



# La Nueva Voz

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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member  
Issue No. 151

Thursday, February 24, 2022

FREE  
GRATIS

www.lanuevavoz.net

## Year-long Gold Line 'Carmageddon' – with rush-hour delays up to 15 minutes – reaches Garey Avenue!

Whether it is progress or an inconvenience, based on recent Facebook "chatter," depends on where you live – and on whether you ride the train – but Pomona's own version of a "Carmageddon-style" traffic congestion nightmare – with rush-hour delays of up to 15 minutes – were scheduled to reach Garey Avenue this week.

And it's going to be with us for a minute, as the kids would say.

"Lane" closures north of the tracks (north of Arrow Highway) and south of Bonita Avenue were scheduled to go into effect on Wednesday and will continue through the end of December, according to Foothill Gold Line officials.

According to a Gold Line no-

tice, one lane will remain open at all times, and access to residential areas and businesses will be maintained at all times. The "outside" lanes were in line to be closed first and closures will be shifted to the inside lanes mid-way through the project.

Work hours will be 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, although occasional longer working hours and nighttime work may be needed, the notice said. The lane closures will remain in effect 24 hours a day.

Rough estimates by officials in Pomona City Hall show the street, one of the city's seven busiest, has recorded traffic volume up to a maximum of 1,000 cars an hour or roughly 14,000 cars a day.

Based on that, rough calcula-



**GAREY BOTTLENECKS DOWN TO TWO LANES** -- The Foothill Gold Line construction project has reached Garey Avenue where it will narrow down to two lanes and STAY two lanes for the rest of the year. Plus, there will still be a full closure at some point with details not yet being announced. Rush hour delays of up to 15 minutes in both directions just to get through can be expected. Pictured looking southbound on Garey north of the tracks and south of Bonita Avenue is the section of Garey that is becoming one lane in each direction. The photo was taken Monday morning when the work had been expected to begin.

permit from the city.

Gold Line officials later confirmed that the new start date was set for Wednesday.

But wait, there's more – a full closure (all lanes will be closed) of Garey, one of the city's highest volume traffic arteries, will be required later this year at the railroad crossing and a separate notice will be provided at that time.

Gold Line officials, in response to a La Nueva Voz question, declined to estimate when that would occur and how long it would continue, saying only that the full closure at Garey had not been sched-

### Claremont Mayor Jed Leano elected board chair, La Verne

### Councilmember Robin Carder vice chair at Tri-City Mental Health

Claremont Mayor Jed Leano, who has served on the governing board of Tri-City Mental Health since he was elected to the Claremont City Council in November 2018, was elected by his fellow board members last month to serve as board chair of the agency charged with providing mental health services for Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne.

La Verne City Councilmember Robin Carder, who had served as Tri-City's board chair since 2017, will serve as vice chair.

Leano, who became Tri-City's first Filipino American board **Tri-City Mental Health... pg. 4**



Claremont Mayor Jed Leano



La Verne Councilmember  
Robin Carder

ations by the city show closing half of the lanes could result in delays of up to 10 to 15 minutes during rush hour and perhaps five minutes during non-rush-hour periods – just to get through the resulting bottleneck of two lanes feeding into one in each direction.

Garey originally was scheduled to narrow down to two lanes on Feb. 14 but was "pushed back" to Feb. 21. La Nueva Voz learned from a contractor's employee on Garey that it was pushed back again to allow time to obtain a

uled.

Gold Line spokesperson Albert Ho did say, however, that while on-going work at nearby White Avenue and, again, at Fulton Road would require full closure later this year, all will not be closed at the same time.

La Nueva Voz learned of all this because of the Facebook "chatter" as residents and even Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lustro started a conversation in response to the notices.

**Gold Line... pg. 4**

# Green Ribbon Week

March 14-18, 2022

#TalkToHeal so we can end mental health stigma together

This March will mark the 8th annual recognition of Tri-City Mental Health's commitment to end mental health stigma. As part of our stigma reduction campaign, Green Ribbon Week was created to help people have everyday conversations about mental health and the stigma surrounding it. Join us throughout the week for free virtual activities and events open to the community! Through conversation, awareness, and hearing other people share their mental health stories, we can come together to reduce the silence, shame and negative attitudes around mental health.

### Want to get involved during Green Ribbon Week?

- Download our Activation Toolkit at [www.tricitymhs.org](http://www.tricitymhs.org) to learn how you can take action in your own community to reduce stigma.
- Follow us on social media @TriCityMHS during Green Ribbon Week for fun daily activities and participate in our free giveaways!



Paid Advertorial



# Free Foot Health Screenings

**First Friday  
of every month\*  
1:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Casa Colina Pomona Campus**  
(Outside the Research Institute, Bldg. 4A)  
255 E. Bonita Ave., Pomona, CA 91767

**First Wednesday  
of every month\*  
9:00 a.m.- Noon**

**Casa Colina Azusa Center**  
910 E. Alostia Ave., Azusa, CA 91702

Join Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare for a free health screening focused on podiatric care. These screenings aim to identify people at risk for lower-limb complications that could lead to amputation if not treated—specifically those with diabetes and peripheral artery disease.



The foot exam will take 5 to 10 minutes and will be performed by a certified wound care nurse with experience treating diabetic foot ulcers. The nurse provides a dermatological, neurological, musculoskeletal, and vascular screening for all participants, followed by appropriate recommendations if needed.

RSVP today! Walk-ins are also welcome. Call 909/643-3254 to register.

To learn more about the Casa Colina Limb Preservation Program, call 909/596-7733, ext. 2285 or visit [www.casacolina.org/LimbPreservation](http://www.casacolina.org/LimbPreservation).

\*Screenings are not offered on holidays and some holiday weekends. Dates and times are subject to change.



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## **NOW is the time to get involved in Pomona's redistricting process!**

The City's Independent Commission will be hosting its final hearing on Wednesday, March 23. At this hearing the Commission will be adopting the final City Council district boundaries. The way district boundaries are drawn can change which district you are in and who you can vote for to make important local government decisions, including what local laws get passed and how City dollars are spent in the future.

While the City is nearing the end of the process, you can STILL make your voice heard by:

- Submitting public comment to [redistricting@pomonaca.gov](mailto:redistricting@pomonaca.gov)
- Viewing and commenting on submitted draft maps found at [DrawPomona.org/Draft-Maps](https://DrawPomona.org/Draft-Maps)
- Attending the March 23rd hearing via Zoom (Find event details at [DrawPomona.org/Schedule](https://DrawPomona.org/Schedule))



Learn more: [DrawPomona.org](https://DrawPomona.org)

Residents were calling for “some kind of traffic control” by both Pomona and La Verne even before the work got under way.

And while La Nueva Voz has been receiving regular news releases from Foothill Gold Line officials over the past several years, no news release was distributed regarding the Garey closures.

“We normally only send media advisories for full closures . . . but not for lane closures like Garey Avenue,” Ho said.

(In fairness, an ad from Foothill Gold Line officials providing contact information regarding construction appears in this issue of La Nueva Voz, which was printed

the day work was expected to get under way.)

Ho added that the public notices were distributed, and the information is available on the agency’s interactive map pages.

Outreach to the community, he said, included notifications of first responders and surrounding businesses and residents, along with Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Fairplex, Foothill Transit, Metrolink and others.

La Nueva Voz kicked off its Pomona coverage of the Gold Line construction story in December 2017 when Los Angeles Mayor

## Gold Line... from pg. 1

Eric Garcetti broke ground at Citrus College in Glendora for the Gold Line extension through Pomona, a project that was expected to produce 778,000 jobs by the time the project reaches Montclair.

Construction from Glendora to Montclair is expected to cost \$1.5 billion and include six new stations.

But the first actual construction coverage came with a photo and caption a year ago (March 2021 La Nueva Voz) after Fulton Road was closed during February for about 90 days at the tracks in La Verne just outside of the west end of the North Pomona Metrolink

station parking lot.

(Foothill Gold Line eventually will share that same train station complex with a new Pomona Gold Line station to be constructed. Crews spotted in that area last week told La Nueva Voz their team is working on the new station project.)

La Nueva Voz, on the scene last year to photograph that first closure, mentioned to a construction worker that the photo would memorialize the light rail project reaching Pomona.

“Wait until they close Garey,” he said, implying that delays will be expected by the resulting northbound and southbound bot-

tlenecks.

Then what advice can Pomona residents glean from his comment?

Well, for one thing, if you are going anywhere in a hurry for the rest of the year, you probably won’t want to take Garey.

For more information, call the project construction “hotline” at (626) 513-5788.

The 9.1-mile, four-station Gold Line project segment from Glendora to Pomona is on budget and on time to be completed in 2025.

The Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority completed the first segment from Union Station to Pasadena in 2003.

## Tri-City Mental Health... from pg. 1

member when he came on the board and is the agency’s first Filipino American board chair, is an immigration attorney in private practice in Pasadena. He served as Tri-City’s vice chair last year.

“First of all, I’m honored by the vote of confidence from my colleagues,” Leano said. “I will work hard every day to ratify their trust in me to do this job.”

“Tri-City is at such a critical crossroads right now,” he added. “In the City of Claremont, Tri-City is an integral partner in dealing with homelessness and, in addition to that, our community wants to see robust partnerships between all of our city departments and Tri-City Mental Health.”

He said the COVID-19 pandemic has “exposed the tremendous need for a strong mental health infrastructure.”

“So, I’m going to work hard to make sure that Claremont residents see Tri-City on the front line of this issue,” Leano said.

And looking at the bigger picture, he said the cities of Pomona and La Verne are “outstanding partners.”

“Our leaderships regularly communicate, and our needs as cities are all different,” he said. “But we all have one common goal and that is to ensure effective mental health service delivery for all of our residents.”

“Coming out of COVID, mental health will be critical to bringing our community back,” Leano said. “And I look forward to working with my colleagues from Pomona and La Verne to develop a model for mental health services delivery and programming.”

On his distinction of becoming the first Filipino American board chair, he said he believes “it’s moving the agency in the right direction for AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) community members to see one of their own leading the agency.”

Named 2019 Democrat of the Year for the 41st Assembly District by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, Leano serves as Vice Chair of the Filipino American Democratic Caucus of the California Democratic Party. He also serves on the board of the San Gabriel Valley Immigration Resource Center.

Leano also serves on Tri-City’s first-ever AAPI advisory council, which was created last year as an advisory body to Tri-City’s mental health commission and the executive team. It focuses on how to create culturally relevant programming at Tri-City for the AAPI community.

“We are very excited to have him, and we are looking forward to his leadership on Tri-City’s board,” said Rimmi Hundal, Tri-City’s director of MHSA (administering the California Mental Health Services Act) and director of ethnic services.

### Jess Duff returns as interim executive director

At the staff level, Jess Duff returned last month as Tri-City’s interim executive director to replace Toni Navarro who resigned last

month after serving Tri-City for the past 13 years. Navarro took a position in Santa Barbara County as Director of Behavioral Health.

