



# La Nueva Voz

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



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## Village Academy High School's Yazmin Torres named 'Miss Pomona'

Yazmin Torres, a graduating senior at Village Academy High School, who was crowned Miss Pomona at last month's scholarship pageant, told an audience of about 200 in Downtown Pomona that residents of Pomona can all share "a meaningful history, a hope for the future and a love for our city."

She said Pomona "is as diverse as any city in America" and is a city where more than 30 languages are spoken, but that it is important to know just one – the language of kindness.

"Diversity can... offer an opportunity for growth, a chance to experience the richness of the many amazing things our world has to offer to us," Torres said. "An expanding universe of experiences makes us better individuals and more invested members of a community."

Speaking at the event at Pomona's Glass House on this



**CROWNING MISS POMONA** -- Kaia Partlow, Miss Pomona 2016, crowns Yazmin Torres Miss Pomona 2017 during the Miss Pomona Scholarship Pageant and Coronation Ceremony last month in Downtown Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Partlow, Torres, finalists Melanie Alva and Marleni Munguia and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.

year's topic of what Miss Pomona can do to encourage Pomona's youth to make a positive difference, she said her "greatest role model" is her mom who was born in a small farming town in Sinaloa, Mexico and inspired her and fought for her children to have the best education possible.

"Pomona can count on this generation to continue the mission that is vital to

Miss Pomona... pg. 2



Pomona's American Legion Post 30 Auxiliary President Cheryl Scholl places the traditional memorial wreath during Memorial Day ceremonies this month at Pomona Valley Memorial Park with the support of members of Post 30's color guard, under the direction of Post 30's Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff. The Pomona Concert Band, with Linda Taylor conducting, is pictured at rear. (See story, photos page 4)

## SOME 1,766 POMONA UNIFIED STUDENTS GRADUATE

### Village Academy High School valedictorian calls on students to adapt to change to better face life's challenges

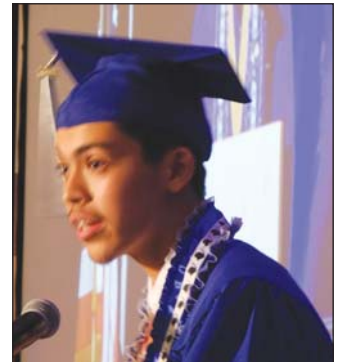
Calling fear "one of the strongest human emotions," Village Academy High School valedictorian Steven Salcedo told his class that "fear of change is a big issue which relates to us due to our departure to unfamiliar frontiers and the future."

However, "change is imminent in our lives and learning how to adapt to it will help us become happier and better equipped to face life's sudden ups and downs," he said.

Speaking this month at the school's 13th commence-



Claudia Sabina Cardenas-Maciel  
Salutatorian



Steven Salcedo  
Valedictorian

Graduates... pg. 10



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## Miss Pomona... from pg. 1

Pomona's success," Torres said. "As role models of this community we learn to benefit from those around us and help others benefit from us – from our wisdom, courage and heart."

She added that Miss Pomona can change the ideas of Pomona's youth through "two very different personae – a visible one and an invisible one," explaining

that the "visible one leads by example hammering nails and volunteering at shelters while the invisible role model "lives a life of quiet value . . . with grace and gratitude."

Torres, a student at Pomona's Village Academy High School where she maintained a 4.2 grade point average, was the Associated Student Body activi-

ties commissioner, Class of 2017 president and is the soprano singer for the Pomona Youth Orchestra.

She is an Upward Bound participant at Cal Poly University Pomona and is a crew leader for Pomona's Bright Prospect.

Torres plans to attend UC Irvine in the fall to prepare for a future working in Pomona as an

educator.

The two other finalists will serve as members of Miss Pomona's court for the coming year.

Melanie Alva, a student at Pomona's Diamond Ranch High School, maintained a 4.0 grade point average and was a member of the school orchestra, the National Honor Society and Bright Prospect. She attended four years of high school without missing a day of school.

Marleni Munguia, a student at Pomona's Garey High School,

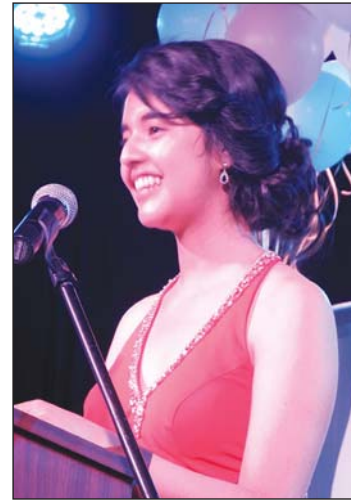
Miss Pomona... pg. 6



**MISS POMONA FINALISTS AND THE JUDGES** -- Pictured with the Miss Pomona finalists are the judges in this year's competition. From left are judges Ethel Gardner of Pomona's Kennedy Austin Foundation; Larry Egan, Executive Director of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association; Renee Barbee of Pomona's La Nueva Voz newspaper; finalist Melanie Alva; Miss Pomona Yazmin Torres; finalist Marleni Munguia; and judges Deputy Chief Mike Olivieri of the Pomona Police Department and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.



Yazmin Torres



Melanie Alva



Marleni Munguia

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**Casa Colina's Dr. Felice Loverso, guest speaker at Pomona's Memorial Day service, cites importance of respecting veterans at all times**

Dr. Felice Loverso, President and CEO of Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, told guests at this month's annual Memorial Day service at Pomona Valley Memorial Park it is important to respect all veterans at all times.

"While we celebrate those who didn't come home . . . we respect all veterans . . . we have to reach out, we have to listen, and we have to be there as patriots," said Loverso who was guest speaker at this year's event.

"It's not a matter of the federal government taking care of our veterans, it's a matter of every citizen, every patriot in the United States," he added.

Loverso said a thousand employees and members of his board of directors at Casa Colina are dedicated "to the survivors of all wars" and open their doors to all veterans.

Loverso said he agreed to speak because his father fought in the U.S. Army's 78th Infantry Division and landed in France in World War II.

He said his father fought the Battle of the Bulge and received the Bronze Star for being wounded in that war.

"As I was growing up he never really talked much about what he saw," Loverso said. "It was not

for his children. He waited until he was around other veterans."

"But on this day in May every year he would bring my brothers and my sisters and talk to us about the extreme sacrifice that he was so proud to be part of, so proud to wear the uniform, so proud of the first generation of Italian immigrants coming from Sicily, so proud to see them wear the uniform, so proud to fight next to men and women who never made it back," he added.

"And he instilled in all of us, his children, that veterans should be respected at all times, 24/7," he said.

Commander Richard Haro of Pomona's American Legion Post 30, officiating as master of ceremonies at the 149th anniversary of the first Memorial Day, then known as Decoration Day, ordered the flag raising and lowering to half staff under the direction of Second Vice Commander Bob Radcliff and the Post 30 color guard.

This year's event with its near-capacity crowd in the bleachers was no-

ticeably better attended than any in recent years. One member of the American Legion color guard said it was the best-attended ceremony at the cemetery in 30 years.

Pomona City Council member Ginna Escobar said she was speaking "as a proud daughter of a Vietnam veteran who is no longer with us."

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself and on Memorial Day it is a day that we set aside to remember with gratitude and pride all of those who have served and have died for our country and our freedom," Escobar said.

"We are honored to remember the many brave men and women who have given their lives throughout the history of this great nation, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect us from harm," she added. "We



Vietnam veteran Farrell Chiles, at right, presents a certificate of commendation to Janet Roy, of Pomona Valley Memorial Park, at this year's Memorial Day ceremonies.

salute all of those now serving and we raise these prayers that we say today for their safety and their blessing."

Congresswoman Norma Torres said "our great country would not be what it is today if not for the men and women who throughout our history have been willing to give their lives for something much greater than themselves."

She said her 35th Congressional District has lost 17 lives to the still on-going conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan alone.

"While we recognize the men and women who have given their lives for this country, let's also remember the families that they have left behind - it is a mutual sacrifice," she added.

