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Pomona Chamber of Commerce



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Director of U.S. Patent Office visits Garey High School to present patents to team of graduates for medical electronics invention

Kathi Vidal, Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, visited Pomona's Garey High School last week to personally deliver official U.S. patents to eight members of a team of young inventors who in 2017 – when they were high school sophomores and juniors – conceived, designed and developed a prototype of a medical device.

The team, called an InvenTeam, was part of a program sponsored by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and The Lemelson Foundation which celebrates outstanding inventors and inspires young people to pursue creative careers through invention.

Garey was one of only 15 schools in the country five years ago to receive a \$10,000 grant to cover costs associated with a “real world” invention, in this case a

previously unavailable home medical device.

It was the first time Garey High School was selected to participate in the program.

Vidal was introduced to more than 100 parents, students and friends in the Garey gymnasium Saturday by Dan Choi, a patent attorney with Microsoft, who helped the students register their patent under Microsoft's #MakeWhatsNext Patent Program.

“I have prosecuted many patents in my lifetime but this one was special,” Choi said. “It is an amazing achievement for the inventors,



GAREY HIGH SCHOOL GRADS RECEIVE PATENT FOR INVENTION -- Diana Valencia, a member of the Garey High School “InvenTeam” that formed in 2017, is the first of eight team members to receive her copy of the official U.S. patent last week from Kathi Vidal, at left, Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. It was Valencia's grandfather, a diabetes patient, whose illness inspired their invention -- a diagnostic medical device to monitor foot health.

for the school, and it's the kind of work that makes me really proud to be a patent attorney.”

Vidal also was impressed.

“Of all the accomplishments that Dan mentioned, my proudest is that on July 12, 2022, I issued a U.S. patent to these inventors,” she said.

“I am excited for your innovation, I am excited for your patent and I am excited that you exemplify the American dream,” Vidal said. “You stand for all the youth, the immigrants, the first generation Americans, the women and the diverse

people who need access to our innovation ecosystem.”

“Today we celebrate you as a part of history just like Albert Einstein, Jamie Lee Curtis (actress who invented improved diapers), Hedy Lamarr (actress who invented frequency jumping to avoid broadcasting interference in torpedoes), Mary Kies, who received the first patent as a woman in 1809 (her invention was a new technique for weaving straw with silk or thread),” Vidal added.

“You are now part of history and boy, how far we have come,” she said. “We celebrate not only the award of the patent but your contributions to America – by disclosing your innovation in your U.S. patent, you have now given it to the world so that everybody can build on it and help solve diabetes problems for many Americans and many people from around the world.”

“The (U.S.) Secretary of Commerce and I have founded the Council for Inclusive Innovation where we are working across this country to incentivize more innovation by more people throughout the country,” Vidal said. “I look forward to working with the Lemelson Foundation, Microsoft and each one of you on that collec-

Dr. Felice Loverso, stepping down this fall as leader of Pomona's Casa Colina, honored at annual 'Tribute to Courage'

Dr. Felice Loverso, President and CEO of Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare since 1998 and who plans to retire this fall, told La Nueva Voz on his way in to the annual “Tribute to Courage Gala” and its 940 guests last week that it has been a “humbling experience” to lead the organization.

“What an honor it has been to be part of this institution for 25



Dr. Felice Loverso

years,” he said. “It's an unbelievable organization.

This year's gala at the Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center included a “Tribute to Dr. Loverso” in addition to special recognition of honorees.

Then what was his single biggest accomplishment in those 25 years?

“I believe seriously that the biggest accomplishment is our

physician-led model that we created and instituted, bringing it from the East Coast to the West Coast, and it really resulted in incredible patient outcomes and a diversity of disorders that we can treat because more doctors came onto our campus,” Loverso said.

La Nueva Voz asked how the construction of the new hospital on the Casa Colina campus fac-

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Take Action

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September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Suicide Prevention Week (September 4-10, 2022) and World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10, 2022) is a time when people and organizations across the world come together to spread the message that everyone can help prevent suicide and to remember loved ones who have died by suicide. California's statewide campaign, *Know the Signs*, has announced this year's Suicide Prevention Week theme: *Thriving At All Ages*. Throughout our communities, many people are continuing to experience mental health challenges, trauma, burn-out and fatigue due to the prolonged impacts of the pandemic and natural disasters. To support this initiative, people of all ages are encouraged to take action for suicide prevention by recognizing the importance of strengthening resilience, connectedness with others, and their physical and emotional wellness.

Part of thriving is knowing when to reach out for help and knowing how to help someone else who may need it. If you are feeling overwhelmed or hopeless, or are concerned about someone you know, know you are not alone. For immediate help call or text 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Trained counselors are available 24/7 for free and confidential support for people in distress, as well as prevention and crisis resources.

Together, we can take action for suicide prevention by knowing the signs for suicide, finding the words to check in with someone we are concerned about, and reaching out to resources. Join Tri-City Mental Health Authority in changing the conversation from suicide to suicide prevention and promoting actions that can foster healing, wellness and hope. Scan the QR Code for resources and more information on actions you can take right now to support yourself and those around you.




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Pomona ranked 40th best city in nation for farmers markets

Pomona has been ranked number 40 in the nation for “best cities for farmers markets,” according to Lawn Love’s 2022 rankings.

Pomona’s farmers market had an overall score of 42.18 with an “access” rank of 93, “quality” rank of 84, “convenience” rank of 8 and “affordability” rank of 177.

To put it in perspective, number one on the list was New York with an overall score of 63.13, an “access” rank of 1, a “quality” rank of 22, a “convenience” rank of 1 and an “affordability” rank of 170.

Los Angeles had an overall score of 55.55 and Pasadena had an overall score of 40.31.

At the bottom of the list of 186 cities was Sioux Falls with an overall score of 19.72.

Cities were judged based on walkable

and public transit-friendly conditions, along with nice weather and the number of highly rated farmers markets.

Also considered was average consumer spending on typical farmers market products.

According to a news release, California produces more than one third of the nation’s vegetable supply and is a leading player in the organic agriculture industry. The state dominated the ranking, with six cities included in the top 10 list – San Francisco (2), Los Angeles (3), Salinas (4), Orange (6), San Diego (7) and Fullerton (8).

Lawn Love, working in the lawn care industry, takes a high-tech approach to a traditionally low-tech sector providing independent lawn care professionals with a service tailored to the customer’s needs.

Final Gold Line ‘full closure’ at Fulton Road to open by Oct. 28

The Fulton Road railroad crossing in La Verne and Pomona was closed for a period expected to be up to 45 days beginning last Monday, Sept. 12, as part of the 9.1-mile Foothill Gold Line light rail project from Glendora to Pomona.

Officials with the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority said the full closure was needed to install new light rail tracks and Metrolink train control, complete bridge “wing walls” and retaining

walls, and complete roadway and hardscape.

The closure originally was expected to begin Sept. 6 according to information provided to La Nueva Voz and published in last month’s issue.

It is expected to be the final full closure at the Fulton Road location.

Daily work hours will be 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. and detour routing signs will be provided.

The crossing should open no later than Oct. 28.