Duff served as Duarte city manager from 1987 to 2004 when he retired, and then went on to serve as interim city manager in Claremont and Irwindale and as interim community development director in Rosemead.

He previously served as interim executive director for Tri-City in

2007 and then as executive director in 2008 until Navarro was brought on board as executive director in 2014. She previously had served as director of clinical program services for six years.

Duff will continue serving until the completion of a nationwide search for a candi-

date to replace Navarro.

Tri-City Mental Health, with offices in Claremont and Pomona, was created by the cities of Claremont, La Verne and Pomona in 1960 as a Joint Powers Authority to deliver mental health services to the residents of the three cities.

Through this collaborative effort, Tri-City has been the designated mental health authority and primary provider of outpatient services for local residents serving children, youth, adults and older adults.

For more information, visit the Tri-City web site at [www.tricitymhs.org](http://www.tricitymhs.org) or call (909) 623-6131.



Jess Duff

## Kennedy Austin fundraiser set for May at Pomona’s ‘Lassie House’

Pomona’s Kennedy Austin Foundation will present “30 years in the making,” a fundraiser and celebration “brunch” in honor of Damon J. Jones, on Sunday, May 1, at the “Lassie House” in Pomona.

The event is scheduled for 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the historic home, where Lassie star Timmy Martin (actor Jon Provost) lived as a child, at 1195 Washington Blvd., Pomona.

Tickets are \$100 for adults, \$50 for youth 13 and up, and \$25 for children.

Donations also are welcome.

The celebration is based on the story of Damon J. Jones and how the Kennedy Austin Foundation was created in his honor.

Jones, founder Ethel Gardner’s only son, lost his life in a tragic car accident in 1992. He was 17. The foundation was named after Gardner’s first granddaughter.

The Kennedy Austin Foundation International Family Institute is a family crisis intervention center serving the tri-city community of Pomona, Claremont and La Verne.

For more information, contact [ethelgardner2000@yahoo.com](mailto:ethelgardner2000@yahoo.com).

## La Nueva Voz

The Inland Empire’s Leading Bilingual Newspaper

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(909) 629-2292 • [www.lanuevavoz.net](http://www.lanuevavoz.net)

P.O. Box 1117 • Pomona, CA 91769

Member:

California News Publishers Association

Publisher: Jeff Schenkel

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

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

Layout & Design: Dora Cruz  
[dcruz1549@gmail.com](mailto:dcruz1549@gmail.com)

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## Pomona Rotary donates groceries to help restock food pantry

Members of Pomona Rotary dropped off 2,000 pounds of groceries this month to restock the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pomona.

Joining Rotary in the effort were students and staff at Pomona Catholic and Village Academy High School.

And it was all part of a larger effort, according to Pomona Rotary President Jill Dolan, of Mt. San Antonio College, who told La Nueva Voz it started with a request from District Rotary.

“The District Governor asked all of us in our district, about 100 clubs, to pick a food bank in their community to donate on Valentine’s Day,” she said. “So, there’s 100 clubs throughout Southern California all the way up to Nevada that are doing this today.”

“Although we can’t estimate the dollar amount, we know that this is so valuable to our community, especially following the holidays, so many food pantries, food banks, they get depleted,” Dolan added. “And especially, I’m sure, the need

has been even greater here in Pomona during the pandemic.”

“So, this is our valentine to our community, we want to show that we love them, and this is also something coordinated amongst all the clubs in District 5300,” she said.

“The Rotary International theme this year is ‘Serve to Change Lives,’ and there is nothing more that Pomona Rotarians enjoy than helping others in our community,” Dolan said.

Janet Corey, a volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul, echoed Dolan’s comments.

“We are very grateful, too, because, like you said, because of the holidays, we gave out a lot of Christmas baskets,” she said, explaining that their supplies are depleted to some extent.

Corey said families in need from in or out of Pomona are welcome to stop by for food items. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Fridays at the St. Vincent de Paul facility in the rear of St. Joseph Catholic Church,



**POMONA ROTARY AGAIN ANSWERS THE CALL** -- Pomona Rotary, under the leadership of President Jill Dolan, of Mt. San Antonio College, dropped off an estimated 2,000 pounds of grocery items to show their “love” for the community on Valentine’s Day by restocking the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Rotary Past President Daryl Bean, Janet Corey, a volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul, Rotary Past President David Speidel, Rotary President Jill Dolan, Rotary Past President Carol Wilt, and Rotary Past President Darren Krohn.

1150 W. Holt Ave., Pomona.

Dolan said a portion of the donations of canned goods and shelf-stable items came from students and their families at Pomona Catholic and Village Academy High School who are

members of the Interact Club, which she said is essentially a high school version of Rotary.

“Those two chapters are very active,” she said.

Stater Bros. Markets in Pomona also contributed to the

effort by providing gift cards, Dolan said.

Pomona Rotary was founded in 1921 and recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

It meets at Pomona’s Metro Ale House every Tuesday.

**Las personas NO VACUNADAS  
tienen 16 veces más  
probabilidades de morir  
por el COVID-19.\***

  
**THE CENTER**  
at Sierra Health Foundation

\*Basado en datos del 20 de noviembre, 2021.

**MyTurn.ca.gov**



Pictured is the main lounge at the new Mi Havana Cigars in Downtown Pomona, along with the stairway to the upstairs level. Oh, and did we mention they have a big screen television?

**NEW CIGAR LOUNGE IN DOWNTOWN POMONA**

-- Pomona Chamber of Commerce officials joined with owners of Mi Havana Cigars in Downtown Pomona this month to cut the ribbon and open the doors to the new location of a "members only" cigar lounge. Included inside is a full bar, a walk-in humidor, a huge big-screen television and more. Pictured, from left, are owner Roy Kwon, his wife Jeanette, owners Maritza and Raul Reyner, Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanera, and Chamber Ambassador Sal Ayala, President and CEO of Uniko Biz Solutions. Mi Havana Cigars, formerly located at 106 Locust St., Pomona, is now at 261 S. Thomas St., Pomona. Hours are noon to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Noon to 11:30 on Friday and Saturday. For information, call (909) 525-5887.



Two examples of, well, Cuban "cigar" art are pictured hanging on the wall at Mi Havana Cigars.



Public service ad courtesy of La Nueva Voz

**AL** Transforming Lives • Strengthening Community  
 assistance league **DENTAL CENTER**  
 POMONA VALLEY *Serving our community since 1987*

**Everyone Deserves to Smile!** 



**Dental Services for Children & Families**  
*(for low-income families only/income verification required)*

Both uninsured and Denti-Cal patients welcome  
 Call 909-629-6142 for questions and to book an appointment  
 Caring and friendly bilingual staff ready to help with your dental needs

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 Pomona, CA 91767  
 www.dentalcenter.alpv.org

Assistance League of Pomona Valley is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
 Tax ID# 95-1896906 www.alpv.org

**Pomona's 'Promenade Festival' set for April 3 in Downtown Pomona**

Promenade Festival 2022, a day-long event in Downtown Pomona featuring bands, vendors, food, drinks and more, is scheduled for noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday, April 3 in the El Jefe Cantina parking lot at Garey Avenue and Mission Boulevard.

Sponsorships are available for the free community event presented by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Pomona Owners Association.

For more information, contact the chamber at (909) 622-1256 or the DPOA at (909) 469-1121.

**Buffalo Soldiers commemorated for Black History Month**

After more than 100 years, the Buffalo Soldiers that were stationed at Camp Little in Nogales, Arizona (population 20,000), are finally being commemorated in an effort spearheaded by Pomona City Life Commissioner Donna Jackson-Houston.

Jackson-Houston organized a tribute to Buffalo Soldiers, the Black segregated regiments of the U.S. Army who served from 1866-1951, after discovering that her grandfather, Lucius Franklin Monroe Jackson, was a Buffalo Soldier in the 25th Infantry of the U.S. Army stationed at Camp Little.

"My family and I only recently discovered this historic fact," she said. "Last year I read an article that my grandfather had come to Nogales in 1918 as a Buffalo Soldier. I had never heard that my grandfather was a member of the legendary Buffalo Soldiers as part of the Infantry (on foot)."

"My family mistakenly believed that only the Cavalry troops (on horseback) were Buffalo Soldiers," she added. "With this newfound discovery, I thought it was vital to

recognize not only my grandfather but also the other Black soldiers who fought for our country."

The "Inaugural Tribute" to the Nogales Buffalo Soldiers was held the weekend of Jan. 28-30 in Downtown Nogales to kick-off Black History Month. Nogales Mayor Arturo Garino provided a proclamation declaring that weekend annually as Buffalo Soldiers Days.

A large crowd converged in front of a gazebo, an actual meeting place once held by the Buffalo Soldiers, in the middle of downtown Nogales to watch the tribute ceremony and view an exhibit honoring the Buffalo Soldiers next door in the Pimeria Alta Historical Museum.

Jackson-Houston spearheaded efforts to create a Buffalo Soldier exhibit that was on display in the museum. She plans to take that exhibit on the road with appearances scheduled in Pomona, hopefully at Cal Poly University Pomona, and across the country.

The ceremony was held only a block away from the U.S. border crossing checkpoint.

"Many of the residents did not know the history of their community and that of the Buffalo Soldiers," Jackson-Houston said.

Special guests included Mexican Deputy Consul General Victor Jimenez, stationed in Nogales, and the U.S. Consul General Laura Biedebach, whose office is in Nogales, Mexico.

**Buffalo Soldiers... pg. 11**

**MESSAGE OF THE MONTH**

***Your Voice Matters***

**It is a root cause of many health and social problems we face in our communities!  
 Consequences to children and to our society begin immediately.**

Can you imagine any of the young kids you know right now growing up and becoming homeless? Every homeless person was a child at one point and I'll bet no one predicted when they were 5 years old they would grow up and live on the streets. Protect your child from sexual abuse. This will go a long way to help them grow up with fewer chances to end up living on the streets as adults.

**Talk to your children!**



Visit our web site at **YourVoiceMatters.LA**  
 For information, contact **MarioOlmos90041@gmail.com**

## WesternU, The SAE and Day One open new 'creative space' in Downtown Pomona

An unprecedented three-year collaboration between Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise, and Day One resulted in the development this month of a new "SAE creative space" in Downtown Pomona that is expected to be used for great things involving community and youth engagement and empowerment – even though nobody at this point is quite sure what its exact use will be.

Known as "SAE Create: A Downtown Pomona Community Space," the space, actually a suite of four offices and a shared co-working space, is located on the ground floor just off the parking lot of the Chase Bank building, now known as The Anderson Tower, in downtown Pomona. Western University purchased the building, at 100 W. 2nd St., from J.P. Morgan Chase and Co. nine years ago.

