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Pomona Chamber of Commerce



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Thursday, July 28, 2022

Assemblymember Rodriguez secures \$17.1 million for Pomona schools, historic preservation

In another win for Pomona, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez was successful in nailing down a total of \$17.1 million in 2022-2023 state budget allocations reserved for a combination of school district and historic

preservation projects here.

Heading the list is \$10.5 million for the renovation and creation of performance and production spaces at five school sites throughout Pomona.

Another \$3.4 million will fund

the expansion of workforce development and career exploration for Pomona Unified School District students.

Of that amount, \$1 million will cover the cost of workforce and career development within the manufacturing industry. The remaining \$2.4 million is planned to cover the cost of workforce and career development within the medical professions.

Across the tracks from school district headquarters over at the Ebell Museum of History, the Historical Society of Pomona Valley has been allocated \$3.2 million to help cover the costs of repairs to the Phillips Mansion and the Ebell Museum itself, all to help preserve Pomona's historical footprint, according to a news release from Rodriguez's office.

This allocation was part of "trailer bill" language in Senate Bill 178, referencing "libraries and cultural institutions" and mentioning the Historical Society and Ebell by name in Section 233, 19.56 (e) (21).

"Having been born and raised in the great City of Pomona, I could not feel prouder to give back to the school district that helped shape me, my children, and now my grandchildren during our fun-

damental years," Rodriguez said. "The new performing arts centers, coupled with workforce and career development within the manufacturing and medical fields at schools throughout Pomona, will provide our future leaders with more avenues of exploration as to what they are truly passionate about."

"I am pleased to have successfully fought for funding that will help shape the future of the 52nd District and the state as a whole,"

he added. "With increased funding for both our K-12 students and those pursuing higher education, I am delighted to invest in our state's future leaders."

Pomona Unified School District Interim Supt. Darren Knowles and his entire team clearly were very pleased to hear the news.

"We here at PUSD are super thankful for the support from Assemblymember and former Garey High School

alumnus Freddie Rodriguez," Knowles said. "The budget allocation for the 2022-2023 fiscal year is an incredible opportunity to improve our visual and performing arts and workforce and career development infrastructure at sites throughout the district."

"I would like to personally give Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez a "Big Shout Out and Thank You" from PUSD," he added in an e-mail response.

\$17.1 million for Pomona... pg. 6

Statue of American abolitionist Harriet Tubman unveiled in Pomona's Lincoln Park as 'Unity Day' activities unfold

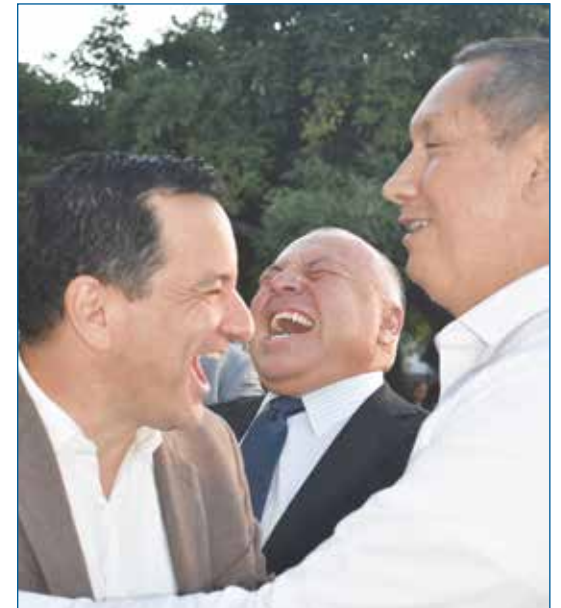
An estimated 300 Pomona residents, police officers and friends gathered in Lincoln Park on the Fourth of July for the formal unveiling of a \$119,000 statue of American icon and abolitionist Harriet Tubman that will grace Pomona's Lincoln Park as a testament to the historic significance of the "conductor" of the Underground Railroad in aiding slaves escaping to the North in the 1800s.

What was billed as a "Unity Day Celebration" started with the unveiling ceremonies, followed by a half-mile walk through the neighborhoods around Lincoln Park and, at the end of the day, wrapped up with a Unity Day L.A. Night of Champions" during the Kaboom fireworks spectacular at Pomona's Fairplex.

Ray Adamyk, of Pomona's Spectra Company and organizer of the event, told participants in Lincoln Park he's working on a Unity Day... pg. 2



A new statue of abolitionist Harriet Tubman was unveiled this month in Pomona's Lincoln Park. Although temporarily removed following the event, the statue was expected to be permanently installed once its pedestal is approved by the city and completed.



Sharing a laugh at a Historical Society of Pomona Valley event at historic Phillips Mansion last month are, from left, California Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval. (See story page 15.)

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Strength in community: How Tri-City is promoting mental health through Wellness Advisory Councils

July is Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Mental Health Awareness Month, formerly known as Bebe Moore Campbell Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. It is important to understand not only who this month acknowledges, but why this awareness month is needed. In many ways, it comes down to access to mental health care.

Every year, millions of individuals in the United States are faced with the reality of living with a mental health condition. These conditions do not discriminate based on race, color, gender or identity, and anyone can experience the challenges of mental illness regardless of their background. However, a person's background and identity can make access to mental health care much more difficult to obtain. For BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and other historically marginalized and underrepresented communities, barriers to mental health care access may include: insurance coverage, cost of treatment, language, prejudice, discrimination, cultural stigma, disability, transportation and even one's geographic location.

At Tri-City Mental Health, we are committed to reducing barriers to mental health care treatment. This includes our development of Wellness Advisory Councils to build bridges with the diverse communities we serve in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne. Council meetings are open to the public, held monthly and empower members to share their voices, experiences and needs to improve services at Tri-City Mental Health and to build community support.

"The opportunity to connect with community members of so many backgrounds has been so vital in breaking down barriers and educating the public that Tri-City offers a variety of programs to support their mental health and wellness," said Andrea Espinosa, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator.

Members consist of clients, consumers, families, advocates, community members and local organizations. Current advisory councils include Holistic Asian American and Pacific Islander, ¡Adelante! Latino and Hispanic Wellness, RAINBOW LGBTQ+, Transition Age Youth (TAY) and African American Family Wellness. Additional councils serving Native American and Indigenous communities and older adults are also in development.

"Taking on the challenges of barriers to mental health care and the stigma of mental illness requires a commitment from all of us," continued Espinosa. "We want to help create a space where anyone in our community—no matter their background, ethnicity or identity—can receive quality support to live healthy, fulfilling lives."

To join an upcoming meeting or for more information, please contact Andrea Espinosa, DEI Coordinator, at cide@tricitymhs.org or (909) 784-3052.



Unity Day... from pg. 1

project to restore Salem Chapel in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada – an effort he said he expects would require \$3 million to restore the chapel as the legacy of Harriet Tubman.

The church, where Tubman herself worshipped, was the last stop along the Underground Railroad.

Adamyk said every dollar

raised from the fireworks show at Fairplex would go to the restoration project. He said he happened to grow up in St. Catharines but was not aware of the chapel – and its deteriorating condition – until recently.

He referenced the hundreds of freedom seekers Tubman brought to safety.

“She has become my absolute hero for what she did,” he said.

“Today is about healing,” said master of ceremonies Elizabeth Zamora of Pomona’s Bright Prospect. “This morning as we walk together, I ask you to embrace this community, walk as a collective, turning to healing from our collective grief.”



Participants in the Fourth of July unveiling of a new Harriet Tubman statue in Pomona’s Lincoln Park head out of the park following the ceremonies on a half mile “Unity Walk” around several blocks in the neighborhood. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Police Deputy Chief Christian Hsu, Lt. Manny Ramos, Lt. Brian Hagerty, and event organizer Ray Adamyk.



Sculptor Manuelita Brown, second from left, helps guide the cover off her new statue of Harriet Tubman at unveiling ceremonies this month in Pomona’s Lincoln Park. Behind her, at left, is Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and in front of her is Pomona’s Poet Laureate David Judah Oliver.

“Though we all may have different backgrounds, we are gathered because we care deeply for our Pomona community,” she added.

“This in my view is the true embodiment of community,” said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, referring to people of all ages and backgrounds. “This is what a city should be is people coming together to love, to maybe even debate and discuss, but that’s what a healthy democracy looks like.”

He added that the statue will remain for generations to come as people come to Pomona to see it.

“Art has a way of bringing people together,” Sandoval said. “As you know we have real serious social and economic challenges in this country and there is no group that has been harder hit than Black Americans in this country.”

“There is more work to be done not only here in Pomona but all over this country,” he said.

“We have to work together to come up with the solutions . . .


and so I see this beautiful statue as an opportunity, one of many opportunities, for us to bring folks together,” Sandoval said.

Sculptor Manuelita Brown of San Diego said it has been her “pleasure and it’s an honor to have created this sculpture.”


“Today is a fitting day for unveiling because it’s the Fourth of July,” she said, acknowledging those who served in the armed forces and adding that Tubman herself served in the military.

Unity Day... pg. 4

Gold Line Construction Underway in Pomona



Pomona Gold Line Station



Foothill Gold Line

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 will 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 is more than halfway complete. Funding is being sought to complete the project to Claremont and Montclair.

Construction Questions: Call/text (626) 513-5788
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POSING WITH THE NEW STATUE -- Posing for photos after unveiling ceremonies for the new statue of Harriet Tubman are, from left, Ethel Gardner, of the Kennedy Austin Foundation; Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia; sculptor of the statue Manuelita Brown; and Chara Swodeck of Pomona’s African American Advisory Alliance.



FRIENDS LUNCHEON AT 'THE CLUB' -- Just-retired Pomona Unified School District Superintendent Richard Martinez and new Interim Supt. Darren Knowles tag-teamed their way through the keynote address last week at the Youth and Family Club of Pomona Valley's annual "Friends Luncheon" fundraiser, encouraging nearly 100 guests to continue to support the club because of its importance to youth. "It's the teachings of community that made a difference in my life when I was small," Martinez said. "I grew up in East Los Angeles. But if it wasn't for Belvedere Park . . . this is where the mentoring happened, this is where the coaching happened." He added that he was "a young kid that kind of reflects some of the kids that you see running around here, coming out of foster care. It's good to have healthy organizations like this one." Knowles, who said he came to Pomona in 1993 starting out as a wrestling coach at Garey High School and a Football Coach at Ganessa High School, became a teacher and a principal and even served on the board of The Club, then a Boys and Girls Club. "The club does a tremendous amount of work for our students and our community." He described a program during COVID in which The Club piloted a program at three elementary schools providing team leaders -- "leadership directors" -- who came into recess and lunch time and "engaged our students," making a positive influence on the kids. "The reason you have coaches in life is because coaches help individuals get to that next level because, sometimes, we can't see it for ourselves." He said that program, really an extension of The Club, will continue in the schools. "They're helping us at schools and they're helping our children, helping our children believe in themselves and that's powerful." Pictured from left are Martinez, "The Club" Executive Director Victor Caceres, and Knowles.