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RECOGNIZING THE OFFICIALS -- Officials from throughout the Pomona Valley community turned out Sunday at Pomona's Hoa Binh Plaza to celebrate the kids at a mid-autumn children's festival for the Vietnamese Community. Pictured, from left, are Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, State Sen. Connie Leyva, Thich (Reverend) Chon Tri, of the Phap Van Buddhist Temple in Pomona, Dr. Huu Dinh Vo, President of the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley (at center), Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, and Renee Barbee, of La Nueva Voz, an Executive Board member of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce.



LA County Fair dates set for May

Next year's LA County Fair – with all the corn dogs, fun and entertainment that goes with it – will be held May 5 – 29 on the theme "Spring Into Fair: Where Fun Blooms," Fairplex officials announced this month.

It will be the second year of a May Fair, a shift to avoid holding the annual tradition during triple-digit heat.

According to a Fairplex news release, the 2023 theme "welcomes everything spring – blossoms, buds and blooms; bees and butterflies; reinvention and innovation; pleasant weather; and the birth of four-legged babies in The Farm."

It also will focus on learning in agriculture and filling bags from the shopping harvest and more.

"Our centennial celebration continues with our second year of holding the Fair in May, and we are celebrating the shift to the beautiful days of spring with our new theme," said Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez. "Spring is a time of renewal and rebirth and we are engaged in a renaissance of sorts as we enter our

second century." Opening day on May 5 will feature "the biggest Cinco de Mayo party in the region," he said. The Fair continues through Memorial Day.

Next year's Fair also will see the return of a re-imagined FairKids Field Trips, a popular school field trip program presented by The Learning Centers at Fairplex bringing students from throughout Southern California to what the Fair calls the world's largest classroom.

"The LA County Fair is not only synonymous with fun, but with education," said Fair Association Board Chair Heidi Hanson. "Education has been a part of our foundation since 1922. Whether children come for field trips or with their family, they learn so much at the Fair."

As an added note, information on the Fair's home arts and culinary competitions will be available in December for those interested in entering their best quilt or best cookie recipe.

Season passes will go on sale on Cyber Monday, Nov. 28, and advance daily tickets will go on sale at lacountyfair.com.



CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL FOR VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY -- A "national costume" contest was the highlight of a mid-autumn children's festival Sunday at Pomona's Hoa Binh Plaza, with costume competition along with interviews of children of all ages and questions in front of the judges. The event was designed to help preserve the Vietnamese culture for the children 47 years after leaving Vietnam following the Fall of Saigon. Also included was music and, of course, a traditional lion dance. The event was sponsored by the Vietnamese Community of Pomona Valley.



Photo by Karli Tanner

OFFICERS INSTALLED FOR POMONA VALLEY NCNW -- New officers of the Pomona Valley Section, National Council of Negro Women, were installed last week in ceremonies at Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church. Pictured, from left, are Sherie Rodgers (2nd Vice President), Janet Betton (Financial Secretary), Autumn Washington (1st Vice President), Jamie Lindsay (President), Shannay Sampson (Recording Secretary), and Victoria Rasshan (Assistant Financial Secretary). Pictured at left rear is M. Joyce Bakersmith, the installing officer and master of ceremonies, who is a member of NCNW and also is Pacific Southeast District Governor of Optimist International, and a member of the Los Angeles Optimist Club, the oldest club in North America (founded in March 1917), where she is secretary-elect, and a past president of Pomona Optimists.

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tive journey.”

She also pointed out that only 12 percent of those issued U.S. patents are women. The Garey InvenTeam consisted of eight students, seven of whom were young women.

“When I met all of these women, I said, oh, our future is in good hands,” said State Sen. Connie Leyva, “so ladies, thank you for what you have done.”

Leyva paraphrased her husband who often says if you want something done, ask a woman.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval called the InvenTeam members “superheroes.”

“This meeting is a victory for Garey High School, for Pomona Unified School District which I’m a very proud product of, and for the City of Pomona,” Sandoval said.

“Vikings, today is the day to celebrate, but looking back, never forgetting where you came from



Dr. Leigh Estabrooks



Dan Choi

and those who helped you on your journey and looking forward to new opportunities to amend, create and solve real world problems and to help and to heal,” said Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman. “This takes science and creativity, but it also takes compassion and dedication – it takes knowing that if you fail today, you’ll succeed tomorrow.”



GAREY HIGH SCHOOL GRADS RECEIVE PATENT -- The entire eight-member InvenTeam turned out last week in the gym at Garey High School to receive their patent for an invention that started in a classroom five years ago. Pictured, from left, are Diana Valencia, now attending Cal Poly University Pomona majoring in English; Katia Avila, attending UC Santa Cruz majoring in computer engineering; Anh Tran, a student at UC Irvine majoring in mechanical engineering; Melody Sanchez, attending Cal Poly Pomona majoring in business administration; Jia Bragado, a student at UC Berkeley studying industrial engineering; Brianna Berdin, attending UC Riverside majoring in business administration; Evelyn Casas, attending UC Irvine majoring in public health; and Sushil Bohara, a student at UC Berkeley majoring in engineering.

“We are truly here to celebrate those who understand that the human spirit to create and invent is in all of us but it is our responsibility to our students to encourage that spirit to grow and thrive,” Perlman added.

InvenTeam member Katia Avila told guests that often minority inventors spend part of their life inventing something and then having it taken from them.

“It is important that everyone else recognizes who was the one that had the passion and the dedication to invent,” she said. “Inven-

star teachers.”

He said he attended a high school “not unlike Garey High School” near Lodi, California, where a teacher saw something in him that nobody else did, prompting him to become involved in inventing.

And David Coronado, senior program officer for The Lemelson Foundation, said the organization is working around the world to develop the next generation of inventors, “people who can see the world, see problems, see opportunities, come up with solutions.”

That is why, he said, the founda-

family to go to college.

“We’re here because we need this for everyone and we can’t do it alone as one organization, one program, one people, it takes a community,” he said, adding that in the case of Garey, “we had the teachers, we had the students, we had La (Nueva) Voz . . . we had the people, we had the parents, it takes a village (to provide educational opportunities for everyone).”

(Editor’s Note: La Nueva Voz covered every major step of the Garey InvenTeam’s work on the

project from start to finish. And when La Nueva Voz learned through Dr. Leigh Estabrooks, invention education officer for Lemelson, that the \$10,000 grant included everything except air fare and hotel expenses at a “EurekaFest” presentation of inventions from around the country at MIT in Cambridge, La Nueva Voz’ Renee Barbee organized a musical fundraiser at the Pomona Ebell Museum of History – featuring Garey musicians and even La Nueva Voz

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RECOGNIZING THE ‘INVENTION TEACHERS’ -- State Sen. Connie Leyva recognized both the student inventors and their teachers at the patent presentation event last week. Pictured, from left, are Garey High School Principal Roddy Layton and Leyva with teachers Antonio Gamboa and Alexander Ruper.

tors of color have already begun to be a difference in making an impact on American and international society and we hope to make more inventors.”

Lemelson-MIT program faculty advisor Michael Cima, who was introduced as an advocate for invention education, called the Garey teachers behind the students “all

tion invests in those students.

“We celebrate these students today but there are thousands and millions more who need this type of opportunity . . . and we’re trying to advocate for that across the country and around the world,” said Coronado who is a resident of Oregon, was a graduate of Garey High School and was the first in his

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tored in to his accomplishments. “The building of the hospital was something that was necessary,” he said, explaining that the old building was built in the 1950s and did not meet current standards. “I think we created an environment that was patient and family friendly. It was a very soothing environment, not only to the people that work there but more importantly to the patients.”