State Sen. Connie Leyva told guests she is the "grateful granddaughter of a World War II veteran and the grateful daughter of a Vietnam veteran."

"I'm grateful because both of

these men came home and were a part of my life," she said.

"But I'm also grateful for the men and women who have given their lives so that we can live the life that we live," she added. "And I think that on Memorial Day we always think of them and we remember them but I think we should do a better job of honoring their memory because sometimes we forget that freedom isn't free."

"They are keeping us safe, they are doing what they do so that we can live the lives we choose to live," Leyva said. "Let's honor all of them every single day by being good to one another, by being kind to one another."

Vietnam veteran Farrell Chiles, a Pomona author and historian, represented Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis at the event and presented certificates of commendation to the Pomona cemetery and to American Legion Post 30

in recognition of dedicated service to the community and for civic pride demonstrated by numerous contributions for the benefit of Los Angeles County.

Cemetery General Manager Janet Roy thanked the Boy Scouts for placing memorial U.S. flags

on the grave sites before the ceremony, including Troop 214 from Chino Hills, Pomona Troop 818 and a troop from Diamond Bar.

Musical accompaniment at the ceremony was provided by the Pomona Concert Band for the 70th year.

American Legion Post 30 hosted a reception luncheon following the service at their Pomona headquarters.



State Sen. Connie Leyva



Congresswoman Norma Torres



Guest speaker Dr. Felice Loverso... Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

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Members of the Naval Junior R.O.T.C. from Lutheran High School in La Verne honor the nation's veterans with a seven-gun firing squad salute at Pomona Valley Memorial Park.



## Sponsors needed for annual 'Great Campout' for Pomona kids

Sponsors are still needed for this year's "Great Campout," an annual overnight event hosted for at-risk youth by the Pomona Police Department, Pomona's Fairplex and numerous community groups for some 300 Pomona children ages 9 to 12.

The campout is designed to help promote self awareness, positive communication, responsibility and respect for themselves and the community, according to Pomona Police Department Corporal James Gibson of the city's crime prevention unit.

This year's event is scheduled for July 14 and 15 at Fairplex in a safe environment where kids will come together,

enjoy activities, interact with law enforcement, be exposed to anti-gang and anti-drug programs and receive raffle prizes.

Items needed are sleeping bags, school supplies, backpacks, food, rental of inflatable jumpers and raffle prizes.

To donate funds, prizes or gift cards, please mail it to Pomona Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit, 490 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona, CA 91766 or call (909) 620-2318 to arrange for a pick-up.

For monetary donations, please make checks payable to Pomona Police Department with "Great Campout" in the memo section.

The Tax ID number for donations is 95-6000764.

## Pomona running group looking for new members for Tuesday night runs

Thinking about getting back into running to both improve conditioning and meet some new people?

"We Run Pomona," a nearly year-old running crew tailored for community participation, is looking for new members.

According to Executive Director and Founder Elmer Vidaña, runners participate "at will" with the group that is designed to promote healthier lifestyles.

"The ultimate vision is health, motivation and community outreach, plus promoting safe environments in the streets of Pomona at night," Vidaña said. "Everyone is welcome to join."

Members run on Tuesday nights on routes including a Downtown Pomona run, a Ganesha Park run, a South Pomona run and others.

A total of 10 runners from We Run Pomona participated

last March in the Los Angeles Marathon and members of the Pomona City Council presented the group with a proclamation for "National Physical Fitness and Sports Month" during

the month of May.

In addition, Vidaña said the group is working with the City of Pomona on the first ever 5K walk/run in Downtown Pomona.

Vidaña has been a marathon runner for the past 10 years.

For more information, visit the web site at [werunpomona.wixsite.com/mysite](http://werunpomona.wixsite.com/mysite) or call (909) 634-0360.



**'CREAMISTRY' COMES TO POMONA!** -- There's a new ice cream shop in Pomona and they do things a whole different way -- they use liquid nitrogen to make their ice cream creations from scratch, right there on the spot. Creamistry opened with an official Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting last week with a menu that includes everything from old standard ice cream flavors to cookie butter and cookies and cream and even special creations like "chocolate combustion" and "captain's breakfast." Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber Ambassadors Richard and Luz Mason of Primerica; Pomona Chamber Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Chamber Ambassador Monique Manzanares, of Social Vocational Services; Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Creamistry manager Partab Singh; Creamistry franchise owners Yasmeen and Khalid Choudry; Yasmeen's mom Mrs. Shafqat Khan; and Pomona City Councilmembers Ginna Escobar and Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole. Creamistry is located at 12 Rancho Camino Drive, Suite 101, Pomona. For more information, call (909) 469-0805.



**FOUNDERS OF HOSPITAL'S ANNUAL WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER** -- Pictured from left are Jeanine, John and Brittany Solomon, owners of Liquorama Fine Wines & Spirits in Upland and the founders of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's annual wine tasting fundraiser, posing for the photographer at this year's event held last month at Pomona's Fairplex Conference Center. The fundraiser benefits the hospital's neonatal intensive care and pediatrics unit. The 13th annual event, hosted by the hospital's foundation, raised more than \$100,000. To date, it has raised about \$750,000 to help provide programs and equipment designed to deliver the best patient care to infants, children and their families. The hospital has a state-of-the-art 53-bed level 3 neonatal intensive care unit facility for the treatment of sick or premature babies from surrounding communities of Pomona, Diamond Bar and Claremont to Chino Hills, Corona and Eastvale.

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**NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT** -- It is really not that bad a gig, judging barbeque. And nearly 100 judges from all over the west were doing just that in the Avalon at Pomona's Fairplex last month. Kansas City Barbeque Society official Ian Schmidt of Sacramento told La Nueva Voz there were numbers on score cards and numbers on boxes to keep the names of competitors confidential. And that judging part we were telling you about? Samples were coming in every half hour during the afternoon with four different entries from each contestant -- chicken, ribs, pork and brisket. Schmidt said there were 46 professional teams and 18 "backyard" amateur teams from California, Nevada and Arizona competing in the event. He said this particular competition is held once a year but last month was the first time the event came to Fairplex. "The staff and the facilities have been great," he said, and turnout was good at the event. For more information, visit the web site at [www.kcbs.us](http://www.kcbs.us).



**BRISKET ON ITS WAY TO THE JUDGES**

-- "Smokin' Jo" of Jim Bones Barbeque in Rancho Cucamonga turns in his sample of brisket in the amateur category at last month's SoCal Barbeque Bash and Expo (he's classified as amateur because it is his first competition). From left are "Smokin' Jo" and officials Kelly McIntosh

of San Diego and Gene Goycochea. The one-day event included kids' cooking classes, barbeque sampling, exhibits, lectures, workshops, demonstrations and more. Competition was sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society, the largest and most prestigious organization in the world dedicated to barbeque.

**POMONA'S FAVORITE BBQ GRAND CHAMPION**

-- Jason Miranda, Pomona's favorite barbeque grand champion, shows off his latest creation of barbeque brisket during last month's SoCal BBQ Bash and Expo at Pomona's Fairplex featuring official Kansas City Barbeque Society sanctioned competition. And he can use

La Nueva Voz for a testimonial any time he wants to -- that brisket was good right out of the smoker. Jason is known everywhere as "Zzyzx BBQ" (just like that off ramp half way to Las Vegas) -- "The last word in BBQ." And that's kind of just what Jason and his wife, Nona Tirre, of State Farm Claremont, do -- they travel around to barbeque competitions and attend other events. Jason is a six-time grand champion barbeque pit master. He placed second in chicken at Fairplex last month -- his first win in Pomona -- and Nona said he was "beyond ecstatic." (La Nueva Voz told Nona that Zzyzx offramp was mentioned in a Harry Bosch novel -- it was the site where seven bodies were buried -- but Nona said "we had nothing to do with that -- those are all the people that didn't like our food.") Oh, and Nona is the pit "assistant." (We can't tell you what word is really used in place of assistant because this is a family newspaper but it is like those t-shirts in motorcycling that if you can read this somebody fell off.) Jason and Nona are residents of Claremont.