TRAVELING BUFFALO SOLDIERS EXHIBIT -- Pomona's Community Life Commission Chair Donna Jackson-Houston speaks during a presentation this month at the African American Advisory Alliance cultural center on the history of the Buffalo Soldiers, the first all-Black regiments of the U.S. Army. Houston organized a tribute in January after discovering her grandfather was a Buffalo Soldier and served at Camp Little, Arizona. The exhibit was first on display in Nogales.



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Unity Day... from pg. 2

“In the Civil War, she was the first female to lead soldiers in a military engagement,” Brown said.

Pomona’s poet laureate David Judah Oliver read an original poem written for the occasion.

Adamyk to volunteer his time overseeing the project

In his telephone interview before the event, Adamyk told La Nueva Voz he plans to oversee the restoration project at the chapel in Canada.

“We’ll probably manage it but

cifically said he will not be paid for his work.

Even so, at the Fourth of July ceremonies, he told the participants that “it just happens to be my company is one of the largest in America that does historic restoration.”

He said he spoke to chapel historian Rochelle Bush “and I said to her we are going to come and we are going to raise \$3 million to restore that chapel.”

La Nueva Voz spoke by telephone with Bush, whose great grandfather was a minister in the chapel when Tubman was there.

She said the chapel, in a city with a population of 133,000, is already a national historic site and received a \$100,000 federal grant to start work on a restoration project in January 2021.

Salem Chapel, a British Methodist Episcopal church, is one of the oldest Black churches in St.

Adamyk visited the chapel last summer.

She said he has contacted a number of people in the area including a “heritage engineer” who will be working with Adamyk on the site.

Bush added that Adamyk said he expected it would take five years to raise the money and begin work on the project.

“It’s not easy to raise money for a site that’s outside of your host country,” she said, adding that no contracts have been signed and the project is still in the planning stages.

A donation site has been created at www.gofundme.com/f/Salem-Chapel for the project which as of press time had received \$20,437 of the \$3 million goal.

Final approvals and details for placement of statue pending

Ean Frank, Adamyk’s project manager on the statue development, said Pomona’s Parks and Recreation Commission and Historic Preservation Commission both have agreed to the installation location and basic parameters.

Discussions are continuing with the city’s Cultural Arts Commission as to how much of a contribution to the project will come from the city’s public art fund.

In addition, details and final approval of the actual carved stone pedestal for the statue are still pending. Because of that, the statue was placed in the park for what



Elizabeth Zamora
Master of Ceremonies



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval



Organizer Ray Adamyk addresses the audience at unveiling ceremonies for the Harriet Tubman statue in Pomona’s Lincoln Park.

(we’re) planning to hire local people,” he said, explaining the church will hire the contractors.

“We’re donating our work entirely for that,” he said, in an effort to provide his expertise in historical restoration for the job. He spe-

CLARIFICATION

Martin Luther King’s niece Alveda King’s Pomona appearance canceled

What happened to Dr. Alveda King?

As reported in last month’s La Nueva Voz, the niece of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was scheduled to appear in Pomona on July 4 to lead an inaugural “Unity Walk” following the unveiling in Lincoln Park of a statue of Harriet Tubman, “conductor” of the Underground Railroad which aided slaves in their escape to the North in the 1800s.

King’s appearance was announced in a news release from organizers of the event but, as is common in the newspaper industry, the word “scheduled” was added when La Nueva Voz wrote

Catharines.

Bush, who also runs the company Tubman Tours Canada, told La Nueva Voz Adamyk contacted her first by telephone and said it was “quite surprising he was interested.”

its own story based on the news release, just in case plans changed.

And, as it turns out, change they did.

King was not a part of the celebration as La Nueva Voz was informed on the very morning last month’s issue rolled off the presses.

Participants only learned at the event she would not be there.

Her appearance – in addition to the article in last month’s La Nueva Voz – also was promoted online, was mentioned in posters all around Pomona and more.

A newscaster in a live interview in KTLA Channel 5’s “Good Day LA” program just before the day

of the event even asked about King’s appearance near the end of the interview, prompting Adamyk to interrupt and explain that she would not be participating.

Then what happened that caused King, a national figure, American activist, author and former member of the George House of Representatives, to become a no-show?

Promoter and organizer Ray Adamyk, founder and CEO of Pomona’s Spectra Company, told La Nueva Voz in a telephone interview before the event that the organizing committee decided it would be better to have somebody

King’s appearance... pg. 6

really was a “temporary” or “preliminary” unveiling atop a trailer and removed after ceremonies for a stop that night at “Kaboom” at Fairplex before going into storage until the pedestal is approved and completed.

The statue initially was created in clay as a mock-up of much smaller scale. It was then scanned, enlarged into foam and had clay applied to it. That version went to the foundry where a ceramic mold was created, and the bronze was poured into that mold. Pieces of the statue created in this process later were welded together.

Frank said different “patinas” or colorations of the bronze were produced using acid to provide

color contrast and accentuate certain areas of the work.

Once installed in the park, the statue will show Tubman pointing to the North as the North Star was a key coordinate provided to the slaves allowing them to find their way along the Underground Railroad to the North, normally traveling at night when it was safe.

Frank said the total project cost of \$119,000 includes an \$80,000 combined contract for the artist and foundry, with the remainder going to the cost of the base.

The bronze portion alone weighs about 600 pounds, is 72 inches tall and was lifted onto the trailer using a forklift to lift it using straps. It eventually will rest atop an eight-inch pedestal.

La Nueva Voz

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Photos by Alex Santiago

ASSEMBLYMEMBER FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ HOSTS ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE -- Three Pomona award-winners were recognized by Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez at his ninth annual Summer Community Awards and BBQ event this month outside his district office in Chino. From left are Deborah Clifford, "Woman of the Year" (Pomona); Eddie Garcia, "Veteran of the Year" (Pomona); and Mitchell Todd, of Todd Memorial Chapel, "Small Business of the Year" (Pomona). Clifford, President of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley, is a former Diamond Bar High School teacher where she was named both "teacher of the year" and "district teacher of the year." Garcia, a Marine who was stationed at Camp Pendleton, has participated with Toys for Tots and even created his own donation program providing toys, supplies and other goods to Victory Outreach. And Todd Memorial Chapel was founded in 1905 by Walter B. Todd in a two-story frame house on North Garey Avenue, the same location where the mortuary stands today. In 1907 he had a horse and buggy which served as a hearse. Photos of that hearse hang on the wall in the office today. The family owners opened a chapel in Claremont in 1954 and, after 115 years, Todd Memorial Chapel remains a family owned and operated business serving the Pomona Valley.

Casa Colina wins 'Healthgrades' award

Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare has received the Healthgrades Outstanding Patient Experience Award for the third year in a row, placing the hospital among the top 15 percent of hospitals nationwide for patient experience, according to a news release.

The award recognizes hospitals that provide an overall outstanding patient experience based on patient survey data from the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems.

Recognition is based on a variety of factors including cleanliness, quietness, clinician communication and whether a patient would recommend the hospital to friends and family.

The evaluation used patient survey data released in January, covering patients discharged between July 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021.

"At Casa Colina, we are always looking

to learn more about how our patients and families view the care experience," said President and CEO Dr. Felice Loverso. "This ranking indicates that our patients are not just satisfied, but that they would recommend our services to friends and family, which speaks volumes about our quality and consistency."

"I am proud that Healthgrades has once again recognized Casa Colina for Outstanding Patient Experience," he added. "It's a validation of our continued commitment to patient-first care."

Casa Colina Hospital is a nonprofit provider of specialized medical and rehabilitative care for people of all ages with disabling conditions resulting from accidents, disease, or illness.

Its continuum of care includes medical-surgical and intensive care, acute rehabilitation, residential rehabilitation and long-term residential care.

Outpatient services include orthopedic and neurologic rehabilitation, physician clinics with more than 30 medical specialties, children's services, diagnostic imaging, laboratory, audiology and day treatment.

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- 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



We are evolving into more compassionate beings

By Rev. Jan Chase
Host, Compassionate Pomona

This June I traveled to England and Scotland for a family vacation. My daughter Amelia, who lives and teaches in Oslo, Norway, came, as well as my son Ben, his wife Melissa (who grew up in Mexico) and their son Alex, who is 6. The genealogist in the family, my sister Donna, also came with her husband John, bringing much family history with them. She discovered things about our family stories that I wished I had not been told.

It seems that my paternal grandmother was a Montgomery. The Montgomerys were originally Vikings from Norway who immigrated to Normandie, then to England, and then settled in Eglington, Scotland (the west coast). Apparently, they were a fierce clan who killed off their neighbors, the Cunninghams, and were known as great supporters of the Church of Scotland, which we call the Presbyterian Church.

However, back in those days, disputes between neighbors had terrifying consequences, like beheading. The Montgomery family crest shows a woman in an ancient gown, holding an anchor in her dexter (right) hand and a severed head in her sinister (left) hand. This is not a family crest that I am proud of, although I like having a strong woman in it.

We toured an ancient castle while in Scotland. The walls were 14 feet thick and made of rock to protect the residents from other clans. It did not stay standing. One

quote at the castle entry was from a friend of the castle residents who said how sweet it was to see the severed heads of their enemies on the fence posts outside the castle when he arrived.

The reason I bring this history up is that despite our political differences of opinion, despite our views on protection from COVID, most of us do not want to physically cut off the heads of our neighbors and display them on our fence posts. We have evolved from being driven entirely from our reactive reptilian brain called the amygdala to being able to respond to our neighbors' needs from a place of care and compassion.

The proof is in the many community activities that occurred during the pandemic in which people delivered food, fans, computers, information, and many other things to people that they did not even know. Emergency funds, housing help, utility help, and vaccines were widely distributed to people throughout the city. Faith groups, non-profits, Tri-City Mental Health, Pomona Unified School District, Pomona City Hall and our business community all worked together for the betterment of all.