And not only has what was an unused space for years already been transformed into a conference room, private offices for Day One and more, it has already



**RIBBON CUTTING AT SAE 'CREATIVE SPACE'** -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, The SAE, Western University of Health Sciences and Day One all helped cut the ribbon this month at a new "The SAE Creative Space" for kids in Downtown Pomona in Western University's Chase Bank building. Pictured, from left, are Chamber Board member David Perez of Valley Vista Services, SAE Artistic Director Phil Miller, SAE Board member Joshua Swodeck, SAE High School Principal Maria Solis, Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, SAE Chief Accountability Officer and Director of Special Education Paul Treesuwan, Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, SAE Executive Director Jon Gundry, Jenny Macias (at rear), representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, Western University Chief of Staff and Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Jeff Keating, Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang, Downtown Pomona Owners Association Executive Director Lorena Parker, and Chamber Board member and Ambassador Jeff Johannsen, Executive Director of Pomona Hope.

been decorated with The SAE's signature multicolored design on the walls as seen on other SAE buildings around town.

"This space has long been . .

. a dark window in Downtown Pomona," until Western University took over the building, said Ed Tessier, one of the founders of The SAE, speaking at a grand

opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. "I thought this was . . . to make this space an integral part of (The SAE) campus and the surrounding downtown neigh-

borhood as well, and having The SAE lead it with Day One is just a dream come true."

"Thank you to all the people  
New 'creative space'... pg. 8

## New medical/retail space now available for lease!

Interior ready for 'build to suit'



This beautifully designed, brand new location near the center of Pomona's medical community is now ready for leasing -- for three tenants, two tenants or a single tenant for the entire 5,250 square feet of space.

Located within walking distance of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, the space is perfect for a variety of uses and is beautifully landscaped, offering pleasing views out of all windows.

Additional features:

- Interior ready for immediate completion based on tenant requirements
- Two outdoor patios
- Half acre property provides ample parking
- Near public transportation and easy access to the I-10 Freeway
- Ideal for individual or group practices
- Flexible lease options



### Orange Grove Medical Offices

1589 N. Orange Grove Ave. (at McKinley Avenue), Pomona, CA 91767

For leasing information or viewing by appointment, please contact Moe Kashe, (951) 552-3135 or [kashe\\_moe@hotmail.com](mailto:kashe_moe@hotmail.com)





Photo courtesy of Luis Mejia and Southpaw Photography

**AND THE WINNER IS!** -- Pomona's newest boxing legend Ernesto Tito Mercado, at left, a super lightweight rising prospect, in his first bout of the year scored another impressive knockout this month at the Commerce Casino in Commerce, defeating Marc Misiura (2-3-1, 1 knockout) to keep his "KO" streak alive. Tito was the first person to stop Misiura, according to a news release. Tito's current record is 4-0 with four knockouts. Tito, a 20-year-old boxer, is five feet 10 inches tall. This month's match was the fourth professional fight for the 21-time national champion. He was positioned well to fight for his father's native Nicaragua in the Continental Olympic qualifiers for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, but due to COVID-19 all the qualifications were changed and he was unable to compete or be given a chance to secure a spot. He trains at his father's boxing gym, G2G Boxing, in Pomona.



**PLACING STICKERS ON THE BEER** -- Volunteers from Operation Sticker Shock, a program of the Partnership for a Positive Pomona, this month placed stickers on coolers and on beer and wine in a total of 19 alcohol retailers to remind customers and employees that there are legal consequences for providing alcohol to underage youth. The coalition has conducted the program in Pomona each year since 2013. This year, volunteers placed a total of 3,400 stickers in the stores over a five-day period. Pictured, from left, are Xictlali Bernardino (Diamond Ranch High School), Ashley Gaeta (Pomona High School - kneeling), and Nathan Gonzalez (School of Arts and Enterprise), all of Pomona and all members of the Pomona Youth Prevention Council, placing stickers at La Cachanilla, located at 1135 N. White Ave., Pomona. The Partnership for a Positive Pomona is a drug-free communities coalition.



**WAIT!** -- Here's a sample of the refrigerator door stickers volunteers from Operation Sticker Shock placed on doors in liquor stores and convenience markets throughout Pomona, all to remind customers and employees that providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 is a criminal offense. Volunteers from Prototypes, Project Sister, Day One, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and others pitched in to help this year.

## Local artists needed for art contest with \$3,000 first prize!

Valley Vista Services is partnering with Pomona's The Alley Gallery on a "Green Together" art competition to bring awareness to Pomona's new organics disposal program required by State Senate Bill 1383.

Submissions are now being accepted and deadline for contest entries is March 19.

Talented local artists are invited to help spread the word about environmental friendliness and working together toward a cleaner community as residents work to collectively change their daily routine through composting to contribute to the preservation of

Mother Earth.

According to the contest announcement, the plan is to wrap some of the collection trucks and utility boxes with eco-friendly art images to showcase the artwork around the community and educate residents.

First place prize is \$3,000, second is \$2,000 and third is \$1,000.

Submissions should be in digital in an AI, PNG or PDF format and e-mailed to thealleygallery@gmail.com.

Winning contestants will give full rights and ownership of illustrations to Valley Vista Services to be used at their own discretion.

## New 'creative' space... from pg. 7

that had a hand in putting it together," Tessier said.

SAE Executive Director Jon Gundry thanked Western University's Chief of Staff Jeff Keating for taking the lead role on the project.

He said Day One, a non-profit that works to build vibrant communities, advocate for public policies and meaningfully engage youth, is already working in one of the four offices and will be providing inaugural programming including a youth advocate program, drop in study zones and community workshops.

A second office is dedicated to house the on-going development work at The SAE, and the goal is that the other two offices may be occupied by community partners who share a commitment to the vision of SAE Create, according to an SAE spokesperson.

"We've been talking about some kind of partnership with Western University for a very long time," Gundry said. "I know it's one of the first conversations I had when I arrived here a little over three years ago."

"It's really gratifying to have something come together," he added. "It's still an evolving concept of what we're going to use the space for. It's not just a school space, it's a space that our school is occupying in order to work with the community and become a more integral part of the Downtown Pomona community."

"So, you're going to see this evolve as time goes by," he added.

ed. "But we're really pleased to have this partnership have some tangible outcome and we're very excited to see where it's going to go in the future."

Gundry said the project helps The SAE expand its mission and vision of becoming an integral part of the Downtown Pomona community. Programs and services hosted at SAE Create will be available to all, not only SAE students and families, the spokesperson said.

"So, we're looking forward to what some great things are going to happen here, we don't even know what they all are, but this is going to be a benefit to kids in the community in Downtown Pomona," Gundry said.

Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado agreed.

"Something's going to happen here, it's great to have it in downtown," Preciado said. "It's great to have it in our area - everyone is partnering for this."

"I admire The SAE's tenacity about this whole thing," Keating said, "because we've been talking about this for the better part of three years."

"I'm just very excited . . . to be able to use this space for such a community resource, so thank you all for making this happen," he added.

The SAE Create space most recently was used for internal support services at Western University. Use of the space by the community is being funded through the support of Western University.



## State Sen. Rubio talks issues in first Pomona appearance after redistricting puts her in line to take over for State Sen. Connie Leyva

State Sen. Susan Rubio, who hopes to become Pomona's next representative in the California Senate, told an estimated 100 invited guests at a "meet and greet" Saturday in Downtown Pomona that every city has different needs but that many of the issues in Sacramento are regional in nature – and that she will "continue to champion those issues that make our community stronger."

Speaking at her first public appearance in Pomona since redistricting shifted Ontario, Chino and Pomona into her existing San Gabriel Valley district, Rubio (D-West Covina) said she is very issues based, district based and very family oriented.

"It's not just one city or one region or one Senate district – it is regional," Rubio said. "We all deal with regional issues."

"We try to tune out all the national rhetoric . . . and focus on what are the dinner table issues," she said. "We're only stronger as a community the more we collaborate."

And she said she "is always collaborating" with Pomona Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez on local issues, who she said is "always" telling her what the community needs.

"He's been such a champion for you," she said.

Then what are some of her key issues? Everything from food,

housing, education and transportation to climate change, small business and domestic violence.

"I work with everyone – I don't care where they come from, who they are, what their business interest is," Rubio said. "My job is to really connect with each and every one of you."

She pointed out that in a sense, she's already working for residents of the Inland Empire through a state housing trust she helped initiate and that is now building 74 housing units for homeless veterans in Montclair and Pomona, all part of a 1,000-unit package.

And she's now working on extending the housing budget in the Inland Empire so all cities in the region can join her trust.

In another area, she was able to put together a \$12 million fire resiliency package that she said was needed due to climate change, and she received support in her first year in the Senate in 2020 for \$10 million to help close the education gap for children and make sure kids have what they need, specifically people of color.

"The work that I do is for everyone and I'm very mindful that I have to respect your territory, your electeds, your incumbents," Rubio said.



State Sen. Susan Rubio

The guest list at the reception included elected officials and community members from Pomona and throughout the San Gabriel Valley and the Inland Empire.

Pomona's outgoing Sen. Connie Leyva told La Nueva Voz last month she made the decision to avoid a "huge battle" with her fellow Democrat Rubio after the two talked and, instead, decided to run for District 4 San Bernardino County Supervisor against incumbent Curt Hagman.

The district lines were realigned through a redistricting process required every 10 years when new U.S. Census figures are released.

Leyva has represented Pomona

in the 20th Senate District since 2018.

Rubio said she hopes to "build on what Connie Leyva already did for you."

She will seek re-election in the newly configured district in the June 7 primary and the top two vote-getters in that race, regardless of political party, will move on to the Nov. 8 general election. The filing period for the June primary ends March 11.

Rubio's history in this region goes back 20 years.

She attended East Los Angeles College and earned an undergraduate degree and a master's degree in education from Azusa Pacific University.

She started her teaching career in Baldwin Park Unified School District and was a teacher at Monrovia Unified School District for 17 years. She was first elected as city clerk in Baldwin Park in 2005. In 2009, she was elected to the Baldwin Park City Council and re-elected in 2013.

Pomona businessman John Pena hosted the reception for Rubio at his El Jefe Cocina Mexicana y Cantina.



Elected officials throughout the region welcomed State Sen. Susan Rubio to Pomona Saturday. Rubio is in line to take over for State Sen. Connie Leyva in Chino, Ontario and Pomona in the aftermath of redistricting. Pictured, from left, are Ontario City Councilmember Ruben Valencia, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Sen. Rubio, and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.



**NEW OWNERS AT POMONA'S 'GOALS'** -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce members and elected officials helped cut the ribbon this month at a "grand re-opening" to welcome new owners to Pomona's Goals Soccer, offering smaller than regulation ("five a side") lighted soccer fields for both youth and adult, skilled or beginner soccer players. Regional Manager Rufino Franco said goals is a "state of the art facility" and that he hopes to be able to partner with the community, adding that he is "very excited and intrigued on what we can do together." The facility was opened in 2017 by Goals Soccer which merged with City Football Group of London. It is now owned by City Sofive Soccer based in New York and City Football Group. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber Board member Jeff Johannsen, Executive Board member Renee Barbee, Goals service representative Eric Sican, Board members Victor Caceres and David Perez, Chamber Ambassador Joe Perez, Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, Goals service representative Jonathan Sangerman, Goals Regional Manager Rufino Franco, Aldo Macias Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang, Goals General Manager Cindy Paez, Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Goals shift leader Jocelin Ibarra, and Chamber Past President John Forbing. Goals is located at 2255 S. Garey Ave., Pomona.