And what are his plans for the future?

“I think I will stick around,” Loverso said. “I might have a board seat. We’ll see.”

“I did buy a house on Cape Cod with a big fishing boat,” he added, and La Nueva Voz pointed out that would be quite a commute for a board meeting.

“But I’ll be going out for some big giant blue fin tuna,” he replied.

La Nueva Voz asked if he’ll still have any motorcycling on his list of things to do in his re-

tirement at the age of 71. “I’m still riding my motorcycle,” he said. “I think I’m going to bring it to Massachusetts and do a cross country ride.”

Upon his arrival 25 years ago, Loverso and his board of directors methodically began instituting changes that would shift Case Colina back toward its core business of acute, hospital-based physical rehabilitation – a tradition established in its 85-year-old roots as a treatment center for children with polio.

This was followed by a total overhaul of Casa Colina’s 20-acre Pomona campus, including the state-of-the-art hospital and diagnostic imaging center opened in 2005, a medical-surgical wing opened in 2016, a research building in 2017, and upgrades to its outpatient center, physician clinics, children’s services center, transitional living center and more.

Loverso brought national credibility to Casa Colina’s already

renowned rehabilitation operations. During his tenure, he served as chair of the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association and the Fund for Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation, helping to increase awareness around inpatient hospital rehabilitation and promoting policies that expand access to it.

As Casa Colina grew, he said, one thing remained constant – a singular focus on exceptional patient care.

“We’re leaving Casa Colina better than we found it,” Loverso said. “Our next leaders have the tools and foundation to expand upon what we’ve done. The next adventure will certainly be better than the last.”

A national search for a new chief executive officer currently is under way.



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publisher Jeff Schenkel – to help fund the trip. Estabrooks worked with the Garey team on the project from start to finish.)

The invention itself, called “Heart and Sole,” a shoebox-sized diagnostic device, allows individuals with diabetes to self-monitor foot health using four sensors measuring oxygen saturation, blood flow, magnetoencephalography (imaging) and nerve conduction velocity.

Diana Valencia, a member of the Inven-Team, responding to a question from the audience, explained her grandfather was a diabetes patient, inspiring her to develop an instrument that could monitor his foot to help prevent the need for amputation and other medical problems resulting from neuropathy or nerve damage.

Also honored were Garey teachers Antonio Gamboa (advanced placement biology and chemistry) and Alexander Ruper (advanced placement physics),



Michael Cima



David Coronado

who worked with the InvenTeam students on the project.

Gamboa called the effort a celebration of a “journey of invention,” adding that invention promotes diversity and inclusion of all students.

As an example, he said the Garey Inven-Team represented six countries – the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Vietnam, Nepal and the Philippines.

In addition, he said 60 percent of the team members are immigrants and seven out of eight are female.

And, out of the eight, “every student involved is now a first-generation college student – they never give up.”

Pomona Unified School Board member Arturo Jimenez, speaking in Spanish, congratulated the students and their parents on their accomplishments.

“We’re very excited to celebrate today some just tremendous work from our students,” said Pomona Unified School District Interim Supt. Darren Knowles.

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Pomona Optimists honor best of police and fire in annual awards event

Two outstanding public safety honorees were recognized by members of the Pomona Optimist Club last month at the club's annual "Respect for Law and Public Safety Award" – and it was the history of the event that made it even more impressive.

This year's honorees were Fire Utility Driver Santos Luna of the Los Angeles County Fire Department and Detective Fernando Flores of the Pomona Police Department.

"Thank you, gentlemen, for your outstanding service," said Optimist President Lorraine Canales.

She told the 150 Optimist Club members, family members of the honorees and other guests that in July 1965, a discussion between Past Optimist International President Carl Bowen and former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover resulted in the birth of the "Respect for Law Program."

Today, she added, more than 1,500 clubs participate each year, and more than a quarter of a million law enforcement officers and firefighters have been honored by clubs around the world over the past 57 years.

Optimist member Rudy Herrera, chair of this year's event, said the recognition "says a lot and your peers voted for you."

Canales said the Pomona club each year "recognizes two outstanding individuals in the community for their selfless acts of kindness and their commitment to

the service of the community."

Los Angeles County Fire Department Acting Deputy Chief Mike Inman, of the East Regional Operations Bureau, referred to a line in the Optimist Creed in which members promise "to look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true," and said that describes Luna who he called "an unsung hero . . . who doesn't get a lot of accolades."

Inman said it takes four to seven people to support two "boots on

quarters station 23 years ago, became a fire utility driver and has been doing that for the past 21 years.

"His hustle, his work ethic, 'can do' attitude has been commendable his entire career," Inman said.

"Pomona is a very special place



Lt. Ryan Rodriguez



Acting Deputy Chief Mike Inman

the ground," and that in his support role, Luna "does so much for the fire department."

"I can tell you that by the presence of all these people (in the audience), present and past, old and young, just shows how much people appreciate you, Santos," Inman said. "Good job."

He said Luna started his career as a student worker at the head-

quarters station 23 years ago, became a fire utility driver and has been doing that for the past 21 years.

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POMONA OPTIMISTS' PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS -- Los Angeles County Fire Department Fire Utility Driver Santos Luna and Pomona Police Detective Fernando Flores were this year's public safety honorees at an annual Pomona Optimist Club recognition dinner last month. Pictured, from left, are Optimist Club member Rudy Herrera, chair of this year's event; Luna; Optimist Club President Lorraine Canales; and Flores.

duced a classic car show in Pomona that attracted more than 160 cars and raised some \$4,000 for the Police Explorers. The car show was the first of its kind, he said.

"He does it... because he cares," Rodriguez said, adding that he once served on the SWAT team with Flores who also went on to become part of a federal task force with the FBI and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in which he flew to Columbia and worked under cover infiltrating a narcotics operation.

And on top of everything else, "he's a big, big family man," Rodriguez said.

"Fernando, you definitely deserve this award," he added. "I know you are going to go far in this department . . . because you truly care."

"Pomona is a special place for me," Flores said, adding that he had a job offer from another department but "took the gamble."

And, as an immigrant from a town in Mexico with about 100 people, he said he was "fortunate to end up in Pomona."

"I knew right away this was the place I wanted to be," he said, after serving as an Explorer and serving in the military.

"I lived a big part of my life here," he said, much of it riding bicycles.

He explained that a lot of people in Pomona don't do other sports.

"I think by making that (bike park) available to the kids of the city, I think it's going to be important for the city because there's not

that many places like that around here," Flores said. "I think it will be huge" for the kids to have it in their back yard.

"And that was my part of trying to help these kids because I know it helped me a lot growing up," Flores said, keeping him out of trouble as a teenager.

"I feel like I won the lottery because I really am the American dream," Flores said.

Luna, who has been assigned to Battalion 15 in Pomona for 13 years, was described as one of those fire department employees who works "behind the scenes" to ensure firefighters serving Pomona are prepared to respond to all calls for service in the city by keeping each of six area fire stations stocked and equipped with supplies from breathing apparatus bottles to health and safety supplies.

He also assists with community needs and public education events.

During emergency incidents, he helps establish logistics primarily with rehab operations.

He is currently on the hiring list to become a fire fighter and ultimately an engineer.

