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# La Nueva Voz

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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



Member

Issue No. 166

Thursday, May 25, 2023

## LA County Fair 'springs' through the month of May

The LA County Fair – a new concept when launched 101 years ago – was in full swing all month this month – only the second time the Fair was held in May – on this year's theme "Spring into Fair."

Organizers changed the date last year from September based on community input suggesting the Fair be held during a cooler month each year.

And from opening day on May 5 to Pomona Day on May 11, it seemed to be working out just fine.

Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez told more than 100 guests at the annual Pomona Day lunch on Picnic Hill that "it's amazing how many songs are written about county fairs."

"What's great and what we get out of that . . . is the history of what comes here, what belongs here, what happens here, com-

### Congressman Adam Schiff, seeking Dianne Feinstein's seat in U.S. Senate, pledges to work to meet needs of Pomona residents

By Jeff Schenkel, Publisher

Congressman Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) told La Nueva Voz this month that if he is elected to the U.S. Senate, residents of Pomona can expect him to fight for Pomona, be an advocate to bring resources back to Pomona to meet the needs of people in Pomona, "to help parents have the resources they need to raise their children,

Schiff... pg. 8



Congressman Adam Schiff

munity coming together to have fun and enjoy," he said. "Partnerships in building and celebrating who we are as a city, as a region, as an organization collectively, we all come together, no matter what race, ethnicity, no matter what generation, there is something here for everyone, and it all happens here at Pomona Fairplex."

Los Angeles County Fair Association Board Chair Heidi Hanson thanked guests for joining them to celebrate the LA County Fair.

"Our organization was started 101 years ago with the intention of highlighting the best of Southern California," she said. "We continue to hold true to this mission as well as to provide hands on learning experiences to the millions of guests who come to Fairplex throughout the year."

"We know our success serving our local communities would be



**OPENING DAY AT THE FAIR!** -- It was opening day this month for the LA County Fair on its 101st anniversary of the first fair in 1922. Opening ceremonies this year included a ribbon cutting with confetti by the clock tower, and the whole gang was there including, of course, mascot Thummer the Pig. Apologies if we leave anybody out, but pictured from left are Lisa Levy Bush of the Gold Line Construction Authority, Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles, Pomona Unified School Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, Pomona Cultural Arts Commissioner Joshua Swodeck, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Fairplex President and CEO Walter Marquez, Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte (at rear), State Sen. Susan Rubio, Los Angeles County Fair Association Board Chair Heidi Hanson (cutting the ribbon), Pomona Councilmember Steve Lustro (at rear), Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, Thummer, Cal Poly University Pomona President Dr. Soraya Coley, Fair Association Board member Dr. Cid Pinedo, Pomona volunteer Rachel Barbosa, and Fair Association Board member Richard Martinez.

limited without the support of the city and residents of Pomona," she said. "And we thank you for continuing to assist us to make Fairplex an economic engine for the region."

Hanson added that the Fair was bringing back many traditions this year, including their many competitions and the FairKids Field Trip Program (field trips for students who visit the Fair for two hours before it opens to see "The Farm," the "Big Red Barn," and an agri-

culture and nutrition fair).

Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia, representing the city, welcomed guests to the Fair.

"When you are a child growing up in Pomona, you have stories about the LA County Fair," she said, adding that she remembers walking to the Fair from Emerson Middle School with her class.

"Please enjoy the Fair, make more memories, so that in 10, 20 years someone else is standing here saying I remember when...."

Garcia said.

Marquez added that "Pomona knows LA County Fair" and where the rides and the animals are.

"These grounds here in the City of Pomona were built by many of the residents of Pomona, and it's important to know . . . what this space really means, not just for Pomona but really the spotlight of LA County comes to Pomona here during LA County Fair," he said.

LA County Fair... pg. 14

PAID ADVERTORIAL

### Promoting mental wellness within Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities

May is both Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, and national Mental Health Awareness Month. This provides a unique opportunity to not only raise awareness around the diverse heritages of AANHPI communities and mental health, but to talk about how the two are directly related.