I believe that being a "compassionate city," knowing that we proclaim ourselves as Compassionate Pomona, has helped us come together to do this lifesaving and uplifting work. We have come out of our silos, rolled up

Evolving... pg. 17

\$17.1 million for Pomona... from pg. 1

Historical Society President Deborah Clifford told La Nueva Voz the budget allocation was a complete surprise.

"We were ecstatic, amazed, thankful, joyful," she said in a telephone interview, explaining they had no idea this was coming at the time of last month's event honoring Rodriguez at the Phillips Mansion.

She said the Historical Society did submit a request to Rodriguez early this year for funding to repair the Ebell with estimates for specific needed projects.

"Our request was in the neighborhood of a half million," she said.

Clifford cautioned that the

funding is for capital improvement projects only – the state funds can be spent on building upgrades and repairs only – and that on-going fundraising will need to continue for day-to-day expenses of running the organization and keeping the lights on.

"There are a lot of things we need to do – we'll need to submit a better and fuller plan to the state," she said, adding that plans likely will need to be approved by the state and bids received from the various contractors involved.

"I think that we will be moving into some of these projects in the second half of 2023," she said, adding that Rodriguez has been incredibly helpful.

Anne Henderson installed as Pomona Lions president, sets theme of 'serving together in fellowship'

Pomona's Anne Henderson took over as president of the Pomona Host Lions Club last month as the club began its 102nd year of service on the theme "Serving Together in Fellowship."

Master of ceremonies for the event was Lion Steve Storbakken at an annual banquet, installation of officers and awards ceremony at Cachanilla Chinese Restaurant.

Other officers included Wendy Ann Stuard, first vice president; George Kopiloff, second vice president; returning treasurer Gil Smith; Secretary Ben Selters; Financial Secretary Jack Lightfoot; and directors Don Martens, Jo Fulton, Steve King, Steve Lustro, Carmen Morris, and Tail Twisters Barbara Smith and Steve Storbakken.

Steve Lustro received a Melvin Jones (founder of Lions) plaque from Lions Clubs International for meritorious service; Wendy Ann

local.

The revised plan, he said, was to have Pomona Valley Branch NAACP President Jeanette Royston lead the walk along with Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Bright Prospect Chief Executive Officer Elizabeth Zamora and Adamyk himself heading up the event.

Zamora is the fiancée of former Fairplex President and CEO Miguel Santana, now President and CEO of the Weingart Foundation in Los Angeles, which Santana told La Nueva Voz was a supporter of the event, perhaps explaining Zamora's involvement at the event.

"So we decided to keep it kind of local," Adamyk said.

But La Nueva Voz reached out to King and in a telephone interview of her own the day after last month's La Nueva Voz published, she had another explanation.

She said she "was invited to speak and then uninvited."

The conversation began, she said, after mutual associates talked about her traveling to Pomona for the event.



Anne Henderson, new president
Pomona Host Lions

Stuard received the Lion of the Year award; Jo Fulton received a Kay Fukushima award from the California Lions Foundation and a Harry Aslan Fellowship from the Fourth District Student Speaker Foundation.

Gil and Barbara Smith were recognized with a special award for organizing the club's 100th anniversary celebration last

October at the Pomona Valley Mining Company.

Outgoing president was Jackie Allen.

The club's primary focuses each year are literacy and vision. For nearly 100 years, Lions have collected used prescription glasses that are handed out at no cost at free vision screenings. The club also provides eye exams and new glasses to Pomona Unified School District students through referrals from school nurses.

And the club's literacy program, mainly through the distribution of books, is called "Roar for Reading."

This past year alone, the club provided books to be taken home to 1,001 first grade students in 13 elementary schools throughout the school district.

The club also stocks and maintains five Little Free Libraries throughout Pomona for both children and adults.

King's appearance... from pg. 4

"I believe the effort . . . is a noble venture," she added, explaining that as she understood it, the reversal came, apparently, in connection with some of the sponsors of the Pomona event.

She graciously told La Nueva Voz she appreciated the invitation "and when I was uninvited, I was fine."

Beyond that, she said, La Nueva Voz would have to talk to Adamyk for further comment.

Adamyk's response was that it "didn't have anything to do with sponsors" and that "she just didn't know."

La Nueva Voz asked Adamyk what King's fee and expenses would have been, and asked if that turned out to be the reason for the cancellation making economics the real issue.

He said the fee was "kind of private" and it was "not so much economics," although he added that economics are "always part of it."

Adamyk did not respond to an earlier e-mailed request from La Nueva Voz to see copies of letters, e-mails or contracts involving

King's appearance.

The reason for the change could have even been politics, as King is well known as a regular contributor on Fox News television.

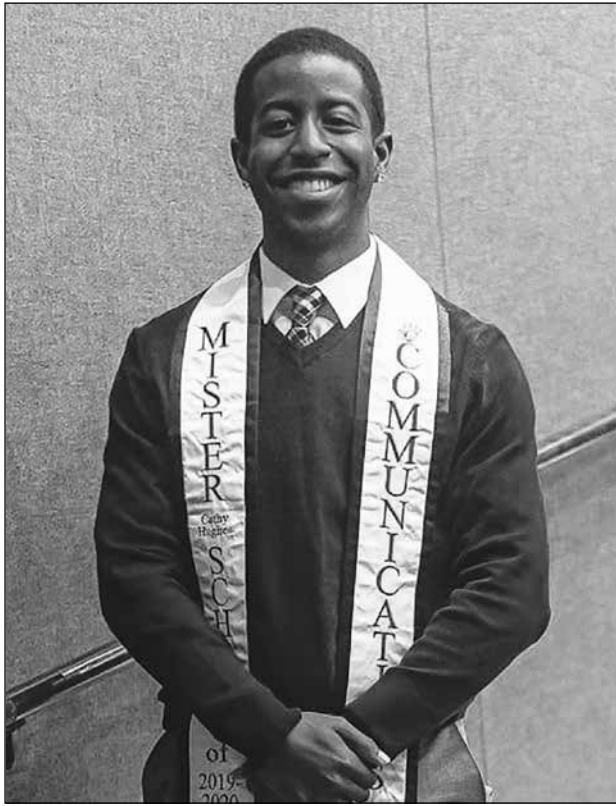
In fact, she is quoted on Wikipedia commenting on her political affiliations.

"I've been a Democrat, and I've been a Republican," she said. "I've even considered being an independent. Today, I'm just a Christian."

La Nueva Voz told Adamyk it sounded like there was something he wasn't saying in his description of what led to the change and encouraged him to check with his public relations consultant and consider adding to his statement.

He said he would do so but did not add to his response before deadline for this month's issue of La Nueva Voz.

As it turned out at the event, Royston offered the opening prayer and Zamora, who served as master of ceremonies at the event, physically led the walk out of the park and along a 10-minute half-mile loop just north of Lincoln Park.



NEW YORK BOUND! -- What a success story for a talented Pomona student! Pomona's Mykel Brown (Barfield Elementary School, Lorbeer Middle School and graduate of Diamond Ranch High School with a 3.86 grade point average) went on to Howard University in Washington, D.C., and at the age of 22 was just a member of the graduating class of 2022 with a bachelor's degree in television and film communications. But it keeps getting better -- now he has applied for and been selected for a paid internship in New York City for The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, from Sept. 6 to Dec. 15. Only thing is, moving expenses from his home, now in Maryland, are not included. He has set up a "go fund me" site to help with moving expenses and rent while he's getting on his feet in New York. Want to help? Here's the link: gofund.me/7546f584. His goal is only \$2,000.



RIBBON CUTTING DOWNTOWN FOR AAAA -- The Pomona Chamber of Commerce, City of Pomona officials and representatives of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association gathered to make it official last month and cut the ribbon for Pomona's African American Advisory Alliance cultural center. The "official" opening came both on Juneteenth and on the first anniversary of the AAAA. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares; Paula Lantz; Richard Martinez of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Shante Hall, an AAAA Board member; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; AAAA Board members Kyoni Cummings, Mia Lee and Eunice Russell; Aldo Arellano, representing Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang; Chamber Board member Jeff Johansen, of Pomona Hope; Chara Swodeck, Founding President and CEO of AAAA; Vikki Rasshan and AAAA Board member Khalif Rasshan, curators of the African American Museum of Beginnings; DPOA Board member John Pena; Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado; Pomona's Poet Laureate David Judah Oliver; Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte; Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia; and Jenny Macias, representing Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez. "The beautiful part is we are better together," Swodeck said. "We are thinking about each other." "They've done an amazing job over the last year helping people who are in need," Sandoval said. The AAAA is located at 406 W. 2nd St., Pomona.