Flores, meanwhile, in addition to his work on car shows and the bike park, is a full-time "all crimes" investigator in the police department.

And that bike park? Ground-breaking is scheduled for this fall. Flores is hopeful that one day the late Officer Casillas' boys will get to enjoy riding their bicycles in a park dedicated to the ultimate sacrifice their father made.



Photo by Renee Barbee

A BALLOON AND A COSTUME -- When life is simple, sometimes all it takes to have a great day is a balloon and a costume that makes you look just like a little princess. That and many other discoveries were happening throughout the Pomona Civic Center plaza last week at the city's Pomona Children's Festival 2022.

Wendy Trento of Decker Elementary named PUSD ‘Teacher of the Year’

Pomona Unified School District Board members last week recognized Decker Elementary School’s Wendy Trento as the Associated Pomona Teachers’ 2022-23 “Teacher of the Year” for the school district, calling her an inspiration to all teachers.

Trento, a sixth-grade teacher, has been an employee of the district for more than 24 years.

Interim Supt. Darren Knowles told school board members Trento’s selection really was a collaborative effort between Associated Pomona Teachers and the school district, adding that she “did this probably during one of the toughest times that we’ve ever experienced.”

“Thank you, you advocate strongly for your students, you advocate for your colleagues, and you truly are and you truly do represent our teacher of the year,” Knowles said.

School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman thanked her for her service, adding that she has known Trento for nearly 25 years when both of her daughters went through her classroom.

“She was phenomenal in instruction, was incredibly creative and still is, and served as an incredible mentor to our students,” Perlman said. “She speaks to the students about pursuing their dreams, attending college, equity, and speaking up for those without a voice.”

She added that Trento teaches her students “real responsibility” and “doesn’t simply speak about compassion, she demonstrates it every day.”

And, Perlman said, Trento takes a personal interest in both her students and their families, helping students become involved in outside activities and helping families in need of additional support.

“Thank you, Wendy, you are an inspiration to teachers everywhere,” she said.

“Twenty-five years ago, when I came to work for



WENDY TRENTO NAMED ‘TEACHER OF THE YEAR’ -- Wendy Trento, a sixth-grade teacher at Pomona’s Decker Elementary School, has been named “Teacher of the Year” for Pomona Unified School District. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Unified School Board member Arturo Jimenez, Associated Pomona Teachers President Wei-Tsu Loh, Trento, and Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman.

Pomona, I did not go to college to become a teacher, never once thought about becoming a teacher, and simply did it because it made sense as a new mom,” Trento told board members.

She said she was fortunate her principal at the time gave her a chance despite the fact that she had never taken a class in education or spent any time in a classroom.

“Thank God she gave me that opportunity because I found a passion in my life,” Trento said. “The greatest thing is that I go to work every day, I love my job.”

“I love the kids and I fall in love with all the families,” Trento said. “It’s not working, it’s my passion at this point.”

And she added that she was representing all of the 1,500 teachers in the district in accepting the award.

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"Victor es mi elección para representar al Distrito 2 porque pone primero las necesidades de los residentes, no las necesidades de los intereses externos."

Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona



"As a long-time Pomona resident, I know Victor gets it. Our people need help now. He and I are in the community every day serving our people."

"Como residente de Pomona desde hace mucho tiempo, sé que Víctor lo entiende. Nuestra gente necesita ayuda ahora. Él y yo estamos en la comunidad todos los días sirviendo a nuestra gente."

Carlos Goytia, Director TVMWD

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Cal Poly President Soraya Coley, staff ‘gift’ new bikes to Pomona kids

Cal Poly University Pomona President Dr. Soraya Coley made one of her frequent visits out into the Pomona community this month to “gift” new bicycles to five area youth during a Pomona Community “Pull Up” event at Sacred Heart Church.

mona City Councilmember Steve Lustro participated in this month’s event.

Also on hand were members of five families who live nearby along with members of Coley’s leadership team including Provost Jennifer Brown, Chief of Staff Nicole Hawkes, Vice Presidents



Photo by Renee Barbee

BICYCLES FOR THE KIDS -- Cal Poly University Pomona President Dr. Soraya Coley, at center with the kids, poses for the cameras at Pomona’s Sacred Heart Church at a Pomona Community Pull Up resource event. Coley and top members of her leadership team were on hand to give away five bicycles they assembled over the summer. Pictured at far left is Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado who helped arrange the give-away.

Coley and her leadership team assembled the children’s bicycles over the summer as part of a team-building activity in preparation for the university’s fall semester.

Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado connected Coley’s group with local families with young children who could benefit from the gift.

Preciado and Three Valleys Municipal Water District Director Carlos Goytia founded the Community Pull Up events to bring resources to some of Pomona’s most underserved communities.

Preciado along with Goytia and Po-

Christina Gonzales (student affairs), John McGuthry (information technology), and Dan Montplaisir (university advancement), among others. Jaime and Roberta Espinoza, co-founders of Project Hope, also participated.

Resource agencies participating at the “Pull Up” this month included the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, East Valley Community Health Center, Parktree Community Health Center, Uppercuts Barber Shop, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Project Hope, God’s Pantry, Delicious Freedom, Pomona Connect and Cal Poly Pomona.



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WHOLESALE FLOWERS IN POMONA -- United Flower Wholesale, a new wholesale flower company in Pomona with a huge inventory, hosted a Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting last week celebrating its new chamber membership with a customer appreciation day. The business, owned by brothers Daniel and Jose Nasser, opened a year and four months ago and joined the chamber last month. Pictured, from left, are Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanaras, Chamber Ambassador Angie Leyva (at rear), of New York Life Inland Empire, chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Daniel and Jose Nasser, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Patricio Nasser, who is the owners' dad, and Chamber Board member Joe Perez, of the Credit Union of Southern California. Jose Nasser told La Nueva Voz 95 percent of the flowers sold in the store, including all of the roses, are grown on his dad's 30-year-old farm in Ecuador, where his dad said 130 employees produce eight million "stems" each year and ship orders worldwide. United Flower Wholesale is located at 1825 Indian Hill Blvd., Pomona.

Gov. Newsom announces new abortion information web site

As other states outlaw fundamental reproductive health care and criminalize doctors and patients, Gov. Newsom this month announced the launch of a web site providing people both inside and outside of California with information about abortions.

The web site, abortion.ca.gov, also provides information regarding legal rights, where to find providers, how to pay for services and obtain financial assistance, ways to locate wellness and emotional support, and more.

In a news release, Newsom said that while other states try to prevent people from accessing this critical information or traveling to other states to obtain reproductive health care services, the new web site provides information for those coming to California for an abortion.

The web site does not collect any personal information about visitors to the site.

"Abortion is legal, safe and accessible here in California – whether or not you live here, know that we have your back," Newsom said. "As Republican states continue rolling back fundamental civil rights and even try to prevent people from accessing information on line or crossing state lines for care, you're welcome here in California and we'll continue to fight like hell for you."

The web site is available in Spanish and will be translated into other languages, according to the news release. It also includes an interactive tool for users to search for health care providers throughout California, as well as information for those living outside of California about the legal right to an abortion in California and traveling here to get services.

"In California, we've made it clear that we trust women and respect every woman's right to make decisions about their reproductive health and future," said First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom. "We know that when those rights are taken, it can have grave consequences on women's health, safety, economic security, and ability to live and thrive."