**Newly approved state budget to have impact in Inland Empire**

California's \$127.5 billion budget, approved on-time and balanced this month for the seventh year in a row, included \$50 million in funding for State Sen. Connie Leyva's "After School Education and Safety" program that will benefit hundreds of thousands of primarily low-income students across the state.

"As a lifelong advocate for working families, I am very proud that this year I was able to successfully fight for and secure... (the) program," Leyva said. "This much needed and long overdue investment will keep the doors open on after school programs that help kids succeed in school and keep them out of trouble."

"As a working mom, I am very aware of the need for quality and safe after school programs for children," she added, "and (the) budget delivers for families in the Inland Empire and across California."

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez said the budget takes significant strides to protect California against future economic downturns while remaining focused on building the middle class and growing vital services.

He said the budget will increase the qualifying earned income tax credit income, strengthening healthcare for thousands in his assembly district, reining in spending at University of California headquarters and guaranteeing California residents can get into a Cal State University.



**ANNUAL TRIVIA BEE WINNER** -- A three-person team from the Pomona Host Lions Club won the 28th annual "Trivia Bee" fundraiser for the Pomona Public Library this month at Pomona's Ebell Club House. Pictured, from left, are winners Frank Alvarez, Glenda Ferguson and Bob Schoenberg. The Lions team was tied for second place in the first round and then bested nine other teams from Pomona to take the prize. Questions were compiled by the Pomona Public Library staff on subjects including science, grammar and history. The winning question was "Adding to a noun is called what" and the answer was "gerund." Other teams competing were from City of Pomona Administration, the Pomona Municipal Management Club, Inland Valley Humane Society, Historical Society of Pomona Valley, Kiwanis Club, Library Board of Trustees, Pomona Public Library Foundation, Pomona Rotary and Western University of Health Sciences.

**Miss Pomona... from pg. 2**

maintained a 4.2 grade point average, also was a member of the National Honor Society and has served as Associated Student Body president. She will be the first in her family to attend college.

This year's semi-finalists were Sunita Bohara of Garey High School, Brenda Gomez and Daisy Madrigal of Pomona High School, and Jaslene Salas, Patricia Sanchez and Gabriela Sauce-do, all students at Pomona's Fremont Academy.

Lorena Matarrita, a past Miss

Pomona and chair of the Miss Pomona Committee, received the "Above and Beyond Award" at this year's competition, sponsored each year by the Downtown Pomona Owners Association.

Other committee members were Ish Arias, Larry Egan, Sally Egan, Linda Farman, Danielle Garcia, Christine Perez and Pomona City Councilmember Adriana Robledo, a 2001 Miss Pomona Princess who helped revive the Miss Pomona scholarship program.

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## Pomona's John Forbing to serve as president of 'Youth and Family Club' for two years during time of transition

Long-time Pomona and Diamond Bar community volunteer and State Farm Insurance agent John Forbing takes over the helm of the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley on July 1 where he will serve a two-year term as President at a time the organization is transitioning from 53 years as the Boys and Girls Club of Pomona Valley.

"The Club" officially became an independent organization in April after the national Boys and Girls Clubs of America revoked its charter. At the same time, the club's board of directors has broadened its focus to both continue to serve local youth and expand to serve their families.

"The other board members and I are looking forward to this year as we continue in our transition under our new 'Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley' name," Forbing told La Nueva Voz. "As our name reflects, our mission now has broadened making it possible for us to serve the greater Pomona community as a whole, and more than ever before."

"The other side of the coin, of course, is we are still looking for additional sources of revenue to make all of this possible," Forbing added. "Frankly, we have already seen the community rallying behind us so we have

positive feelings about the challenges facing us and we are all confident this will be a good year and a turning point for the club. I look forward to being of service."

Forbing has served on the board since 1978 – some 39 years – and has served as president twice previously.

Serving with Forbing on the club's executive board will be Mark Drury of O'Donovan's Restaurant and Pub, Vice President; Lt. Eddie Vazquez, Pomona Police Department, Secretary; Kevin Shaw of Western University of Health Sciences, Treasurer; and Steve Johnson who retired from his position at the former Lanterman Developmental Center in Pomona, Past President.

Johnson served as president for the past two years.

The board meets monthly.

Forbing, a former Diamond Bar City Councilmember and Mayor and a former board president of the Walnut Valley Unified School District, served on the board of the Pomona Cham-

ber of Commerce from 1983 to 1986 and from 1993 to 1996. He also served as board president of the Diamond Bar Chamber of Commerce in 1986.

He has served on the board of trustees of Western University since 1993, is a member of Pomona Rotary and served as president of the Rotary board of directors from 2008 to 2009.

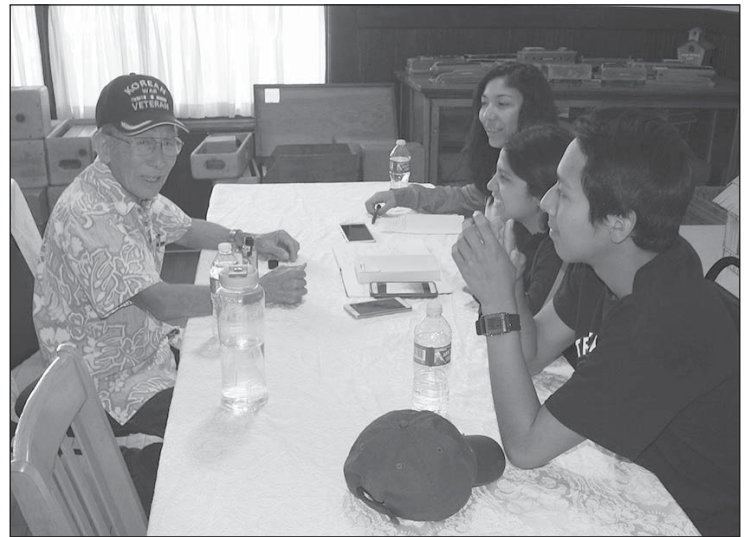
He is a lifetime member of the International Chili Society and he competes in Chili Cook-offs with Johnson under the "Can't say no" team name.

Forbing has received more than 120 golf trophies playing in charity tournaments.

The Pomona club, founded in 1964, is located at 1420 S. Garey Ave., Pomona. For more information, contact the club at (909) 242-1110.



John Forbing



**REMEMBERING THE PAST** -- A group of Ion Puschila's Advanced Placement U.S. History class at Pomona's Garey High School had a rare opportunity last month to sit down and chat with six survivors of the Japanese internment camp at Pomona's Los Angeles County Fairgrounds, now Fairplex, during World War II. Pictured is Bacon Sakatani of West Covina, who went on to serve nine months in combat carrying an M1 Carbine (21 months in the service altogether) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Korean War, who told La Nueva Voz all six survivors have known each other since they were children. He said it is important to continue to tell the story of this piece of history "because what happened to us during World War II may happen to some other minority group in the future. They'll figure out a way to make it legal . . . to put some minority people into some camp or somehow detain them or segregate them." Sakatani said he was at Fairplex for three months before moving to a larger relocation center at Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where he spent three years during the war under President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order No. 9066. Commenting on what the students learned from the informal conversations with the survivors, student Rachel Alarcon said "it teaches us that we should not let these injustices occur just because our government is telling us that it is right when it isn't. It is teaching us not to let ourselves be a part of the procedure, not to be oppressed by the government." She compared it to President Trump "saying that we shouldn't let any of the immigrants in." Pictured, from left, are Sakatani and 11th graders Andrea Noguz, Rachel Alarcon and Rinaldo Martinez. The event, in the old 1908 Barbara Greenwood Kindergarten on the grounds of Pomona's La Casa Primera, the first adobe home of Ygnacio Palomares and the oldest house in the Pomona Valley (built in 1837), was presented by the Historical Society of Pomona Valley and Garey High School.