The cultures, identities and experiences of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities are not a monolith. As a group, AANHPI represent over fifty diverse countries and hundreds of unique languages and ethnicities. Asian Americans (AA) alone are the fastest growing minority population in the U.S., with Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPIs) as the third fastest growing minority population.

AA and NHPIs have traditionally faced heightened stigma around mental health and substance use issues. Lack of awareness of available resources and the stigma surrounding mental health issues are the largest deterrents that prevent many AA and NHPIs from talking about mental health and seeking care when needed. The pandemic has only exacerbated these problems as increased racial violence and discrimination against the Asian American community has amplified the need for culturally appropriate mental health services. Now more than ever, it is crucial to celebrate and center the mental health and well-being of AA and NHPI communities.

Tri-City is pleased to announce the revitalization of its Holistic Asian American and Pacific Islander (HAAPI) Wellness Collaborative. Wellness Collaboratives consist of local service providers, advocates, community members, clients, family members, and Tri-City Mental Health staff. Meetings are open to the public and empower members to provide feedback, share resources and advocate for ways to break down the barriers that prevent AA and NHPIs from accessing the mental health resources they need.

"We are excited to grow this important collaborative with our community and to build stronger partnerships with local advocates and organizations who are embedded in the communities they serve," said Andrea Espinosa, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator at Tri-City Mental Health. "We invite you to join us as we continue to advocate for improving the mental health of AA and NHPIs and celebrating the rich cultural heritages and backgrounds of these communities. No one agency or organization can do all the work but collectively we can create a more inclusive and supportive community for all."

To join the HAAPI Wellness Collaborative or for more information, please contact Andrea Espinosa, DEI Coordinator, at [dei@tricitymhs.org](mailto:dei@tricitymhs.org) or (909) 784-3052.







**WELCOME TO  
ATHENS SERVICES**

**BIENVENIDA A  
ATHENS SERVICES**

Athens Services is proud to be a part of the Pomona community. Based on a shared vision for the future and rooted in a deep commitment to environmental stewardship, the City of Pomona and Athens have partnered to provide residents with enhanced recycling, organics, and trash collection services. Athens is poised to serve as your community partner and strives to provide exceptional service, build strong relationships, and help support schools, businesses, and residents in becoming sustainability leaders. Athens was founded on the simple principle of providing exceptional service by hiring and developing great people, while fostering a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment - The Athens Way!

Athens is thrilled to welcome Pomona into the Athens family. Together, we can establish the best environmental programs today and for future generations. **Athens Services will begin servicing residents on July 1, 2023.**

Athens Services se enorgullece de ser parte de la comunidad de Pomona. Con base en una visión compartida para el futuro y arraigada en un profundo compromiso con la administración ambiental, la ciudad de Pomona y Athens se han asociado para brindarles a los residentes servicios mejorados de reciclaje, productos orgánicos y recolección de basura. Athens está preparada para servir como su socio comunitario y se esfuerza por brindar un servicio excepcional, construir relaciones sólidas y ayudar a las escuelas, las empresas y los residentes a convertirse en líderes en sostenibilidad. Athens se fundó con el principio simple de brindar un servicio excepcional mediante la contratación y el desarrollo de excelentes personas, al tiempo que fomenta un entorno seguro, saludable y sostenible: ¡The Athens Way!

Athens está encantada de dar la bienvenida a Pomona a la familia Athens. Juntos, podemos establecer los mejores programas ambientales hoy y para las generaciones futuras. **Athens Services comenzará a brindar servicios a los residentes el 1 de julio de 2023.**

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**HISTORICAL SOCIETY SWEARS IN BOARD MEMBERS** -- Former Pomona City Councilmember Paula Lantz installed new and returning board members of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley in ceremonies at their annual meeting last month at Pomona's Palomares Adobe. Pictured, from left, are Jay Munns (new member), Renee Barbee, Robert Wilkie-wicz, Alice Gomez, Jan Braunstein, Deborah Clifford (president), John Clifford (secretary), Carson Bennitt, Michael Schowalter (vice president), and Lantz. Not pictured are Benny Ayala and Donna Manzaneres-Otero (both new members) and Daniele Soto (treasurer).



