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# La Nueva Voz

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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member

Issue No. 141

Thursday, April 22, 2021

## Unaccompanied children crossing border to be housed at Fairplex at request of White House

Some 2,500 unaccompanied minors – generally expected to be between the ages of 12 and 17 – arriving at the southern border of the United States are expected to be housed on a temporary basis at an emergency intake site set up on the grounds of Pomona's Fairplex at the request of the White House, according to Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis.

She said details have not been worked out and a contract has not yet been signed, but representatives of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have been touring Fairplex to determine how much of the campus

will be required for the project.

Solis, who represents the first supervisorial district which includes Pomona, announced the development this month in a news release and followed up with a news conference the following morning inside Building 4 at Fairplex, one of seven exhibition halls expected to be used to house the children.

Several or, if needed, all of the exhibition halls could be used in a plan that will involve placing cots and supplies on the floor of the huge halls. It was not made clear exactly when the operation will get under way or how long it will continue.

As a curious comparison, those same grounds were used in 1942 – after the attack on Pearl Harbor – for the detention of Japanese Americans during World War II as authorized by President Franklin Roosevelt. More than 5,000 people were housed at the facility, one of 13 built in California, in 300 barracks for four months

before most of the internees were transferred to Heart Mountain in Wyoming.

"There are moments that define this country and the County of Los Angeles and this, in my opinion, is one of those moments," Solis said. "In this exhibition hall and on this campus of Fairplex there will soon be thousands of young people inhabiting this space which

will be an emergency intake site."

"These are young people who are fleeing violence and poverty in their home countries seeking asylum and refuge in the United States to escape the conditions brought upon them through no fault of their own," she said. "They are escaping violence of many forms – gang violence, domestic violence, some of them



Photos by Jeff Schenkel

Some or all of the seven huge exhibition halls -- just like this one next to the Fairplex Conference Center as seen this month -- are slated to be used to house some 2,500 unaccompanied minors between the ages of 12 and 17 after a call from the White House to Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Hilda Solis put the ball in motion. Solis, at right, in a YouTube screen shot, speaks at a news conference this month inside Fairplex Building 4 announcing the plan. The Building 4 stage is visible at rear.



## Melissa Ayala receives Roundtable's 'Community Star Award'

Community activist and volunteer Melissa Ayala, recipient of this year's "Community Star Award" presented by the Latino and Latina Roundtable of San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, told a virtual Cesar Chavez Breakfast last month that working to "improve the community" should never be used as a political device.

"My goal has always been to improve the community," she said at the group's 17th annual breakfast event with more than 170



Melissa Ayala, recipient  
Community Star Award

See La Nueva Voz editorial page 6.

have faced discrimination because of their sexual orientation or religion, many of them are leaving such abject poverty – that should be a crime in any country."

"And all of them dream for a better life," she said, "one that this country and that the county here in Los Angeles can offer."

"For a mother to send her child Unaccompanied children... pg. 8

PAID ADVERTORIAL

### Anti-Asian racial violence and coping with its mental health impacts - A message from Tri-City Mental Health

As we pass the one-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must speak out against the surge of harassment, xenophobic rhetoric and violent hate crimes that have been targeted against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). We see and acknowledge the pain, outrage, grief, fear and trauma our AAPI community members are feeling. We stand in solidarity with you and we are here for you.

As the mental health authority for the diverse cities of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne, we reaffirm that racism is a public health crisis and that racial trauma is real. Experiences with racial discrimination and the multigenerational impacts of trauma can have significant adverse effects on mental health and well-being. We are committed to supporting AAPI and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals, families and communities who are impacted by these experiences and feeling emotional distress.

There can be no community well-being without all members of our community feeling respected, supported and protected. Tri-City, along with our Cultural Inclusion and Diversity Committee (CIDC) and Wellness Advisory Councils, is dedicated to listening to the needs of our communities and partners, and working together to ensure Tri-City remains a safe space for all to come and be supported. We will continue to work collectively to ensure that our policies, trainings, outreach, treatment services, education and advocacy efforts support diversity, equity and inclusion. We invite community members to join our Wellness Advisory Councils, share their collective voice and help advocate for the mental health needs of their community. Together, we can address systemic racism and build resilience to heal as a community. Please reach out to us at [cidc@tricitymhs.org](mailto:cidc@tricitymhs.org) for more information about how to get involved.

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**PRETTY IMPRESSIVE LOOKING GROUP OF CLEAN-UP VOLUNTEERS!** -- Here's what a hard-working group of volunteers looks like after unveiling a community garden at Pomona's Cesar Chavez Park. The event was held late last month and included masks and social distancing. Pictured are ... hmmm, this one might be difficult. Well, we can easily spot, about five in from the right, against the fence, left to right, Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte, Jim Sanbrano, Yesenia Miranda Meza, and Mike Suarez. And we're going to say that's Latino and Latina Roundtable President Jose Calderon seated, front right. Good job to all on the new garden!



Hablo Español



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## Watchdog group calls Medical Board of California a ‘doctor-run’ agency that fails to protect public

The California-based non-profit Consumer Watchdog, claiming the Medical Board of California is a doctor-run regulatory organization that has failed to protect families from dangerous doctors, has launched an effort to give public members control of the board.

The group also claims the medical board – with eight doctor members and seven public seats, two of which are vacant – favors doctors over the public in its rulings and takes an average of more than three years to conclude enforcement actions.

La Nueva Voz just completed a three-month investigation and report of doctors running Pomona’s “COVID hotel,” the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel on the grounds of Pomona’s Fairplex, and reached out to the medical board to ask status of a reported investigation of those doctors.

The news media spokesperson for the board told La Nueva Voz he could not confirm or deny that investigations were under way, claiming investigations are confidential under California law.

The board eventually posts on

its web site any resulting disciplinary actions, judgments or other actions although, of course, that information could be posted more than three years down the road.

Consumer Watchdog said the medical board dismisses most complaints without ever speaking to the patient.

The group said State Sen. Toni Atkins (D-San Diego and currently Senate President pro Tempore) last month proposed adding public members to the medical board.

Consumer Watchdog Executive Director Carmen Balber, in a letter to state legislators in Sacramento, called on elected officials to “turn physician oversight over to the public, and restore access to justice to injured patients.”

Her letter, co-signed by Consumer Watchdog staff member Michele Monserratt-Ramos, was sent to the joint Senate and Assembly committee currently conducting a “sunset” review of the medical board. It insisted that a physician majority resulted in a “lack of legal deterrence to medical negligence and (the lack of)

better physician oversight.”

Among other issues, the letter pointed to “California’s draconian \$250,000 cap on quality of life and survivor damages, unadjusted since 1975, (which) virtually ensures that injured patients are denied effective legal counsel and access to the courts for a remedy.”

The cap is the lowest in the U.S., according to the letter which was sent to the State Senate Com-

mittee on Business, Professions and Economic Development and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions.

“A Senate Rules Committee confirmation hearing last month for physician nominees to the Medical Board of California drove home the issue that should be at the heart of the sunset review: The public does not trust the medical board to protect them

from dangerous doctors, or to hold doctors accountable when they have been harmed,” the letter continued.

Voters will have a chance to restore patient rights on the 2022 ballot by updating the state’s \$250,000 cap on compensation in medical negligence cases for inflation and allowing judges and juries to decide cases involving catastrophic injuries or death.

## Village Academy’s Karla Hernandez wins Optimist oratorical contest

Karla Citalith Hernandez Godinez, a senior at Pomona’s Village Academy High School, was the first-place winner last month in this year’s Pomona Optimist Club Oratorical Contest.

She won a \$500 college scholarship for her efforts and will move on to the next level to compete at the District Regional level for even more scholarship

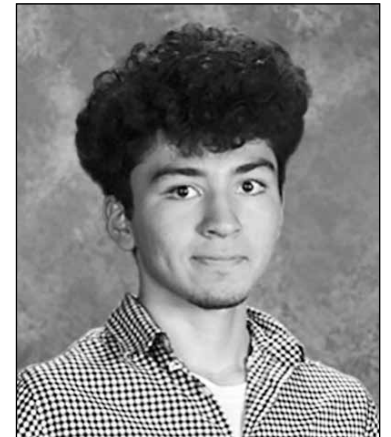


Karla Citalith Hernandez Godinez

awards, according to club president Lorraine Canales.

Speeches this year, which were four to five minutes in length, were on the topic “Healing the world with optimism.”

Francisco Benavides, Jr., also a Village Academy senior, and Kevon Nava, a ninth grader at Ganesha High School, tied for second place. Each received a



Francisco Benavides, Jr.

\$300 scholarship.

Third place went to Michael Octavius Golan. He received a

Oratorical contest... pg. 7



# St. Madeleine Catholic School

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## OPINION

**County needs to take action – and tell people about it – in wake of allegations of improprieties at Pomona’s ‘Covid hotel’**

For the past three months, La Nueva Voz has been taking a close look at the goings on at Pomona’s Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, more commonly known in these pages as Pomona’s “Covid hotel,” since it was used for the past year as an isolation and quarantine facility during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many of those goings on were allegations reported to us by probably six or eight employees and former employees who worked at the facility – and the reports came from both the management level all the way down to the people who took patient temperature and blood pressure.

In January’s issue, we looked at the hotel operation after receiving reports that patients were being transferred around the county to artificially keep the numbers up in “census” reporting.

After that issue was published, we heard from others alleging that managers were requiring nurses to offer patients alcohol and marijuana to keep them from walking out against medical advice and, again, to keep numbers up in the hotel, as we reported in our February issue.

And the February issue prompted another former nurse at the facility to reach out to us with allega-

tions of kickbacks and “under the table” payments in what became a multi-million-dollar operation over the past year. That “follow the money” story was reported in our March issue.

(Miss one of these? Go to [www.lanuevavoz.net](http://www.lanuevavoz.net) and click on “past issues” to catch up on your reading.)

Now at La Nueva Voz, we pride ourselves on maintaining balance in our news columns, and we’ve been commended for that many times in the past. That interest in balance extended to what turned out to be a three-month series (we just didn’t know it was going to turn out that way at the time!).

But we also reserve the journalistic right as a newspaper to express our opinion from time to time, and we do that – as do newspapers everywhere – in editorial columns such as this one.

We feel strongly that in our three months of investigation – which brought us “up close and personal” with many front-line workers at all levels in the hotel – that we received an accurate picture of what was going on there – from the numbers, from our observations and from the comments, letters and e-mails from those who

worked there and directed the operation.