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**FOUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AT HAYNES FAMILY OF PROGRAMS** -- Four seniors graduated high school this month at the Haynes Family of Programs in La Verne -- and fifty percent of the graduating class was heading off to college in the fall! All four are clients of the California Department of Rehabilitation, which will provide assistance to the college-bound students in the area of tuition fees and transportation. The Department of Rehabilitation will assist the other graduates in the areas of job placement, interview clothes and tools. Haynes President and CEO Dan Maydeck told the students their graduation was a wonderful accomplishment. "You'll realize as life goes on and time goes on how important this accomplishment is," he said. "High school from the standpoint of getting that diploma, it opens the door, a door that you'll realize how important it is as you go on to the next level." Haynes Director of Education C.C. Schumm said the four graduates "have met more challenges than anyone their age should ever have to face -- from neighborhood issues to mental health issues to a cancer fight." "They have not only stood up to their challenges but they have conquered every single one of them," she added. Pictured, from left, are Maydeck, Schumm, La Verne City Councilmember Robin Carder, graduates Julian Larsuel, Auscani Rodriguez (who will attend Chaffey College in the fall), Brian Munoz (who will attend Mt. SAC in the fall), Adrian Castillo and La Verne City Councilmember Charlie Rosales. The Haynes Family of Programs provides specialized treatment and educational services to children with special needs relating to emotional development, autism, Asperger's Disorder, learning disabilities, neglect and abandonment. The facility serves more than 2,000 clients, family members and caregivers annually. For more information, contact (909) 593-2581 or visit [www.leroyhaynes.org](http://www.leroyhaynes.org).

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## Pomona Concert Band announces summer concert series schedule

Summer-like weather has returned to Pomona, and that means it is time for the 70th annual summer concert series of the Pomona Concert Band.

Concerts get under way at 8 p.m. on Thursday evenings beginning July 6 in the G. Stanton Selby Bandshell, behind the community center building in Pomona's Ganesha Park, 1575 N. White Ave., Pomona.

This year's schedule includes nine Thursday evening concerts – plus two bonus concerts – with the finale on Aug. 31.

All performances are free to the public. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and visit the band's concession stand or bring a picnic basket to enjoy an evening of music.

Band members come from Pomona and more than 20 surrounding communities.

The band was founded by former Pomona Mayor G. Stanton Selby in 1947 as a Pomona American Legion Post project.

The band has represented Pomona at appearances as far away as tours of Europe and Japan in 1985 and 1988.

The July 6 concert will celebrate the band's "70th Anniversary Concert" and will feature a

special fanfare written for the occasion and music to honor Selby.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval will serve as master of ceremonies for an evening of music including "Silverado," "Flight of Valor" and "Star Wars, The Force Awakens."

The band will present a special bonus concert at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, July 9, hosting the Claremont Symphony Orchestra. The evening will include the traditional "instrument petting zoo" for children, with music selections in a concert titled "Audience Favorites from Broadway, Film and Light Classics."

Pomona Unified School District Board President Jason Rothman will serve as master of ceremonies at the concert on July 13 with music including "Inglesina," "Drumbeat Jamboree" and "Hootenany."

Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez will be master of ceremonies on July 20 with music including "1812 Overture," "2nd Suite in F" and "Around the World in 80 Days."

"Overture" will be the theme for the concert on July 27, with Rev. Larry Mintz acting as master of ceremonies, and concerts on Aug. 3 and Aug. 10 will highlight members of the band in "Pomona

Concert Band's Got Talent" performances.

A "Retro Concert from 1990" is planned for Aug. 17, with Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres serving as master of ceremonies.

Edmund Fry is master of ceremonies on Aug. 24 for "Big Band

and Broadway" selections.

The second special bonus concert will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27, hosting the Golden State British Brass Band with selections including British band music along with many American favorites.

The season's final concert on

Aug. 31 is the traditional "Star Spangled Spectacular" and will feature patriotic and "Americana" music. Once again, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval will serve as master of ceremonies.

For more information, visit the web site at [www.pomonaconcert-band.org](http://www.pomonaconcert-band.org).



**NEW DENTAL PRACTICE HOLDS OFFICIAL GRAND OPENING** -- Aloha Family Dentistry, which opened its doors in March, held its official grand opening and ribbon-cutting with the Pomona Chamber of Commerce this month. Dr. Aaron Kang and Dr. Andrew Nguyen, who attended USC together, said they are now partners in what they called their first dental office. Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval was on hand to congratulate the two partners on their new office in Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Gus Arias of Inland Valley Health Plan and Richard Mason of Primerica; Don Douglas; Chamber Ambassador Monique Manzanara, of Social Vocational Services; Pomona Chamber Executive Director Erica Frausto; Pomona Chamber Board member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz; Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres; Aloha Family Dentistry partners Dr. Aaron Kang and Dr. Andrew Nguyen; and Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez. The new office is located at 1220 N. Park Ave., Pomona. For more information, call (909) 397-9791.



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## Graduates... from pg. 1

ment ceremonies at Pomona's Fairplex Conference Center, Salcedo quoted radioactivity pioneer Marie Curie as saying "nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood."

"Now is the time to understand more so that we may fear less," he added. "In the fall, many of us will be entering college where we will meet new people . . . and learn to live amongst them in a new environment where we must learn to adapt to the stress of re-starting our lives."

"Life will never have one clear path but many divergent rugged paths which we must navigate to accomplish our own individual aspirations," he said. "These four wonderful years have definitely influenced us to greatly strive for better in our lives. High school has taught us much more than is written in textbooks."

Salcedo said his class has acquired the ability to "think for ourselves and manage our own decisions, decisions that will affect what we will end up doing in the future."

"I know that all of you will continue to strive for greatness so yes, we have the ability to do wonderful things, but we must learn to strengthen our current abilities in order to successfully demonstrate our skills out in the world," he said. "Don't ever underestimate yourself as you have the potential to do great things in the future. Let's show

Graduates... pg. 16

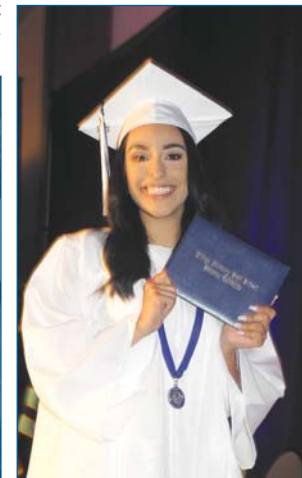


John Carlos Villalta is all smiles as he receives his diploma at Village Academy High School's graduation ceremony this month.



**ALL SET FOR 'POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE'** -- The stage is set and all are in place for the beginning of commencement ceremonies this month for Pomona's Village Academy High School -- the school's 13th graduation ceremony. Pictured, from left, are Principal Dr. Marco Sanchez, Pomona Unified School District Board member Adrienne Konigar-Macklin and Pomona Unified School District Assistant Superintendent, Chief Financial Officer, Business Services Dr. Leslie Barnes.

**TURNING OF THE TASSELS** -- Graduating seniors of Pomona's Village Academy High School make it "official" with the traditional turning of the tassels on their mortar boards from right to left at the end of their commencement ceremonies this month at Pomona's Fairplex Conference Center.



Melissa Argueta-Lepe shows off her brand new high school diploma as she walks off the stage at Village Academy High School commencement ceremonies.

## Carmen Morris installed as president of Pomona Host Lions

Carmen Morris, owner of Christensen Hearing Center in Pomona, was installed as 2017-2018 president of the Pomona Host Lions Club at the group's 97th annual installation and awards ceremonies this month at the Pomona Valley Mining Company.

Morris told members she plans to concentrate on four areas – membership growth, fund raising, membership engagement and general membership meetings.

"Let's all have fun and enjoy ourselves as we do these wonderful projects,"

Morris told her fellow members. "We are the Inland Empire's oldest service organization and we can show how we will provide better lives for so many people."