**Historical Society of Pomona Valley Board members Alice Gomez, at left, and Renee Barbee, at right, welcome new member Donna Manzaneres-Otero to the Board.**

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Prince of Peace church in Pomona held its annual Day of the Children event this month. Children and their parents from the surrounding neighborhood were offered hotdogs, pizza and ice cream! They also had a chance to play games and win prizes. Toys were donated by Dolly Sosa of Ontario and ice cream was donated by Barney's Ice Cream Truck. Prince of Peace church is located at 934 S. Towne Ave. and offers Sunday school classes to children from 0 to 12 every Sunday from 10 to 11 a.m. Vacation bible school will be offered this summer for children of all ages. For information on food, fun and games and dates, call (909) 750-0331.



**NEW CONSTRUCTION PATHWAY BRINGS BACK SHOP CLASSES** -- Pomona Unified School District officials, representatives of the San Antonio Regional Occupational Program and others held a grand opening and ribbon cutting this month at Pomona's Park West High School for a new career technical education construction pathway. The program was established three years ago but due to COVID teacher Louis Garcia was not hired until January, making it possible for students to go to work at that time. Pictured, from left, are PUSD Director of Career Readiness Luis Rodriguez, PUSD Supt. Darren Knowles, PUSD Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman, Anthony Moreno, representing State Sen. Susan Rubio, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, Park West Principal Dayna McCall, PUSD Director of Career Readiness Dr. Enrique Medina (retired), Pomona Chamber of Commerce Executive Board member Renee Barbee, PUSD Board member Arturo Jimenez, Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles, PUSD Career Technical Education Administrator Monique Cardenas, and Sandra Duque of PUSD's adult school. Garcia said he tells his students "The right attitude will get you a good job and keep a good job."



Students in the new career technical education construction pathway at Pomona's Park West High School have already been hard at work both learning and building -- everything from Adirondack chairs to model houses.

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Cal Poly photos by Tom Zasadzinski



**GRADUATION TIME AT CAL POLY** -- Pictured are College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences students from Monday's first graduation at Cal Poly University Pomona, the first day in a three-day series. This year marked the first time ceremonies were held on weekdays at Cal Poly. In all, some 7,500 students participated in a total of 12 commencement ceremonies in the University Quad as nearly 60,000 family members and friends converged on the Pomona campus.



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**"WEAR ORANGE DAY" IN POMONA** -- Members of the Pomona City Council last week voted to designate June 2 as "Wear Orange Day" as part of a nationwide effort by gun safety advocates following one of the deadliest years on record last year for gun violence in the U.S. The observance in Pomona will be held as part of Wear Orange Weekend and National Gun Violence Awareness Day in conjunction with volunteers from "Moms Demand Action" and "Students Demand Action" along with the "Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund," all to honor the lives of those affected by gun violence and elevate gun violence prevention efforts in the Pomona Valley. Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval also recognized the work of Just Us 4 Youth, a youth violence prevention organization working every day to prevent gun violence by investing in the promise of youth, focusing on positive development and education. Guns are the number one cause of death for children and teens nationwide.



**HAMILTON PARK UPGRADES** -- Workers are making progress on a \$2.7 million upgrade for children of one of the city's oldest barrios. And some of the same people who worked with the city 50 years ago on the park's first development were back to help out this time. Work is expected to be completed by August. (See original story in January 2023 La Nueva Voz at <http://www.lanuevavoz.net>, click on past issues and scroll down to page 12.)



## Volunteers turn out for 14th Pomona Beautification Day

More than 250 community volunteers and students and faculty from Cal Poly University Pomona and the University of La Verne – people of all ages, sizes and abilities – turned out to help clean up the city in a three-hour-long Saturday morning 14th annual Pomona Beautification Day this month.

Neighbors joined with neighbors – for the first Beautification Day following a two-year pandemic hiatus – planting gardens, cleaning alleys, repainting fences and more in an effort to beautify Pomona.

Registered volunteers gathered at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, for an official kickoff event in front of Pomona City Hall and headed out to their work sites – 13 of them in parks and along streets throughout Pomona – to get started on their projects.