As a little background, that whole drug thing at the hotel – offering patients marijuana or patients “ordering in” crystal meth in pizza boxes (confirmed by the Pomona Police Department) – was unfortunate or, as a friend of La Nueva Voz at the Pomona Post Office put it, “shocking.”

Even so, that was really just symptomatic of all this.

Our biggest concern was with the way the money allegedly was handled. As our sources reported, the outside medical director came in and immediately removed all documentation procedures for inventory tracking, purchasing of supplies and even appropriate hiring practices required by Los Angeles County.

This, of course, paved the way for the alleged billing abuses, kickbacks and more.

That medical director was removed from his position in the middle of the La Nueva Voz investigation. But others above him are still working for the county.

And we still have no official reports as to what happened with the money – literally millions of dollars – that started with bill-

ings to Los Angeles County and that the county was passing on for reimbursement through U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency and federal CARES Act (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act) payments.

The hotel shut down as a COVID facility last month, but the county can’t just let any confirmed financial abuses ride off into the sunset unnoticed in the bank accounts of doctors and administrators who were in charge.

Several investigations reportedly already are under way – including one by Sue Currin, R.N., chief nursing officer for the county’s Department of Health Services.

But the county Board of Supervisors needs to get involved – whether the subject at hand is in the category of “dirty laundry” or not – and make sure the issue is handled. And supervisors can’t just let the issue go away if Currin herself steps down in what new curiously timed reports indicate is an impending retirement.

If heads need to roll, then so be it. If the public integrity division of the county District Attorney’s Office needs a little push to take action, county supervisors need to be the ones to give them that push.

Some of this, of course, may be happening behind the scenes. But county public information officers have made it clear that they are not commenting on internal personnel

matters.

We’ve taken things as far as we can at this point. As we have reported, now it is time for authorities with subpoena power to step up to the plate, do a little digging beneath the surface and then go public with their findings.

Where fraudulent activity is discovered, county and federal dollars need to be recovered and criminal prosecution needs to be pursued as appropriate.

And when official action is taken – whether criminal or administrative – county officials must take a transparent approach and go public with their action through the news media.

Those of us who majored in journalism in college in the ’60s were told that the public has the right to know and that still stands today, some 50 years later.

We’ve had calls from readers and talked to readers on the street who said they had “no idea” all this was going on at the hotel which, of course, has been closed to the public for the past year.

We’ve even had calls thanking us for the story and asking why Los Angeles media hasn’t done anything with this Pomona story.

But rest assured – when the county supervisors are able to take appropriate action on this and tell us about it, we’ll put the information where it belongs – right back up on the top of page one in Pomona’s only community newspaper.

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## Cesar Chavez breakfast... from pg. 1

supporters viewing online. “It has never been to be in pictures or to be in any political power. I am committed to continue to protect and improve my community.”

Ayala, a native of Pomona, told the group her first protest was at the age of 10 and that while in high school she helped organize toy drives, helped at a local food bank and volunteered for the city.

She received her bachelor’s degree in gender ethnicity and multicultural studies from Cal Poly University Pomona and, while there, she said she continued the work and tried to bridge the local universities with the high schools.

More recently, she has served as a member of the City of Pomona’s Parks and Recreation Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission and she has served on the Roundtable’s board along with other community groups.

She has supported undocumented youth, helped start the City of Pomona’s annual kite festival and helped with educational forums at election time.

Currently, she works as a community school coordinator for Pomona Unified School District, where she helps connect families in need to services and “safety-net” programs, and she is a graduate student at Western University of Health Sciences.

Ayala said she hopes to continue serving Pomona and be part of the city’s positive change and growth.

She thanked the Roundtable for acknowledging her work, and she thanked the community for recognizing what she “brought to the table” regardless of her age.

Citing “International Women’s Month” which is observed annually during the month of March, Ayala also recognized her “amazing mother” Maura Ayala who she said has worked with her, guided her and mentored her.

And she said she wanted to honor the women who have paved the way before her.

Roundtable President Jose Calderon introduced her as

“someone who is exemplary for our community and our organization.”

The Community Star Award is presented each year to recognize individuals who work behind the scenes.

“I have learned as a woman we have to work extra hard to be valued but it never stops me from believing,” Ayala said.

And to the leaders of tomorrow?

“Know your worth and work with those who value it, who see it, that is when you will grow,” Ayala said.

A total of five honorees and five scholarship recipients were recognized at the event.

### Luis Juarez

Award recipient and organizer Luis Juarez, who joined a Chicano student organization “La Raza Libre” and helped establish the “Huelga” committee while at UC Santa Barbara, left school to volunteer full-time for Cesar Chavez’ United Farm Workers.

He participated in many marches and picket lines supporting the striking workers in the San

Joaquin Valley before moving to Pomona in 1983 where he began working with Pomona native Tomas Ursua to broaden the democratic rights of Latinos.

And he worked with Fabian Nunez to help found the

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of the Pomona Valley, where he was elected vice president.

Juarez served on the Pomona Planning Commission for nine years, with his most significant work getting approval for the city’s Hope for Home emergency homeless facility.

He also served for five years representing South Pomona on the board of Three Valleys Municipal Water District.

Juarez also served as member, vice president and president of the Pomona Valley Democratic Club.

He told the group he was honored to receive the award not only as an acknowledgement of his work with the union but his life-

long experiences and work in civil rights.

He dedicated all those experiences “to the future generations of activists that will keep on fighting for human and civil rights.”

Benny Ayala, representing State Sen. Connie Leyva, presented Juarez with a special certificate from the senator which Ayala said was the highest award presented by the senate.

### Francisco Suarez

Attorney Francisco Suarez, also an award recipient, has practiced law in Pomona since 1988 and is now located in Claremont, serving clients in criminal law, personal injury, civil rights and business matters.

He has been active in the Camara Comercio Latina Del Valle de Pomona, the Pomona Economic Opportunity Center, and other community-based organizations. A graduate of the University of La Verne College of Law, he spent several years in legal services in Pomona.



Francisco Suarez

During that time, he worked on the Committee to Free Gordon Hall who was incarcerated for a murder he did not commit, and he has participated in ground-breaking cases including what he called discriminatory Pomona police checkpoints and the trash facility environmental justice issue.

Today, he is working with P.O.S.T. (Police Oversight Starts Today) to establish a viable police commission.

Suarez commended Calderon for “continuing the struggle year after year” through his leadership, adding that Calderon has been “at the forefront of the sanctuary movement.”

“We must help ourselves by exercising our first amendment right to vote,” Suarez said, adding that “we must contact the mayor and your city council person in support of a real police commission

that has teeth.”

### Miranda Sheffield

Also receiving an award was Pomona Cultural Arts Commissioner Miranda Sheffield who was recognized for her dedication to social justice advocacy, resistance and collective movement.

For 10 years, she has served youth experiencing foster care by leading interactive trainings on reproductive and sexual health, and she has helped provide information to pregnant and parenting youth.



Miranda Sheffield

She is a member and organizer of Pomona United for Stabilized Housing (PUSH) and a core member of P.O.S.T. working for pathways for local police accountability.

Her passion is addressing economic justice in service of cultivating thriving black and brown communities, and she has demonstrated with Black Lives Matter since 2014 in Los Angeles during an occupation of the front office of the Los Angeles Police Department.



Pomona City Councilmember  
Victor Preciado

ment.

She earned her master’s degree in human rights law from SOAS University of London, a public research university, where she joined with other students to address racial educational disparities and the nationwide United Kingdom pension cut strikes on behalf of teachers.

Sheffield told the group she was honored to be receiving the award in the spirit of Cesar Chavez, adding that she looks forward “to continuing to bring forth the legacy of what Cesar Chavez has represented and also continuing to do the work of solidarity with our black and brown community.”

“This is our time to shine,” she said. “We’ve accomplished so much and there’s so much more work to do. Let’s continue to bring this legacy home for our brothers and sisters.”

### Victor Preciado

Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado also was honored at the event as someone Calderon

Cesar Chavez breakfast... pg. 18

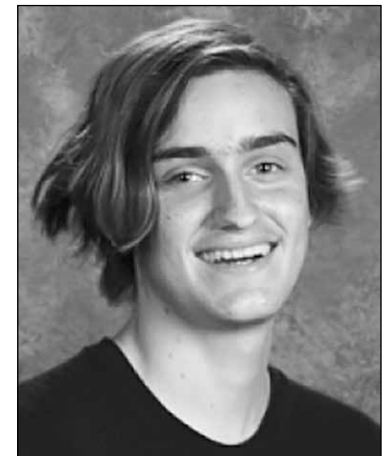
## Oratorical contest... from pg. 5

\$200 scholarship.

A total of seven contestants competed in the event. The contest is designed for youth to gain experience in public speaking, perfect self-expression, gain self-assurance, improve communication

skills, and have an opportunity to compete for scholarships.

Also competing were Orlando



Michael Octavius Golan

Aria of Ganesha High School; Danny Lopez, of Diamond Ranch High School; and Kaitlyn Nguyen, of Village Academy High School.



Kevon Nava

## Unaccompanied children... from pg. 1

unaccompanied on a dangerous journey proves how dire this situation is – they are risking their lives,” she said. “These children are undertaking a dangerous and traumatic journey, all to get a chance at a new life, and that



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval

dream of a new life will start right here at Pomona Fairplex where they will be welcome.”

She said the issue of unaccompanied children crossing the border “affects all of us” and “is not a border crisis, it is a humanitarian crisis.”

“That’s why when the White House called me to see if Los Angeles County would be receptive to helping care for these young people, I did not hesitate,” Solis said. “I knew this community would say unequivocally yes, and I want to personally thank the mayor, his councilmembers here in Pomona, for their courage and their support and their commitment.”

She also thanked the Fairplex Board and called them “a shining beacon of hope for so many people.”

Solis noted that most of the usual activities generally held on the Fairplex campus have been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic of the past year while other activities have continued – from COVID vaccinations and testing to child care.

Of course, the campus also has been used for food give-aways throughout the pandemic, and the Fairplex Sheraton Hotel was used – until last month – as an isolation and quarantine facility as a part of the COVID effort.

She said the children could begin to arrive at Fairplex as early as “in a few days or so.”

“The Pomona Fairplex and Los Angeles County are all part-

ners in making preparations to welcome these young people here,” she said. “We’re working hand in hand right now with the White House to identify culturally competent service providers, those who can help these young people cope with what they have endured, but also they can provide educational and recreational opportunities here on this campus.”