Also installed were George Kopiloff, vice president; Barbara Smith, secretary; Ben Selters, treasurer; Jack Lightfoot, financial secretary; and directors Glenda Ferguson, Jo Fulton, Anne Henderson, Denny Mosi-



**POMONA HOST LIONS CLUB INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS** -- The new Board of Directors for 2017-2018 poses for a group photo during this month's installation of officers for the Pomona Host Lions Club at its 97th annual installation and awards ceremony, making the club the Inland Empire's oldest service club. Pictured, from left, front row, are Barbara Smith, outgoing president WendyAnn Stuard, new president Carmen Morris, Helen Mosier and Anne Henderson. Back row, from left, are Steve King, Ben Selters, Clark Selters, Denny Mosier, Gil Smith, Kris Georgeson, Jack Lightfoot and Jo Fulton.

er, Clark Selters and Gil Smith.

WendyAnn Stuard was installed as immediate past president, Steve King and Helen Mosier were installed as lion tamers, and Kris Georgeson and Steve Storbakken were installed as tail twisters.

Pomona City Councilmember Rubio Gonzalez, on hand to present certificates to Morris and outgoing president Stuard,

said that while growing up, he spent his summers in Central Mexico where he got involved with the Lions Club.

Gil Smith, a past district governor, was the installing officer and past president Jack Lightfoot served as master of ceremonies.

More than 40 members, their family and friends attended the annual celebration.

And then after graduation ceremonies it was time for photos of caps, gowns and diplomas before Village Academy High School students walked out the door to the next chapter in their lives.

**FIRST DANCE** -- Bride and groom Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Prendergast dance their first dance as husband and wife at their wedding reception last month at Pomona's Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center.

**REPEATING THEIR WEDDING VOWS** -- La Nueva Voz friends Mary Brooks and Ryan Prendergast exchange vows last month during their wedding ceremony at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church with Rev. Beth Bingham (between them) at rear. Aaron Prendergast was best man, Melissa Eriksen was matron of honor and Carina Spears was maid of honor. Mother of the bride is Pomona's Beth Brooks. Parents of the groom are Ronald and Robyn Prendergast.







Photo by Patty Ibanez

Diamond Ranch High School



Photo by Julio Ruiz

Ganeshha High School



Photo by Patty Ibanez

Garey High School



Photo by Patty Ibanez

Pomona High School

It was graduation time throughout the Pomona Unified School District this month with students everywhere posing for the photographer in their own special way. This year was the first year all four comprehensive high school graduation ceremonies were held on the new football stadium sites at each of the four schools. The stadium construction project was made possible under the school district's Measure PS which was approved by voters in November 2008.



**MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS FOR VETERANS** -- Volunteers under the direction of Sam Gutierrez and American Legion Post 299 of Chino placed flags on the grave sites of more than 700 veterans at Pomona's Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day ceremonies this month. The activity has been an annual event since 2000 when Gutierrez and Juan Rodriguez first recruited volunteers -- Boy Scouts, Young Marines (youth education and service organization for boys and girls), retired military and community members and others -- for a true "labor of love." Flags were donated by M&I Surplus in Pomona. The cemetery has served the community since 1904.



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**POPPING UP EVERYWHERE** -- Those "Little Free Libraries" seem to be popping up everywhere in Pomona, this time in the front yard of community volunteer Anne Henderson. A dedication ceremony was held last month in Henderson's front yard because, as Pomona Host Lions Club President WendyAnn Stuard said, Henderson is a "proud steward" of several libraries in addition to the work she has done for the Lions club. Pictured, from left, are Stuard, Henderson, David McElwain of Pomona's Los Angeles County Office of Education GAIN office and Pomona's promoter of the "Little Free Libraries" program, Sashya Sharone Amee, a neighbor of Henderson who built Henderson's library structure and another eight or nine "Little Free Libraries" now in service in Pomona, and Lions Club member Steve King. The worldwide "Little Free Library" program, based on the "take a book, leave a book" concept, was founded in 2009 and today has libraries in all 50 states and more than 70 countries. Some 36 million free books are exchanged each year.

## Miguel Santana of Fairplex, speaking at Pomona's 'Youth and Family Club,' credits his success to Boys and Girls Club in Bell Gardens

Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana told guests at this month's "Friends Luncheon" at the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley that he is an alumnus of the Boys and Girls Club program in Bell Gardens and credits much of his success to that organization.

"I grew up in Bell Gardens and it was one of the main organizations that I owe my success to," he told La Nueva Voz before the event. "It gave me and my siblings a place to be, to grow, to learn and to build self confidence and to develop sort of an awareness of ourselves and the world around us."

As an alumnus, he said he felt he had a responsibility to accept the invitation from Victor Caceres, The Club's executive director, to serve as keynote speaker.

"As the president of Fairplex, I believe strongly that it's our job to ensure that The Club thrives during this transition," he added, referring to The Club's changeover from the Boys and Girls Club of Pomona Valley after a 53-year run.

The name change is accompa-



**FAIRPLEX PRESIDENT AND CEO MIGUEL SANTANA SPEAKS AT 'THE CLUB'** -- Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana told guests at this month's "Friends Luncheon" at the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley that he is an alumnus of the Boys and Girls Club program in Bell Gardens. "I grew up in Bell Gardens and it was one of the main organizations that I owe my success to," he told La Nueva Voz. Pictured at the event, from left, are Pomona Police Department Lt. Eddie Vazquez, The Club's incoming Board Secretary; outgoing Board President Steve Johnson; Miguel Santana; The Club's 2017 "Youth of the Year" Adrian Morales; Victor Caceres, The Club's executive director and, of course, the kids of the club. The Club in Pomona changed names -- and expanded its mission -- in April from its Boys and Girls Club of Pomona Valley designation.

nied by a broadened focus as determined by the board of directors to both continue to serve local youth and expand to serve their families.

"We're very fortunate that The Club has decided to keep its doors open to provide such critical services to our young people in this community," Santana said.

"And really, the call to action is to all of us to make sure it succeeds," he added. "We should all be judged by the way we commit our resources, our leverage, our relationships with others, our volunteerism ensuring that this organization not only survives this transition but more important it gets stronger and thrives for the future."

The Club's 2017 "Youth of the Year" Adrian Morales, 18, of Pomona, and now a Garey High School Graduate, told La Nueva Voz at the event that he's heading to Pitzer College in Claremont in the fall.

### LA County Fair to hold annual job fair

The LA County Fair will hold a job fair on Tuesday, June 27, to fill more than 1,000 seasonal positions for the fair which this year runs Sept. 1 - 24.

Applicants are invited to attend the job fair from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Avalon Building at Fairplex.

Available positions range from admissions, credentials, guest relations, parking, and carnival to grounds entertainment, creative and wine departments, security and more.

Applications may be completed online before the event at fairplex-jobs.com. Computers also will be available to applicants at the event.

The fair, one of the largest in the world, had more than 1.3 million in attendance last year.

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Photo by Alex Le

**TASTES LIKE LICORICE** -- And we have our answer, folks -- it tastes like licorice! Absinthe, that is. You know, absinthe is that liqueur that inspired the world of art in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and was enjoyed by names like Ernest Hemingway, Pablo Picasso and Edgar Allan Poe. The Historical Society of Pomona Valley held a successful absinthe "tasting" this month at Phillips Mansion (a National Register Landmark) and, like any important event in Pomona, La Nueva Voz was there. (Unfortunately, our intern Alex Le didn't have a chance to taste it but we have comments from two of the "experts.") In all, 12 varieties of absinthe were there for the tasting. And apparently, the drink is still considered illegal in the United States. (These bottles from around the world were exceptions, containing a legal amount of wormwood, a hallucinogen that earned absinthe the nickname "the green fairy," so to those in the photo don't worry about this issue of La Nueva Voz being used as evidence against you! Jim Gallivan presented the history of absinthe and its effect on culture around world, and his wife, Mickey Gallivan, president of the Historical Society, said it was "a drink appropriate to serve in 1875." "Expert" John Clifford, newsletter editor of Pomona Heritage, said the main flavor is licorice although like wine, each variety has its own nuance. The group had to test eight to 10 varieties to get a fair sampling (so they say, huh?). "Taster" Duane Smith said some were tasting varieties mixed only with water, some with water and a diffused sugar cube, while some sampled one of the varieties straight. Pictured pouring the samples are Mickey Gallivan, at left, and John Clifford, at right. Proceeds of the second annual fundraiser went to the Historical society.