## Freight tracks re-open, officials urge residents to make sure they hear that train a-comin'

BNSF freight trains resumed service in the rail corridor between Irwindale and Pomona this month after being suspended in November 2020 allowing the track to be relocated to make room for the new light rail Foothill Gold Line system.

Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority officials announced the resumption of service in a news media advisory and cautioned residents

and motorists to remain alert for trains. Freight train horns will sound as trains approach each crossing.

The track relocation project was part of the 9.1 mile, four-station Foothill Gold Line light rail project.

For more project construction information, contact the "hotline" at (626) 513-5788 or e-mail [communityrelations@kiewit-parsons.com](mailto:communityrelations@kiewit-parsons.com).

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**PRINCE OF PEACE CELEBRATES 24 YEARS** -- Prince of Peace Interdenominational Christian Church (I.C.I.) in Pomona will celebrate its 24th anniversary at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 27, with a new coat of paint for a fresh start. Members of the Ezra Challenge, a group of church members who are in charge of building a retreat center in Bakersfield to serve the I.C.I. Presbytery of Churches throughout the state, dedicated their time and experience by touching up the church building with a new coat of paint inside and out. Pastor Saul Vega, Director for the I.C.I. Presbytery of California, made a visit to the church to oversee the work. "We extend an invitation to our friends in the community to celebrate this joyous occasion with us and share how the blessings of God have remained with this congregation and look forward to a future of expansion and growth," he said. Oscar Villafañá, Senior Pastor at Prince of Peace Church, thanked its members and everyone involved with donations and participating with the upgrades to the church building. "We are happy to offer a place of worship where the community can visit and learn about God's love and compassion," he said. Pictured, from left, are Juan Gonzalez, Ezra Challenge coordinator; Sergio Saveedra, Ezra Challenge advisor; Marcelo Perez, Ezra Challenge secretary; Villafañá; Vega; Ivan Niño, Ezra Challenge vice president; and Julio Fragoso, Ezra Challenge president. Prince of Peace Church is located at 895 E. 7th St. in Pomona. Church services are Sundays at 9 a.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Youth group meets on Fridays at 7:30 p.m.



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## Buffalo Soldiers... from pg. 6

Nogales Mayor Arturo Garino was the keynote speaker at the event.

Although the 1918 Battle of Ambos Nogales between the U.S. and Mexico was fought more than 100 years ago, there is now a strong connection between the two cities, despite the border wall and pervasive presence of law enforcement at the border.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and members of the Pomona City Council sent a certificate of recognition to the City of Nogales for the event.

"It really exceeded my expectations," Jackson-Houston said.

Her college student sons Melvin, Jr., and Ryan Houston, both studying engineering at Cal Poly Pomona, attended the event with their dad, Mel Houston.

"I am proud that my great-grandfather was a Buffalo Soldier," Melvin said. "I am learning about their significant contribution to American History."

Thanks to Jackson-Houston's efforts, the Buffalo Soldiers exhibit is scheduled to be on display at the Pomona African American Museum of New Beginnings for



**BUFFALO SOLDIERS TRIBUTE IN NOGALES** -- Pomona City Life Commissioner Donna Jackson-Houston poses last month next to a new Buffalo Soldier exhibit, soon scheduled to be on display in Pomona, at the Pimeria Alta Historical Museum in Nogales, Arizona. She was in Nogales to help unveil the exhibit and participate in the city's first-ever tribute to the Buffalo Soldiers who were stationed in Nogales more than 100 years ago. From left are her sons, Melvin, Jr., and Ryan, and Jackson-Houston.

Juneteenth, the holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S.

According to Khalif Rasshan curator of the Pomona museum who also attended the Nogales tribute, "The event was a historic accomplishment in adding to the importance of the Buffalo Soldier legacy. We are honored to be chosen to curate the Buffalo Soldier

exhibit that will be coming to (our museum) this Juneteenth from Nogales."

Rasshan will collaborate with Jackson-Houston to include the stories of Buffalo Soldiers and their descendants from the Pomona and Inland Valley areas.

Jackson-Houston is the founder and president of the Nogales Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Association.



**CANINE UNIT** -- Seven members of the Buffalo Soldiers who were stationed at Camp Little in Nogales pose with their canine unit dogs. Donna Jackson-Houston's grandfather, Lucius Franklin Monroe Jackson, is pictured second from the right.

The group's mission is to partner with schools and communities across the nation to educate, inform and highlight the notable accomplishments of the Buffalo Soldiers who served patriotically while subjected to oppressive and discriminatory conditions.

If you are a Buffalo Soldier descendant or would like additional information, contact Donna Jack-

son-Houston at [www.NogalesBuffalosoldiers.org](http://www.NogalesBuffalosoldiers.org).

*Editor's Note: Members of Jackson-Houston's family have lived in Nogales for more than 100 years. Her uncle, John Jackson, still a resident of Nogales, was the city's first Black/Hispanic vice mayor. And her grandmother, Maria Perez, was from Sinoloa, Mexico.*

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### Pomona's dA Center for the Arts to hold fundraiser

The dA Center for the Arts has scheduled a fundraiser next month to fund its on-going spectrum of projects and programs it provides for the community.

The event, "dART for ART," is scheduled for 5 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at the dA, located at 252 S. Main St., Pomona.

Located in the heart of the Po-

mona Arts Colony, the dA has served as a valuable resource for artists, musicians, poets/writers, performance artists and community members of all ages and abilities from throughout Pomona and the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire.

The evening is being billed as an innovative and fun evening

that includes art, music, food and refreshments.

According to organizers, guests will receive a number when they arrive and when their number is called, they will "dart" and choose from a spectrum of artwork that is on the wall or pedestal to take home and enjoy.

Tickets are \$100 per person

(or \$50 as an option for those who prefer not to "dart").

The event benefits the dA's year-round programs including exhibitions, concerts, classes, school tours, community art programs, scholarships and more.

Board member Angelique Barnum of The Sash Co., Inc., is event chair with Anthony Bonner of the Garey High School music department and visual artist Raul Pizarro serving as co-chairs.

### And one more Super Bowl story from Day One...

The Rams beat the Bengals in the Super Bowl this month 23-20. You might have heard about it.

But there's another Super Bowl story the millions of fans watching the game didn't hear about – Day One went to work before the game to remind San Gabriel Valley football fans to "have a game plan to arrive alive on Super Bowl Sunday."

With so many fans frequenting their favorite local bars and restaurants to celebrate, Day One partnered with some of them to provide materials with prevention messaging.

The idea was to help reduce alcohol-related issues by promoting safe drinking practices. Working with the Rethinking Alcohol and Other Drugs Coalition the week before the game as they have for the past couple of years, Day One placed 79 table "tents" and 575 coasters with messaging reminding patrons that there are 57 percent more alcohol-related accidents on Super Bowl Sunday and to plan your trip ahead.

Participants in Pomona included El Jefe, the Green Room, Hilltop Jamaican Restaurant, Metro Ale House and O'Donovan's Pub.

**Gold Line Construction Underway thru 2025**

**Pomona Gold Line Station**

The Foothill Gold Line light rail project will extend the Metro Gold Line (L Line) to the cities of Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair - and may be built in phases. The project segment from Glendora to Pomona is fully funded by LA County's Measure M and state funds (including SB1), and major construction has begun. Funding is being sought to complete the project to Claremont and Montclair.

**Foothill Gold Line**

Construction Questions: Call/text (626) 513-5788  
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**FRIDAY, APRIL 22 -- EARTH DAY.**

**How do you plan on celebrating Earth Day 2022?**

Locally, there are lots of ways to participate in Earth Day events, but remember, **SAVING WATER should be an EVERY DAY activity.**

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## The importance of podiatric health for diabetes and PAD

By Nava Mohammadi, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine

If you're among the tens of millions of Americans living with diabetes or peripheral artery disease (PAD), you may not be aware of one of the biggest threats to your overall health. Hint: It has nothing to do with your internal organs. It's your feet.

"But I get around fine, without any discomfort," you might be thinking. Well, unfortunately the majority of those who have diabetes will at some point experience lower-extremity neuropathy—tingling and numbness in the feet. Some of these individuals literally will not be able to feel their feet. They don't realize it, so they walk around wearing a hole in the bottom of their foot. Continued, painless walking rubs the wound further, and it continues to get worse. If not addressed, the wound (which you may not even know you have) can eventually become infected and require surgical intervention. In the very worst cases, this might mean amputation of the toes, foot, or even the leg.

"That hasn't happened to anyone I know," you might be thinking. But I have some sobering statistics. Every 1.2 seconds, someone somewhere in the world develops a diabetic foot wound. More than half of these wounds become infected, requiring some form of hospitalization. And nearly 20 percent of these cases end with amputation.

The good news is there are educational and medical resources available to help you stay on top of your foot health! Self-administered "daily foot checks" can be performed at home with minor direction, so ask your medical provider.

There are also community resources, including foot screening clinics held by facilities such as Casa Colina. These screenings typically take just a few minutes and are performed by a podiatrist or specially trained nurse who examines the dermatological,

neurological, musculoskeletal, and vascular health of your feet.

If you suspect you already have a foot wound, ask your primary care doctor for referral to a podiatrist or a physician specializing in wound care. These doctors can determine what level of care you might need, including orthotics, prosthetics, podiatric or vascular surgical intervention, physical therapy, or hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

The best thing you can do is to stop the process before it starts. If you have diabetes, ask your doctor about a foot health screening today, and learn how to

spot and prevent problematic wounds that may develop. It may just save your limb—and your life.

Editor's Note: Dr. Nava Mohammadi is affiliated with the Limb Preservation Program at Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare. Casa Colina hosts free monthly foot health screenings at both its Pomona and Azusa locations. For patients who require medical care for a foot wound, the Casa Colina Limb Preservation Program offers comprehensive services including podiatric surgery, wound care, diagnostic imaging, hyperbaric and physical therapies, and state-of-the-art surgical services – all available on its 20-acre Pomona campus. To register for a screening, or for more information, call 909/596-7733, ext. 2285.



Dr. Nava Mohammadi

## SoCalGas proposes developing nation's largest green hydrogen energy infrastructure system

Southern California Gas Co. last week announced its proposal to develop what would be the nation's largest green hydrogen energy infrastructure system to deliver clean, reliable renewable energy to the Los Angeles region.

The project, known as the "Angeles Link," would support the integration of more renewable electricity resources like solar and wind and would significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electric generation, indus-

trial processes, heavy-duty trucks and other hard-to-electrify sectors of the Southern California economy.

It also would significantly decrease demand for natural gas, diesel, and other fossil fuels in the Los Angeles basin, helping accelerate California's and the region's climate and clean air goals.

"The challenges we face on climate require solutions of scale and urgency," said Gas Company CEO Scott Drury. "The Angeles

Link is designed to meet those challenges head-on."

As contemplated, the project would deliver green hydrogen in an amount equivalent to nearly 25 percent of the natural gas the Gas Company delivers today.