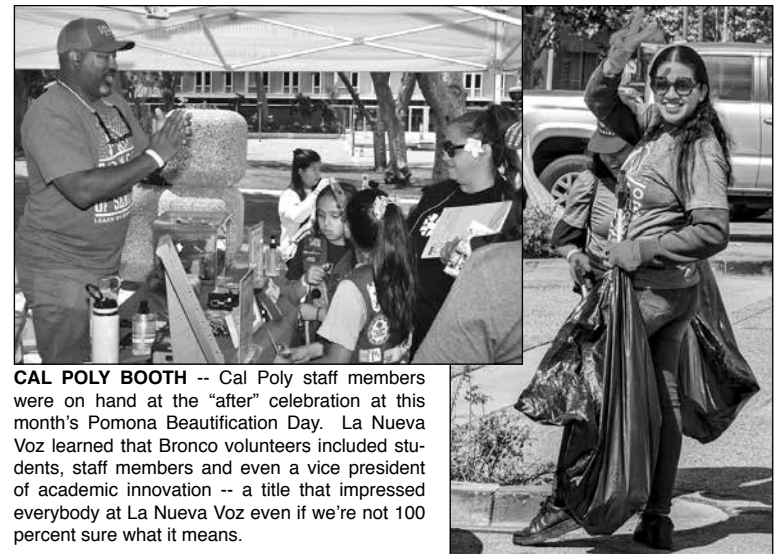
And they all returned to the Pomona Civic Center at noon to enjoy a celebration and line up for free tacos and free tickets to the LA County Fair.



**CATALYST CARES** -- "Catalyst Cares," part of Catalyst Pomona, one of Pomona's two legal storefront cannabis retailers, participated in this month's Pomona Beautification Day. Pictured is the Catalyst Cares information booth during a "celebration" in the Pomona Civic Center after the communitywide cleanup effort. Catalyst also had a team of about 50 volunteers working in the annual three-hour cleanup event.



**MORE CAL POLY BRONCOS** -- Four more Cal Poly volunteers clean up along the Holt Avenue sidewalk. In all, three busloads of Broncos -- or nearly 100 students -- volunteered for the morning cleanup event. And they were working an area from Fairplex Drive to Mills Avenue.



**CAL POLY BOOTH** -- Cal Poly staff members were on hand at the "after" celebration at this month's Pomona Beautification Day. La Nueva Voz learned that Bronco volunteers included students, staff members and even a vice president of academic innovation -- a title that impressed everybody at La Nueva Voz even if we're not 100 percent sure what it means.

**CAL POLY CLEANUP TEAM** -- Four members of the Cal Poly University Pomona team clean up a parking lot at Walgreens (Holt and Towne Avenues).



**CLEANUP AT WASHINGTON PARK** -- Volunteers including more students from Cal Poly were hard at work around the community building at Pomona's Washington Park.



**HARD-WORKING STUDENTS AT WASHINGTON PARK** -- Students from Cal Poly Pomona and the University of La Verne were in charge of Pomona's Washington Park for Pomona Beautification Day, cleaning up everything from the grounds to the areas by the community center, swimming pool and parking lot.



**KIWANIS MEMBERS AT KIWANIS PARK** -- Members of the Pomona Kiwanis Club were on hand for Pomona Beautification Day this month at Kiwanis Park, 954 Weber St., Pomona. Members under the leadership of Jerry Perez performed maintenance on planters and added new plants and mulch around the park perimeter. Pictured, from left, are Pomona city employee Jerry Perez, Pomona resident (who lives near the park) Mario Cardoza, Jr., former Pomona City Manager Linda Lowry, Gino and Diane Elias, Pomona Public Works Director Rene Guerrero, Pomona Police Corporal Brian Hagerty, and Pomona volunteer Ish Arias. Not pictured are former Pomona City Councilmember Debra Martin and Rodney Tanaka of Western University of Health Sciences.

**TACOS FOR BEAUTIFICATION DAY** -- It was all about cleaning up Pomona and coming down to the Pomona Civic Center for tacos after at this month's Pomona Beautification Day. Tacos al Carbon provided taco plates for the crowd. And the Poly Trolley food truck provided lunch for 100 volunteers from Cal Poly University Pomona.