She said as other states seek to limit residents of these basic rights, "we're taking real steps to make it easier for those here – and out of state – to access care."

"This new web site is a critical resource, providing essential information to patients in and out of California, and can hopefully serve as a model for the rest of the nation," said Jodi Hicks, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Affiliates California. "No person should be forced to travel outside of their home state for essential health care, including abortion care, yet extreme politicians are making that a reality for millions across the country."

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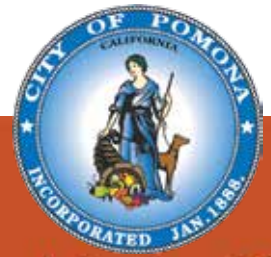
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Tues, Oct 25, 2022	Community Needs Survey Live via City Website (www.pomonaca.gov)
Wed, Oct 26, 2022	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM via Zoom.com
Thurs, Oct 27, 2022	Notice of Funds Available/ Request for Proposals Release
Thurs, Oct 27, 2022	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM at Garfield Park Community Center
Tues, Nov 8, 2022	Request for Proposal Workshop via Zoom.com
Wed, Nov 9, 2022	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM at John F. Kennedy Park Community Center
Wed, Nov 16, 2022	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM via Zoom.com
Wed, Dec 7, 2022	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30pm at Ralph Welch Park Community Center
Tues, Dec 13, 2022	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM via Zoom.com
Wed, Jan 11, 2023	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30pm at Washington Park Community Center
Thur, Jan 12, 2023	CDBG Proposals Due via Zoomgrants.com
Tues, Jan 17, 2023	Community Needs Meeting @ 6:30 PM via Zoom.com
Tues, Jan 31, 2023	Survey Responses Due

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CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL IN POMONA -- The Pomona Children's Festival 2022 returned to the Pomona Civic Center last week after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, according to organizer Chara Swodeck. Included were games, activities and crafts, and the Pomona Police Department's bike rodeo was welcomed as part of the event.



Pomona library wins \$6 million state grant for upgrades

The City of Pomona has been awarded a \$6 million grant from the California State Library to help fund critical infrastructure upgrades at the Pomona Public Library.

The funding will be used to replace the library roof, upgrade its HVAC equipment, systems and automation controls, and implement various other lighting, energy efficiency and patron comfort enhancements, according to a city news release.

The upgrades are expected to improve user comfort, increase building efficiency and reliability, and make the library a more safe, welcoming and enjoyable library.

"I thank the California State Library for their continued support and commend staff, as well as our library support groups, for their continued work and collaboration towards enhancing the library experience for all of our patrons," said Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval.



CELEBRATING HER 100TH BIRTHDAY! -- Fran Schenkel, La Nueva Voz Publisher Jeff Schenkel's mom, celebrated her 100th birthday this month at Belmont Village Senior Living in Calabasas, where she has lived since July. A long-time resident of Knoxville, Tennessee (1947 - 1968), she moved to California and lived in Encino from 1968 until moving to Belmont Village this summer. Nearly 30 family members and friends attended the celebration. So how did Mom do it? "Eat properly, exercise and have good doctors," she said. And she thanked her family for "always being there when I need them." Pictured are Renee Barbee and Jeff Schenkel of La Nueva Voz and Schenkel's mom.



ASSEMBLYMEMBER RODRIGUEZ DELIVERS CHECK TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY -- Pomona's Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez dropped off a check for \$3.2 million this week at the Ebell Museum of Pomona History in ceremonies celebrating his obtaining the funding in state budget allocations for the Historical Society of Pomona Valley. The funding will cover costs of restoration projects at the Phillips Mansion and the Ebell Museum to help preserve Pomona's historical footprint, according to Rodriguez. Pictured at the ceremonies, from left, are Historical Society secretary John Clifford, Rodriguez, Board members Alices Gomez, Renee Barbee, Jan Braunstein, Vice President Mike Schowalter, and President Deborah Clifford. The Historical Society is located at 585 E. Holt Ave., Pomona.

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Assemblymember Rodriguez returns to his alma mater to deliver checks for \$13.9 million

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez returned to his high school alma mater, Pomona's Garey High School, this month to personally deliver two oversized checks totaling \$13.9 million representing funding allocations he championed for Pomona Unified School District in the 2022-23 state budget, with the largest portion going to fund new and renovated performing arts spaces at five school sites.

The performing arts package totals \$10.5 million, while an additional \$3.4 million will fund the expansion of workforce development and career exploration for Pomona Unified students.

Of that \$3.4 million, \$1 million will cover costs of career development in the manufacturing industry, while the remaining \$2.4 million will cover career development in the medical professions.

The original state budget allocation story appeared two months ago in the July 28 La Nueva Voz and included the \$13.9 million for schools and an additional \$3.2 million for the Historical Society of Pomona Valley (see www.la-



JOINING THE ASSEMBLYMEMBER ON STAGE -- Garey High School student government leaders join Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez on stage at this month's check presentation at the school. Pictured, at left, are Garey Principal Roddy Layton and Interim Supt. Darren Knowles. At right are Pomona Unified School Board members Dr. Roberta Perlman and Arturo Jimenez. And, at center, from left, are Rodriguez, his wife Michelle and State Sen. Susan Rubio.

something to back it up with, with funding and infrastructure, to get our kids more creative," he added in a comment to student government leaders in the audience. "The sky's the limit – you can do anything you want."

Rodriguez thanked State Sen. Susan Rubio, who participated in the check presentation, for sup-

Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman said the allocation provides "funding to build theaters in all of our comprehensive high schools."

She added that while Rodriguez attended Garey, "he now represents the voice of the community in the state Assembly."

"Assemblymember Rodriguez never forgot where he came from," she said, telling the students "Now is your time to dream . . . dream of being poets, musicians, actors, directors . . . now is the time to express your creativity and your time to dream."

She thanked Rodriguez for "believing . . . in our students."

"We need a performing arts center so bad in this city," said Pomona Unified School Board member Arturo Jimenez, calling it "new infrastructure that will transform (the) families and the students."

"We have a lot of heart, and remember, with heart, you can do anything," he added. "You're going to change the world for us."

"This is a great day," said Pomona Unified Interim Supt. Darren Knowles who was there with members of his cabinet and principals of all the high schools in the



ASSEMBLYMEMBER FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ PRESENTS CHECKS TO POMONA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT -- Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presented two checks totaling \$13.9 million to Pomona Unified School District this month to fund everything from performance arts facilities to career preparation. Pictured, from left, are former Pomona Unified Supt. Richard Martinez, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, Western University of Health Sciences Associate Provost Dr. Elizabeth Rega, Assemblymember Rodriguez, Pomona Unified School Board member Arturo Jimenez, Pomona Unified Interim Supt. Darren Knowles, State Sen. Susan Rubio, Pomona Unified School Board President Dr. Roberta Perlman, and Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado.



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez



Darren Knowles

nuevavoz.net and click on "past issues" for the July 2022 story).

"It's for the future generation of students and leaders, hopefully, in this community," Rodriguez said at the event. "To me, these (dollar amounts) are very significant numbers that will benefit the lives of current students such as yourselves and future students that will come through Pomona Unified, so that's a big win-win for everybody."

"There is a lot of talent in our community, but we need to have

porting the budget allocation.