"California policymakers, thought-leaders, business, academic, labor and environmental communities all agree green hydrogen is vital to achieving our climate and clean air goals," Drury said.



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## 135 Years

**Sunday, February 27, 2022**  
**3:00pm - 5:00pm**



Rev. Dr. Patrick Horn, Senior Minister  
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Keynote speaker:  
Professor Susan McWilliams Barndt  
Pomona College

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Be a part of this celebration of Pilgrim Congregational's history of families, community and worship in Pomona and join with our community leaders, church members and friends at this momentous occasion on our historic and beautiful church campus!

Guest speaker Susan McWilliams Barndt is Professor of Politics and Coordinator of the Program in Public Policy Analysis at Pomona College in Claremont, where she has won the Wig Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in teaching three times. McWilliams Barndt is the author/editor of several books on the history of political thought.



**RSVP at [135years.eventbrite.com](https://135years.eventbrite.com)**

Questions? Please call (909) 622-1373 or email [135@pilgrimchurchpomona.com](mailto:135@pilgrimchurchpomona.com)

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**SHARED HARVEST FUND PROMOTES COVID-19 VACCINATIONS** -- Representatives of Shared Harvest participated in Second Saturday on 2nd Street this month to encourage visitors to their booth to become vaccinated and tested for COVID-19. The non-profit organization was handing out educational materials and helping people pre-register by visiting [myturn.ca.gov](http://myturn.ca.gov). The group also encourages community, health and creativity. Pictured, from left, are Shared Harvest staff members Hassan Sessay and Mohan Kachgal, volunteers Shawna Johnson, Lori Gafford and Chika Deborah-Golden Chinedu-Obi, and Shared Harvest co-founder NanaEfua Afogh-Manin. For more information, visit [www.sharedharvestfund.com](http://www.sharedharvestfund.com).

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## Lutheran High School of La Verne hosts eight schools in drone competition

The gymnasium was all abuzz at Lutheran High School of La Verne this month as members of the school's Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps devoted their Saturday morning to hosting their first-ever drone competition for teams from eight Southern California high schools.

It was also the first-ever drone competition for the entire Area-11 Naval JROTC, which covers about 50 NJROTC units in Southern California and Arizona, all designed to challenge the skills of cadets in flying drone and technical abilities to maintain and apply visual non-verbal communication.

And from the looks of it, team members – who might just be future Naval officers in training – were taking it all very seriously and, at the same time, doing a good job of maneuvering those little battery-operated flying machines.

Then what does it mean to the team to compete in this still relatively new type of competition?

“This means that we get to work on a lot of teamwork, be here with friends and have a very good experience for the next time they do



**TROJAN DRONE CHALLENGE** -- Xarvel Yabur, a sophomore and second year Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadet at La Habra High School, at left, guides his team's drone in to make a drop of its "cargo," that little wooden block hooked onto the drone, during competition this month at Lutheran High School of La Verne. The "pilot" operating the drone is out of the frame just to the right.

drone competition," said Xarvel Yabur, a sophomore and second-year Naval JROTC cadet at La Habra High School.

He told La Nueva Voz he sees drones in general as having both practical applications and military applications.

Joining him in the competition were Jaren Fritter, a junior, and Jordan Ghang, a senior at La Habra High.

Cadet Lt. Commander Kaitlyn Heinemann of Upland, command-

ing officer of the Lutheran High School JROTC unit, explained there were actually four events in the competition – an air slalom (moving back and forth between posts), touch and go on landing pads, a vertical replenishment course (like real-life Navy operations transferring cargo between ships), and the "mission" flight, or obstacle course.

Overall winners were first place, Point Loma High School (team 2);

Drone competition... pg.17



A La Habra High School drone lands on a pad after making a "cargo" drop during competition this month at Lutheran High School of La Verne.

Naval Junior ROTC Cadet Petty Officer Third Class Christopher Walker, a senior at Lutheran High School of La Verne, demonstrates how he flies a drone through a vertical hoop, part of an aerial obstacle course used for maneuvering competition. Lutheran High School hosted its first drone event ever this month with competitors coming from eight high schools around Southern California.



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## \$500 monthly stipend proposed for low-income Cal State students

By Suzanne Potter, California News Service

A new measure was expected to be introduced in the state legislature – possibly this week – that would grant low-income students at five California State University campuses a stipend of \$500 a month for basic living expenses – all to provide a universal basic income so more students can afford to stay in school.

State Sen. Dave Cortese (D-San Jose), author of the bill, said the pilot program would serve about 14,000 students, or about 11 percent of the campus population, “because that’s roughly the percentage of students who are essentially in abject poverty. They’re either homeless or severely at risk for being homeless.”

To qualify, the student would have to have a household income below \$20,000. The program would cost the state an estimated

\$84 million a year. Opponents of universal basic income criticize it as a government handout that could be squandered. However, Cortese said data from two such programs, launched in Stockton and Santa Clara County, do not support that concern.

Many campuses in the state already provide housing referrals, food banks and other resources to students in need, but they vary widely. Cortese said if the bill passes and the universal basic income program ends up working successfully to reduce poverty and dropout rates in the Cal State system, it could be expanded.

“If it is effective, you’d want to be doing it on all campuses,” he said, “and probably extend it to community colleges as well.”

The specific schools that would take part in the three-year pilot have not been announced.

## Pomona artists, art groups encouraged to apply for annual grant funding

LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes (LA Plaza) Eastside Arts Initiative has announced its new funding cycle with local artists and arts organizations serving Eastern Los Angeles County invited to apply for grants for programming or projects in the visual, performing arts and art trades.

Deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Thursday, March 31.

A total of \$150,000 will be awarded for grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000 through a competitive process.

Grant proposals should demonstrate a cultural and community significance. Guidelines can be found at [www.eastsideartsinitiative.org](http://www.eastsideartsinitiative.org).

Organizers are encouraging artists and arts groups in Pomona and surrounding areas to apply.

Applicants in the Pomona com-

munity are encouraged to attend their own question and answer workshop by Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28.

RSVP for the workshop at [arts@eastsideartsinitiative.org](mailto:arts@eastsideartsinitiative.org).

The Eastside Arts Initiative was established in 2015 to further the arts in Eastern Los Angeles County while supporting the local arts community and a wide range of artistic endeavors in the region.

More than \$1.2 million in art grants has been awarded.

LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes is a Los Angeles County museum and Smithsonian Institute affiliate that opened in 2011 to honor the past, inspire the future and recognize the enduring cultural influences of Mexicans, Mexican Americans and all Latinas/Latinos through exhibitions, programming and educational experiences.



Lori Perales

Lori Perales of Fontana, a Pomona native and daughter-in-law of La Nueva Voz contributor Susie Perales and her husband, Angel, of Pomona, was honored this month by the Walnut Unified School District as the district’s 2021 “A Class Act” top classified employee of the year. Lori, who serves as an Instructional Aide II in special education, has worked for the district for the past 19 years and for the last 17 years at Walnut High School. She was selected from 12 employees of the month last year (her month was November), and she was nominated for the November honor by Walnut High School Instructional Dean Dr. Robin Perez. Walnut Unified Personnel Commission Chair Gayle Pacheco announced the honor in a virtual award ceremony and Assistant Supt. of Human Resources Dr. Diane Perez announced the award “live” at the school. Supt. Robert Taylor was on hand to congratulate her on being selected out of hundreds of classified employees in the district. Lori graduated from Ganesha High School in Pomona and Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut. She is married to Danny Perales and they have three sons – Steven, Brian and Zachary. Lori and Danny have five grandchildren and another on the way. Lori is described by her mother-in-law as “patient, dedicated, compassionate, knowledgeable, friendly, caring and hard working.” Pictured, from left, celebrating with family and friends after the award presentation, are her father-in-law Angel Perales, sister-in-law Jennifer Johnson Perales, Chenta Diaz, Isabel Diaz Miller, Lori Perales, her husband Danny Perales, son Steven Perales, Lori’s mom Lorna Tucker, and her uncle Jack Ames. Congratulations, Lori!



**NEW BARBERSHOP IN POMONA** -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce help cut the ribbon this month to officially open California Fades and Cuts, a new barbershop located at 1627 N. Garey Ave., Pomona (just north of the San Bernardino Freeway). Pictured, from left, are Gilbert Arias, Sr., of Rancho Cucamonga, owner Joshua Arias, Chamber Executive Board Member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Jenny Macias, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares, Jasmine Arias (Joshua’s daughter), owner Gilbert Arias, Kimberly Gonzalez (Gilbert’s fiancé), and Evelyn Arias (Gilbert Senior and Evelyn are the owners’ mom and dad). The family also is operating the new California Tacos restaurant located immediately next door.

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**POMONA ROTARY DONATES NEW POLICE DOG TO POMONA POLICE DEPARTMENT** -- The Pomona Police Department was in need of a new non-apprehension dog and Pomona Rotary stepped up to the plate to solve that problem, putting to use some of the proceeds of its recent successful centennial celebration fundraiser. Pictured with Rotary members at, well, kind of a "meet and greet" for Scout, the new dog, are, at left, Deputy Pomona Police Chief Christian Hsu and, at center, Scout, Scout's handler Officer Stacie Paraska and Rotary President Jill Dolan. Welcome to Pomona, Scout!

### Drone competition... from pg. 15

second place, Murrieta Mesa High School; and third place, La Habra High School.

In all, there were nine teams from the eight invited schools, with each team consisting of either two or three members – a drone pilot, a flight director and flight engineer.

Trophies were awarded to the top three overall team winners and the top three in each category.

Participating were Cabrillo High School, El Camino Real High School, Chaparral High School, La Habra High School, and Lakewood, Murrieta Mesa, Point Loma and Troy High Schools.

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## New drug pricing reforms would undo Hatch-Waxman's historic progress

By Merrill Matthews

Senate Democrats and White House officials are hastily piecing together a revised version of the Build Back Better Act, after Sen. Joe Manchin announced he couldn't support the version passed by the House.

Early reports indicate that any updated bill will still allow Medicare to set drug prices, which proponents claim will result in cheaper medicines for American patients.

They're mistaken. Ironically, price controls will reduce patients' access to low-cost generic medicines, at least in the long run. That's because the Build Back Better Act would undermine a landmark Reagan-era law that has enabled thousands of generics to reach patients.

Passed in 1984, the Hatch-Waxman Act created a legal framework that allows generic drug makers to manufacture and sell lower-cost versions of brand-name medicines. Any American who has ever saved money by purchasing a generic medication has the law to thank.

Hatch-Waxman granted new drugs a five-year exclusivity period, during which the company that invented the medicine has the market to itself. Generic

companies can use that time to develop and test their versions of the drug. Once that time elapses, generic competitors can launch their own versions at a lower price.

The purpose of these reforms was twofold: To increase access to low-cost generic drugs while also encouraging companies that invent original drugs to continue to invest in innovation. On both counts, the law has proven wildly successful.