Solis emphasized Fairplex will be a campus – “it’s not a detention facility, it’s not cages, it’s not a jail, certainly not a detention camp, nothing could be further from the truth, and staying here at the Pomona Fairplex, as you know, is temporary.”

She said the ultimate goal is to ensure the children are transitioned out of Fairplex and either reunited with their families in the United States or with a sponsor “who can care for them and give them that family support that they deserve.”

Solis said local service providers will be utilized in areas of health care, the county’s Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Public Social Services, Department of Mental Health, Office of Immigrant Affairs, educational agencies and others.

She said the COVID vaccination and testing operations at Fairplex will continue.

“I want to personally thank President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris and their administration,” she said. “Their commitment to ensuring these young people are able to transition successfully is so very clear.”

Solis cited a similar intake site which is being established at the Long Beach Convention Center.

“I know that I can say I speak for the rest of the Board (of Supervisors) that we all are wholeheartedly behind this venture to help these children while we can to maintain their well-being and also identify family members that reside here in Los Angeles County and wherever and hopefully encourage people to also be foster parents and guardians to take on the role of being a parent to these children who deserve so much more,” she said.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, who also appeared at the news conference, said he also received a call from a member of the Biden

administration earlier this month who indicated Fairplex was being considered for the project and he wanted to know Sandoval’s thoughts.

“Without hesitation, I said I would support it – they are children, they are our children, and we need to do everything we can to get them reunited with their families,” he said, adding that he had questions, since he had heard the stories of conditions at the border patrol sites where children are being held.

“I wanted assurances the children were going to be taken care of to the highest degree,” Sandoval said.



Bonnie Preston  
Acting Director Region 9  
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

He added that he was assured that the Department of Health and Human Services would engage local non-profits that the city recommends using to help the children with their health and well-being.

“We want the children to know that they are welcomed here, that they are going to be taken care of here, and that they are our children,” Sandoval said. “We’re going to do everything we can to take care of them.”

“Pomona is a city that has a long history of welcoming immigrants from all over the world,” he said. “We are a city that has put the compassion into action from the beginning.”

Sandoval said, “we also have hope and faith by taking this step life will be better for these children.”

“We have an obligation as compassionate human beings to do everything we can to get these children home to their loved ones,” he said. “This is the right thing to do, this is the just thing to do.”

Fairplex Interim CEO Walter Marquez said representatives of several federal agencies had been

exploring the Fairplex grounds over the past few days.

“As I introduced this idea to our board, our board was very concerned about the safety of the children,” Marquez said. “Although we don’t have a contract in hand right now, please know that it is the priority of Fairplex, it is the priority our board and our association that the safety, the well-being and the self-dignity of every child is maintained while they are on our grounds.”

He said Fairplex takes that responsibility seriously.

Also on hand at the event was Bonnie Preston, Acting Regional Director for Region 9 of the Department of Health and Human Services, based in San Francisco, which includes California, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii.

Solis mentioned she worked with Preston when she served as Secretary of Labor for President Obama.

“I represent our new secretary, Xavier Becerra (former California attorney general and the first person of Hispanic descent to hold the post), who has taken on this humanitarian mission to make sure that when children come into this country and are put by law in HHS custody that they are well taken care of and that they are safely united with those that they came to be united with, usually a family member,” Preston said.

She explained they could also be reunited with a close relative.

“But these people have to be vetted and it takes time,” she said.

“The Fairplex and L.A. County stepping up to help this effort is just a really huge and wonderful thing for us,” she said. “We’re looking to the county to help in this humanitarian mission in the way that California usually does it – they step up and they go big.”

### Responses to news media questions

Responding to a question from La Nueva Voz (the La Nueva Voz questions were the first to be answered at the news conference), she said the contract itself would be between Fairplex and Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families and Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Preston said other contracts are being sought for medical care and wrap-around services.

Responding to additional ques-

tions from La Nueva Voz, Marquez said the total number of children at Fairplex will depend on how many buildings end up in the contract.

“Fairplex’ role will be to support the logistics from a facilities standpoint,” he added. “We’re not a care non-profit entity, we’re an event space so we know how to do events and we do them well, so



Fairplex Interim CEO Walter Marquez

from that aspect, Fairplex’ role is that kind of an indirect service to the children via facilities.”

On another question from La Nueva Voz, Solis clarified how the Fairplex project will look, explaining a similar facility at the San Diego Convention Center will be used as a model – individual cots for children separated by age, services, testing, meals and case management.

“We will work with the federal government, HHS, our partners and the Fairplex staff and everyone else that is committed to seeing that this happen as smoothly as possible and that we welcome these children who may be coming here in a matter of days,” she said.

And she added that the Biden administration has been operating similar facilities in other parts of the United States including in Texas.

Preston, responding to a question from the Associated Press, said some children without sponsors could eventually be referred to county services for some form of guardianship or foster care, but that most children coming into the U.S. have with them the name and contact information for a sponsor.

She said the plan calls for keeping children in “emergency shelters” like Fairplex for no longer than 30 to 35 days.

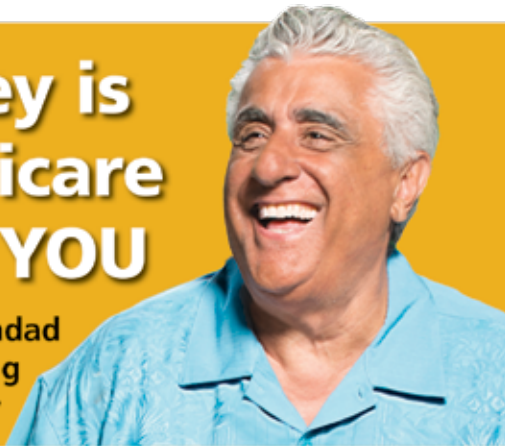
In response to a question from



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PINA-COLADA INFUSED CUPCAKE

MI CAFECITO COFFEE  
LAVENDER TEA, HORCHATA

STARBUCKS  
STRAWBERRY CREAM

DELICIOUS FREEDOM  
MARGARITA ICE CREAM

CAPS AND DRIP  
DATE SYBUP ORANGE LATTE



**TOP 6**  
MUST TRY  
RESTAURANTS

EL JEFE COCINA  
MEXICANA & CANTINA  
101 W MISSION BLVD, 91766

LUCHADOR URBAN TAQUERIA  
341 S GAREY AVE, 91766

SLUMMIN' GOURMET CAFE  
224 E 2ND ST, 91766

EL MERENDERO  
242 S GAREY AVE, 91766

HILLTOP JAMAICAN MARKET  
117 W 2ND ST, 91766

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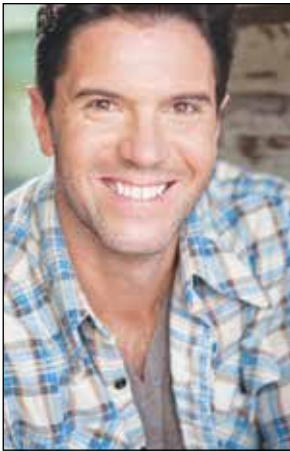
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## No hay mejor momento para dejar de fumar que la pandemia

Por Jackson Gutierrez



Jackson Gutierrez

Mientras seguimos afectados por la pandemia, no puedo dejar de pensar en la importancia de la salud pulmonar. En especial para las personas que intentan dejar de fumar. La lucha por dejar de fumar es una lucha que entiendo a la perfección.

Recuerdo que de niño jugaba con el cenicero que mi padre tenía en su mesa de luz junto a su cama y admiraba el hermoso adorno que decoraba la mesa de centro en la sala, y que más tarde descubrí que era un encendedor. Estaba rodeado de objetos asociados al hábito de mi padre y, como era de esperar, en más de una oportunidad lo imitaba llevándome un sorbete de plástico blanco a la boca y dando una pitada.

Durante mi adolescencia, asistí a una escuela secundaria con orientación artística donde muchos de mis compañeros fumaban. Así fue que encendí mi primer cigarrillo. No imaginé en ese momento que sería el inicio de mi lucha de siete años contra la nicotina.

En los años siguientes, sentí que intentaba dejar de fumar casi todas las semanas. Me preparaba mentalmente, pero cuando estaba a punto de terminar el paquete, demoraba la decisión para otro día. Hubo veces en que mis intentos fueron más exitosos y logré dejar de fumar durante casi tres meses. Hace poco descubrí que no estaba solo. Un estudio (en inglés) demostró que, en promedio, los fumadores intentan dejar de fumar unas 30 veces antes de lograrlo definitivamente.

La pandemia ha dejado al descubierto lo peligroso que es fumar y la importancia de dejar de fumar para mantener buena salud. Algunos estudios demuestran (en inglés con línea de ayuda en español) que las personas que fuman y vapean tienen mayor riesgo de sufrir afecciones pulmonares crónicas que a su vez los hacen más propensos a padecer enfermedades graves por el coronavirus.<sup>1</sup>

Los expertos dicen que no debemos presionarnos demasiado, siempre que sigamos intentándolo.

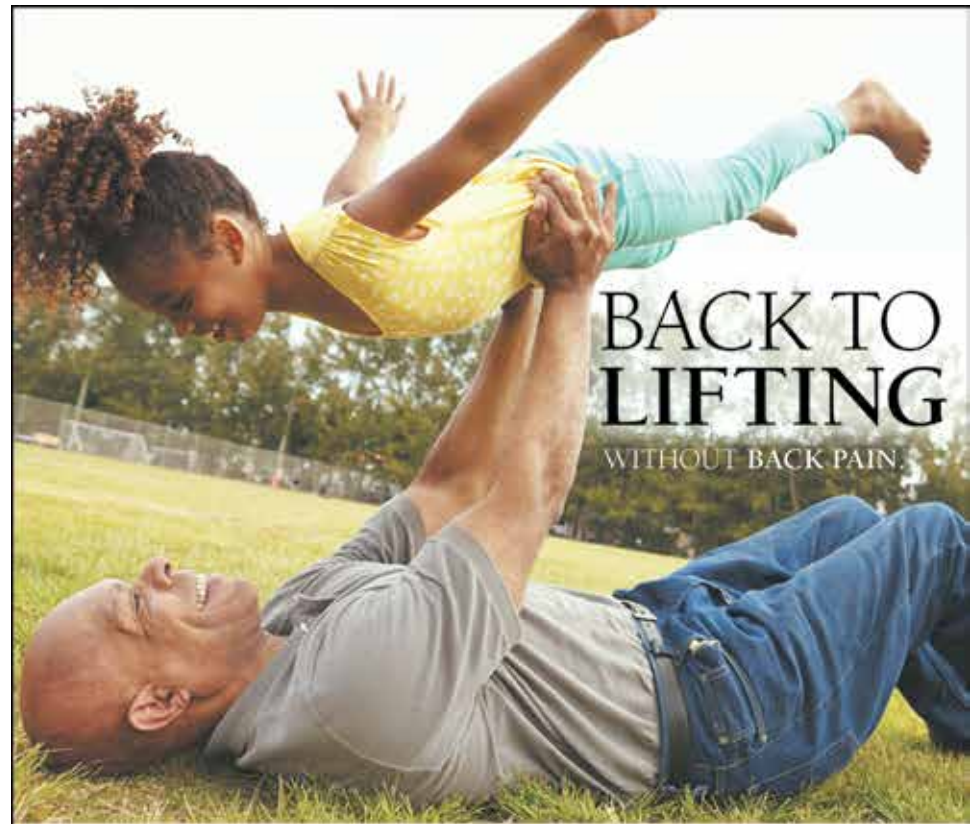
“A lo largo de los años hemos encontrado muchas personas que creen que jamás podrán dejar de fumar, pero les recordamos que con determinación y ayuda, pueden lograrlo”, explica Sharon Cummins, Director de la Línea de Ayuda para Fumadores de California, un servicio gratuito que ha ayudado a casi 1 millón de californianos a dejar de fumar en los últimos 30 años. “Cada uno se mueve a su propio ritmo, y sin importar cuántas veces uno debe intentarlo, el deseo de tener una vida más saludable siempre triunfa”.