Rubio said visiting Garey High School brought back memories since she was a teacher for 17 years and also served as a principal and vice principal.

She said "Freddie is always fighting for his community" and "giving back to his community."

"Without his leadership, this funding would not have happened," she said, and speaking to the students, "the opportunities are there and we are here to support you."



GIFTS FOR THE ASSEMBLYMEMBER -- Pomona's Garey High School Principal Roddy Layton honored Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez with a school letterman's jacket and a framed band uniform. From left are student Unique Chacon, Layton, Assemblymember Rodriguez, Janet Lopez and Rodriguez' wife, Michelle Rodriguez. Chacon and Lopez are acting student government co-presidents at Garey.

Returning to alma mater... from pg. 14

district. "We are so thankful . . . that we've been honored, and we have somebody out there advocating for us and advocating for our students."

And Garey Principal Roddy Layton thanked Rodriguez as well.

"Mr. Rodriguez, you are the example of hard work in Pomona," he said. "It's not about just getting out and being successful, it's about getting back."

He called Rodriguez a "Garey High School legacy" as he presented him with a Garey letterman's jacket to recognize him for the "great work you have done and the great work you have given back to this school and this city."

Layton said Rodriguez also will be invited to attend the school's

spring concert in May to be honored as a special guest.

Knowles also presented Rodriguez with a certificate of appreciation from the school district.

Also participating at the event were former Supt. Richard Martinez, who is president of the Po-



Dr. Roberta Perlman

mona Community Foundation, and Dr. Elizabeth Rega, Western University of Health Sciences associate provost for academic development and board secretary of the Pomona Community Foundation, which will be assisting the school district in the development of projects receiving this funding.



Roddy Layton



State Sen. Susan Rubio



Arturo Jimenez

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- American Legion Post #30, 239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona



RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW CHAMBER MEMBER -- Representatives of Pomona's "909 Night Market" -- who recently joined the Pomona Chamber of Commerce -- joined this month with Fairplex and operators of The Derby Room for an official ribbon cutting outside The Derby Room on the Fairplex grounds. Christian Verdugo, who owns the street market with his wife, Mayra, said plans call for moving to various locations. The next "909 Night Market" will be from 2 to 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Oct 1 and 2, back at The Derby Room on an Oktoberfest theme. Verdugo also operates "909 Open Market" from 6 to 10 p.m. on the first, third and fourth Saturdays along several blocks of 2nd Street in Downtown Pomona. The market, which features more than 60 vendors in a state certified farmer's market, also includes food trucks, live bands and more. Pictured cutting the ribbon are, from left, Pomona Chamber Board member Daniela Franco, Chamber President and CEO Monique Manzanares (in front of the ribbon), Chamber Ambassador Angie Leyva (third from right), Chamber Board member Frank Guzman, and Chamber Ambassador Marco Argote.



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Have shoulder pain that keeps you up at night?

By Steven C. Bast, MD

Shoulder pain is a common condition that can negatively impact your ability to perform activities of daily living. While it is certainly not exclusive to sports, it is quite common among athletes. The good news is that, when addressed early, it's usually treatable with simple remedies like ice, stretching, and exercise.

One of the most common causes of shoulder pain is called "impingement syndrome." Impingement syndrome can be the result of simple age-related wear and tear, or from repetitive overuse of the shoulder, such as pitching a baseball, swimming, or hitting a tennis ball. It is usually positional, with pain generated as you raise your elbow above your shoulder. This movement causes the rotator cuff to become impinged between the shoulder bones. When the rotator cuff becomes impinged, it gets swollen and inflamed, generating pain that usually appears at night while you are resting.

Shoulder pain from impingement syndrome often occurs while sleeping on your side. To help alleviate symptoms, try using a shoulder pillow to modify your current sleep position. If you don't have one, you can also just

place a pillow under your armpit while sleeping on your side.

Pain from impingement syndrome also may appear during physical activity such as a gym routine. Exercises such as bench press, push-ups, or latissimus pull-downs can easily aggravate impingement syndrome. Try substituting an exercise machine into your routine, doing chest flies, seated rows, and cable work instead. Always remember to keep your elbows in front of and below your shoulder during these exercises.

Fortunately, there are simple remedies to reduce pain from impingement syndrome, including ice, rest, and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories, if medically indicated. The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons also recommends several useful strength and flexibility exercises to help with this common source of shoulder pain, including pendulums, cross-over arm stretches, standing rows,

and more.

If you have tried these modifications and continue to have shoulder pain, be aware that impingement syndrome can progress to a rotator cuff tear, which will require further evaluation by an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in the shoulder. Talk to your doctor about next steps, which may include physical therapy or surgery.



Steven C. Bast, M.D.

Editor's Note: Dr. Steven C. Bast, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, is Program

Medical Director of the Coliseum Sports Medicine and Orthopedics at Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare. If you are an injured athlete, the Coliseum offers a free sports injury clinic every Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Casa Colina's Pomona Outpatient Center. Overseen by Bast, the Coliseum welcomes injured athletes of all ages for medical screening of sports-related injuries. To learn more, visit www.casacolina.org/coliseum.

Pomona Valley Hospital offers \$50 mammograms during October

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center is offering its annual \$50 screening mammograms with no physician order or proof of insurance during breast cancer awareness month in October.

According to a hospital news release, breast cancer remains the second most common cancer among women, based on information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In women who are 40 or at a high risk of developing breast cancer, annual screening mammograms are critical to early detection and diagnosis, which can lead to more treatment options and successful health outcomes.

Throughout the past two years of the pandemic, the hospital saw a 25 percent decrease in women scheduling a screening mammogram for breast cancer. Postponed appoint-

ments continue to be caused by factors including fear of contracting COVID-19 in a healthcare setting, loss of health insurance or lack of access to transportation or childcare.

"The pandemic has caused many individuals to put off important health care screenings, including mammograms," said Dr. Paul Reisch, medical director of the Breast Health Center at Pomona Valley. "By offering these low-cost mammograms, we're hoping to reduce any financial barriers that may be preventing women in our community from getting the care they need."

Women who are eligible for the screenings must be over 40 years of age, have no breast implants, and have no history of breast cancer in the past five years. They must not currently be experiencing breast

problems.

While many breast care centers only offer 3D mammography to women with dense breast tissue, Pomona Valley was one of the first in the region to offer digital 3D mammography to all of its patients, regardless of income or insurance coverage.

In addition, Pomona Valley offers the SmartCurve breast stabilization system, which is clinically proven to deliver a more comfortable mammogram without compromising image quality, workflow or dose.

The system detects more invasive cancers, and reduces false positives, pain and discomfort associated with flat paddle compression traditionally used for mammograms.

To schedule a \$50 3D mammography appointment in October at the Breast Health Center (at the Robert & Beverly Lewis Family Cancer Care Center in Pomona), or at Pomona Valley Health Centers in Claremont, Chino Hills or La Verne, call the hospital's scheduling line at (909) 469-9395.

Casa Colina Hospital makes list for '100 best for joint replacement'

Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare has been recognized by Healthgrades as one of America's "100 Best Hospitals for Joint Replacement for 2022," according to a hospital news release.

The distinction recognizes hospitals that provide superior clinical outcomes in joint replacement surgeries, including total hip replacement and total knee replacement.