**Do you have a news story? We want to hear from you or your organization.  
Send your news tips to: reenebarbee7@gmail.com**



## OPINION

## An important message to customers of the U.S. Post Office in Pomona from La Nueva Voz!

We regret to inform you that, as of last month, free copies of La Nueva Voz no longer will be available inside the Pomona Post Office, ending a practice that has continued with Post Office approval for the past 14 years – and shutting down one of our most popular distribution locations.

La Nueva Voz was informed of the policy change in this public building when Pomona's new postmaster, Sonia Telles-Simpson, approached La Nueva Voz Publisher Jeff Schenkel in the lobby at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, and personally delivered the news verbally and with no written notice.

Schenkel explained this had been a long-standing practice, but Telles-Simpson insisted there were two reasons for her edict – one, the Pomona Post Office recently was audited and she was informed that only official U.S. Postal Service materials could be distributed there and, two, the newspapers had become a problem with homeless individuals urinating on them, resulting in extra clean-up duties by her maintenance staff.

Schenkel countered that Telles-Simpson also has initiated a policy of locking the lobby at 6 p.m., and that because of that the homeless issue should no longer be a problem. She hastened to



Pomona Post Office

Pomona Postmaster  
Sonia Telles-Simpson

add that “they do it in the daytime, too,” although La Nueva Voz has not noticed a daytime issue with the homeless in recent years.

She said she would be happy to “contact the Mayor” and explain the reason for the change, although Schenkel explained the newspaper is not a city publication but is independently owned and operated.

And on the question of the audit, La Nueva Voz reviewed the most recent Pomona audit posted online by the U.S. Postal

Service Office of Inspector General. That audit, dated Jan. 16, 2020, showed the Post Office had cash drawer shortages from the sale of stamps of \$327 and shortages from the sale of retail items of \$3,224, or 20 percent of the inventory.

The audit also cited issues with delivery of parcels, and noted “a damaged parcel from 2005 that was not returned to the Mail Recovery Center as required.”

There was no mention in the audit of La Nueva Voz or any other outside materials being distributed in the Post Office.

No other deficiencies were noted.

La Nueva Voz submitted a federal “Freedom of Information Act” request for the latest audit to see if, in fact, any mention of outside materials was listed but did not receive a response before press time.

Now La Nueva Voz understands Telles-Simpson, lauded by the U.S. Postal Service as the first Mexican-American woman to hold the title of postmaster in Pomona, is new on the job (although she served with the Postal Service for 32 years before coming here) – she was installed in a special ceremony last Aug. 26, nine months ago, by Pasadena Postmaster Noel Hodges, according to a Postal Service news release.

“Our Post Office serves as a lifeline for our small businesses to

reach customers no matter where they are,” she said in the news release – anywhere except, apparently, the lobby of her Post Office.

Her salary was not readily available online, although La Nueva Voz found the average salary of an entry-level postmaster with less than one year's experience in California is \$69,390. She was 51 at the time of her appointment.

As an additional note of interest, the Post Office once before implemented a policy of closing the lobby for the night at 6 p.m. – also because of homeless issues – but, according to information received by La Nueva Voz and published at the time, when it was brought to the attention of Congresswoman Norma Torres, she learned Pomona was the only Post Office in the country closing at night and she asked the U.S. Postmaster to order it to remain open at night, and it did until this year.

Also, it appears at least two other newspapers that have been distributing at the Post Office similarly have been removed. This demonstrates, in the opinion of La Nueva Voz, that Telles-Simpson, rather than attempting to welcome the community into the Post Office, really is putting up barriers in the interest of making life easier for her staff instead of concerning herself

Effective February 04<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Due To Recent Theft and Security Concerns, our P.O. Boxes Lobby Hours will be reduced to

Mon-Sat: 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Sun: Closed

Window service hours will remain the same.

Mon-Sat: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sun: Closed

Pomona Post Office  
580 W Monterey Ave.  
Pomona, CA 91769

One of two posted notices of nighttime Post Office closures at the Pomona facility.