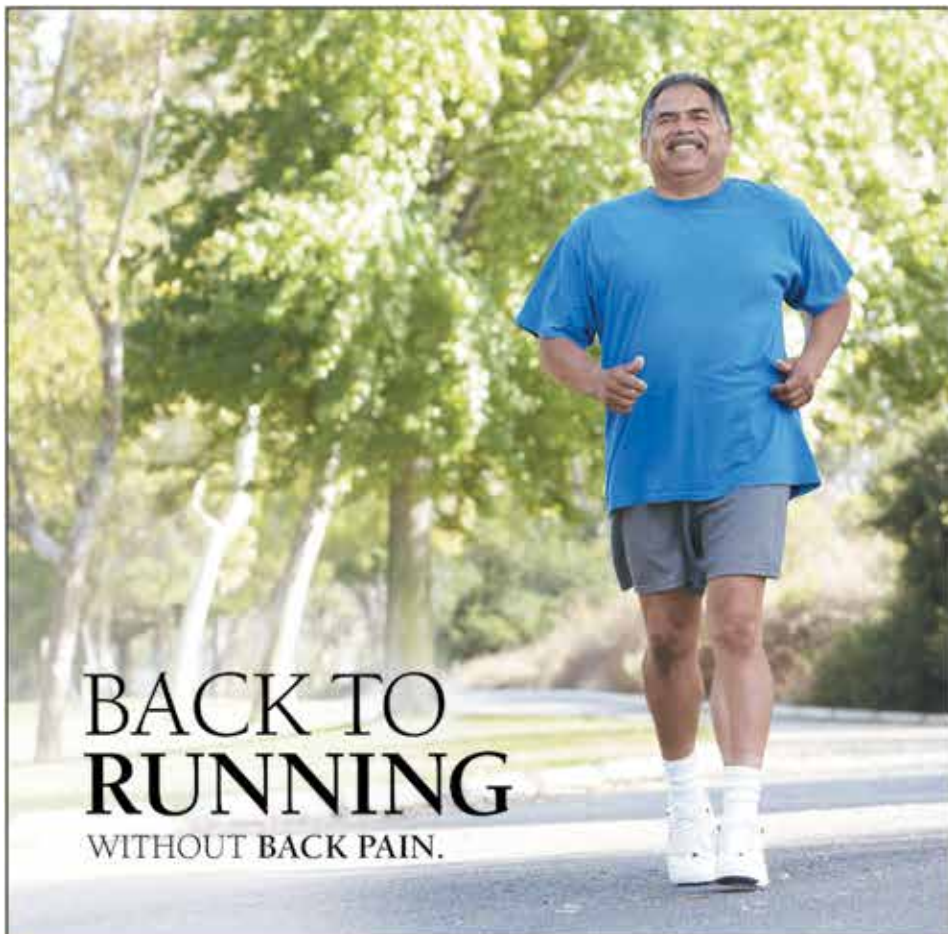
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FREE PLANTS AND PLANT SWAPPING -- Former Pomona City Councilmember Cristina Carrizosa, at right, recently attended "Plantitas," a free plant giveaway and plant swapping, in Pomona's Ralph Welch Park, all to help transform Pomona into a more livable and sustainable city, one plant at a time. The event enabled families and neighbors to come together and learn about plants and how to care for them. Ambassadors were on hand from Cal Poly University Pomona, artists were on hand from the dA Center for the Arts, and others pitched in from Pomona Optimist Club, Parents Anonymous and God's Pantry. The event was sponsored by Congresswoman Norma Torres, Councilmembers Robert Torres and Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, and City of Pomona Commissioner Jacqueline Elizalde.



IMPACT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ERA -- Pomona's Gustavo Ramirez led a poetry reading and workshop this month at Barnes & Noble in Montclair on the theme "The Impact of the Civil Rights Era on Art and Culture Today." The "round robin" reading enabled workshop participants themselves to read parts of "I am Juakin," the poetry of activist Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzalez, who was credited with starting the Chicano student movement in the 1960s, along with other works. The program was presented under a "Community Bridges - I AM" grant. Pictured, left rear, are Dee Dee Manzanares and David Ybarra, and, at right, third from rear, Pomona's Jerry Hoffman; and Ramirez (standing). Also pictured, at front right, is David Villanueva of Venice, who provided a brief historical foundation of the Chicano student movement.





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Kiwanis Division lieutenant governor calls work of Pomona club 'amazing' at 100th anniversary celebration

Kiwanis Club of Pomona was the latest local service organization to celebrate its 100-year anniversary last month with the club's Division 15 lieutenant governor calling that benchmark "pretty amazing."

"What you guys have done over that time is pretty amazing," said Bob Prior of Norco, citing the club's work in the city and with the police department along with "sponsoring" Pomona's Washington Elementary School.

Prior, speaking to nearly 200 members and guests at a special celebration at the Pomona Valley Mining Company, pointed to the club's "Shoes that Fit" program for children, as well as providing school supplies and backpacks, working with the American Cancer Society, the Pomona Police Department's Operation Santa Cop, supporting the Special Olympics and sponsoring a Key Club for high school students.

He provided a little history of Kiwanis which was formed by a group of businessmen in 1915 in Detroit, initially as a networking group although they quickly decided they wanted to do more.

"They wanted to help others in the community . . . they especially wanted to help the children," he said. And the club spread all the way to Pomona in 1922.

Chapters opened in Canada along the way and in 1964 the club became "global" and started opening clubs outside of North America. Today, some 80 countries around the world have a Ki-



Lt. Gov. Bob Prior
Kiwanis Div. 15



Mark Warren
Master of Ceremonies

wanis Club. Division 15 includes a total of 13 area clubs under Prior.

He said the Kiwanis mission is serving the children of the world.

"And that is the heart of Kiwanis," he said.

"Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child, one community at a time," he said, reading the club's mission.



Pomona's M. Joyce Bakersmith, Optimist International District Governor, presents a special certificate of recognition from the Pacific Southeast District of the Optimists to incoming and outgoing presidents of Pomona Kiwanis on their 100th anniversary. Pictured, from left, are outgoing president attorney Gino Elias, Bakersmith, and incoming president Patricia Lozano, of Western University of Health Sciences.

Outgoing club president Gino Elias, speaking on the club's local history, said Pomona Kiwanis was founded in 1922 by men with foresight regarding the needs of the community.

"These men and then later on women also joined Kiwanis," he said. "Those founding members were not only inciteful but were men of action. They were the ones that founded, organized and formed the Los Angeles County Fair."

"Our members also founded

and developed and purchased the land and built it for the Pomona Boys and Girls Club, now known as The Club," he added.

Elias said that master of ceremonies Mark Warren's dad and his own father were among the founding members of the club.

"Kiwanis is a Native American word that means 'we serve,'" he said.

And, while he said a lot of Kiwanis services were placed on hold due to COVID, they now are coming back.

"We're an apolitical organization, we come from diverse backgrounds, different religious beliefs, different ethnicities, different income levels, but the one thing that we have in common is our belief in giving back to the community, of being of service, and I think we do that well," Elias said.

The Pomona Kiwanis Club meets from noon to 1:30 p.m. every other Wednesday at the Metro Ale House in Downtown Pomona.

State American Legion Commander Jere Romano installs Post 30 officers in Pomona

California American Legion Department Commander Jere Romano, installed last month at the statewide annual convention in Visalia, visited Pomona this month to officially install Post 30 American Legion's Commander Roberto Arnold for another term.

"To you, comrade, is entrusted a very important duty of teaching and protecting the cardinal principles of the American Legion throughout your entire post," Romano, of Santa Monica, said as he presented Arnold with the gavel. "Use it wisely, use it justly."

Other officers for the year installed in the ceremonies were Sam Cafiero, first vice commander; Jay Jauregui, second vice commander; Alejandro Escobedo, finance offi-

cer; and Jeff Hodge, historian.

Arnold, originally installed three years ago at the age of 34, was believed to be the youngest ever to serve in the position in California.

Speaking to members, family and friends at an installation ceremony in Downtown Pomona, Arnold thanked the leadership team members for their service and thanked the families for the sacrifices they made when members were in the service.

Scott Sinclair of Temple City, past American Legion 18th District commander, who serves as the district's ritual team captain, reminded the new officers that the "cardinal purposes of the American Legion are the rehabilitation of our disabled comrades, the care of the

dependents of those who have answered the final call, and those who are now suffering the ravages of wounds, disease and wants," along with the "rightful education of the citizens of our country and devoted service to community, state and nation."

Kathie Martinez, past president of the Department of California American Legion Auxiliary, installed new officers of Pomona Post 30's Auxiliary, asking them to "always remember that the welfare and success of this unit depend upon you."

Stephanie Huff was installed as president and Cheryl Scholl was installed as first vice president.

Martinez, of Inglewood, reminded the new officers of the obligation



American Legion State Commander Jere Romano presents the official gavel to Post 30 American Legion Commander Roberto Arnold, who originally became Post Commander three years ago.

"of preserving the integrity of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary contributing to the

aims and purposes of our organization, the ideals of justice, freedom,



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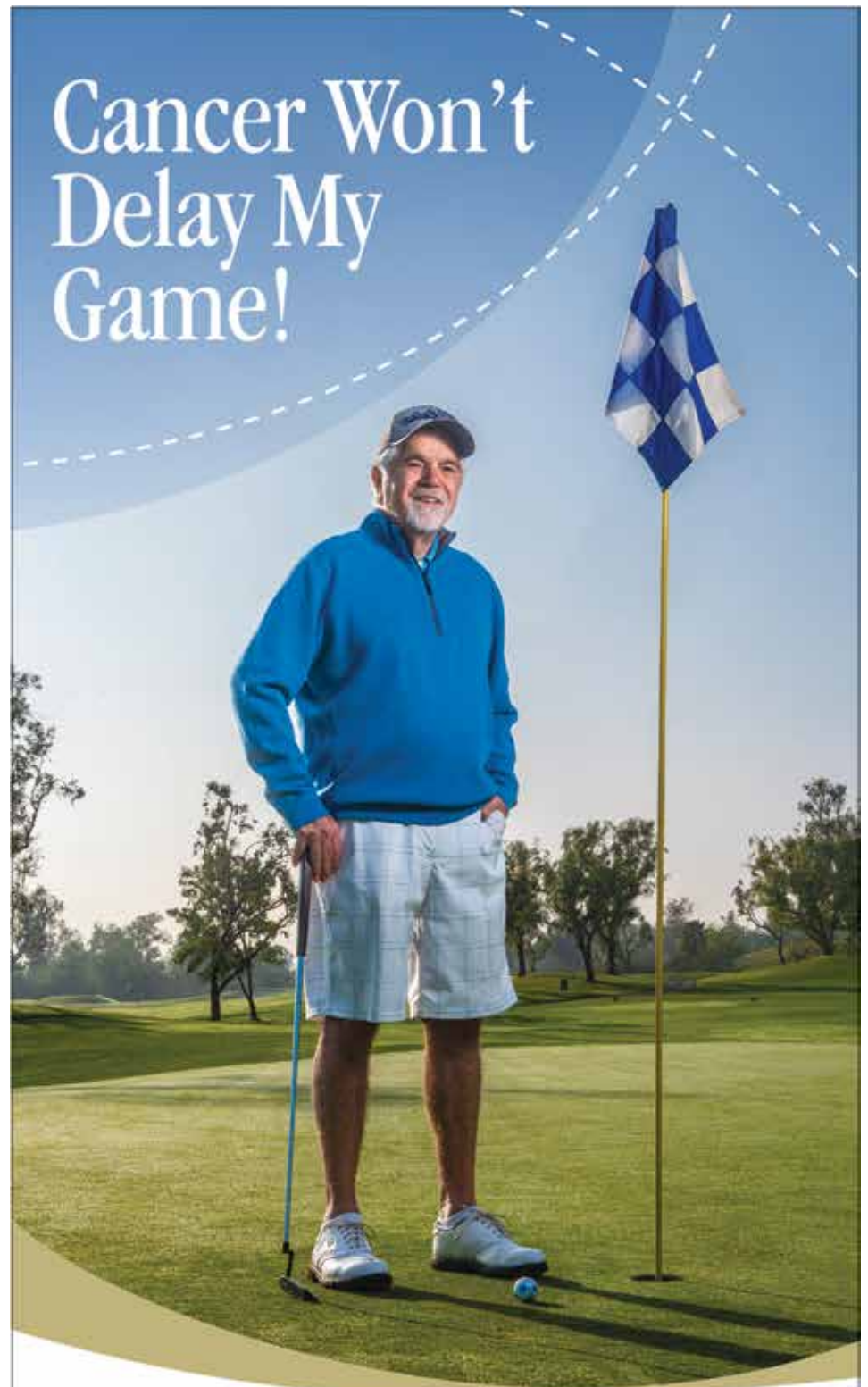
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Richard has always led an active lifestyle. You can regularly find him on the local golf course playing 18 holes with his friends. So when he began feeling unwell, he went to the doctor for a routine physical, including a screen for Prostate Cancer. A cancer diagnosis was the last thing he expected.