Launched in 2017, Casa Colina's Revive Joint Replacement Program has become a national model for its high-quality, minimally invasive joint replacement services. Orthopedic surgeons use state-of-the-art robotic-assisted technology that minimizes pain, accelerates recovery, and leads to better outcomes for patients.

The Revive Program also earned the Healthgrades "Joint Replacement Excellence" award for the third year in a

row, placing Casa Colina in the top 5 percent nationally among hospitals surveyed for joint replacement surgeries.

Casa Colina was a five-star recipient for total hip replacement in 2021-2022 and a five-star recipient for total knee replacement in 2019-2022.

The five-star status indicates the hospital demonstrates that outcomes are significantly better than expected in the categories. As part of its scoring methodology, Healthgrades analyzes patient outcome data on more than 45 million Medicare medical claims within the most recent three-year time period, available for nearly 4,500 hospitals nationwide.

"Our Revive Program offers world-class joint replacement services where patients get specialized, tailored care from start to finish," said Casa Colina President and CEO Felice Loverso.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I want to say THANK YOU to Renee, Jeff and the newspaper La Nueva Voz for all the support you have provided to this group of inventors of which my daughter is a part. You have an important piece in the success of these young people. Thank you for your support and God bless you!

Gilda Pinedo
Pomona

Editor's Note: Gilda Pinedo is Katia Avila's mom (see U.S. Patent Office story beginning page one of this issue).

Editor:

I am most grateful for Renee Barbee and Jeff Schenkel for all the support, guidance, and joyful time they have shared with us for the many years. We are grateful for such generous efforts. They are a clear example of the true Pomona community. Thank you!!

Antonio Gamboa
Garey High School

Editor's Note: Antonio Gamboa and Alexander Ruper, both amazing teachers at Pomona's Garey High School, "coached" eight Garey students throughout the process of developing their idea into an invention. And the invention was awarded a patent last week in ceremonies at Garey (see story page one). Jeff Schenkel and Renee Barbee were privileged to be able to cover this Pomona success story and work closely with everyone involved from the very beginning some five years ago.

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New home of America's Job Center in Pomona holds grand opening

An estimated 200 City of Pomona, Los Angeles County and Pomona Unified School District officials – along with representatives of local jobs agencies, educators, business partners and more – joined officials of the Pomona Valley America's Job Center of California for an official ribbon cutting and grand opening last week at their new 18,118 square foot facility in The Village at Indian Hill.

Cutting the ribbon at the event was Kelly LoBianco, director of the new Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity, who called the new space a place that in this month of September will provide a “re-birth and new beginnings.”

“I look forward to what we are able to dream up together in this space,” she said.

Among the offerings, she said, are youth at work programming, personal enrichment, work space learning, paid internship experiences, job readiness, training for private sector positions, and support for those reentering the workforce from prison, veterans, English language learners, foster youth, those with disabilities, business services for employers and more.

The agency expanded into two new offices – one for youth and the other for adults – after relocating to The Village from

its previous smaller location on East Monterey Avenue in Pomona. About 45 staff members from America's Job Center, the California Employment Development Department and the

Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness (GLAD) are based in the new facility. It serves areas from Azusa and Bradbury to Diamond Bar to Covina, Claremont and Pomona

with a focus on workers from historically marginalized communities and populations. Services include job preparation, training and connections to career pathways with fam-

ily sustaining wages, as well as small business and high growth sector employers through access to a diverse talent pipeline that supports sustainable and inclusive growth.

ly measuring academic quality using 17 metrics in the areas of graduation and retention (22 percent), social mobility (5 percent), graduation rate performance (8 percent), faculty resources (20 percent), ex-



GRAND OPENING AT POMONA VALLEY AMERICA'S JOB CENTER OF CALIFORNIA -- An estimated 200 officials from government, education and the business community joined officials of the Pomona Valley America's Job Center of California for an official ribbon cutting and grand opening last week at their new facility in The Village at Indian Hill. Pictured cutting the ribbon, at center, from left, are Dr. Philip Starr, Executive Director of Managed Career Solutions, which operates Pomona Valley America's Job Center; Los Angeles County Director of Economic Opportunity Kelly LoBianco; and Esteban Magallanes, President of Managed Career Solutions. Also pictured, from left, are former Pomona Unified Adult School Director Dr. Enrique Medina, Pomona Unified School Board members Arturo Jimenez and Dr. Roberta Perlman and, at rear, Interim Supt. Darren Knowles; Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and Pomona City Councilmember Victor Preciado; Pastor Allan Espinoza, of God Provides Ministry, who offered a land acknowledgement; Pomona Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Monique Manzanaras; America's Job Center business service representatives Michael Thomas and, at rear, Gabriel Pena; and, at rear behind LoBianco, Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole.

Cal Poly University Pomona climbed to the “No. 2” spot among “Top Public Schools in the West” in the U.S. News & World Report 2023 Best Colleges Ranking.

Cal Poly ranked ‘No. 2’ on ‘Top Public Schools in West’ list

“Best Undergraduate Teaching West” (a tie); and “No. 6” for “Top Performers on Social Mobility West (a tie).”

Cal Poly's College of Engineering is recognized among the top programs in the country and is tied at “No. 10” for “Best Undergraduate Engineering Program” nationwide (where doctorate degrees are not offered) and “No. 3” in California.

The computer engineering program is rated “No. 2” nationally, civil engineering “No. 3,” electrical/electronic/computer engineering “No. 8” and mechanical engineering “No. 8.”

Over the last five years, Cal Poly Pomona has climbed 14 places in the “Top Regional Universities West” category, with increasing recognition for its high-quality education and commitment to experiential learning and professional

readiness.

This year, seven Cal State University campuses were in the top 10 “Best Public Schools: Regional Universities West” listing – Cal Poly Pomona (at “No. 2”), Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (“No. 1”), San Jose State (“No. 4”), Cal State Monterey Bay (“No. 7”), Cal State Los Angeles (“No. 8”), Cal State Stanislaus (“No. 9”), and Cal State Chico (“No. 10”).

The Cal State University system consists of 23 campuses which educate approximately 447,500 students every year. They comprise some of the most diverse student bodies in the nation. Half of all undergraduates receive Pell Grants, and nearly one-third are the first in their families to attend college.

For the 2023 ranking, U.S. News & World Report rated 1,500 colleges and universities national-

ly sustaining wages, as well as small business and high growth sector employers through access to a diverse talent pipeline that supports sustainable and inclusive growth.

ly measuring academic quality using 17 metrics in the areas of graduation and retention (22 percent), social mobility (5 percent), graduation rate performance (8 percent), faculty resources (20 percent), ex-

per opinion (20 percent), financial resources (10 percent), student excellence (7 percent) graduate indebtedness (5 percent) and alumni giving (3 percent).

Kennedy Austin Foundation luncheon to focus on grief support

“Grief support and mental health awareness matters” will be the theme of the fourth annual Courage Award Luncheon sponsored by the Kennedy Austin Foundation.

The free event, billed as a “reunion,” is scheduled for noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, at 252 S.

Towering snails to highlight Cal Poly float in Rose Parade

Gigantic snails and colorful fungi will be showcased turning the past into resources for a brighter future on the Cal Poly Universities float for the 134th Rose Parade on Jan. 2.

Main St., Pomona. Kennedy Austin helps those in need with grief support, guidance through sorrow, mental health awareness, hurt, pain and trauma, and rebuilding.