Lo mejor que hice por mí mismo es dejar de fumar. Además de sentirme mejor y oler bien, mi carrera como actor vocal no se vio afectada.

Hoy que la salud pulmonar es más importante que nunca, espero que otros fumadores también comprendan la verdad sobre el tabaco: es dañino y adictivo, pero aun así ellos también tienen la fuerza para dejar de fumar. Posiblemente les lleve más de un intento, o quizás 20, pero con ayuda y confianza, podrán dejar de fumar y mantenerse alejado del tabaco.

*Gutierrez es actor vocal y vive en Long Beach. Si necesita ayuda para dejar de fumar, visite [www.nobutts.org/spanish](http://www.nobutts.org/spanish) o llame al 1-800-456-6386, para obtener ayuda gratuita para dejar de fumar de la Línea de Ayuda a Fumadores de California (California Smokers Helpline).*

1. California Smokers Helpline. Coronavirus (COVID-19). NoButts.org. <https://www.nobutts.org/covid>. Se accedió el 26 de febrero de 2021.



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## Casa Colina helps accident victim doctors said was a quadriplegic ‘get back to living’

A Sherman Oaks lawyer, wife, and mother whose spinal cord was severed in an automobile accident 10 years ago in Pasadena and who was told she likely would never walk again before she discovered Pomona’s Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare – and then walked out of the hospital with the help of a walker only two months later – was this year’s honoree at the virtual 2021 “Tribute to Courage Gala.”

Joanne Lichtman told viewers this month she was injured on Labor Day weekend in 2011 while returning home from dinner at a friend’s house. A car collided into her in an intersection and forced her vehicle into a light pole.

“I couldn’t move, I heard my husband groaning, I was sure he was dying, I was sure I was dying, I couldn’t move my arms, my legs, my head,” she said, adding that she told her son, Sam, to take her purse and take care of his little brother.

“And that’s the last thing I remember,” she said.



Honoree Joanne Lichtman

She soon learned at her first hospital that her neck was broken in two places, her spinal cord was severed and her right arm was shattered.

Lichtman underwent a nine-hour surgery in which 10 levels of metal rods were put in place to rebuild her neck and back, along with a 15-pound metal “halo” screwed into her skull.

After about a week in the hospital, a doctor came into her room to tell her she was a quadriplegic, she was paralyzed from the neck

down, she would never do anything she used to do again, and she’d probably never walk again.

Because of this prognosis, she said her doctor was recommending she be transferred to a nursing home since she would be unable to go through rehabilitation.

“You never think it’s going to happen to you but when it does, your life is devastated,” Lichtman said.

But she was fortunate – she had a good support system of family and friends and she was told she needed to get to Casa Colina.

She was taken by ambulance, arrived in her “halo” and in a wheelchair, and, she said, couldn’t do



Bonnie Hunt

anything.

“They took care of me medically, they took care of me physically,” she said.

“I’ll never forget being wheeled into Dr. (David) Patterson’s clinic the first time I met him, and he asked

Get back to living... pg. 19



Photo by Renee Barbee

**TORRES AND TORRES TAG-TEAM TOGETHER FOR FOOD GIVE-AWAY** -- To borrow a phrase from singer Hank Williams, Jr., maybe it’s the start of a new family tradition, but Congresswoman Norma Torres teamed up with her son, Pomona City Councilmember Robert Torres, last month to sponsor a food give-away at the Palomares Community Center in Pomona. The drive-through event, with everyone remaining in their cars, circled around the driveway at Palomares Park and was a huge success. Pictured, from left, are Pomona insurance agent Vince Carpio, Councilmember Torres, Luciano Quezada, and City of Pomona commissioners Jacqueline Elizalde and Donna Manzanares Otero.

Public service ad courtesy of La Nueva Voz

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## 'Bye Bye Mattress' recycling program available to Pomona residents

Earth day, celebrated today, April 22, for the 51st year, and always an opportunity to educate communities about the benefits of recycling, prompted a reminder from the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) that Californians – including Pomona residents – can recycle mattresses at no cost through the "Bye Bye Mattress" program, which receives more than 1.5 million discarded mattresses each year from California residents and commercial volume sources.

The program works with local businesses and non-profit organizations to recycle the steel, foam, fibers and wood that are then used in carpet padding, a variety of steel products and sound and thermal insulation.

"Ever since MRC established Bye Bye Mattress in 2016, it has worked collaboratively with local leaders and non-profit organizations to make free mattress recycling easily available, providing a solution to combat illegal dumping of these products," said MRC Managing Director Mike O'Donnell.

In Pomona, the Pomona Valley Transfer Station, located at 1371 E. Ninth St., participates as a free drop off location for the program. Traditional mattresses and box springs are accepted, including foam mattresses as well as futon mattresses that can separate from their frame or base.

The transfer station also allows businesses to drop off small loads of up to 10 units.

In addition, the program works with hundreds of retailers in the state to recycle old mattresses that are taken back during the delivery of new products.

"If you are purchasing a new mattress soon, ask about take back when you are discussing your delivery options," said MRC's Director of Marketing Amanda Wall.

She said another way to responsibly dispose of a mattress is utilizing the city's bulky item collection services. City of Pomona residents, including multi-family residents with trash collection service, are eligible to schedule a bulky item pick-up.

One request per bi-monthly billing cycle is provided at no extra cost, Wall said.

Residents must contact customer service at (909) 620-2241 to schedule the pick-up.

"Don't assume that just because you put your old mattress on your curb on trash day that it will be collected when your regular household trash is hauled away," Wall added.

The Bye Bye Mattress program is funded through a \$10.50 recycling fee that is collected when a mattress or box spring is sold. The fee is used to establish free drop-off locations and collection events throughout the state, to transport collected units to dismantling companies, to recycle the materials, address illegal dumping and facilitate research to improve mattress recycling and find new markets for the materials.

MRC, a non-profit organization that operates recycling programs in states that have passed mattress recycling laws (California, Connecticut, and Rhode Island) was founded by the bedding industry and recycles more than 1.7 million mattresses each year.

For more information, visit the web site at [byebyemattress.com](http://byebyemattress.com).

### A new La Nueva Voz publishes each month on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Pick up your free copy of La Nueva Voz at these locations and dozens more:

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- Claremont library
- Claremont City Hall lobby
- La Verne City Hall lobby
- La Verne Senior Citizens Center
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce, 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Downtown Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Pomona Unified School District administration building lobby
- Western University of Health Sciences Patient Care Center
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center maternity lobby, outpatient services, emergency room
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- Jicamex Tacos Y Carniceria, 604 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphina Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
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- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



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**Cuentito for today****He thinks he can still do somersauces (somersaults)**

By Susie Perales

I cannot leave my husband by himself at all! When I came home today after going to my massage therapy, I saw my viejito sitting at the table almost in tears. He's been very sad over his fur baby, Coco, who passed away recently. I went to hug him only to find out that he experienced his second worst nightmare. He let the dogs out by mistake, twice! All he could think of was seeing them get hit by a racing car out in the front of our house.

Before I left, I told him, "don't do anything dangerous, please!" He's legally blind and his favorite pas-time is fall-

ing!! Pero no hace caso mi Crocodile Dundee! (He never listens.) I guess he thought I said, "go ahead do whatever you want you're so sexy when you're dangerous!" He was up in the attic rearranging things. I thought to myself, "really?!" "Grr!" I asked him, "why couldn't you wait until I got home, señorito!?" Shaking my head, I said to him, "well, Babe I guess you're still looking forward to your next broken leg."

He said he was lucky that a young girl came back with Woody and asked him if it was his dog. I asked him how he found Belle and he said, "I found her, or she found me, because I tripped over her on the sidewalk. Belle was behind me when I was frantically hollering for her to come to me." "If dogs could laugh, I think she was laughing at me."

I am so happy my honey is so full of energy now that he got his new C-Pap (sleep apnea) machine. But he thinks he can still do somersauces, as my Ricky Ricardo calls them! I asked him, "why do you keep doing this crazy stuff?" He replied, "because I think I can still do it." I replied, "that's what the guy who built the Titanic thought, too!"

My honey bunny had a glass of Merlot ready for me, so I wouldn't

lose my composure! He calmly said, "well, this dummy was at it again!!" I told him, "with you, honey, I'll never run out of cuentito material."

After we both calmed down, he tells me, "I am dang lucky I don't own a helicopter, because I was ready to go get you at Norma's!" I told him he was lucky that I wasn't here, or I would have shot him and he said, "no, I would have shot myself first, ha! ha!" (Not really.)

I seriously need to keep my viejito in prayer! I never know what he's going to do next! I asked him to give me a title for his cuentito and he said to title it Idiot's Day!

After the many rough days and run-away dog nightmares we had this past year we were still blessed with many great times together. We never lacked for anything. We never ran out of food nor TP!

Cinco de Mayo is around the corner and I plan on making us a nice dinner. My honey looks forward to my chicken tacos, menudo and my caldo de res. (beef soup). This year my viejito requested that I make him menudo for Cinco de Mayo. I usually make it during the winter, but if it makes him happy, I will be making that for him.