Thankfully, Richard was in good hands at The Robert & Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. Our experts take a team approach to provide patients with an individualized care plan and the most advanced, innovative cancer treatment options available.

Now cancer free, Richard is back on the golf course, where his golf game is his challenge, not cancer.



- **Don't delay** your care.
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POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL
 MEDICAL CENTER
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 CANCER CARE CENTER



Photo by Renee Barbee

HONORING ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS -- Representatives of Pomona's Vietnamese community honored their top students last month at an "Achievement Awards 2022" presentation at the Cultural Center of Phap Van Buddhist Temple in Pomona. High school and junior high school students with a grade point average of 4.0 and above were honored, along with students receiving college degrees. Pictured with officials are members of the Nguyen family of Montclair celebrating both a successful high school student and a college student. From left are pharmacist Tony Ha, who assisted in presenting the awards; Anna Nguyen, who received a bachelor's degree from Cal State University Los Angeles, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a 3.99 grade point average; her sister, Cindy Nguyen; Dr. Huu Vo, President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley; Thich (Reverend) Chon Tri, of the Phap Van Buddhist Temple; brother Brian Nguyen; Richard Nguyen, this year's valedictorian at Montclair High School who graduated with a grade point average of 4.77; and mom Phuong Anh. In all, five junior high school students were honored, 21 high school students received recognition, and 11 college graduates were recognized for receiving various degrees. In addition, five "special talent" awards were presented.



TIME FOR 'QUARTER MANIA' -- It was time for "Quarter Mania" this month at Pilgrim Congregational Church as the Pomona Valley Section of the National Council of Negro Women raised funds for programs using this proven high-energy, fun-filled quarter auction complete with auction paddles. Bids ranged from 25 cents to a dollar, so lots of quarters were in play during the afternoon. Pictured with their paddles at the ready are participants. Just be careful not to scratch your head with your paddle hand -- you might buy something!

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www.lanuevavoz.net
 to see the latest issue of
La Nueva Voz,
 past issues and more!



Upcoming Events at **FAIRPLEX**



NHRA Museum's Twilight Cruise Night
 August 3

Pomona Swap Meet & Classic Car Show
 August 7

**B.R.A.K.E.S. Teen Pro-Active
 Driving School**
 August 13-14

Reptile Super Show
 August 13-14

RailGiants Train Museum
 August 13-14

Fairplex Garden Railroad
 August 14

Quinceañera Magazine Expo
 August 21

The Pinner's Conference & Expo
 August 25-27

Events subject to change.

See all events at Fairplex.com



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Pomona Chamber Board reinstalled at annual installation and awards banquet



Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce board take the oath of office.

Five new members were added to the Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board, but the entire executive board was reinstalled for a “rerun” for another year at this month’s 134th annual installation and awards banquet at Pomona’s Double Tree Hotel.

Board members opted to retain all officers to enable the board to complete several projects in the works including an updating of the Chamber’s by-laws.

Board Chair Annette Limon told 170 members and guests at the event that the pandemic had an impact on Chamber activities – members worked with Pomona’s American Legion Post 30 to provide free COVID testing for a month and provided “personal protective equipment” to the community and



NEW BOARD MEMBERS -- New Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board members installed at an annual meeting this month are, from left, Frank Guzman, of the Pomona Pride Center; Grace Yao, of Cal Poly University Pomona; and Joe Perez, of the Credit Union of Southern California. Not pictured are Monique Cardenas, of the San Antonio Regional Occupational Program and Lanae O’Shields, of Southern California Gas Company, although Cardenas appeared on stage for the swearing in.



MEMBER OF THE YEAR -- Marco Argote, of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, makes a little acceptance speech after being named Pomona Chamber of Commerce “Member of the Year.” Pictured, from left, are Chamber Board Chair Annette Limon, Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte, Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares and Argote.

the business community using grant money.

And, she said, Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares was “very instrumental with the city” which was able to provide COVID relief grant money to businesses.

Limon urged members to continue getting their marketing materials to the Chamber

regarding their business resources, marketing their business, and marketing their community events “because together we are stronger, and we want to just stay in the community.”

“So, for 2022 to 2023 we’re going to be very instrumental in working with the city to continue to provide grant monies and business resource money for the community,” she added.

“Looking at the news, I see recently we’re going to declare a recession July 28, so what does that look like for the community and for businesses,” she said. “We need to continue to pull together so that we can always provide resources to each other and know what each business is doing, so continue to provide that information, what you are offering the community,

what your business is offering, what specials, anything that you are offering at your business.”

“We’ll put it out to the community of Pomona,” she said.

Continuing on the executive board this year
Chamber... pg. 14




Internet Rápido en el Hogar Puede Ser Gratis con ACP



El Programa de Descuentos Para Internet (ACP, por sus siglas en inglés), financiado por el gobierno federal, ofrece hasta \$30 al mes de descuento en Internet en el Hogar para familias de bajos ingresos. Esto significa que puede ser Gratis para los hogares que califican cuando se utiliza en un plan de servicio de Internet específico de ACP. Disfrute de todas las ventajas de Internet rápido en el Hogar de forma gratuita cuando se registra con ACP. Con velocidades de hasta 100Mbps, todos pueden disfrutar de sus intereses favoritos al mismo tiempo.

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Chamber... from pg. 13

will be Annette Limon, chair, of Puzzle HR and NOW CFO; Nef Cortez, vice chair, of Re/Max Universal Realty; Dr. Enrique Medina, immediate past president, who retired last month as head of the Pomona Unified School District adult school; Jeff Keating, chief financial officer, of Western University of Health Sciences; Renee Barbee, secretary, of La Nueva Voz; James Dale, executive officer, of Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center; and Josh Landis, executive officer, of Foothill Transit.

Continuing board members are Kirk Pelser, City of Pomona; Michael Thomas, Pomona Valley America's Job Center; Daniel Thomas, Forest Lawn; Victor Ca-

ceres, Youth and Family Club of Pomona; Daniela Franco, Metro Events Center; Leo Arredondo, Uppercuts Barber Shop; Lisa McKay, Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare; David Perez, Valley Vista Services; and Jeff Johannsen, Pomona Hope.

Incoming board members are Frank Guzman, Pomona Pride Center; Monique Cardenas, San Antonio Regional Occupational Program and Pomona Unified School District; Grace Yao, Cal Poly University Pomona; Joseph Perez, Credit Union of Southern California; and Lanae O'Shields, Southern California Gas Company.

Pomona Unified School District Interim Supt. Darren Knowles administered the oath of office and said that "partnership is what it's all about" between the Chamber and the school district.

Artego Management won this year's "Image Award" for a business that continually demonstrates "Pride in Ownership."



IMAGE AWARD -- Alex Martinez, of State Sen. Connie Leyva's office, presents a state senate certificate to Alejandra Tessier, of Artego Management, winner of this year's Pomona Chamber of Commerce "Image Award."

Trisha Manzo, of Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise, won the award for "Community Service Organization of the Year" for a non-profit demonstrating outstanding dedication to service in community efforts.

Maritza Dubie-Urbe of Los Angeles County Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services won the award for "Employer of the Year."

Downtown Pomona Owners Association's Marco Argote won the award for "Member of the Year."

And The Derby Room at Pomona's Fairplex won the award for "New Business of the Year."



COMMUNITY SERVICE -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanares, at left, presents the chamber's annual "Community Service Organization of the Year" award to Trisha Manzo of Pomona's School of Arts and Enterprise.



EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board Vice Chair Nef Cortez, at right, presents the "Employer of the Year" award to Maritza Dubie-Urbe of Los Angeles County Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services.



OATH OF OFFICE -- Pomona Unified School District Interim Supt. Darren Knowles administers the oath of office to new and returning board members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce at this month's 134th annual installation and awards banquet.

By John Fagan, MD

If you're advancing in age, it's time to get serious about osteoporosis. Up to 50 percent of women and 20 percent of men will suffer painful fractures in their lifetime as a result of this bone disease.

Osteoporosis is defined as low bone mass and strength, and it can lead to debilitating fractures in the spine, hip, and forearms. Osteoporosis also may develop due to fractures in the body obtained from minimal trauma – such as a fall from standing height – regardless of bone density.

Such injuries may lead to serious complications. A hip fracture, for example, has a nearly 25 percent mortality rate in the first year! Most hip fracture patients spend time in skilled nursing facilities or rehabilitation, and up to 40 percent require use of a cane, walker, or wheelchair.

Currently it is recommended that women 65 years or older, women 60 or older with risk factors, and men 60 or older with low testosterone be screened every one to five years, depending on current bone density. Other risk factors include:

- 1) Thyroid disease
- 2) Low weight, white, and female
- 3) Low physical activity or wheelchair bound
- 4) Smoking and excessive alcohol use
- 5) Chronic illness requiring long-term steroid therapy

Risk for osteoporosis is determined through a bone mineral density test. Depending on the result, your doctor may recommend continued monitoring or treatment. Treatment is typically recommended for patients with bone density of -2.5 or less, as well as for patients with minimal trauma



Dr. John Fagan

fractures.

Because bone density testing is not perfectly accurate, there is another test to determine risk: the FRAX calculation considers the patient's age, weight, and other health factors to calculate the 10-year risk of a hip or spine fracture. If the 10-year risk is greater than 3 percent for hip or 20 percent for

spine, treatment is recommended.