## 'In the Company of Marines' – a book review

By Jeff Schenkel

Publisher, La Nueva Voz

We don't do a lot of book reviews around here and when we do we don't come across the books the way we did this one – and, frankly, most of them certainly don't have the kind of impact this one does.

"In the Company of Marines – A Surgeon Remembers Vietnam," by James O. Finnegan, M.D., is a book that has an impact and should be read.

It isn't just out – it was published in 2009, and it was published long after the end of the war in Vietnam.

And, while much has been written on the topic, this one is the first we've seen that was truly an inside look, as the name suggests, through the eyes of a surgeon.

The public relations folks or the publisher didn't ask us to write about this book (we read it quickly during parts of a two-day period – it was a good read despite some issues with editing and proof-reading, at least in the Kindle version).

And the author certainly didn't – unfortunately, Dr. Finnegan – a true American hero – passed away in 2013 at his home from complications of melanoma following a successful medical career.

Nope, we have only Dr. Ben Shwachman, currently Chief of Staff at Citrus Valley Medical Center, to thank for bringing this book to our attention. (We went to see Dr. Shwachman of Covina last week be-

cause of a little leg pain issue and talked him into a "quick fix" injection of cortisone – problem solved!) And for the record, he didn't ask us to review the book. He just mentioned it in our conversation. The book review was our idea.

It turns out Dr. Shwachman served with his friend James Finnegan in Vietnam – you know, the usual – U.S. Navy docs putting wounded Marines back together in Vietnam while carrying M16's and with a .45 caliber handgun strapped to their leg as enemy mortars are fired into their surgical "suite" while they are performing their miracles.

We don't want to give the entire book away here but among other things, Dr. Finnegan was the commanding officer of the surgical team at the 77-day siege in 1968 of Khe Sanh where docs, corpsmen and Marines treated 2,500 casualties.

He was assigned to the Third Marine Division and worked at "Charlie Med" during the siege.

Finnegan received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for his service. The Purple Heart was because he was hit by shrapnel – he didn't even report it because he didn't think it was a big deal and he joked about asking if he could have one in a smaller size because he didn't think his

Book review... pg. 17

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**Pomona's Spotlight . . . Making a Difference**

**Community volunteer Anne Henderson believes ‘what I can do, I ought to do’**

Those who read these pages regularly probably recognize that La Nueva Voz pretty much never has difficulty coming up with something to say about, well, pretty much anything.

When it comes to community volunteer Anne Henderson, the problem is deciding exactly where to start.

It seems like if there is ever an event or a committee meeting anywhere in Pomona – on almost any topic at all – Henderson is there. She keeps a busy schedule and she's been keeping it for a very long time.

She received her bachelor of fine art degree from Scripps College in Claremont and a teaching credential and master's degree in education from the University of La Verne. She put all of that to work as an elementary school teacher in the Pomona Unified School District for 32 years, taking an active leadership role in the teacher's association.

Henderson has been a mem-

ber of the Pomona Youth and Family Master Plan from its inception, working in areas of sustainability, education, drug, alcohol and violence prevention, and has served as chairperson for four years.

And she has remained involved as this effort transitioned into Pomona's Promise, where she works in the areas of public safety, healthy eating, active living, homeless advisory and education.

Henderson has served as a delegate/stakeholder at Pomona's Tri City Mental Health and now serves on its mental health commission.

She is very much involved in her church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pomona, where she belongs to Daughters of the King, a lay order.

In fact, it is her work here that may provide a clue to at least part of her motivation – one of the group's prayers reads, in part, "Though I am only one, I am one, and what I can do, I

ought to do."

"I feel compelled to be involved and this compulsion comes out of my faith," Henderson was quoted recently as saying.

We think that kind of sums up Henderson's philosophy.

In addition to everything else, she performs regularly with Pomona's Repertory Opera Company, regularly contributes during the annual Pomona Beautification Day, she's a supporter of the Pomona Public Library and she works regularly with Pomona's "Little Free Libraries" program.

Henderson has been honored by both the City of Pomona and the Pomona Unified School District for her work on the Pomona Youth and Family Master Plan.

And she has been honored as



**Anne Henderson**

a community hero during Pomona Day activities at the Los Angeles County Fair.

She is also a member of the Pomona Host Lions Club.

She was recognized as a "Community Engagement: Engaged

Alumni" by the University of La Verne at last month's "Spirit of La Verne Recognition Ceremony."

Henderson has served as a Pomona Police Department crime prevention unit volunteer, a children's sight services fundraiser for the Lions Club, and she has worked as an advocate for pregnant teens.

She has served as a volunteer for the Pomona Reads book festival.

"I believe the work we do in the community makes a difference," Henderson said. "Over the years I can see changes happening towards the goals of safe

neighborhoods, strong families and a healthy quality of life we have been working toward in our community collaborative."

"I have come to know so many more community members, neighbors and leaders through being engaged in positive action on behalf of all of us," she added. "It takes a lot of time and effort and some days it is exhausting or frustrating but it is all worth it."

A native of San Diego, she has two daughters, Carol and Amy, and was a single parent from the time her daughters were 6 and 3 years old.

We could go on, but we believe our readers will get the idea why Anne Henderson was selected this month for Pomona's Spotlight in La Nueva Voz.

*Editor's Note: "Pomona's Spotlight" is a regular feature focusing the spotlight of Pomona on an individual who has made a contribution to the image, betterment and growth of the greater Pomona community. Suggestions for future candidates to be considered may be submitted to Renee Barbee at reneebarbee7@gmail.com.*



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**Hope & Hurdles**  
By Evy Schuman



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





**CONGRATULATIONS FROM LA VERNE** -- La Verne Mayor Don Kendrick congratulated Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval at the "Communities Transformed" event hosted by Bright Prospect, calling Sandoval "a great leader but he's going to have an army behind him." He presented Sandoval with a City of La Verne certificate of recognition "for his contributions in creating opportunities for high school students to set a path for college and supporting them in achieving their degree."



**Alumni of Pomona's Bright Prospect lined up on stage last month at the Fox Theater at an event honoring Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval to tell their own stories about how Bright Prospect -- and Sandoval -- changed their life, helped them get into prestigious colleges and universities and helped them work toward the dream of making Pomona a better community.**



**Bright Prospect President and Founder Eric Gareen congratulates Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval on stage at Pomona's Fox Theater last month at an event honoring Sandoval, former Bright Prospect program director.** The organization empowers high school students from Pomona and Ontario to go to and complete college.



**The staff of Bright Prospect joins Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval on stage at the Fox Theater last month at an event honoring Sandoval for his work with the college prep organization.** Sandoval told the audience that Bright Prospect "is an absolute team effort." He told the audience the future of Pomona "is bright because of all of you." Bright Prospect graduates "roasted" Sandoval with a series of skits, starring Kendra Pinedo, now Bright Prospect's high school program manager and the first in her family to attend college, who dressed in the same blue suit, brown shoes and tie Sandoval wore for the evening and repeatedly returned to the theme in her comments that "I'm a Pomona boy."



**HONORING MAYOR TIM SANDOVAL** -- Adriana Pinedo of Day One was the first speaker from the audience last month at "Communities Transformed: Honoring Tim Sandoval," presented by Bright Prospect at Pomona's Fox Theater. Pinedo, whose brother and sister are Bright Prospect alumni, told the audience of about 100 guests that her parents did not have the opportunity to go to school. She thanked Sandoval for "being that loving supportive figure we all needed." Pictured is Pinedo with Sandoval in the background. Sandoval served as program director for Bright Prospect from the organization's inception in 2003 until his election last year as Mayor of Pomona. The organization has grown from 12 students in 2003 to 2,075 students in 2017.