Whereas generics accounted for less than 20 percent of prescriptions filled before Hatch-Waxman, today they account for 90 percent. This has made it far easier for patients to afford their medicines, as generics typically cost 80 to 85 percent less than brand-name drugs.

The Hatch-Waxman act also had a significant impact on drug innovation. In the time since, America has emerged as the undisputed leader in new-drug development.

The bipartisan group of legislators who passed the law went to great lengths to strike a proper balance between promoting innovation and affordability. Now, though, the Democrats' drug-pricing proposal would destroy the law's system of incentives.

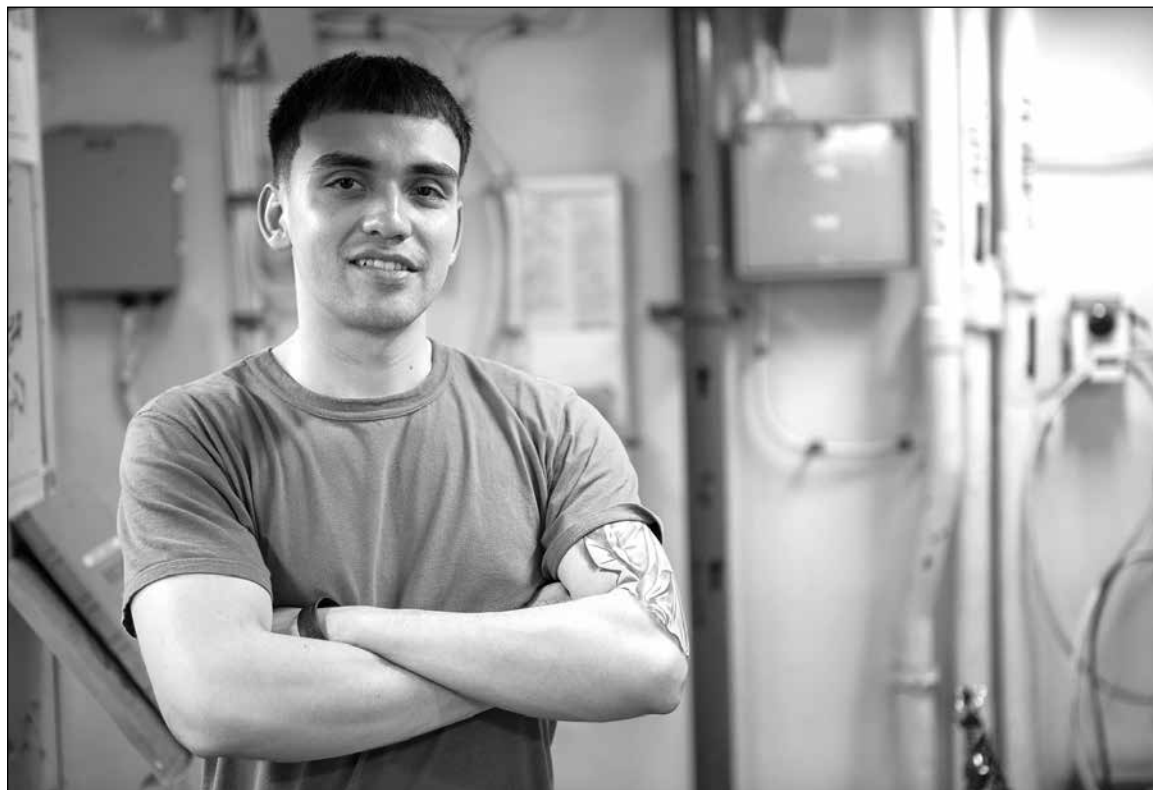
For there to be a thriving generic drug market, there must first be a thriving brand-name market. The United States has both, but not if the U.S. Senate adopts the House's misguided drug pricing provisions.

Democrats claim their proposal allows for the government to "negotiate" prices of targeted drugs with brand-name drug companies. But drug companies either agree to the government's price or lose nearly all revenue from the sale of a drug. Given manufacturers won't know what the government's "negotiated" price will be until the drug is developed, many new, potentially life-saving drugs will never be explored.

For nearly four decades, Hatch-Waxman has fostered a competitive market for low-cost generic drugs, while helping medical science advance to new heights. Democrats' drug-pricing plan would undermine that success story.

Because there can be no inexpensive, generic version of a brand-name drug that's never invented.

*Editor's Note: Merrill Matthews is a resident scholar with the Institute for Policy Innovation in Dallas, Texas. Follow him on Twitter @MerrillMatthews.*



**POMONA NATIVE SERVING ABOARD USS CARL VINSON** -- Pomona native Airman Louis Beltran is serving aboard the USS Carl Vinson, the U.S. Navy's third Nimitz-class supercarrier. Beltran is serving as an aviation boatswain's mate. "We direct pilots during flight operation, as well as park and tow aircraft like those people you see in the airport," Beltran said. He joined the Navy four years ago, according to a news release.

## Los créditos fiscales de California de hasta \$4160 pueden aliviar la presión financiera de las familias durante la pandemia

Por Nalleli Sandoval

A medida que nos acercamos a nuestro tercer año de la pandemia de COVID-19, millones de latinos trabajadores luchan para pagar el alquiler, poner comida en la mesa o gasolina en el automóvil. Ha sido un momento continuamente difícil, pero hay dos programas principales en California que pueden poner hasta \$4,160 en los bolsillos de quienes más lo necesitan.

El Crédito Tributario por Ingreso del Trabajo de California (CalEITC) permite que las familias elegibles que ganen entre \$1 y \$30,000 reciban hasta \$3,160 en efectivo. Pero más del 40 por ciento de los que no solicitaron el CalEITC, o 272,000 personas, se identifican como latinos o hispanos, según datos de 2017 del Buro de Impuestos y Franquicias de California. Sin embargo, podemos abordar esto fácilmente diciéndoles a amigos, familiares y vecinos que reclamen lo que se les debe por derecho.

Otro programa que otorga dinero en efectivo a los padres es el Crédito Tributario por Niños Menores. Proporciona \$1,000 adicionales a los hogares que califican con niños de seis años o menos. Combinado con el CalEITC, una familia podría recibir hasta \$4,160. Este crédito puede ayudar a cubrir medicamentos, útiles escolares, transportación, servicios públicos y muchos de nuestros otros gastos diarios.

Lo mejor de todo, si son elegibles, solo necesitan presentar una declaración de impuestos del estado de California para recibir el dinero. Si olvidó presentar su declaración de impuestos durante los últimos cuatro años, aún puede presentarla y obtener un reembolso en efectivo por esos años si era elegible. Y para

aquellos que no tienen un número de Seguro Social, pueden solicitar los créditos fiscales utilizando un Número de Identificación de Contribuyente Individual (ITIN).

La declaración de impuestos puede parecer abrumadora cuando está ocupado manteniendo a sus familias y no está familiarizado con las reglas y los formularios. Algunos recurrirán a los profesionales de impuestos en busca de ayuda, pero esto cuesta dinero y, con demasiada frecuencia, no obtienen los créditos fiscales que se merecen. Los datos estatales muestran que el 92 por ciento de las personas elegibles que contrataron a un preparador de impuestos en 2017 todavía no reclamaron el CalEITC.

En lugar de gastar cientos de dólares para declarar sus impuestos los adultos y familias elegibles pueden utilizar los servicios gratuitos de asistencia fiscal disponibles en todo California en [myfreetaxes.org/es/](http://myfreetaxes.org/es/). Las familias pueden obtener apoyo para reclamar sus créditos fiscales por su cuenta o con un voluntario capacitado por el IRS, ya sea virtualmente o en un sitio local de asistencia para la preparación de impuestos.

Si bien la pandemia aún está dañando nuestras vidas, parte de la presión financiera puede aliviarse accediendo al CalEITC y al Crédito fiscal para niños menores. Son una gran ayuda, y no cuesta nada recibirlos. Solo necesita presentar sus impuestos y correr la voz para que podamos asegurarnos de que todos los que son elegibles obtengan estos créditos fiscales y no dejen dinero atrás.

*Nota del Editor: Nalleli Sandoval es Directora Principal de Programas de United Ways of California.*

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## Telemundo 52 y NBC4 abren el periodo de solicitud para el concurso ANUAL de becas

### Proyecto Innovación con \$315,000 disponibles para organizaciones no lucrativas

Telemundo 52 Los Ángeles / KVEA, NBC4 / KNBC y Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation anunciaron hoy el regreso de Proyecto Innovación, un concurso anual de becas que proveerá \$315,000 en fondos a un máximo de 12 organizaciones sin fines de lucro y elegibles en el sur de California. El período de solicitud está abierto y continúa hasta el 25 de marzo de 2022.

Se invita la postulación de grupos caritativos que ayudan a que las comunidades avancen fomentando una cultura de equidad e inclusión, creando vías para la participación comunitaria, exhortar a futuras generaciones de portavoces y brindando a los jóvenes las herramientas que necesitan para tener éxito.

“Nos enorgullece presentar Proyecto Innovación por quinto año consecutivo y proveer fondos para ayudar a organizaciones locales no lucrativas a continuar con

el gran trabajo que hacen cada día para satisfacer las crecientes necesidades de nuestras comunidades,” dijo Celia Chávez, presidenta y gerente general de Telemundo 52 Los Ángeles.

“Nos complace apoyar a organizaciones caritativas con fondos que ayudaran a familias en todos los rincones de nuestra región, sobre todo en un momento en el que se necesita más que nunca,” dijo Steve Carlston, presidente y gerente general de NBC4. “El apoyo adicional ayuda a servir a comunidades diversas y ampliar un entorno de inclusión en el sur de California.”

Presentado en 11 mercados, incluyendo el Sur de California, Telemundo 52 y NBC4 seleccionarán y presentarán becas a organizaciones sin fines de lucro elegibles que se encuentran y operan en el sur de California, tienen un presupuesto operativo anual de más de \$100,000 (según el último

990-N enviado al IRS por la organización), y cuyos programas están ayudando a resolver los problemas cotidianos de la comunidad en cualquiera de las siguientes cuatro categorías:

1. Participación Comunitaria: Programas que permiten a las personas participar y ser voluntarias en sus comunidades.

2. Cultura de Inclusión: Programas que fomentan el acceso, las oportunidades y los recursos equitativos para las comunidades tradicionalmente subrepresentadas.

3. Próxima Generación de Narradores: Programas que promueven el acceso y desarrollan vías

para talentos emergentes, voces diversas y jóvenes subrepresentados para explorar carreras en noticias, entretenimiento, deportes y artes.

4. Educación y Empoderamiento Juvenil: Programas dentro y fuera de la escuela que equipan a los jóvenes con las herramientas que necesitan para tener éxito, incluida la educación STEM / STEAM y el espíritu empresarial juvenil.

Para acceder la solicitud de subsidio, reglas y los requisitos de elegibilidad del programa, visite [Telemundo52.com/proyectoinnovacion](http://Telemundo52.com/proyectoinnovacion) en español o [NBCLA.com/projectinnovation](http://NBCLA.com/projectinnovation) en inglés.

Los ganadores se anunciarán este próximo verano.