Pictured is one of the two tables in the Pomona Post Office lobby with typical left-over “junk” mail. Two trash bins formerly located in the lobby and one formerly placed inside the counter area of the Post Office have been removed and no postal forms have been stocked in distribution slots under the tabletops.

with the needs of the public she serves.

(She also has removed trash cans from the public areas leaving trash to accumulate on lobby tables and, while we're at it, never seems to have enough stamps on hand – especially those popular rolls of “forever” stamps. Clerks typically inform customers that they are not in charge of ordering stamps.)

**Note to our readers**

While we regret the inconvenience this action will cause, as many of our readers know, we continue to offer free pickup locations for La Nueva Voz throughout Pomona and parts of La Verne, Claremont and Montclair – more than 140 locations altogether.

Please call La Nueva Voz at (909) 629-2292 and ask where you can find a location near you.

Or, if you prefer, we also offer paid subscriptions delivered by, who else, our good friends at the U.S. Post Office. Cost is only \$39 per year. Again, just give us a call.

## Prevention of sports injury: A parent's guide

By Michele Rebozzi, PT, DPT, OCS, Faith Rea, PT, DPT, OCS, and Steven Bast, MD

The Coliseum Sports Medicine and Orthopedics at Casa Colina

Young athletes view summer as a great time to train. It's the season to get "the edge" on the competitor – whether it's neighborhood runs, weight training, skills workouts, pick-up games, or summer leagues, just to name a few.

Now, athletes have access to even more training opportunities and resources to give themselves the edge. However, if some is good, more is not always better! With more options comes added risk if you don't understand how to prevent injury. Today, healthcare professionals encounter increased injury rate and burnout among younger athletes, who are constantly being pushed to new limits. Often, the core of the problem is overuse and overtraining, combined with lack of rest.

If you are the parent of a young athlete looking to enhance their summer training regimen, here are signs to watch for to help them avoid sports injury:

- **Fatigue:** Most injuries occur when the athlete is simply fatigued, physically and mentally! If your athlete is sleeping more, having difficulty sleeping, or seems sluggish, they most likely need rest. Encourage them to slow down and focus on getting the right amount of sleep. For teens, this means 8-10 hours nightly. More games played will not translate to better perfor-



**SPORTS MEDICINE AT CASA COLINA** -- Pictured from left representing The Coliseum Sports Medicine and Orthopedics at Pomona's Casa Colina, are physical therapists Michele Rebozzi and Faith Rea and Dr. Steven Bast.

mance. Fatigued muscles are able to absorb less energy before reaching the degree of stretch that causes injuries.

- **Sore muscles/Body aches:** Sore muscles and joints may be a sign of overtraining. Consider dialing back the intensity or frequency of your workouts in the short-term. The day after a hard workout, try light, restorative exercise such as yoga, stay hydrated, and get good rest. Training must include a recovery and regeneration phase.

- **Headaches:** Excessive or intense headaches may indicate dehydration. Remember, poor nutrition can lead to injury. Encourage your

athlete to drink plenty of water and eat balanced meals daily.

- **Burnout:** If your athlete is losing interest in a sport they once loved, it may be time to give them a break and just let them enjoy being a kid!

If done with a thoughtful regimen that factors in rest, nutrition, and mental health, summer training is a great way to gain a competitive edge. But we all need time for our body to recover and regenerate – especially growing kids!

*Editor's Note: Questions about sports injury prevention or training? The Coliseum at Casa Colina can help. They offer free sports injury screenings Monday evenings in Pomona, with all the resources you need to get you back in the game and keep you there. Call (909) 596-7733, ext. 3500 or visit [casacolina.org/Coliseum](http://casacolina.org/Coliseum) for details.*



**ROTARY HOLDS 'GOOD FOR THE SOLE' SHOE DRIVE AT SIMONS** -- Pomona Rotary Club members packed up their annual "Good for the Sole" program and took it on the road to Simons Middle School this year where they gave out about 50 pairs of shoes to kids who needed them. Pictured receiving his pair of shoes from Rotarian Janet Roy is Jason Sicajan, a seventh grader at Simons. And pictured at rear (center) is Paul Roach, director of development of Shoes That Fit, a Claremont-based non-profit that donates shoes to underserved children. The organization partnered with Rotary on the project.