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**Thursday, July 27 @ 1 pm (English)**

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**Thursday, July 6 @ 10 am**

**& 3 pm (English)**

**Tuesday, July 18 @ 10 am**

**& 3 pm (Spanish)**

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**Letter To The Editor**

**Another view on history of Ganesha Park**

Editor:

In reference to the May 2017 article regarding the Ganesha Park tree carving dedication, I would like to dispute a couple of the statements and information included in the article. Although well written by Mr. Alex Le, unfortunately he was given some questionable information.

The very first paragraph the article states that the Costanoan Rumsen and Gabrieleños were inhabitants of the Ganesha Park area. In a widely publicized controversy between some of the local tribes, the wording for the plaque was agreed upon by a special committee, which included Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and Councilman Rubio Gonzalez and it concluded that the Gabrieleño-Kizh people were the first inhabitants of the Ganesha Park area. The Costanoan Rumsen people inhabited the Carmel and Monterey area in central California and arrived in the area much later, settling in Duarte, Chino, Riverside and San Bernardino.

That being said, I feel that Chief Ernie Salas of the Gabrieleño-Kizh Nation was disrespected by not being quoted or given the opportunity to share his ancestors' story in the article. There was no picture of him or the rest of his tribe members who were in attendance.

The article also refers to Tony Cerda of the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe as a chief. Cerda is a self-proclaimed chief who was called that a couple of years ago by someone in San Francisco who was working with him at the time for exposure and to raise funds for the tribe. As for Cerda's quote of having a great grandmother buried at the park, that statement is also totally false and I challenge him to prove it.

It is a widely known tradition of all native indigenous people to honor and acknowledge the original people of the land. Before any sacred ceremony is conducted, permission must

be requested from the original people of the area. Cerda, being native, when contacted by (dedication project organizer former Pomona City Councilmember) Debra Martin, since "day one" should have followed native protocol and directed her to the right people. Instead, it appears that he sought sole recognition for himself and his tribe and ended up causing chaos and ill feelings between several people.

I sincerely hope that when the park is visited by fourth and fifth grade students, as Martin spoke about, the history will be told correctly by the descendants of the original Gabrieleño-Kizh people. Once the true story is told, then and only then can the healing begin. Let our ancestors guide us.

Dee Dee Manzanares Ybarra  
Pomona/Hesperia

*Editor's Note: As stated above, the La Nueva Voz reporter wrote the story as presented at the event. The letter writer's concerns appear to be associated with a long-standing disagreement between two Native American groups. As the story indicated, the event was intended to attempt to bring the two groups together at the time of this dedication – so much so that Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and City Councilman Rubio Gonzalez sat down long before the event to work out wording for a plaque that would satisfy both groups. While La Nueva Voz was aware of this on-going disagreement, this newspaper had never been approached on this issue by representatives of the Gabrieleño-Kizh people until the submission of this letter after the fact, nearly a month after the story appeared in La Nueva Voz and two months from the time of the event. We are publishing this letter as a courtesy in the interest of balanced news coverage and the opinions, of course, are those of the writer and not of this newspaper.*

the world what we're made of."

Salutatorian Claudia Sabina Cardenas-Maciel told her fellow students that it was their "day of celebration, for what we've done and where we're going."

"It is a day that reflects upon old memories made in our time in this high school, our high school," she added. "It's OK to be scared of change, this is a big step, but it's something that must be taken."

"Wherever you choose to go in life is up to you (with) new opportunities to make unforgettable memories," she said. "I'm proud of each and every one of you that's sitting here today to witness the first day of the rest of our lives."

Pomona Unified School District Board member Adrienne Konigar-Macklin told the students to look at an imaginary door in front of them before actually opening it.

"You can't succeed or continue along your path if you don't enter through new doors," she said, "if you don't push forward and let the world know and let others experience the joy that is you."

"Life is but one day at a time, one step at a time, one minute at a time," she added. "But once that minute is over, once that day is over and once you have taken that step, you can be proud that you did it."

"No one can take it away from you and life can't change it," she said. "You can determine your

**Free concert at the dA July 8**

A free charity concert hosted by Pomona's dA Center for the Arts, scheduled for Saturday, July 8, at the gallery, will feature a drum circle, live music from local bands, a group sing-along and more.

The event is set for 6 to 9 p.m. at the gallery, located at 252 S. Main St., #D, Pomona. Proceeds will go to Uncommon Good, a local non-profit providing support and empowerment to working class families through youth mentoring and tutoring, affordable organic produce and more.

For information, contact [stringlightstudios.org/concerts-for-a-cause](http://stringlightstudios.org/concerts-for-a-cause).

**Graduates... from pg. 10**

destiny. (With) what we've given you and what you've shown us, please make sure you open every door."

Principal Dr. Marco Sanchez told the students they were just completing their kindergarten year at the time of Village Academy's first commencement ceremonies, adding that today 100 percent of the class was graduating from high school.

He said their parents had hopes

to "shine a light" on what they feel is important.

"It is very easy to shine light on what does not work," he said. "But it takes courage, innovation and grit to eliminate solutions to obstacles you will no doubt encounter in your next journey."

He also encouraged students to "be sure to direct your camera and capture the learning that life's lessons will give you and avoid capturing the drama that all of us experience in life."

"Lastly, students, you must never fear to take action towards achieving your goals," he said. "Never be afraid to take risks and fail. Only by failing can we truly see our potential."

"When you fall down, get right back up and keep moving forward, never allowing yourself or any others to prevent you from working to your full potential," he said. "Believe in yourself like we have for the past four years here at Village Academy."

A total of 1,766 Pomona Unified School District students graduated in this year's commencement ceremonies.

| Pomona Unified School District graduation totals |     |
|--|-----|
| Garey High School                                | 361 |
| Pomona High School                               | 263 |
| Diamond Ranch High School                        | 388 |
| Ganesha High School                              | 241 |
| Palomares Academy                                | 57  |
| Fremont Academy                                  | 73  |
| School of Extended Educational Options           | 56  |
| Village Academy High School                      | 93  |
| Pomona Alternative School                        | 130 |
| Park West High School                            | 104 |


and dreams for them when they first went off to school.

"Very soon your parents will once again experience similar emotions seeing you go off into college, the work force or the military," Sanchez said.

Speaking on a "lights, camera, action" theme, Sanchez said as students direct the next portion of their life they will have the ability

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## Azusa Eagles chili cook off set for July 1

The 26th annual Azusa Eagles Chili Cook Off is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, July 1, at the Azusa Eagles, 1603 N. San Gabriel Canyon Road in Azusa.

The event will include chili tasting, live music, raffles, vendors, food and drinks, an arts and crafts fair and more.

### Adventures at the Perales Ranchito - Today's Cuentito

## Escape in Westmont makes news in Pomona

By Susie Perales

Our dogs escaped from paradise! Pops (also known as La Nueva Voz friend Angel Perales) went out front to water the lawn and left the front door ajar and all three of our little brats scurried out the door without pops noticing!

How he missed seeing them go around the house and down the street is a mystery to me. I don't know who I was more upset with, him or the ungrateful dogs. He feeds them beef jerky and chicken every day!

I guess they thought the steaks were juicier at the dog pound on Mission Boulevard! I drove slowly and saw a dead animal on our street and my heart sank. I got closer to see if it was one of our pups. It was a huge possum. I was so relieved.

So now I'm hoping the dogs didn't get too far. I jumped back into the car and was rounding the corner when a car almost hit me. I swerved and he passed me. I saw our neighbor watering his lawn and I asked if he saw our three amigos running down the street. At first he said no. Then he pointed down the street and said, "There they go!"

We both noticed the car that almost hit my car stopped by the curb by Mission and, sure enough, he was getting ready to hijack

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our dogs! I honked like crazy letting him know they were my fur babies and he took off.