Desde el inicio del programa en 2018, las estaciones han entregado casi un millón de dólares en subvenciones a grupos que brindan servicios directos a diversas comunidades en todo el sur de California. En el 2021, Telemundo 52 y NBC4 otorgaron \$315,000 en becas a seis organizaciones no lucrativas del sur de California. Las organizaciones becadas incluyen CASA of Los Angeles, Empower Her Institute, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, The Wall Las Memorias Project, Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academy y Children’s Burn Foundation

## Pilgrim Congregational to celebrate 135th anniversary

Pomona’s Pilgrim Congregational Church will hold its 135th anniversary celebration Sunday featuring interactive historical displays, a special performance by the Pilgrim Choir, campus tours and hors d’oeuvres.

Billed as a celebration of faith, fellowship and community, the event will include the kick-off of Pilgrim’s inaugural “Com-

munity Impact Fundraiser” as an effort to support local non-profit and service groups working in Pomona Valley communities.

The recipient of this year’s inaugural event will be Inland Valley Hope Partners, a Pomona-based non-profit organization that ensures the empowerment of people in need by providing food, shelter, and supportive ser-

vices.

The event, which is free and open to the entire community, is scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb.27, at the church, located at 600 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.

To RSVP, visit the web site at [135years.eventbrite.com](http://135years.eventbrite.com).

For more information, call (909) 622-1373 or e-mail [135@pilgrimchurchpomona.com](mailto:135@pilgrimchurchpomona.com).

## West Covina resident Frank Diaz, Jr. appointed chief county appraiser

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang has promoted Frank Diaz, Jr. to the senior management position of chief appraiser, where he will lead assessment services, according to a news release.

His new position includes legal services, major exemptions, assessment appeals and public services.

“Frank’s experience and knowledge has proven invaluable to the Assessor’s Office,” Prang said. “His ingenuity has shown itself time and time again as he helps streamline and improve how we do business to better serve the public.”

“Frank is a great leader and mentor to the next generation of appraisers, property assessment specialists and operational support teams,” Prang added. “We’re fortunate to have him.”

Diaz began his career with the Assessor’s Office in 1999 as an appraiser trainee and has held numerous positions through the years. In addition, he has worked

on several high-profile projects, including working with the State Board of Equalization to make the aircraft property statement more user friendly and, more recently, spearheading a study on the impact COVID-19 closures had on small businesses, which was used to review the 2021 assessments of those on automatic billing.

“My goal is to reduce the appeals backlog, provide the people of the Los Angeles County exceptional service, help digitize, streamline and keep in proving our processes as well as educate and mentor the next generation of our leaders,” Diaz said.

Diaz is a first-generation Cuban-American on his father’s side. His father left Cuba the day before the Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1963 and later married Diaz’ mother, who had emigrated from Guatemala to this country later that decade.

Diaz, his wife Maria and two children are residents of West Covina.



Frank Diaz, Jr.



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Letters to the Editor**Pomona Talks Trash...Again**

The city will soon select a trash hauling company that will be the sole collector of both residential and commercial trash generated in Pomona, thus creating a monopoly that will tie not only the business community's hands, but also those of future city councils in a contract that will last longer than 20 years.

High costs of equipment, transportation and personnel, in addition to new law mandates are the reasons stated by city staff and council members. The contract is a juicy one, so understandably the lobbying of city officials and commissioners is going full speed.

Political and economic influences have been working on creating a trash monopoly for some time and it took vigilance on the part of a former councilmember to stave the issue. But it is here now, and already a major politically influential hauling company has openly stated they want the contract.

How will the change affect us, residents of Pomona? As residents we understand the services cost money and the city will periodically hold hearings and/or send notices to all regarding proposed increments to our bill. We don't like additional charges, but we accept them because we trust that appropriate services will be provided in return.

We know damaged or stolen trash containers will be replaced, and for other related issues, we

can call City Hall, council members, or we can attend a city council meeting and express our needs. Under a monopoly where would we go if not satisfied with the services or rates imposed on us?

How will the proposed monopoly affect small businesses? At this point, the business community can pick and choose from a number of trash haulers, while the city takes care of residential trash. They can select the company that provides the better service for the best price. They are free to change companies at any time. Competition ensures better quality at better prices, monopolies don't.

The issue of trash is a political, economic and social issue that mobilized Pomona residents for many years. An influential trash hauler spent large amounts of money lobbying and supporting candidates or sitting officials that granted them the contract they wanted disregarding the environmental needs and wishes of the community. Once again, the story repeats itself.

Under a monopoly, businesses and residents will equally be at the mercy of whatever trash hauling company has the most influence in a council majority.

Business and community members, if you don't want to be subjected to a monopoly, let the Pomona City Council know before it is too late, perhaps they will listen this time.

Cristina Carrizosa

Carta al Editor**¿Hablando de Basura... Otra vez?**

Muy pronto, el concilio de la ciudad seleccionara a una sola compañía que recogerá la basura residencial y comercial de Pomona, y así crearan un monopolio bajo el cual forzosamente viviremos los residentes, negocios y futuros alcaldes y concejales por más de veinte años.

Altos costos de equipo, transportation, personal y cambios en las leyes son las razones dadas por el concilio y la administración de Pomona. El contrato será muy jugoso por lo tanto la labor de persuadir en su favor a concejales y comisionados está a toda marcha.

Las influencias políticas y económicas han trabajado para crear este monopolio por mucho tiempo y solo la vigilancia de una

ex -concejala pudo detenerlas. Pero ya están aquí de nuevo y ya una compañía políticamente influyente ha declarado que quiere el contrato.

¿Cómo afectara este cambio a nosotros los residentes de Pomona? La ciudad se encarga de recoger nuestra basura y sabemos que los servicios cuestan dinero y que la ciudad periódicamente tiene audiencias y nos manda aviso de aumentos a las tarifas. No nos gustan pero los aceptamos porque sabemos que tendremos un buen servicio.

Si tenemos quejas de botes robados o dañados podemos llamar a la ciudad, a los concejales o podemos asistir a las juntas del concilio y expresar nuestra necesidad. ¿Pero bajo este propuesto monopolio a

Letters to the Editor**Privatized waste management is bad for Pomona**

Currently, the Solid Waste Division oversees the City of Pomona's trash collection. On Nov. 1, 2021, four members of the Pomona City Council voted to seek an exclusive collection, recycling and disposal partner and now the city expects to make a decision soon.

Our curiosity wonders if any of our elected officials have considered asking their constituents their opinions on the matter. How do they know what residents feel and want? If we recall the Valley Vista Trash Transfer Station debacle of 2011, MANY residents did not want Valley Vista in Pomona at all and now Valley Vista will be a contender for a private, 15-year contract.

Regardless of the professed benefits touted from City Hall, here is why privatized waste management

is bad for Pomona:

26 full-time positions and 11 part-time positions will be eliminated.

Privatization can lead to significant rate increases.

Privatization can diminish accountability for officials since it won't be "their problem anymore."

Private companies are motivated by profit – they are not invested in the community.

Solid waste is a public health issue and therefore government should maintain oversight control.

In the time of this pandemic, the City of Pomona should want to maintain control of our solid waste.

By doing so, Pomona:

Continues level of service and rate control

Positively impacts public em-

ployment

Impacts waste reduction and recycling goals

Instills community pride and public perceptions

Maintains its ability to respond to technological, regulatory, and socio-economic changes

We encourage the rest of the council to follow Councilman Victor Preciado's vote against the move and for residents to speak out against the decision to terminate the city's control of its waste.

Linda Hinojos  
Dr. Erin Runions  
Pablo Padilla  
Jesus Sanchez  
United Voices of  
Pomona for  
Environmental Justice  
Gente Organizada

Carta al Editor**La privatización de residuos sólidos es mala para Pomona**

Actualmente, la División de Residuos Sólidos supervisa la recolección de basura de la Ciudad de Pomona. El 1 de noviembre de 2021, 4 miembros del consejo de la ciudad de Pomona votaron para buscar un socio exclusivo de recolección, reciclaje y eliminación y ahora la ciudad espera tomar una decisión pronto.

Nuestra curiosidad se pregunta si alguno de nuestros funcionarios electos ha considerado preguntar a sus electores sus opiniones sobre el asunto. ¿Cómo saben lo que sienten y quieren los residentes? Si recordamos la debacle de la estación de

transferencia de basura de Valley Vista en 2011, MUCHOS residentes no querían en absoluto a Valley Vista en Pomona y ahora Valley Vista será un candidato para un contrato privado de 15 años.

Independientemente de los supuestos beneficios promocionados por el ayuntamiento, he aquí por qué la gestión de residuos privatizada es mala para Pomona:

Se eliminarán 26 puestos de tiempo completo y 11 puestos de medio tiempo.

La privatización puede conducir a aumentos significativos de las tarifas.

La privatización puede disminuir la responsabilidad de los funcionarios, ya que ya no será "su problema"

Las empresas privadas están motivadas por las ganancias, no invierten en la comunidad.

Los residuos sólidos son un problema de salud pública y, por lo tanto, el gobierno debe mantener un control de supervisión.

En el momento de esta pandemia, la ciudad de Pomona debería querer mantener el control de nuestros desechos sólidos. Al hacerlo, Pomona:

Continúa el nivel de servicio y el control de tarifas

Impacta positivamente en el empleo público

Impacta la reducción de residuos y los objetivos de reciclaje.

Inculca el orgullo de la comunidad y las percepciones públicas.

Mantiene su capacidad de respuesta a los cambios tecnológicos, regulatorios y socioeconómicos.

Alentamos al resto del consejo a seguir el voto del concejal Víctor Preciado en contra de la medida y a que los residentes se pronuncien en contra de la decisión de poner fin al control de la ciudad sobre sus desechos.

Linda Hinojos  
Dr. Erin Runions  
Pablo Padilla  
Jesus Sanchez  
United Voices of  
Pomona for  
Environmental Justice  
Gente Organizada

Cristina Carrizosa



OPINION

## Community engagement remains important during the pandemic

By Jose R. Bermudez

Civic engagement, as with all that we do, is difficult because of our pandemic challenge. Our isolation is consuming and a great impediment but is not an excuse for our individual and personal removal from our community and reality as life goes on. The obstacles are real but not a reason to remain passive. Inaction is not an option when so much is at stake and the opportunity for positive change is within our grasp.

Martin Luther King, speaking about civil rights, once said, “I am in the heart-changing business, but if morality cannot be legislated, behavior can be regulated.” He also noted that “Nothing in this world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.” His quotes were appropriate when he was pushing for civil rights and are just as timely now when we are fighting a virus that infects our bodies and our minds, and further separates us.

In our community and throughout California, we have voting rights laws that uphold our right to vote, and access to virus testing and vaccines. Other areas and states have elected officials with an opposite view on voting rights and virus fighting protocols. Public health, science, and voting rights are not important, in their view. This is their reality even if most constituents believe in science and their civil rights.

