, contact sipomona.claremont@soroptimist.net.

Gold Line awards contract... from pg. 16

building this important regional project," Reece said.

The project will include a Metro A Line station in Claremont and is on track toward an expected late 2027 start of major construction.

It will take about four years to complete.

The Metro A Line currently is complete from Union Station to Pomona. The Pomona station opened last year.

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53rd Assembly District... from pg. 18

manship, honest service, and lasting customer relationships.

Rodriguez called the company “a respected business” that has “earned the trust of the community” the company has served for nearly three decades.

Upland resident Anthony Bonner, a visual and performing arts teacher specialist for Pomona Unified School District and director of instrumental music at Pomona’s Garey High School, was named “Educator of the Year” for Upland.

“Throughout his career, Mr. Bonner has been committed for creating meaningful opportunities for young people through music and arts,” Rodriguez said. “He supports arts education throughout Pomona Unified School District by collaborating with teachers, administrators and community organizations to expand access to high-quality visual and performing art experiences for the students.”

She said Bonner believes that “the arts have the power to transform lives, strengthen communities and open doors to future success.”

“He remains dedicated to ensuring that every student has access to meaningful opportunities in the arts,” she said.

He is an alumnus of Garey High School.

This year’s “Everybody Loves Raymond Scholarship” awards went to Garey High School graduates Genesis Diaz Silva and Stephen Toscano.

The annual award honors the late Raymond Garcia, a senior at Garey and an athlete in the football program, whose life was tragically cut short in a drive-by shooting. His mother, Loretta Garcia, was present for the presentation as she is each year.

Also recognized was Just Us 4 Youth, a Pomona nonprofit that Rodriguez honored last month at a “Non-profit of the Year” luncheon in Sacramento.

“Just Us 4 Youth has worked to uplift underserved youth by providing mentorship, educational support and leadership development resources that help young people thrive and reach their full potential,” she said.

Accepting a special honor on behalf of the organization were David Bolous, the group’s community relations supervisor, and Executive Coordinator Deanna Stanley.

The annual community barbecue is a free community event bringing together families, local organizations and community leaders for an afternoon of food, resources, and summer fun outside Rodriguez’ district office in Chino.

It was launched by former Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and recognizes award recipients throughout the Assembly district which includes Chino, Montclair, Ontario and Upland, along with Pomona.



Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez presents the “California Non-profit of the Year” award for Pomona to representatives of Pomona’s Just Us 4 Youth. From left are David Bolous, Rodriguez and Deanna Stanley.



Remembering Pomona’s Raymond Garcia with “Everybody Loves Raymond Scholarship” awards are, from left, recipient Genesis Diaz Silva, Raymond’s mom, Loretta Garcia, recipient Stephen Toscano, and Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez.



Pomona Catholic High School’s science teacher Edward Tomkins receives Pomona’s “Educator of the Year” award from Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez.



Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez, at left, presents Pomona’s “Woman of the Year” award to Kim Johnson.



Pomona’s Post 30 American Legion Commander Robert Radcliff receives Pomona’s “Veteran of the Year” award from Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez.

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