There are two pharmacologic treatments for osteoporosis: anti-resorptive medications, which block the breakdown of bone, and anabolic therapies, which increase bone mass and strength. Treatment options should be individualized according to the patient's unique needs. Your doctor also will recommend regular physical activity, smoking cessation, moderate alcohol and caffeine intake, and adequate Vitamin D intake.

Keep yourself healthy and independent. Learn more about risk factors for osteoporosis in Casa

Colina's Senior Evaluation Program, which offers referrals for DEXA scan bone density screening for patients who meet certain criteria, performed conveniently on campus at the Casa Colina Diagnostic Imaging Center. For more information about the Senior Evaluation program, please call (909) 596-7733, ext. 3800.

Editor's Note: Dr. John Fagan is board-certified in geriatric and family medicine, and is Program Medical Director of Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare's Senior Evaluation Program.

Osteoporosis: Get Screened!

Please visit

La Nueva Voz on Instagram

(@reneebarbee7)

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon appears in Pomona to honor Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez

California Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood), visiting Pomona to honor his friend Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez at an event last month at Pomona's historic Phillips Mansion, told guests that after working with Rodriguez for the past 10 years he knows "how incredibly important his community is to him."

Rendon appeared at the "An Evening under the Stars" fundraiser that raised more than \$10,000 for the Historical Society of Pomona Valley.

"When Freddie wakes up in the morning he thinks about this community and what he can do to make sure this community gets all the services that they need," Rendon said.

"So you're lucky to have him representing you, I'm lucky, incredibly lucky to have served with him for the past 10 years and to have a friend for life in Freddie Rodriguez and in Michelle and the Rodriguez family," he added. "So thank you for honoring Freddie and thanks for all that you do."

The event honored both Rodriguez for his contributions to historic preservation and Pomona's Alice Gomez as volunteer of the year.

In accepting her award from Historical Society Board member Mike Schowalter, Gomez, a board member of the Historical Society since 2006, said she was born and raised in Pomona, "and my barrio is 12th Street and I'm proud of it."

She explained that barrio included the Mendoza family on her mom's side and that Candelario Mendoza (founder of the original La Voz more than 40 years ago) was her uncle.

But she said that on the other side, 11th Street, her dad's side, was the Rodriguez side.

"I know that from the heavens those family members are looking down on this young lady that was definitely there and wish always for the families to be together, to share their stories, especially from the barrios that people do not know about," she said. "We've got to extend that out so that people understand where we came from, what we had to endure within our group."

Gomez pointed out Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board member Danielle Soto in

the audience and said that Soto's grandmother, Nell Soto, former state senator, assembly member and Pomona city council member, was in her parents' wedding.

"There's a kinship that a lot of you may not know," Gomez added – her dad and Rodriguez' dad are brothers.

She thanked the Historical Society for the award and thanked members for bringing fourth graders throughout Pomona Unified School District to the Palomares Adobe for tours.

"They needed to know what was in their back yard," she said.

Schowalter, resident host of the adobe, said the group has been offering school tours for local fourth graders from other school districts for more than 30 years but this year for the first time Pomona Unified was able to participate.

He said the result was 2,500

children toured the adobe over the last school year.

"We could have never done it without Alice," he said, referring to her willingness and ability to share the history of the adobe with the kids.

Historical Society President Deborah Clifford told guests that "local history has a special place in my heart."

"As Americans, we are very much focused on today and how we can make tomorrow better for our families, for our communities," she said. "But without the

Rodriguez honored... pg. 16



California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon



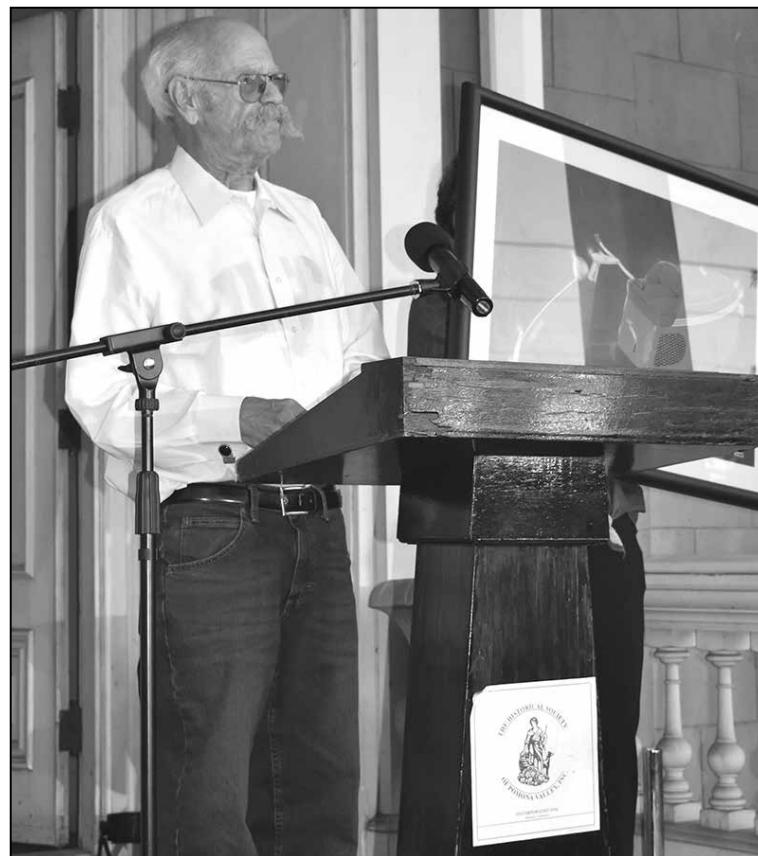
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR -- Historical Society Board member Mike Schowalter, at left, presents the board's "Volunteer of the Year" award to Board member Alice Gomez.



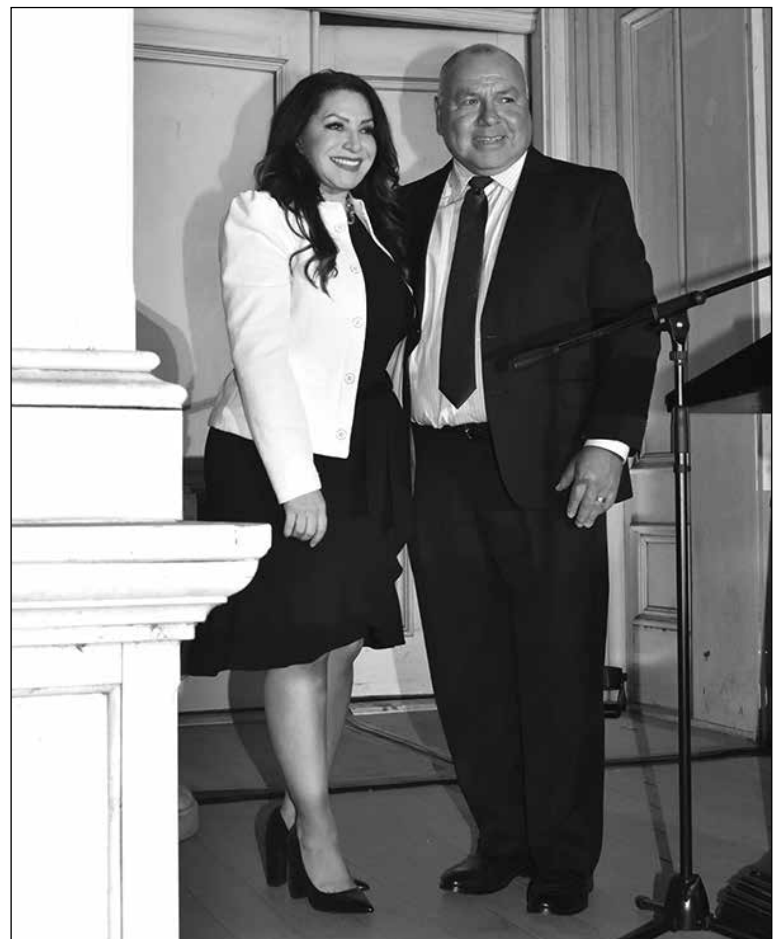
JACOBUS AWARD WINNER -- Historical Society of Pomona Valley President Deborah Clifford presents the 2022 Jacobus Award to Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez last month at an event at historic Phillips Mansion.



California Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon poses for a photo in front of Phillips Mansion in Pomona. From left are Michelle Rodriguez, Rendon, and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez.



History buff Jeff Hodge explains the Pomona history of Wayne Sweeper and Vanguard Scooter (street sweeper manufacturing companies) and Salsbury Scooters (see poster of the scooter at right), built at the Salsbury Motors Pomona plant going back to the 1930s and 1940s. He said the scooter was said to influence the Vespa scooter when one of the scooters was taken to Europe to find investors. The scooter company eventually was sold to Wayne Sweeper. Hodge, who once worked for Vanguard Sweeper, has gifted his entire estate to the Historical Society.



State Sen. Susan Rubio and Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez pose for photos on the front porch of the Phillips Mansion last month.

OPINION

Promoviendo la equidad digital en Los Ángeles por medio del nuevo programa de internet a bajo costo

Por la supervisora del condado de Los Ángeles, Hilda Solis

A pesar de ser uno de los principales centros tecnológicos del país, Los Ángeles también es hogar de una división digital que esta muy arraigada y previene que miles de Latinos aprovechen de los recursos que les ayudarían a tener una mejor calidad de vida. La razón principal es el alto costo de internet. Aunque más del 80% de los hogares en Los Ángeles tienen acceso a internet de banda ancha en casa, comunidades como el Este de Los Ángeles, El Monte y Sur El Monte tienen porcentajes significativamente más bajos que el resto de las comunidades en el Condado y en California.

En un tiempo donde las familias Latinas de clase trabajadora apenas se recuperan de los efectos negativos de la pandemia, también deben lidiar con los gastos para el hogar con los más altos niveles de inflación en 40 años. Como resultado, estas familias se ven obligados a priorizar la renta y la comida, quedándose con muy poco dinero para los demás gastos. Para estas familias, tener acceso a

internet a bajo costo no sería un lujo, sino una acomodación muy necesaria. Dicho acceso, traería las herramientas necesarias para la educación, oportunidades de empleo, servicios de salud por internet, recursos financieros, y muchísimo más.