I am thinking of putting my recipes together with all the shortcuts that I use in my dishes for my family so they can spend less time laboring in the kitchen. They have the skills to cook up some delicious Mexican food, but they don't know all my little secrets.

My favorite dish is capirotada. It's a traditional dish made during the Lenten period. It's a bread pudding to die for. If you haven't tried it, you should! If you like cinnamon buns you will love this Mexican bread pudding.

I have rarely written or shared my recipes with others except for my family. As a part of my cuentito I'm going to include my recipe for menudo. There are no laws

against cooking your favorite traditional food any time during the year. You can enjoy it any time you're in the mood for a special treat.

I'm trying to teach my hubby how to cook and he's beginning to get it. However, he's a little dangerous in the kitchen. He can't see that well, so I have to keep an eye on him.

In December, my hubby was in the kitchen by himself and he took a big swig of what he thought was eggnog. He came to the living room and told me, "I think the eggnog went bad!" I went to look at it and discovered that he had taken a big gulp of my eggbeaters! A week later he was trying to be helpful, so he took out the chicken mole I had in the freezer and stuck it all in a big pot and turned on the stove! I had no idea as I was in the shower! When I got out, I smelled burnt mole. I saw our kitchen full of smoke and the smoke alarm was blaring! We turned on all the fans hoping we didn't send smoke signals to the fire department! Pobrecito, my babe. I gave him a kiss and an A+ for sweetness and effort!

**Recipe**

Note: To my physically challenged friends, skip the chili pods section. Just add red chili powder to the menudo soup instead.

**Easy peasy Menudo**

Ingredients: 8 to 15 lbs of honeycomb tripe, 1 medium can of hominy, 2 medium cans of Chili Las Palmas, one small can of El Pato sauce, 1 bag of California dry chili, 4 cloves of garlic or 3 tablespoons of minced garlic, Salt to taste, 1 teaspoon Cayenne pepper, 1/2 tsp black pepper, 1 tsp of crushed dry chili, 2 tsp of oregano, Half pot of water to cover the tripe and pigs feet, 8 pigs feet cut into 4 pieces each, 2 cans of beef or chicken broth, two onions cut into four pieces.

You can ask the butcher to cut the feet and tripe for you.

First of all, clean the tripe and pigs feet in vinegar and water. Rinse and dry.

It's better to boil the meats in two separate pots – the pot for the tripe 3- to 3-1/2 hours until it's soft, but not too soft. The pigs feet take longer. About 4 hours. Add a

Somersauces... pg. 21

**Congresswoman Torres gets federal funds for hospital, health center**

Congresswoman Norma Torres, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, last month announced the award of federal grant funding for two local medical facilities – a \$13.9 million grant for the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and a \$1 million grant for Parktree Community Health Center.

The hospital grant is a U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency grant and will support the hospital's delivery of coronavirus-related healthcare including testing, staffing, medical necessities and emergency protective gear.

"Over the last year, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center has delivered essential support to our community as we battled multiple COVID-19 surges," Torres said. "As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, my primary goal is to ensure the constituents of the Inland Empire re-

ceive the federal funding that our region deserves and requires."

The Parktree grant is part of the Health Center Cluster Grant Program run by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and will help Parktree continue to serve disadvantaged patients in Pomona.

"Parktree Community Health Center is a leading provider of medical care for our neighbors in need, and I'm thrilled to announce a new award that will help them continue serving our community," Torres said.

Since the start of the pandemic, Torres has delivered more than \$531 million in coronavirus relief to the Inland Empire in the form of housing and food assistance, direct payments, small business grants, funding to state and local governments, and aid to ensure the safe reopening of K-12 schools.

**Supervisors Solis, Kuehl co-author motion to begin implementing 'Countywide Cultural Policy'**

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors were scheduled to consider a motion by Board Chair Hilda Solis and co-authored by Supervisor Sheila Kuehl this week to begin implementation efforts on a Countywide Cultural Policy that was adopted in June 2020 and was the first of its kind in the nation.

"Arts and culture play a critical role in the economic and social resiliency of Los Angeles County, not just in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic but also in the long-term vitality of our communities," Solis said. "As a county, we have invested meaningfully in arts and culture for more than a century through our county-owned cultural venues and support of arts nonprofit organizations through our grant programs."

But she said more work is necessary to "solidify gains made, advance cultural equity, and increase access to the arts and its many benefits for all residents."

"Adoption of this motion in this moment will address historical inequities in investments and help nurture a culture within our departments and agencies to uti-

lize the arts in plans, initiatives, and projects to better inform and enhance service delivery to our families," she added.

The motion instructs the county's Department of Arts and Culture to begin implementing recommendations in their October 2020 report on the Countywide Cultural Policy – to the extent feasible with existing resources – and to develop a strategic plan to enact the goals of the policy.

It asks the department to report back annually on the progress of county departments in incorporating the arts in their services.

In addition, the motion calls on the county's chief executive officer to report back during the 2021-2022 fiscal year "final changes" budget on funding \$250,000 for an arts and culture needs assessment, and the feasibility to fund a staff position to manage the implementation and on-going work of the Countywide Cultural Policy.

**La Nueva Voz...  
For ads,  
call (909) 629-2292**





**BACK TO NORMAL?** -- Things looked like they might be getting back to normal this month when what looked like a motorcycle club -- complete with its own DJ playing the music -- stopped in at Mariscos Baja Pomona on Mission Boulevard West of Dudley Street.



**BEFORE AND 'DURING'** -- Hey, what happened to our check-out desk at the Pomona Public Library? Pictured are two views of the lobby and front desk area, courtesy of library staff, where construction has been under way since late last month. Library Services Manager Anita Torres told La Nueva Voz demolition of the existing fixtures is complete (we're guessing that's what happened to our check-out desk), and work has begun on electrical and other foundational components. Work should be completed by the first week of May. Meanwhile, "Pomona Public Library to Go" services, the library's walk-up service answer to the COVID-19 pandemic, is now available at the downstairs side entrance off of the parking lot until construction is over. Patrons can apply for new library cards, reserve books, check out Chromebooks, print and e-mail documents for free and more. Hours of the "To Go" service are noon to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. For information, call (909) 620-2043 or e-mail library@ci.pomona.ca.us.

**A personal story**

**Product to relieve debilitating pain created after bout with bacterial meningitis**

By Keri Anderson

*Editor's note: La Nueva Voz friend Keri Anderson, based in Oregon, tells the story below of how she created a product based on her personal need. She is sharing her story -- and her products -- with the readers of La Nueva Voz.*

Hi Pomona! My name is Keri. Mos' Dream Cream Products began in 2003 out of a personal need for pain relief that did not alter my brain. After a serious battle with bacterial meningitis in 2001, I found myself in the complicated situation of being a wife with three children trying to balance life while adjusting to limited mobility requiring a wheelchair, all with severe, unmanaged pain -- even with harsh opioids.

Nature always finds a way. I believed that and spent four long years searching, learning, and ultimately discovering a way to ferment cayenne pepper to make a capsaicin paste that was not hot on skin but incredibly effective on even severe pain, lasting eight to 15 hours.

By 2007, I had created what would ultimately become Mos' Dream Cream, named after our chocolate Lab, who never left my side. Mos' Dream Cream Products remains today the small, family-run business intent on helping others manage their pain by people who experience and understand pain themselves.

Very early on, we had tried to add both THC and CBD to Mos'

Dream Cream, but we never saw any increase in pain relief. Finally, in 2020, with help from a friend knowledgeable in cannabinoids, we found that industry standards of 300 to 1,000 mg of CBD was NOT enough, and that a combination of CBD and Delta-8 (a hemp derivative) was required to boost the already powerful pain relief abilities of Mos' Dream Cream. In fact, a combined total of 5,000 mg in the 3.15-ounce cream and 2,700 mg in the .5-ounce stick would be required to elevate the pain relief that would last for up to 24 hours!

We know that no other product is willing to go to these lengths or extremes, but Mos' is not any other product. We understand how debilitating pain is. We understand the stress, lack of sleep, the emotional and financial burden pain inflicts, and the isolation and loneliness. We understand that one size does not fit all. But... nature finds a way. Please don't give up.

If you or someone you know is hurting, try the sample pack. It's on sale now for just \$10. It comes with a chapstick sized CBD stick (.15 ounce) and a pocket-sized cream (.33 ounce) that is convenient to carry. For everyday pain, try Mos' Dream Cream. For severe, chronic pain, turn to Mos' Supreme CBD. Please reach out to us if you have questions or concerns at MosSupremeCBD@gmail.com.



Photo by Renee Barbee

**ONE TOUCH RECOVERY CENTER RIBBON-CUTTING** -- The Pomona Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting at the new location of One Touch Recovery Center -- one of two ribbon-cuttings this month -- and one of the two first ribbon-cuttings since January 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions (it was billed as a "virtual" ribbon-cutting). The facility, a licensed chemical dependency and mental health outpatient clinic, has mental health staff and chemical health staff who are educated and experienced in the areas of people who deal with individual, emotional and psychological issues. Day and evening programs help clients get their life back on track with minimum disruption to their lives. Most insurance is accepted. Pictured, from left, are Christiana Greene, Claudia Greene, Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares, Julie Moser and Dr. Blessing Ubari. One Touch Recovery Center is located at 350 Vinton Ave., Suite 102, Pomona. For information, call (909) 351-4480 or visit the web site at www.onetouchrecoverycenter.com.



**RIBBON-CUTTING AT THIRD STREET GRAPHICS** -- Well, the pandemic must be winding down because La Nueva Voz covered two actual "live" ribbon cuttings for the Pomona Chamber of Commerce this month -- the first since January 2020 because of all the COVID-19 restrictions. Pictured is the ribbon-cutting at the new location of Pomona's Third Street Graphics, a good group of professionals who do everything from political signs and magnetic door signs for cars and trucks to interior signs, business cards, screen printing, custom t-shirts and graphic design. Pictured in the lobby of the company, from left, are screen printer Gentryus Blow, Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang, Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, cutting the ribbon are Gabby Leyva of Third Street Graphics and Justin Manriquez, owner of Third Street Graphics, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Jolene Vitale of Third Street, and Frank Lopez, the company's creative designer. The business is located at 560 E. Commercial St., Suite 18, Pomona, in the old Pomona Packing Plant. For information, call (909) 461-3218.