For more information, call (909) 808-6866 or visit the web site at kennedyaustinfoundation.org.

The only student-built and student-designed entry in the Rose Parade, “Road to Reclamation” represents rebirth and the wonders that come with the endless possi-

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Photos by Jose Nuñez

Prince of Peace Church in Pomona - together with Living Hope Church in Anaheim, Emmanuel Church in El Monte and God is Love Church in Pico Rivera, all part of Interdenominational Christian Church Presbytery of California - held a crusade at Hill Auditorium in Ontario this month. Its members took to the streets to share the Good News of hope and love through Jesus. Many people joined this two-day event where they enjoyed worship music and listened to inspirational messages for a prosperous and fulfilling life. To learn more, visit the church at 895 E. 7th St., Pomona, or call (909) 750-0331.

Compassionate Pomona's Kindness Carnival set for Oct. 8

By Linda Lowry

Last year on June 26, Compassionate Pomona, an informal but mighty collaboration of caring Pomona people held its first Kindness Carnival at

Unity Church. The event introduced the community to about 20 local non-profit organizations, service clubs, and agencies which provide valuable assistance and opportunities to

volunteer.

Pancakes and then hotdogs and snacks were served, games and entertainment were provided for kids, listening circles were held to engage adults. T-

shirts were painted, as well as faces and Compassionate Quilt Squares.

Live music filled the parking lot and interesting speakers shared their views on compassion in the sanctuary. Harmony Hall was filled with treasures for the "Name Your Price" sale. Raffles were held and many prizes were given.

This year, the second annual Kindness Carnival will be held on "Art Walk" Second Saturday, Oct. 8, from 5 to 9 p.m. in collaboration with the Downtown Pomona Owners Association on the east side of Antique Row.

This year there will be even more community partners with booths, games at each booth, a pet blessing, and of course music, speeches and prizes.

Character Champions will grace the t-shirts for kids and workers. Compassion Quilt Squares and Character Champion book pages can be colored. We will see how all of

us are truly champions, but in different ways. Our diversity is our strength.

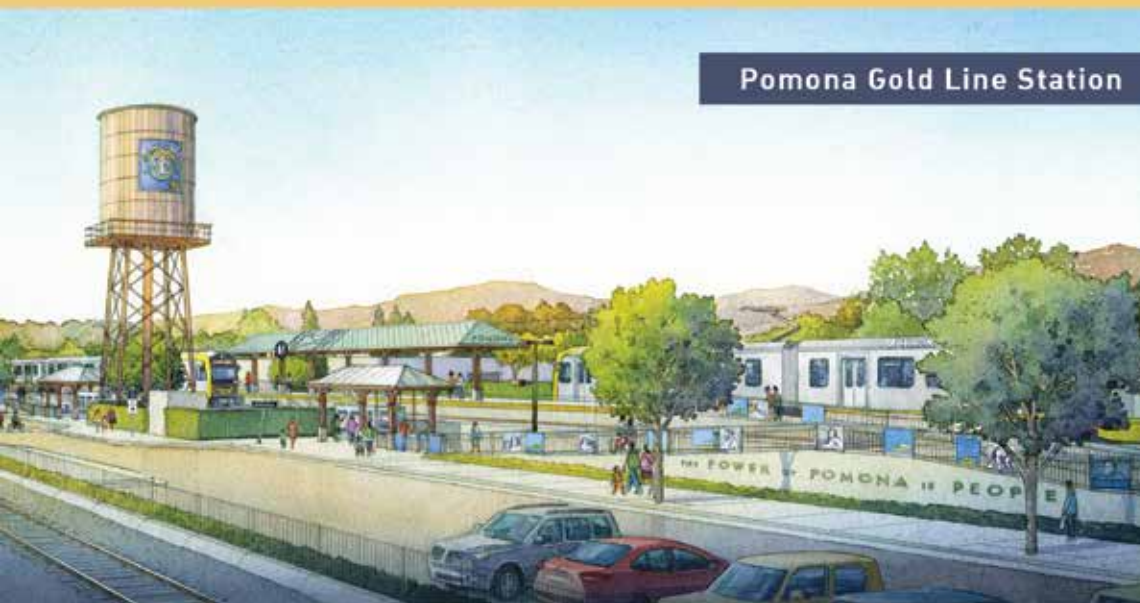
However, the most exciting addition to this year's Kindness Carnival is the opportunity to express kindness to the students and families of our community schools, which need certain non-refrigerated food items and hygiene products.

In addition to food products, needs include feminine hygiene items and general hygiene items, paper products, laundry/cleaning products and more. For a full list visit our Compassionate Pomona website at www.Compassionate-Pomona.org.

Items can be dropped off at the community schools booth at the carnival or delivered to Garey, Ganesha or Pomona High Schools, or to the drop box in the Downtown Pomona Owners Association office at 119 W. 2nd St. (at Garey Avenue). We want our youth and families to have the necessities which will then allow them to focus on school.

The Kindness Carnival brings attention to the fact that thinking and acting with kindness makes all our lives better.

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

Stay ahead of construction, sign up for alerts: foothillgoldline.org

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Cal Poly Float... from pg. 17

bilities of a new start, embodying the parade's theme of "Turning the Corner."

The 23-foot-tall float features an enormous purple snail scanning the parade crowd from his perch atop a 16-foot-tall red-capped mushroom. Another mega-snail will be watching baby snails playing chase, while a third six-foot snail will scout the parade route.

The float's forest floor is decorated with a rainbow of oversized fungi, moss and lichen converting a fallen log into nutrients for their community.

Students at both Cal Poly Pomona, working on the front half of the float, and San Luis Obispo, working on the back half, have been working on the 55-foot-long float design for months and now are turning their plans into reality.

The two float halves will be joined together in Pomona next month.



RIBBON CUTTING AT SHOES THAT FIT -- Members of the Claremont Chamber of Commerce and City Council joined with representatives of the non-profit Shoes That Fit last week to celebrate their 30th anniversary with a ribbon cutting. The organization moved into its new office in spring of 2020 but never had an opportunity for a ribbon cutting due to COVID. Pictured, from left, are Kylee Paulson, Shoes That Fit executive assistant; Shoes That Fit Board member Genoveva Meza; Stacey Caponigro of the Claremont Chamber; Michele Weatherholt, Jarret Bjornsen, Nathan Alvarez and Natalie Ovcharenko, of Shoes That Fit; Claremont Chamber Ambassador Gabe Millar; Shoes That Fit Board member Carole Pelton; Vicky Paul, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger; Shoes That Fit Board member Cris Stark; Matthew Lyons, representing the office of Assemblymember Chris Holden; Congresswoman Judy Chu; Tiffany Tran, representing Supervisor Barger; Claremont Mayor Jed Leano; Claremont Chamber Executive Director Randy Lopez; Claremont City Councilmembers Jennifer Stark and Corey Calayca; and Shoes That Fit Director of Development Paul Roach. Shoes That Fit, a Claremont-based organization that now has become the largest national organization of its kind, gives kids in need new athletic shoes to attend school with dignity and joy, ready to learn, play and thrive. It has helped 1.6 million children over the last 30 years. For more information, visit shoesthatfit.org.

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The following public service ad is courtesy of La Nueva Voz.

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