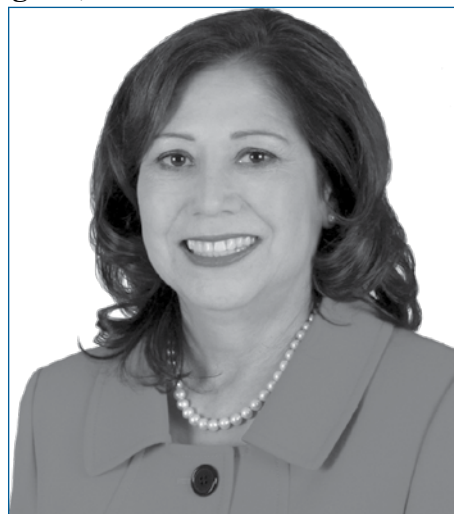
Esta brecha en el acceso digital es muy evidente a través del Primer Distrito, donde más de 95,600 hogares no tienen acceso a internet. Aunque algunas familias tienen algún tipo de servicio, los altos costos junto con los bajos salarios hacen que sea increíblemente difícil estar al día con los pagos de servicio de internet.

Abordar la equidad digital es una de mis prioridades principales. Por esa razón, las otras Supervisoras y yo estamos trabajando juntas para asegurarnos que las familias que califiquen tengan la ayuda necesaria para aplicar al Programa de Conectividad Asequible (ACP por sus siglas en inglés). Gracias a fondos federales, esta iniciativa ayudará a las familias que califiquen a ahorrarse \$30 mensuales en in-

ternet de alta velocidad. Incluso, este descuento puede utilizarse en otros paquetes de internet de bajo costo para que su factura mensual de internet les salga gratis. Aquellas personas que califican también pueden aprovechar la oportunidad de recibir \$100 de descuento al comprar una computadora o tableta de proveedores participantes.

El ACP fue lanzado este año por la Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones (FCC, por sus siglas en inglés), con el objetivo de reemplazar el Beneficio de Emergencia para Internet (EBB) que terminó en diciembre del 2021. Pero a diferencia de este, el ACP fue diseñado como un programa duradero y se espera que ayude a miles de familias por cuatro años o más.

El formulario para dicho programa fue diseñado de una manera que sea fácil y entendible para los aplicantes y está disponible en español, chino, vietnamita, y coreano. Adicionalmente, las



Hilda Solis,
Supervisora del Condado de Los Ángeles

personas con beneficios de Medi-Cal, CalFresh o Lifeline califican automáticamente. También, los beneficios del programa ACP están disponibles para las personas que reciben beneficios del

WIC o que tienen ingresos igual o inferior al 200% del nivel federal de pobreza. Los estudiantes que reciben ayuda financiera Pell Grant y almuerzo con descuento o gratuito en las escuelas también son elegibles.

Para que el Condado de Los Ángeles llegue a un nivel de verdadera equidad digital, todos deben actuar. El programa ACP es una oportunidad demasiado buena para desperdiciarla. Si usted o alguien que conoce ya sea un vecino, pariente o amigo está teniendo dificultades para pagar el alto costo del internet en el hogar, llame al (866) 480-3615 o visite <https://www.internetforallnow.org/aplicahoy> para obtener más información y llenar la solicitud.

Rodriguez honored... from pg. 15

anchor of history we don't have the perspective we need to see our way through sometimes."

"The Historical Society's job as I see it is to focus on this particular small scope called Pomona Valley and collect it against the day when one of our kids wants to write about the orange industry or business development in the 1950s, or how the Arts Colony began," she said. "And then our job as local historians is to make that as available as we can to educate and to inspire so that none of this is lost."

"We must move into the digital age with our collections without losing the buildings that people can walk into like this one," she said, referring to the Phillips Mansion behind her. "We must share history with people not only on line because that's very valuable, but in places where it happened."

And she said the group is always looking for docents available to work with tours through the various buildings even if only on occasion.

Clifford presented the group's

2022 Jacobus Award to Rodriguez "in recognition of your lifetime dedication to the City of Pomona . . . this is your history too, and we thank you for it."

Rodriguez accepted the award, recounting his youth living in South Pomona, going to (then) Hamilton Elementary School, Fremont Junior High School and Garey High School.

"I can still remember to this day, especially in junior high going into high school, that people told me that 'Freddie, you know your chances of success are going to be very slim to none,'" he said.

"Truth be told that no, that's not the case for a lot of folks, and I'm just one example of that," he added.

He recalled growing up across the street from Ralph Welch Park and remembered seeing citrus groves there before it became a park. And he said the original city dump was across the street on the west side, later becoming a brick yard with brick dust from the facility being used to color the infield of Dodger Stadium.

Rodriguez said that elective office was never something he wanted to do but his work to encourage the city to complete renovation of the park across the street from his home inspired him to run for office – all "to bring kids out, get them off the street, get them involved in a sport."

And on another historical note, he said he was born in Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and his wife was born in Ontario Community Hospital, and both of their grandfathers worked in the citrus fields together picking oranges and lemons. The Jacobus Award was named after Sarah Jacobus, Pomona's librarian, who in 1916 was instrumental in founding the Historical Society.

State Sen. Susan Rubio, who is expected to represent Pomona after November due to redistricting, appeared at the event and told guests that Rodriguez is "constantly working on your behalf – we collaborate on a lot of things."


She said she hopes to continue the partnership now that her district includes Pomona.

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

Evolving... from pg. 6

our sleeves, and come together through a variety of meetings to address needs compassionately. Some of these meetings include the Mayor's COVID Action Team (off for the summer); the Community Engagement Board (open to all on the second Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m., Meeting ID: 852 4727 4903 Passcode: 146795); and our Compassionate Pomona meetings (available to all most first and third Thursdays of each month on Zoom at Zoom Meeting ID: 875 3483 3472).

We have not achieved perfection. However, as many religious traditions teach, we are certainly on our way to creating a more enlightened, compassionate city and world.

As Unity New Thought author Robert Brumet writes in his book, *Birthing a Greater Reality*, "Crises are evolutionary drivers which stimulate astounding design innovation. The innovation now needed is to understand and cooperate with the processes that create us."

Christian minister and civil

rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., shares great wisdom on this subject of human evolution. "Sooner or later all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace . . . If this is to be achieved, man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."

From our Sufi Muslim friend Hazrat Inayat Khan we hear, "The world is evolving from imperfection towards perfection; it needs all love and sympathy; great tenderness and watchfulness is required from each one of us."

And our Baha'I leaders quote Baha'u'llah, "Humanity's evolution has been marked by such progressive stages of social organization as family, tribe, city-state and nation. Bahá'u'lláh's express purpose was to usher in the next and ultimate stage, namely, world unity -- the harbinger of the Great Peace foretold in the world's religions."

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN VISITS POMONA

-- Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, a global humanitarian, spiritual leader and peace envoy, who has been teaching breath-based meditation techniques for health and well-being for more than 40 years, made a public appearance last month in the Pomona Unified School District administration building's auditorium during an on-going tour around the country on the theme "I Stand for Peace." He has appeared at the U.S. Capitol, Harvard University, National Geographic, the California Legislature and more. "All of you together . . . make

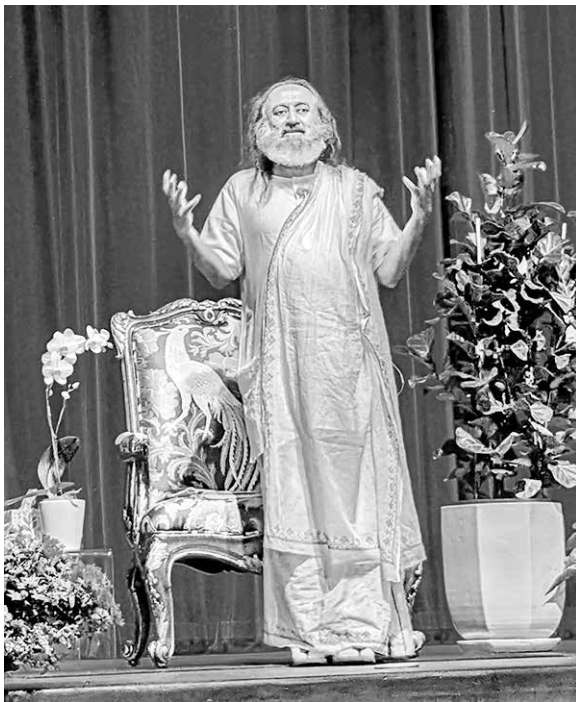


Photo by Renee Barbee

this Pomona city even much better," he told the group of about 200. And, he added, the world belongs to no government, no authority, because they are all connected. "It all belongs to one world family, the path of one human society."



NEW HOME FOR POMONA PRIDE CENTER -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce and city officials helped open the new home of the Pomona Pride Center last month with a ceremonial ribbon cutting. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Unified School District Interim Supt. Darren Knowles; Marco Argote of the Downtown Pomona Owners Association; Pomona Unified School Board member Lorena Gonzalez; Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; the center's founder and board president Frank Guzman; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval; Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado; and various center board members. The mission of the center is to provide social and emotional and support services to the LGBTQ+ communities along with educational and arts programs and advocacy. The center opened three years ago in Pomona's St. Paul's Episcopal Church but recently moved to the new location in Downtown Pomona. The center is at 386 S. Thomas St.

Garey to close for four days for Gold Line construction

A full street closure of North Garey Avenue at the railroad crossing is scheduled around the clock from July 29 to Aug. 2, according to Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority officials.

Crews will be working to replace the existing Metrolink track and then repave the work zone as part of the on-going construction

of the light rail project.

Garey will shut down to all traffic -- including pedestrian traffic -- at 7 a.m. Friday, July 29, and reopen at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 2.

During the closure, access to the Metrolink station will not be available from the Garey Avenue side.

Another Garey Avenue closure will be required later this year to

complete the crossing reconstruction. Specific timing will be announced later.

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

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Assemblymember Rodriguez announces \$250 million in state budget for multifamily housing seismic retrofitting

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez held a news conference in Ontario last week announcing the allocation of \$250 million in next year's 2023-2024 General Fund of the Budget Act to launch the Seismic Retrofitting Program for Soft Story Multifamily Housing.

Rodriguez thanked his sponsor, the U.S. Resiliency Council, which partnered with him in the effort.

He said providing financial assistance to owners of soft-story multifamily housing for seismic retrofitting is essential to protecting those most vulnerable to disaster in an earthquake.