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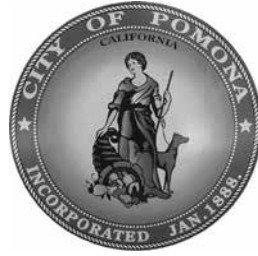
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## Pomona Housing Authority Section 8 Program Waiting List Opening

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Pomona Housing Authority (PHA) is accepting online applications for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV, also known as “Section 8”) program beginning **at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 3, 2021 through 12:00 p.m. on Monday May 10, 2021.**

The PHA manages the HCV program for the City of Pomona. The HCV program provides rental assistance to low-income families/individuals, which helps them afford safe, quality housing. The PHA will be accepting applications online at [www.waitlistcheck.com/CA1144](http://www.waitlistcheck.com/CA1144). The online application portal will be available 24 hours a day during the waiting list open period. Paper applications will NOT be available and fax requests will not be accepted.

Applicants may use any computer, tablet, or smart phone with internet access to apply. A valid e-mail address will be required to create an account.

Please note that priority is given to Pomona residents who are veterans and/or active duty service people and their spouse or widow/er, live or work in Pomona, are homeless in Pomona and/or homeless persons in Pomona between 18 and 61 years old with a disability.

Submitting an application does not guarantee placement on the waiting list. Applications collected during the list opening period will be included in the lottery process. Applicants have an equal chance of placement and order on the waiting list if they apply on any date and any time while the waiting list is open. As vouchers become available, applications will be pulled from the waiting list in the order in which they were placed by the lottery.

**Reasonable Accommodation:** It is the policy of the PHA to provide reasonable accommodations to those persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in its housing programs. To request a reasonable accommodation please contact the PHA at (909) 620-2368.

## Apertura de la lista de espera del programa Sección 8 de la Ciudad de Pomona

### NOTICIA PÚBLICA

La Ciudad de Pomona Departamento de Vivienda (Departamento de Vivienda) está aceptando solicitudes en línea para el programa de Sección 8 para asistencia de alquiler a partir de las **9:00 a.m. del lunes 3 de mayo de 2021 hasta las 12:00 p.m. el lunes 10 de mayo de 2021.**

El Departamento de Vivienda administra el programa Sección 8 para la ciudad de Pomona. El programa Sección 8 brinda asistencia para el alquiler a familias/individuos de bajos ingresos, lo que les ayuda a pagar una vivienda segura y de calidad. El Departamento de Vivienda aceptará solicitudes en línea en [www.waitlistcheck.com/CA1144](http://www.waitlistcheck.com/CA1144). El portal de solicitud en línea estará disponible las 24 horas del día durante el período de apertura de la lista de espera. Las solicitudes en papel NO estarán disponibles y no se aceptarán las solicitudes por fax.

Los solicitantes pueden usar cualquier computadora, tableta o teléfono inteligente con acceso a Internet para presentar su solicitud. Se requerirá una dirección de correo electrónico válida para crear una cuenta.

Tenga en cuenta que se da prioridad a los residentes de Pomona que son veteranos y/o personas en servicio activo y su cónyuge o viudo/a, viven o trabajan en Pomona, son personas sin hogar en Pomona y/o personas sin hogar en Pomona entre 18 y 61 años con discapacidad.

Entregar una solicitud no garantiza la colocación en la lista de espera. Las solicitudes recopiladas durante el período de apertura de la lista se incluirán en el proceso de lotería. Los solicitantes tienen las mismas posibilidades de ser colocados y ordenados en la lista de espera si solicitan en cualquier fecha y en cualquier momento mientras la lista de espera esté abierta. A medida que los cupones estén disponibles, las solicitudes se retirarán de la lista de espera en el orden en que fueron colocadas por lotería.

**Adaptaciones razonables:** Es política del Departamento de Vivienda de proporcionar adaptaciones razonables a las personas con discapacidades para que puedan participar por igual en sus programas de vivienda. Para solicitar una adaptación razonable, comuníquese con la Autoridad al (909) 620-2368.



## Cesar Chavez breakfast ... from pg. 7

said was an “untiring member” of the Roundtable.

Calderon said Preciado, a life-long resident of Pomona, worked with members of the Roundtable in Sacramento before he was elected to the council, advocating for education legislation.

He also has worked with organizations including Day One, dA Center for the Arts, Pomona’s Promise and the Pomona Valley Democratic Club.

In addition, during the pandemic, he has worked with God’s Pantry helping coordinate deliveries of groceries to some 700 families in need each week in Pomona.

In accepting the award, Preciado said the Roundtable is a “true community project.”

He thanked all of the volunteers on the God’s Pantry project – including his wife – who have been delivering groceries for the past year.

“I encourage you to volunteer, continue to give people a helping hand, continue with your compassion, we are a compassionate city,” Preciado said. “I know that

students who live or go to school in the San Gabriel Valley and Pomona Valley to pursue a higher education while continuing their social consciousness and activism.

This year’s winners were Carina Baca, a student at the Univer-



L.A. County Board of Supervisors  
Chair Hilda Solis

sity of La Verne, who is studying psychology and creative writing; David Aguirre, a senior at Pomona’s Diamond Ranch High School, who has not yet selected a college but plans to study civil engineering; Karla Hernandez, a student at Pomona’s Village Acad-



Carina Baca



David Aguirre

you will.”

### Scholarship winners

Roundtable treasurer Rose Calderon told the group the social justice scholarship was established eight years ago to assist

St. Madeleine Catholic School in Pomona – which opened its doors some 57 years ago in 1964 – will close its doors for the last time at the end of the school year, according to a news release from the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

But Archdiocese Senior Director and Supt. of Catholic Schools Paul Escala said the closure – along with closures of five other Catholic schools in Los Angeles and the City of San Fernando --

had nothing to do with the COVID-19 pandemic.

“These six schools had been trying to overcome financial challenges long before the pandemic,” Escala said. “After careful discernment with Archdiocesan and school leadership, the decision was reached to consolidate these schools with nearby schools to create a union that would strengthen the school communities in the area so that all students



Angela Sanbrano  
Co-Master of Ceremonies and  
Roundtable Vice President

he will study gender and sexuality; and Guadalupe Loza, a senior at Diamond Ranch High School, who plans to attend Cal State University Fullerton where she will go to work on a business degree.

### COVID-19 remembrance

Calderon told supporters that members of the Roundtable have been working with the COVID-19 committee in Pomona that has carried out food drives, raised funds and supported essential workers.

And he said while they remember the families, friends and organizers who have passed away from



Karla Hernandez

COVID-19, “we are committed to continue in their spirit to change the economic, the political and the social conditions which have resulted in the disproportionate percentage of contractions and deaths

## Pomona’s St. Madeleine School to close after 57 years

can continue to receive the quality of Catholic education that our schools provide.”

He said the move was based on low enrollment, shifting demographics and distressed finances.

The Department of Catholic Schools is working closely with the schools that will be consolidated to ensure the placement of students and staff at nearby schools, the news release said.

Families currently receiving tu-

among our most vulnerable.”

He said Latinos have died as a result of COVID at a rate of seven times that of the white population.

“So, it has affected our Latino, particularly, our indigenous and African-American communities, but we haven’t let that hold us back,” he said. “We continue to organize multi-racial coalitions in solidarity to turn around the xenophobic rhetoric and racism that has led to outright violent attacks against our Asian-Pacific commu-



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval

nities.”

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, in his own welcome address, thanked the Roundtable “for their leadership during this most diffi-



Guadalupe Loza

cult time we have all faced over the past 11 months.”

He said members have stepped up to serve the community with everything from rental assistance to food. And he congratulated the scholarship recipients, calling them “a critical part of the long-term health and success of this

do that really well, we need to cultivate more support for Catholic schools among our donors, parishioners and civic institutions, including public resources, so that way we can continue to serve our communities and continue to make quality Catholic education accessible for all families.”

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese in general, however, after a year of distance learning due to

community.”

And Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Hilda Solis, who served as Secretary of Labor under President Obama, said Chavez and Dolores Huerta co-founded the United Farm Worker movement which “paved the way for the federal minimum wage,



Jose Calderon, President  
Latino/Latina Roundtable  
and Co-Master of Ceremonies

safe working conditions and reasonable work hours, and it’s because of their collective efforts that they fundamentally improved the way workers were treated in this country.”



Jesus Garcia Torres

“Today, as it was in Cesar’s day, the injustices before us remain too big to ignore,” Solis added. “Let us keep Cesar Chavez’ spirit in our hearts as we continue to fight for justice. Si se puede.”

The breakfast was the group’s second virtual event.



## Get back to living... from pg. 12

me to move my foot or my toe,” Lichtman said. “And it was pretty imperceptible to me.”

Patterson is Casa Colina’s medical director of rehabilitation services.

“But he just got a big smile on his face and said, ‘you stick with us, you’re going to do great, you’re going to have to work hard, but you’re going to do great,’” she recalled. “And he was the first person since my accident that gave my hope – and it was absolutely pivotal.”

The work was “grueling and difficult,” working a schedule from 9 to 3 every day on a specific schedule, she said, adding that the staff always pushed her hard but “they always saw you as a person.”

“They always saw you as somebody with a life . . . and they want you to get to the goals that you set for yourself and they would do anything to help you do that,” she added.

Lichtman is continuing her outpatient physical therapy at Casa Colina.

“Someone said to me, and I like to try to pass it along, you can never get your old life back, but your new life can still be



Dr. David Patterson

more helpful, functional life,” she said.

Casa Colina President and CEO Felice Loverso presented her the “Tribute to Courage Award.”

“Thanks for inspiring us with all your hard work, commitment and hope,” Loverso said.

Nearly 500 households tuned into the live event and more than 3,700 households have viewed to date on Facebook, YouTube or on Casa Colina’s web site, according to a spokesperson.

Host for the event was award-winning writer, director and producer Bonnie Hunt, who is also a former oncology nurse, who said each year Casa Colina recognizes a nurse who exemplifies high quality patient care and seeks new knowledge to advance the profession.

Loverso awarded this year’s “Bonnie Hunt Nurse Award” to Ligia Lanuza, R.N., B.S.N., who serves on the telemetry unit of Casa Colina’s medical-surgical wing and also is a certified orthopedic nurse pursuing a master’s degree in nursing.

“She’s just this incredibly sensitive, bright, caring human being,” Loverso said.

He added that Casa Colina rose to the challenges of the pandemic over the past year “and met them head on.”

“I am so inspired by the way our medical team and all of our staff faced those obstacles together and, as always, placed patient care first,” he said.

Casa Colina’s foundation last year provided \$7.9 million in free care, subsidized care and community benefits.