In our country, our ongoing concerns – scarcity of food, education, equitable wages, accessible housing, education, and voting rights – now include opposing pandemic fighting strategies. On a positive note, there appears to be a meaningful change in wages of essential workers because employers and the community at large are now realizing their valuable contributions. Also, more workers are looking at unionization as an avenue to better wages, benefits, and job security.

There are organizations such as Compassionate Pomona, Latino and Latina Roundtable, NAACP, God’s Pantry, Project Hope, God Provides, Pomona Food Bank, Assistance League of Pomona Valley, Center for Oral Health,

Red Cross, Children Like Mine, Bright Prospect, Humane Society of Pomona Valley, and so many others including social service organizations that need volunteers, monetary contributions, and other donations. Whatever the community need and personal motivation, there is a place for anyone and everyone to contribute.

We must strive for personal involvement with organizations and causes that inform and keep us current on needs and issues where we can be an important contribution. By accessing information from local, state, and federal sources for legislation, science, medical and public health developments, we can stay abreast. We need to connect with reliable sources of information, because conspiracy theories and hearsay cannot keep us healthy, informed, and engaged in our world that needs our personal commitment.

*Editor’s Note: Jose Bermudez is a frequent contributor to La Nueva Voz, generally on the topics of safety and health.*

## Sen. Leyva introduces bill to prevent dangerous public hazards from being hidden by court settlements containing secrecy provisions

State Sen. Connie Leyva introduced legislation last week that will ensure that Californians have the information needed to help keep themselves and their families safe by protecting the public’s right to know the facts about dangerous public hazards that are discovered during litigation.

The measure, Senate Bill 1149, which was jointly sponsored by Consumer Reports and Public Justice, seeks to prohibit settlement agreements that restrict the disclosure of information about a defective product or environmental condition that poses a danger to public health or safety – and makes any provision in an agreement void and unenforceable.

It would also create a presumption that any court order that conceals such information is prohibited unless the court finds that the public interest in disclosure is outweighed by a specific and substantial need for secrecy.

And it would narrowly tailor

its application to only information about a “danger to public health or safety” that is likely to cause “significant harm or substantial bodily injury or illness or death.”

“It is unconscionable that vital information that could protect the safety and lives of Californians could be kept from the public because of decisions that seem to prioritize the bottom line of companies than the well-being of residents across our state,” Leyva said in a news release. “SB 1149 will right this wrong by making sure that dangerous public hazards are not hidden behind legal documents and walls.”

She cited two high-profile examples in recent situations where the public’s lack of access to information regarding hazards resulted in deaths.

In the OxyContin matter, she said, Purdue Pharma, the manufacturer, declared bankruptcy but when the first case over claims was settled in

2004, the judge allowed the information proving those claims to remain secret.

The prescription pain medication is now known to have caused more than 100,000 deaths as a result of its manufacturer allegedly telling lies about safe dosage levels and likelihood of addiction, she said in a news release.

And in a 2015 Berkeley balcony collapse case, a seventh person died last month as a result of injuries from which she never recovered. According to Leyva’s news release, partygoers and state regulators did not know that the construction company that built the complex had paid \$26.5 million in settlements in earlier defect cases but the information about those vases remained shielded.

If the bill is signed, California would join several other states that have enacted anti-secrecy laws including Florida, South Carolina and Washington.

## From a thankful parent . . .

Parents Anonymous broken, scared, frustrated, desperate and seeking a new way.

Other parents showed me compassion by providing a safe and open space to express my feelings without judgment and providing mutual support.

I was able to transform and empower myself. I even found a way to become a leader, giving me the strength to advocate for other parents.

Through this great support I continue to develop an amazing com-

munity of diverse parents outside of group where I don’t feel alone.

A grateful  
Parents Anonymous parent

*Editor’s Note: The above “from the heart” letter is the second of a two-part series of personal stories (see January 2022 La Nueva Voz, page 17, at www.lanuevavoz.net) presented as an outgrowth of the work of Compassionate Pomona and as an example of the success the group is having developing compassion in the community.*

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

**Feeding the Hungry,  
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Abused by your partner  
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24-hour hotline:  
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**Pomona Public Library Hours**  
Monday through Thursday  
Noon to 7 p.m.  
Saturday  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday and Sunday  
Closed

**Info on student group programs at AGRIsCapes:**  
**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.

### 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:

- Pomona City Hall lobby
- Pomona library
- 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
- Jicamez Tacos Y Carniceria, 604 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaundryLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona







**FREE HAIRCUTS** -- You could get anything you need this month at a "Community Pull Up" at Pomona's Park Vista Estates, including free haircuts. Pictured are two volunteer barbers from Riggs Barbershop in Simi Valley who have been part of Project Hope, one of the sponsors, for five years. Project Hope is a Pomona non-profit involved with youth development, restorative mentoring and community engagement, all responding to basic needs in under-resourced areas. Also joining them (just out of the shot at left) was Adam Cotroneo, of Next Level Cuts Barbershop, 440 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, (909) 623-3431.



Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Carlos Goytia, working the Pomona Connect booth at "Community Pull Up" this month, explains resources to a visitor at Pomona's Park Vista Estates.



Isaiah Morehead of Pomona holds down the food distribution booth for God's Pantry during a "Community Pull Up" resource fair at Park Vista Estates this month.



Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado, at right, a volunteer at this month's "Community Pull Up" event at Park Vista Estates, helps Pomona Police Lt. Manny Ramos get all the cars safely into the event.



Three huge trees at Pomona's Palomares Park Community Center were among the city's many casualties with trees down all around Pomona after last month's high winds. Pictured, immediately above, is one tree (and a close-up at right) in front of the community center and, at top, the remains of what was actually two trees. (Note the building at rear where one of the trees took the corner of the overhang with it.) According to a city employee, crews moved major portions of the trees out of the way but due to the number of trees down had to prioritize the work around the city to tackle the job a piece at a time before coming back to clear debris.



**WOMEN'S EXHIBITION AT THE dA** -- Interpretive dancers perform last month at the closing and artists' reception of "Frequency Hop-ping: A Women's Exhibition," a three-week event displaying the work of women artists at Pomona's dA Center for the Arts. According to a spokesperson for the dA, data shows that equality for women artists in museums, galleries and auction houses continues to be "challenged and undervalued." For example, nearly half the visual artists in the U.S. are women who, on average, earn 74 cents for every dollar made by male artists (National Endowment for the Arts figures). Only 24 percent of the 27,000 artists shown at art fairs in 2018 were women, and artists represented in 18 prominent permanent collections of U.S. art museums are 87 percent male and 85 percent white. Also pictured are paintings by Marissa Reyes (portrait) and Stacey Jordan (flag - "They had names").

Please visit our web site at [www.lanuevavoz.net](http://www.lanuevavoz.net)



## Two years of 'pandemic' art exhibited in Pomona gallery show

It was everything from Albert Einstein to a painting of a waterfall and even a big screen video in a Pomona gallery this month as Southern California artists put their best efforts on display after being cloistered for two years during the pandemic.

Curator Brandon "Monk" Munoz, a furniture maker and artist in his "real" life (he operates Monk Woods) told La Nueva Voz at an opening on Second Saturday that a total of 25 artists were represented in the show and more than 70 works, with most of the artists from an art colony in Fullerton that closed in 2018.

And he said while other artists also were included, it was the first time the Fullerton artists had exhibited together since the closure.

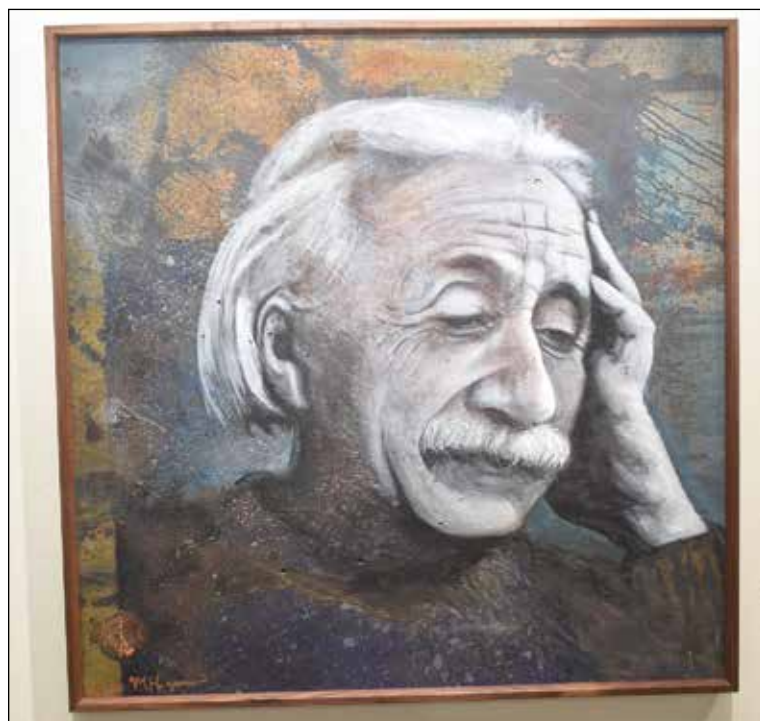
The theme of the show was "Time, Love and Gravity."

"Those are the three elements that create the existence that you get to tell a story, live a life, something finite, experience joy and pain," Munoz said.

"In the last two years, everybody has been in a reflective mode figuring things out," he added. "These artists have produced these works out of things that have been brewing for a long time."

"It's kind of like bringing your best work out," he said.

"After what we've all been through, different versions of our



Even Albert Einstein was represented at this month's "Time, Love and Gravity" art show in the Progress Gallery in Downtown Pomona. (Medium: wood and acrylic, Artist: Melinda Hagman, Price: \$1,750)

story of the pandemic, this is more about, like, here we are, we're going to continue to do what we do and even more so," Munoz said.

Featured was a wide range of mediums, from painting to mixed media, film installation and neon to ceramic sculpture and large-scale woodwork pieces, all from regional and collegiate levels of both emerging and established artists.

According to the show description, "the art is set within a childhood home of the imagination, a place where forgotten dreams and secrets play hide and seek

with your conscious awareness.

"We curated this space with care and attention for you, because the true art is made within your own mind," the description continued.

The exhibit continues through the end of the month in the Progress Gallery, a non-profit gallery in the basement of the old Pomona Progress Bulletin building, an "art deco" building at 300 S. Thomas St., Pomona.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Saturday 5 to 9 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit the web site at [www.theprogressgallery.org](http://www.theprogressgallery.org).



"This Way," by artist John Sollom, an assemblage/painting measuring 40 inches by 40 inches, had a price tag of \$3,200.



Two three-dimensional works by artist Eric Navarrete were displayed at the show. At left is "E=Eternity" and, at right, "R=Rotation."



"Gravity 'O' Multnomah Falls," by E.E. Jacks, oil on gallery-wrapped canvas, was on display at the art event. The artist was "accepting offers."



"Prussian Princess" by Katherine England was on display at the art exhibit carrying a price tag of \$2,200.

Please visit our web site at [www.lanuevavoz.net](http://www.lanuevavoz.net) to see the latest issue of La Nueva Voz, past issues and more!





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