Rodriguez cited estimates of the U.S. Resiliency Council that as many as 2.5 million Californians may live in these older, soft-story multifamily units that were not built to withstand a major earthquake.

"Our disaster-prone state is overdue for another earthquake of similar scale to the 1994

Northridge earthquake, and this program will ensure the protection of our most vulnerable Californians," he said. "As a lifelong first responder, I have responded to thousands of 911 calls that have taught me we can never be over-prepared for emergencies."

He added that when he responded to the Northridge earthquake, he saw deaths, injuries and collapsed buildings that could have been prevented.

"I am proud to have championed this funding and am certain this program will prevent unnecessary destruction, injuries and deaths," Rodriguez said.

He cited studies that show retrofitting existing affordable housing costs \$5,000 to \$10,000 per unit, while producing new affordable housing in California costs between \$575,000 and \$800,000 per unit.

"This funding is an investment that will avoid disaster losses far greater than these retrofit costs," he said.



GETTING AN EARLY START ON TOYS FOR THE HOLIDAYS -- Members of the Pomona Eagles, led by the Eagles Auxiliary, held a toy drive at their headquarters in Pomona this month on July 3, giving the event a Fourth of July theme. Pictured behind a huge table of donated gifts (and the collection was growing) are Eagles and Auxiliary members including, back row, second from left, Eagles President Dennis Campbell, and Eagles Board members Freddie Pacheco fourth from right, and Dick Lotz, head trustee, third from right. Sixth from right is 50-year member Terry Huver. Eagles Auxiliary President Janine Hernandez, fifth from right, was instrumental in organizing the event after learning a Pomona Police Department storage locker filled with holiday toys for the kids had been burglarized.



'COLD SHOT' APPEARS AT POMONA EAGLES -- Members of the band Cold Shot took the tempo and the temperature up a few notches this month at the Pomona Eagles by providing a little music they call "rock and blues for all generations" during an early holiday toy drive, turning the event into a combination party and fundraiser.

Public service ad courtesy of La Nueva Voz (created by Joshua Swodeck)

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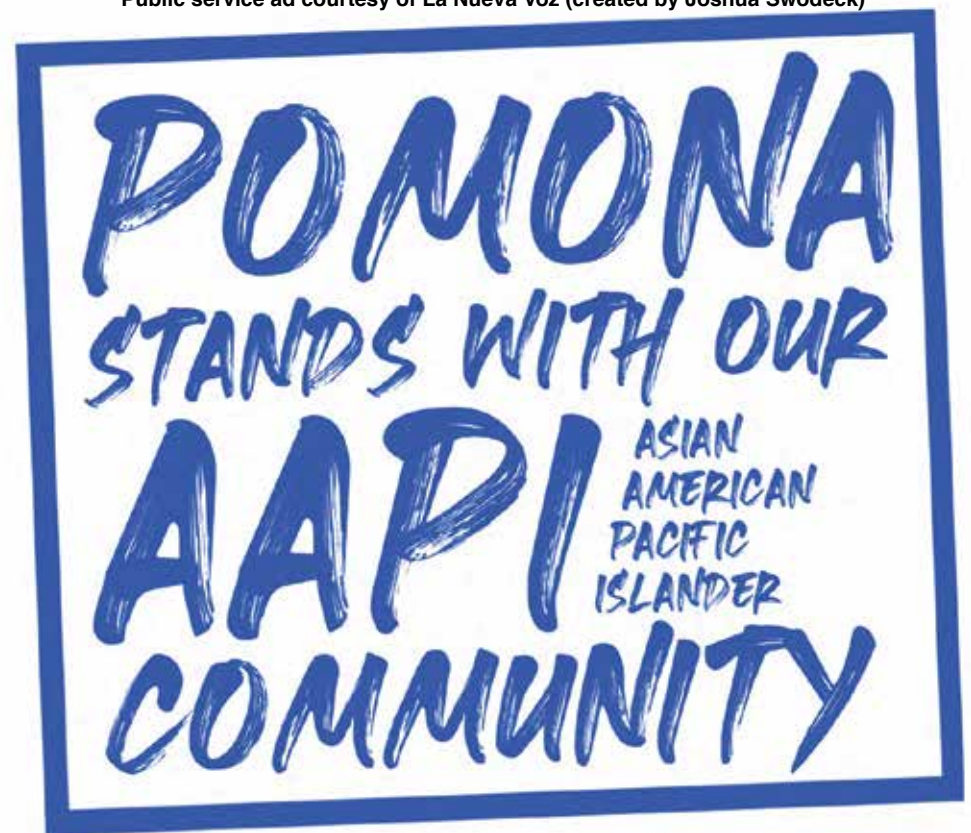


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Post 30 officers... from pg. 9

democracy and loyalty.”

Romano also installed officers of Post 30's Legion Riders, a band of American Legion members who ride their motorcycles at official functions ranging from participating in the annual POW/MIA Rally held each Memorial Day weekend in Washington, D.C., sponsoring or participating in local charity events in support of the American Legion post, sponsoring or participating in fundraising motorcycle runs, raising money for organizations like veterans hospitals, battered women and children's groups, and participating in memorial ceremonies and community parades, funerals and

more.

Bob Radcliff, founder of the group, was re-installed as president. Others installed included Sean Liske, road captain and chaplain; Paul Estrada, sergeant at arms; and Stephanie Huff, secretary.

“Riders . . . ride with pride, ride far, and ride safely for the principles and ideals of the American Legion,” Romano said in his charge to the riders.

The Post 30 Legion Riders group was formed two years ago under the direction of Radcliff.

Post 30 will hold a fundraising veterans gala with full details to be announced at a later date.



LEGION AUXILIARY -- Kathie Martinez, at left, past president of the Department of California American Legion Auxiliary, installs Stephanie Huff, center, as president of Pomona Post 30's American Legion Auxiliary and Cheryl Scholl, at right, as her first vice president.



POST 30 LEADERSHIP -- Taking the oath of office this month from American Legion State Commander Jere Romano are Pomona's Post 30 American Legion officers, from left, Jeff Hodge, historian; Alejandro Escobedo, finance officer; Jay Jauregui, second vice commander; Sam Cafiero, first vice commander; and Roberto Arnold, post commander.



LEGION RIDERS -- American Legion Post 30's Legion Riders, a ceremonial motorcycle group, were sworn in this month in Pomona by State Commander Jere Romano. Pictured, from left, are Sean Liske, road captain and chaplain; Paul Estrada, sergeant at arms; Stephanie Huff, secretary; Bob Radcliff, president; and Scott Sinclair, American Legion District 18 ritual team captain.



Photo courtesy of Pomona Valley Hospital

ANOTHER CHANCE AT LIFE! -- Victor Ramirez, now 25, suffered severe head trauma last year in a motorcycle accident near his home in Montclair. His heart stopped for several minutes in the ambulance, but paramedics revived him and rushed him to the trauma center at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center in Pomona where he survived. He spent five weeks in the “Level II” trauma intensive care unit, and after two weeks there went into respiratory failure. He was stabilized and began to improve once again. He regained consciousness more than five weeks later and went through months of hard work re-learning how to walk and regain strength. He returned to work in January and his progress continues. He is active, according to hospital officials, and works out three days a week. He stopped by the hospital last month to celebrate the one-year anniversary of this success story with the nurses and doctors who saved his life. “I don't think I'll be riding a motorcycle again,” he said, adding he is very grateful and wants to continue his treatment at Pomona Valley Hospital. “Doctors save lives there.” Pictured in front of the hospital outpatient pavilion is Ramirez, at center, with his mother, Belen Ramirez, and his girlfriend, Juliette Martinez. From left, at center, are trauma physician Dr. Michael Andrews, Belen Ramirez, Juliette Martinez, Victor Ramirez, and Dr. Danielle Dobbs. Both doctors were instrumental in helping save Victor's life.

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AWARD

POMONA'S 'COVID HOTEL' STORY

La Nueva Voz series places in statewide news competition!

Pomona's only community newspaper grabs a win in competition with total of 1,080 entries in all categories

La Nueva Voz has been recognized by the California News Publishers Association for its work in "investigative reporting" last year. It was the first time the newspaper has entered any news competition.

The annual CNPA competition included 1,080 entries in all categories from newspapers both large and small throughout California.

The award, for a three-part series "Alleged improprieties and abuses at Pomona's 'COVID Hotel,'" the largest isolation and quarantine facility in the nation, was a fifth-place win in the category for weeklies and monthlies with a circulation of 11,000 and below.

Allegations in the series included everything from double counting of patients and double billing to allegations of drugs and alcohol being used to keep "patients" from leaving, all to keep billings up. And there was even a "follow the money" angle at the end when sources alleged doctors running the facility were paying outside staff more than county employees and pocketing portions of the inflated charges – all while allegedly taking improper and illegal advantage of contracts with both the County of Los Angeles and the federal government.

"We were thrilled to be recognized by our peers for this work," said Publisher Jeff Schenkel. "Our Renee Barbee opened an envelope in the mail containing inside information from our first source. We took a close look and our investigation and resulting three-part series plus an editorial just grew from there."

The judge's comment, in part, said the series contained "some interesting elements" and "serious allegations."

"This was an important story told to us by sources – many confidential – who worked inside the hotel during its time as a COVID isolation facility, along with others – including officials in Los Angeles County government – outside the hotel," Schenkel said.

He said while apparently no criminal prosecution has resulted from the series, one key source credited the La Nueva Voz series with the COVID use of Pomona's Fairplex Hotel shutting down earlier than planned to avoid further investigation.

"Thanks to our many sources who trusted us with their information and told us we were relating a story that many people on the inside wanted to be told but could not tell it themselves without risking their jobs," Schenkel added.

The series ran in January, February and March 2021. An editorial calling on the county "to take action – and tell people about it" appeared in the La Nueva Voz April 2021 issue. And a year later none of the law enforcement agencies which had been looking into the allegations has announced charges or indictments.

Yet the series was the most read and most talked about story in the 13-year history of La Nueva Voz which, of course, picked up where the old La Voz left off after its own 28-year run in Pomona.

No other newspaper attempted to investigate the complex story.

The entire series can be found in the January through April files under "past issues" at www.lanuevavoz.net. January through March stories begin on page one. The April editorial appears on page six.

La Nueva Voz was accepted as a member of CNPA by the organization's board last fall.



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