To make a donation to Casa Colina’s foundation, text Casa Colina to 56651 or visit [casacolina.org/tribute](http://casacolina.org/tribute).



Ligia Lanuza, R.N.

## Sen. Leyva releases annual

### ‘Terrific 20’ list of ‘genuine heroes’

Ethel Gardner and her Kennedy Austin Foundation and Pomona’s God’s Pantry were Pomona honorees listed this month on State Sen. Connie Leyva’s “Terrific 20 of Senate District 20” list, an annual recognition since 2017.

Others on the list who have served Pomona residents include Food for Life Ministry of Chino, the Tzu Chi Foundation of San Dimas and Sowing Seeds for Life in La Verne.

“It is such an honor to be able to lift up and recognize these 20 honorees for their tremendous contributions to Inland Empire families and communities,” Leyva said, “particularly over the last year when the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic hurt our local communities in unprecedented ways.”

Leyva said the honorees, announced in a virtual award event, have “truly stepped up and are genuine heroes for all they do across the district.”

She added that they “embody extraordinary commitment, hard work and leadership in their respective fields and communities.”

This year’s list recognized residents and organizations working in health care, labor, community service, music and other diverse fields.

Others included Michelle Baca, United Nurses Associations of California; Dr. Joachim Brown, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center; Josiah Bruny, Music Changing Lives; Gloria Castillo, Service Employees International Union Local 1000; Chino Neighborhood House; Diane Hacker, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1428; Monique Hernandez, Service Employees International Union Local 121 RN; and the Inland Empire Labor Council.

Also honored were Gary Li-aou, Inland Chinese Association / Lucky Farms; Dr. Jason Lohr, Loma Linda University; Louie Lopez, Ironworkers Local #433; Liz Marlow, United Nurses Associations of California; Erin McIntosh, Service Employees International Union Local 121 RN; James Moses, Child Care Resource Center; and Patricia Nickols-Butler, Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County.



Dr. Felice Loverso

beautiful, and that’s what Casa Colina gave to me,” Lichtman said.

“Casa Colina has helped me adapt and get back to living a

## St. Madeleine School... from pg. 18

the pandemic, have demonstrated continued growth based on student academic performance results – something the Archdiocese credited to “the commitment and hard work of teachers, staff and families.”

The academic growth was demonstrated in reading and math in both elementary and high schools, according to the news release.

“Our schools are open, safe and excited to welcome our students back to campus to finish the

**St. Madeleine School... pg. 21**

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## Proposition 19 – family inheritance tax benefits reduced

By Jeff Prang  
Los Angeles County Assessor

Proposition 19 was approved by the voters last November by a slim margin and it is creating tremendous uncertainty and confusion among taxpayers and assessors statewide.

Proposition 19 is a state constitutional amendment to Proposition 13 that allows seniors and the disabled to sell their home and buy a new one without experienc-

ing an increase in property taxes. However, it is also a regressive policy that disproportionately impacts the ability of working-class and middle-income families to leave their homes to their children (and in some cases grandchildren) without them having to pay an increase in property taxes.

Since November 2020, my office has received scores of inquiries about this challenging new law, and it is important to understand the issues. Proposition

19 may actually result in some working-class median-income families of modest means having to sell their homes, family farms as well as other property to avoid a new property tax burden because the property now faces reassessment.

To make matters worse, some of the most challenging provisions were already in effect as of February 16 before many property owners really understood its impacts.

Under the pre-Proposition 19 law, parents (Proposition 58) and grandparents (Proposition 193) were able to transfer residential and commercial properties to their children and grandchildren without a tax hike because the homes would not be reassessed, allowing the original tax base to be carried over.

Now under Proposition 19, only a parent's principal residence may be transferred to their children, and that home must then

become and remain the principal residence of the child/children within one-year of the transfer.

Unfortunately, Proposition 19 was rushed on to the ballot at the end of the legislative session and would have benefited greatly by further study and deliberation. Because of this rush to the ballot box, the measure is deficient, confusing and, at times, seemingly, in conflict with its intent.

There is a solution to this regressive tax, and that is to encourage the legislature to draft legislation that will serve as a corrective constitutional amendment to Proposition 19. Such a corrective constitutional amendment should aim to restore the ability of families to leave their homes and other property to their children – something that had previously been available under Proposition 58 since 1986.

In the meantime, I am working with the California Assessors' Association and with state legis-

lators to enact legislation that will address the numerous deficiencies and ambiguities in Proposition 19.

I must emphasize that absent legislative clarification, the implementation of Proposition 19 will be a significant challenge and create a great deal of confusion and uncertainty for both the public and administrators.

For more information on Proposition 19 or other tax savings programs, visit [assessor.lacounty.gov](http://assessor.lacounty.gov) or call 213-974-3211.

*Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang has been in office since 2014. Upon taking office, Prang implemented sweeping reforms to ensure that the strictest ethical guidelines rooted in fairness, accuracy and integrity would be adhered to in his office, which is the largest office of its kind in the nation with 1,200 employees. It provides the foundation for a property tax system that generates over \$17 billion annually.*

## Assemblymember Rodriguez introduces bill to curb sexual violence on campus

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez last month introduced Assembly Bill 524, the "Greek A.C.T. (Accountability, Change and Transparency), aimed at curbing the sexual violence and alcohol-related deaths on California university campuses.

The legislation would require fraternities and sororities to report and electronically post information that highlights misconduct and violations members have committed to ensure prospective students can make an informed decision.


"With sexual assaults and binge-

drinking related deaths still occurring at alarming rates on our campuses, where students should feel safe, I am introducing this legislation to hold organizations accountable while providing new opportunities to highlight their successes," Rodriguez said.

The bill would require posting of the number of members, the average grade point average, the total of community service hours performed, and the number of disciplinary actions taken relating to sexual assault cases by the members.

The following public service ads are courtesy of La Nueva Voz

**Project Sister Family Services**  
Sexual Assault and  
Child Abuse Services  
909-626-4357  
or 626-966-4155  
[www.projectsister.org](http://www.projectsister.org)

**Feeding the Hungry,  
Sheltering the Homeless**  
Grocery Distribution at  
209 W. Pearl St.  
Pomona  
  
Volunteering: 909-622-3806  
[www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org](http://www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org)

**HOUSE OF RUTH**  
Abused by your partner  
and need help?  
24-hour hotline:  
**(909) 988-5559 or toll  
free at (877) 988-5559**

**Pomona Public Library Hours**  
("Walk up doorside service" only)  
**Noon to 5 p.m.**  
**Monday through Thursday**  
(For "Walk up doorside service,"  
please use south parking lot  
entrance due to construction.)

**Info on student group programs at AGRIsCAPES:**

**[www.agriscapes.cpp.edu](http://www.agriscapes.cpp.edu)**

**4102 S. University Drive, Pomona (next to the Farm Store)**

**Sign up for Pomona Unified School District's**

Free 'Early Learning Literacy' App!

It's a fun way to improve reading skills.

Register at [www.myf2b.com/register/pomona](http://www.myf2b.com/register/pomona)

footsteps2brilliance

La Nueva Voz is a proud member of PUSD's Literacy Collaborative.

the Southern California News Group, she said children will be tested for COVID when they come out of U.S. Border Patrol custody for transportation and, if they test positive, are transported separately – and they are tested again on intake at the facility. Children who are COVID positive will be placed in a separate area.

The news conference, which was held "virtually," allowed only one "pool" television camera and one pool reporter, from Telemundo, in the room. News media outlets were required to submit questions before the news conference by e-mail to the county's public information staff, and questions were read by the Telemundo reporter and answered "live" at the event.

Two questions submitted by La Nueva Voz were not selected for a response – a question regarding the nature of security fencing around the final emergency shelter configuration at Fairplex and regarding any possible role the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel will play in the effort.

### Reaction from the community

Reactions from Pomona residents were mixed with some negative on social media immediately after news began to get out.

"Although I'm happy that Po-

mona might be accepting some unaccompanied migrant children at Fairplex, I was a little bothered by first hearing about it on the 11 p.m. news last night," said Dee Dee Manzanara Ybarra, a community activist.

(La Nueva Voz first learned of the news in a press release the day before the news conference and the "short version" of the story aired on Los Angeles television that night.)

"When Long Beach was making their decision, their Mayor Robert Garcia took it to the city council and the public also weighed in," she said.

In that instance, she submitted a letter on behalf of the American Indian Movement of Southern California along with other organizations noting their stance and demands for transparency in the operation.

"This is an example of how community works together, not by finding out on the nightly news," she said, adding that she specifically does not want children in cages at "for profit detention centers."

Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, also in a social media conversation, said he learned of the plan two days before the press conference "and had

a rollercoaster of emotions which is still continuing."

"I have been and am wholeheartedly against the detention of youth," he said. "However, all indications point to this being completely different and I will do everything in my power to make sure of that."

Preciado said he will support the effort at Fairplex.

"I am someone who directly addresses the need to provide a helping hand," he said. "I believe Pomona and the relationships I have built to be united in this feeling with me."

"We will stand up and continue to work for the betterment of all people," Preciado said.

And Fernando Romero, executive director of the Pomona Economic Opportunity Center, said in a prepared statement that the move would be a "step forward to reunite migrant children with family members and loved ones."

However, he said he is interested in working to ensure that the shelter "does not become an extension of immigration detention facilities" but should provide "humane treatment, due process and expedient reunification."

"We can no longer accept the Band-Aid emergency response of the past," he said.

## Unaccompanied children... from pg. 8



## Gas Company ‘fuels’ another round of food give-aways to help with food insecurity

Southern California Gas Company, in conjunction with eight regional charity organizations, this month launched the “2021 Fueling Our Communities” program to help feed individuals experiencing food insecurity.

This year’s program will provide free meals, groceries, and restaurant gift cards to thousands of individuals from 20 underserved communities – including Pomona – across Los Angeles County.

The program is funded by a \$325,000 donation from the Gas Company and will also help stimulate local small businesses. It will continue through the spring.

A kickoff event was held this month at Compton’s Woodley Airport, providing meal kits, groceries, and gift cards to community members in need.

“While the local economy is slowly bouncing back more than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, there is still great need,” said Andy Carrasco, vice president of communications, local government and community affairs at SoCalGas. “We recog-

nize this and brought our Fueling Our Communities program back for a second year because food insecurity continues to be a reality in many of our communities and local businesses are struggling.”