The dogs saw me and they all recognized their momma! Belle ran to the car and jumped in. Woody ran and passed us and made his way back home. He must have smelled that chicken cooking! Bear decided to run under my car so I had to sweet talk him to come out. By this time I think I'd lost about 10 pounds and raised my blood pressure to the moon! When I got home pops was so happy to see them that he cried and hugged them. I love all of them dearly, but I was ready to put them all in the corner on a time out for stressing me out! God knows I must have needed the exercise, though. At my age, these little incidents are no fun at all.

Dogs are like kids. They don't know how great they've got it until they are out on their own and the food runs out!

*Editor's Note: Susie Perales is available for consultation on how to – or perhaps how NOT to – deal with the escape of three very small dogs in the neighborhood. She can be contacted through La Nueva Voz in the event there are any takers.*

## Book review... from pg. 13

injuries compared to those young Marines he worked on every day.

One of those Marines the docs saw literally had a live mortar round in his stomach and a doc risked his own life to remove it with his bare hands, have it taken away safely and go to work on patching up the Marine. The Marine lived.

There's more, of course, as Dr. Finnegan tells the stories – war stories and stories of his heroes and how they were able to do their job under pressure and with little medical equipment.

And the underlying message was the tremendous and total respect he had for his Marines – those who defended him and those who were wounded in battle and those who died.

Perhaps anyone would have the same reaction I did – from a few laughs to a few tears – or perhaps the book meant a little more to me because of the fact that I was in college at the time with a student de-

ferment (until my senior year when those deferments went away and we were all subject to the first draft lottery – my number was 252 and I was never called before President Nixon ended the war).

Either way, read it – you'll be glad you did.

Thanks for your service, Dr. Shwachman, and God bless you guys.

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**MILLION MOTHERS MARCH** -- Supporters of Ethel Gardner's Kennedy Austin Foundation march south on Garey Avenue across the street from the old YMCA building heading toward the Pomona Civic Center last month in the 11th annual Million Mother's March and Balloon Send Off. The annual event is dedicated to mothers and families who have lost children. The marchers started and ended their march at Pomona's Purpose Church where activities were centered during the day. Gardner, executive director of the foundation, founded the non-profit in 1993 following the tragic death of her only son.



**THE GANESHA HIGH SCHOOL DANCERS!** -- Members of Pomona's Ganesha High School dance team perform in front of the Pomona Public Library last month during an "Environmental Expo" hosted by the City of Pomona in the Civic Center plaza. Included were vendors, foods, a mobile shredder, face painting and more.

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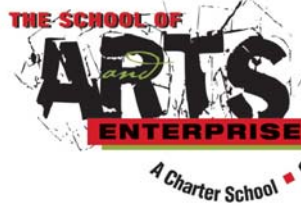
**rites of passage** -- Members of the Pomona Alliance of Black School Educators held its annual Rites of Passage event last month at Pomona's Antioch Missionary Baptist Church to honor African-American high school seniors. The event is recognized as a cultural retooling process for black youth in their adolescent-to-adulthood transition, a time that is challenging to everyone but particularly African-American youth, many of whom suffer from identity crisis as they shift from "carefree and self-centeredness" to "responsibility and self development." Pictured at the ceremony are African-American students from throughout the Pomona Unified School District.

**LOOKING GOOD!**

-- The Pomona Optimist Club sponsored an essay contest for Pomona Unified School District high school seniors with the winners receiving a new suit for prom night. All eight winners were from Pomona's Village Academy High School.



Pictured at Wedgewood Sierra La Verne country club, the site of the prom for Village Academy, are, from left, Jesus Soriano, Vice Principal Roddy Layton, Kaleb Gonzalez, Natan Vergara, Village Academy counselor Lorraine Canales, David Davalos, Aldair Fernandez, Miguel Vasquez, Esteban Villalta, Village Principal Dr. Marco Sanchez and Kenny Ayala. Theme of the essay was "What makes you proud?" Winners received a suit, shirt, tie, belt, socks and shoes for prom night. Lifetime Memory Photography by Eric Jung (his wife, Ruby, is an Optimist Club member) donated photography services to each student and his date.



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- More...

**Water conservation starts at your home or business!**

There are a number of rebates still available to help you conserve water and save money too!

VISIT:

[www.socialwatersmart.com](http://www.socialwatersmart.com)

to learn more about rebates in your area.

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**REBATES!**



**Three Valleys Municipal Water District's Areas Served:**

Azusa, Boy Scouts of America-Firestone Reservation, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, City of Industry, Claremont, Covina, Covina Irrigating Co., Diamond Bar, Glendora, Golden State Water Co., Hacienda Heights, La Puente, La Verne, Mount San Antonio College, Pomona, Pomona-Walnut-Rowland Joint Water Line Commission, Rowland Heights, Rowland Water District, San Dimas, Suburban Water Systems, Valencia Heights Water Co., Walnut, Walnut Valley Water District and West Covina



## \$1.67 million gift to help Cal Poly students be first to launch rocket into space

Cal Poly University Pomona's mission to become the first university to send a rocket into space recently got a huge boost thanks to a \$1.67 million gift from the National College Resources Foundation (NCRF).

A portion of the funding will support the launching of a liquid-fueled rocket 45,000 feet to win the top prize at an upcoming national competition.

The university hopes to improve on that achievement after the competition by officially launching a rocket into space,

which technically begins at 330,000 feet or 62 miles above the earth's surface.

Plans for the donation include funding student projects, obtaining space for the department's liquid rocketry laboratory and procuring equipment and supplies.

Dr. Theresa Price, founder and executive director of the foundation, said her passion is to promote diversity and provide opportunities for underserved and underrepresented students, as well as women.

The outstanding reputation of the college, along with the diversity of the students in the various engineering majors, and the support of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) outreach programs, are among the reasons Cal Poly received the philanthropic grant.

“Both NCRF and Cal Poly Pomona share many of the same goals, including a desire to get students excited about careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics

and related fields,” Price said. “That common bond makes a collaboration between NCRF and the university a natural fit, and the gift will help turn the dream of space exploration into a reality for students.”

Cal Poly's College of Engineering ranks among the best universities in the country for producing large numbers of successful graduates. Cal Poly Pomona graduates make up one out of every 14 engineers in California.

Aerospace engineering pro-

fessor Frank Chandler called the gift “a godsend” and lauded the foundation for helping to make the development of a laboratory for future rocket engineers a reality.

About 40 engineering students from a variety of specializations are participating in the rocketry program. The aerospace engineering department expects to see 60 engineering students in the next academic year working on projects related to the development of liquid rockets, Chandler said.

# Join us for a community meeting in your city



The Foothill Gold Line light rail project from Glendora to Montclair is breaking ground in October 2017, and will add new stations in Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair. The project will take 8-9 years to complete and is being funded by Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. The portion of the project within L.A. County (Glendora to Claremont) is being funded by Metro's Measure M and Measure R. The portion from Claremont to Montclair is being funded by San Bernardino County.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Groundbreaking Ceremony**  
**Saturday, October 21, 2017**  
**Citrus College, Glendora, CA**

More details available soon

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETINGS

Attend a community meeting to learn the latest about the Project's timeline, what to expect during construction, the latest station and parking plans, public art and how to stay updated. All meetings will display the same information, so attend the one that is most convenient for you.



## Foothill Gold Line

**There will be no formal presentation; arrive any time between 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM:**

**Thursday, July 13**

San Dimas Senior/Community Center  
 201 E. Bonita Avenue  
 San Dimas, CA 91773

**Tuesday, July 18**

Palomares Park Community Center  
 499 E. Arrow Highway  
 Pomona, CA 91767

**Wednesday, July 19**

Montclair Senior Center  
 5111 Benito Street  
 Montclair, CA 91763

**Monday, July 24**

Alexander Hughes Community Center  
 1700 Danbury Road  
 Claremont, CA 91711

**Thursday, August 3**

Hillcrest Retirement Community  
 2705 Mountain View Drive  
 La Verne, CA 91750

**Monday, August 7**

Glendora Library, Bidwell Forum  
 140 S. Glendora Avenue  
 Glendora, CA 91741

Si necesita información del proyecto o servicios de interpretación en español, llame a Yesenia Arias al 626.305.7012.