He also thanked the utility’s community partners who include the following organizations:

- TRUST South LA – South Los Angeles
- Human Services Association – Compton, Downey, Norwalk and Cudahy
- Friends of Cabrillo – Wilmington and San Pedro
- Catholic Charities – El Monte, Irwindale, Pomona, Rosemead and Duarte
- Alma Family Services – Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles
- LA Red Shield Community Center – Pico Union
- Community’s Child and El Camino College Foundation – Lomita, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Torrance, Carson and Compton

Last summer, the Fueling Our Communities program provided nearly 40,000 meals to seniors,



**FUELING OUR COMMUNITIES** – Southern California Gas Company employees hand out groceries this month at Compton’s Woodley Airport at a launch of this year’s “Fueling Our Communities” program which will provide food and stimulate local small business continuing through the spring. The program will serve areas throughout Southern California including Pomona.

students, farm workers, and families. The program also provided

business to approximately 100 local restaurants and distributed

almost 8,000 gift cards totaling more than \$162,000.



**EASTER BASKETS FOR HOUSE OF RUTH** -- Members of the Pomona Host Lions Club donated 45 Easter baskets to the House of Ruth last month after receiving donations from members and an associate member to purchase 20 baskets along with another 25 donated by members of Landmark Christian Church in Diamond Bar. “We wanted to do something meaningful to serve the Pomona community and we have supported House of Ruth in the past and know of the tremendous work they do in the community,” said WendyAnn Stuard, a past president of the club. The baskets were to be given to families in the community receiving support from House of Ruth. Pictured, from left, are Stuard, her husband Bob Stuard, also a Lion, and House of Ruth Executive Director Pat Bell. House of Ruth provides critical, life-saving and supportive services to victims of domestic violence.

## St. Madeleine School... from pg. 19

school year strong,” Escala said.

St. Madeleine Catholic School was named after St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, who founded the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Madeleine and her three companions founded their first convent and institute to educate girls in 1802, and Madeleine was appointed superior – a position she held for 63 years.

The society spread through France, absorbed a community of Visitation nuns in 1804, and received the approval of Pope Leo XII in 1826. By the time of her

death, she had opened more than 100 houses and schools in 12 countries.

In Pomona, St. Madeleine initially provided education for first through fifth grades and, in 1967, a junior high school was added.

The first kindergarten class was added in 1991, and a preschool was added in 2001. And in 2009, junior high school students were moved to the Pomona Catholic campus.

St. Madeleine Catholic School is located at 935 E. Kingsley Ave., Pomona.

## Somersauces... from pg. 14

little oregano, salt, garlic and cayenne pepper to your meat soup.

Combine both meats after they have cooked. Include half of the soup from the pigs feet. Add all the spices to it and the onion pieces to it after 2-1/2 hours of cooking it.

Boil the dry chili pods for about 30 minutes in a separate pot. But remove the stems first. After they are soft remove as much of the seeds as you can. Put them in the blender with the can of broth. Add salt, onion salt, garlic two cloves

and a dash of cayenne pepper.

When the pigs feet and tripe have cooked three hours, add the cans of Chili Las Palmas and the blended chili and the hominy. Now on medium heat let it cook for another 35 minutes.

When it is done add dry menu-do mix, or plain dry oregano diced onion and cilantro to your bowl. Squeeze lemon juice into your bowl if you like it. Warm some corn tortillas and indulge in a yummy bowl of menudo.

Happy Cinco de Mayo!





Photos by Renee Barbee

**CLEAN UP AT MEMORIAL PARK** -- Saturdays are clean up time in Pomona and last month was no exception -- volunteers joined Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, Three Valleys Municipal Water District Director Carlos Goytia, Pomona Parks and Recreation Commissioner Fabian Pavon, a board member of the Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, and members of "Natives4Nature" cleaning up Memorial Park, located at 655 W. 3rd St., Pomona. The "beautification and regeneration" effort removed dead leaves and planted native California plants. Volunteers wore masks and maintained social distancing throughout the event.

**POPPIES IN POMONA**

-- There's no super bloom like there was two years ago but it is definitely California Poppy time in Pomona -- you just have to look for them. Pictured is one example alongside Phillips Drive in Pomona's Westmont, in a photo taken this month. Here's a thought -- send in your best poppy picture, we'll have a little contest, and the winner gets two of those leftover gift cards for the new spicy chicken sandwich at Chick-fil-A. Hey, we'll give you the cards even if you send in a bad photo and that's the only one we get. (It really is a good sandwich.)



**Million Mothers March set for May 15**

The Kennedy Austin Foundation's 15th annual "Million Mothers March" is scheduled as a day of celebration and remembrance for Saturday, May 15, in Pomona's Ganesha Park.

The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will include a balloon send-off in honor of all

**Million Mothers March... pg. 23**



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## Drive by, honk, wave and repeat!

Friends and family lining up last month at Ralph Welch Park to honor lifelong Pomona resident Jennie Montoya (Cabrera) on her 81st birthday last month were told to “yell and cheer” for the surprise event.

And that’s pretty much what they did.

According to her daughter,

Roberta Montoya, of Fontana, her mom was born here, went to school here, married and raised a family here and still lives in the house that she and her husband bought “right around their first anniversary.”

“My dad as well is a lifetime resident and they have been married for 57 years,” Montoya said,

adding that her mom is one of 13 children whose parents immigrated here in the 1920s.

Jennie and her brother, who is 90, “are the only two left but she has a lot of family, nieces, nephews” still here and throughout the Inland Empire.

“My mom is the heart and soul of our family,” she said, “a true giver and loved by all.”

“Not only is she the best Nana to my kids but now she is

a NanaNana to her four great grandchildren,” she added.

Asked by La Nueva Voz roving reporter Renee Barbee how she feels today, Jennie said she feels “great.”

“I feel so blessed, I love all my family,” she



Photos by Renee Barbee  
Cars and trucks were decked out with signs and balloons at Jennie Montoya’s drive-by 81st birthday celebration last month -- and their horns worked just fine, too!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JENNIE!** -- It was a happening place on Oak Avenue in Pomona last month when friends and family came out for a “drive by” celebration of the 81st birthday of Jennie Montoya (Cabrera). Pictured, from left, are Chantal Monsbais, of Montclair; Jennie’s son Augie Montoya, of Ontario; Jennie Montoya, of Pomona; and daughter Roberta Montoya, of Fontana.

said. And asked her secret for a long life, she had to think for a minute. “A good husband.”

Roberta’s brother Augie Montoya of Ontario was the co-organizer of the event.

A niece called her aunt “a very giving, loving, funny, witty, unselfish, sweet, sweet lady who has always been there for me.”

There were balloons and signs, there were flowers and birthday presents for the guest of honor, there was music – including a mariachi version of happy birthday – and even a Pomona police patrol car was involved with flashing

lights as an escort for the drive-by.

And not to be outdone, Los Angeles County Fire Department firemen from Pomona’s Engine Company 184 drove by and stopped by with lights flashing and siren blaring.

Even the mail man stopped for a cupcake.

After lining up at the park, well-wishers drove to Jennie’s house on Oak Avenue in Pomona where, well, they did what they were told – they yelled and cheered and wished Jennie a happy 81st.

And we do, too. Happy birthday, Jennie!

**Do you have a news story?**

Send your news tips to: [reneebarbee7@gmail.com](mailto:reneebarbee7@gmail.com)

## Applications open for Sen. Leyva’s ‘Young Senators Program’

State Sen. Connie Leyva’s office is accepting applications for the Senate District 20 Young Senators Program which is open each year to high school juniors and seniors who live in District 20.

The program provides high school students with a unique opportunity to learn about government services and the legislative process.

A seven-month program, it also provides student partici-

pants an opportunity to learn about the workings of the budget process.

Young Senators attend via Zoom in a mandatory monthly meeting where they are exposed to information and presentations that will nurture their leadership

potential and prepare them for their future in a college and/or the work force.

Applications will be accepted until April 30.

For more information, visit the web site at [senate.ca.gov/leyva](http://senate.ca.gov/leyva) or call (909) 469-1110.

## Million Mothers March... from pg. 22

the lives lost to COVID-19 and other causes.

Founded by Ethel Gardner, the Kennedy Austin Foundation, which had its beginnings in March 1998, was born out of tragedy – Gardner’s 17-year-old son, Damon Jermaine Jones, died from injuries received in a car accident.

She created the organization, first known in 1993 as “A Mother’s Cry Grief Support Group,” to help other families dealing with the loss of a child. It became the Kennedy Austin Foundation in 1998.

For more information, call (909) 620-0912.

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**SHERIFF PRESENTS 'PINK PATCH' CHECK TO HOSPITAL** -- Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva presented a check for \$10,500 last week to Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center President and CEO Rich Yochum as part of an on-going effort to increase public awareness about the fight against breast cancer. Funds for the donation, which will go to the hospital's breast health center, were generated through the "Pink Patch Project," an effort of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association and more than 500 public safety agencies throughout the U.S., in which commemorative "pink patches" for law enforcement uniforms are sold to both public safety personnel and to the community to help fund breast cancer education, research and treatment. "Early detection, prevention and intervention is the key to success," Villanueva said, adding that the department wants to provide whatever resources possible to facilitate treatment. Pictured holding the check are Yochum, at left, and the sheriff.

### Pomona Unified students honored at L.A. County Science Fair

Eleven Pomona Unified School District students received honors at this year's Los Angeles County Science Fair including one – Elizabeth Tran, a student at Armstrong Elementary School – who was invited to the California State Science Fair.

Division with her engineering research project on "Tennis Balls: Do you get what you pay for?"

Others included Emele Hernandez, Marshall Middle School, and Janelle and Sofia Reyes, Diamond Point Elementary School, honorable mention.

And "participation recognition" awards went to Mark Wang,

Lorbeer Middle School; Erik Badillo, Diamond Point Elementary School; Gerardo Echevierria, Golden Springs Elementary School; Layth Mahmoud and Chloe Fang, Pantera Elementary School; and Audrey Duenas and Daisy Garay, Diamond Point Elementary School.

Tran placed third in the Junior

# SAVE THE DATE

## Foothill Gold Line Virtual Community Meeting - May 19, 2021



**Pomona Gold Line Station**



**Foothill Gold Line**

With major construction in full swing on the Foothill Gold Line from Glendora to Pomona, the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority is hosting a Virtual Community Meeting on May 19, 2021, to provide an update on the project and to answer questions. The meeting will focus on the Glendora to Pomona segment, but the community from throughout the Glendora to Montclair project area is invited and welcome to attend.

For More Meeting Details or to Sign Up to Stay Updated on the Project, go to: [www.foothillgoldline.org](http://www.foothillgoldline.org)