### CAL POLY HOSTS FORUM ON 'PRISON EDUCATION PROJECT'

-- Dr. Renford Reese, a professor of political science at Cal Poly University Pomona and founder of the Prison Education Project, kicks off a forum at Cal Poly's Kellogg West Conference Center this month to focus on how to provide academic and life-skills to juveniles and young adults in the justice system.

Information also was shared on vocational training and higher education opportunities. Co-hosts for the event were Chief Probation Officers of California and the Office of Youth and Community Restoration in the California Department of Rehabilitation. Other organizations participating in the event included Rising Scholars and Project Rebound. In the past 12 years, Prison Education Project has mobilized thousands of university student and faculty volunteers in order to serve nearly 9,000 in-custody students in 25 correctional facilities throughout California and beyond. By keeping one youthful offender from returning to prison, the organization claims it saves the annual cost of housing an inmate in California which is \$81,203, or more than the annual cost of tuition at Harvard University.



**NCNW AT THE FAIR** -- Members of the National Council of Negro Women of Pomona Valley staffed a booth at the Big Red Barn on the LA County Fair's first Saturday this month. Pictured, from left, are Financial Secretary Janet Betton, Fair mascot Thummer, President Jamie Lindsay and member Mark Calvin.

## La Nueva Voz...

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provide them a good quality education and access to health care, and a good future.”

“They can expect me to be a champion of their small businesses and their small business needs, to go to bat for them with federal agencies, and they can expect that I will continue the record I have of getting things done for Californians and to address homelessness and bring down the cost of housing,” Schiff added.

“I have a long track record of working well with people with very differing viewpoints to actually get things done, to bring about a consensus and deliver,” he added. “And they can also expect me to be one of the most prominent defenders of our democracy in the nation and fight back against any autocrat or would-be autocrat now or in the future.”

Schiff, who has represented California in Congress since 2001 and was the lead impeachment manager in President Trump’s first impeachment trial and who worked on the “Jan. 6” House Select Committee, announced in January his candidacy for U.S. Senate. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the oldest sitting U.S. Senator and member of Congress, announced in February she would not seek reelection next year.

Feinstein, 89, has served in the U.S. Senate since 1992.

Schiff’s campaign team reached out to La Nueva Voz offering to arrange what turned out to be a wide-ranging one-on-one telephone interview this month from Washington, D.C.

#### Trump legal issues show democracy still at risk

Responding to the first in a series of questions from La Nueva Voz, this one on the on-going developments surrounding President Trump, Schiff said people need to live up to their oath of office and accept the basic truth.

“Our last election was free and fair,” he said, adding that the United States has the best written constitution in the world. “None of it is enough if people don’t live up to their oath of office. The constitutional crisis goes on.”

“Our democracy is still very much at risk . . . we are at risk of a demagogue once again holding office if he should be successful,” he said. “The starting point of another term for Donald Trump

would begin with the insurrection, would begin with an assault on the rule of law, and go downhill from there, so it’s a terrifying prospect.”

“I am deeply concerned that he is still the dominant force in the Republican Party because we need both political parties to be parties of ideology and ideas, and one of them remains a kind of cult around the former president,” he said.

#### Abortion

La Nueva Voz asked about his position on abortion.

“I sense that the loss of rights of reproductive freedom is not only, I think, dangerous for millions of women but also indicative of a democracy that is in decline,” Schiff said, adding that one remedy “to reinstate a woman’s control of her own body” is to pass legislation that he supported in the House of Representatives to codify the right of reproductive freedom.

The other remedy, he said, would be to expand the Supreme Court of the United States.

Schiff said that remedy is important as a means of repealing *Roe v Wade* because of his fear that it might be “just the first right to fall,” which means it is important to have a Supreme Court that is “more representative of the majority of viewpoint of Americans” to protect other rights.

#### Immigration

The interview with Schiff was timed the day after the expiration of Title 42 which changed COVID immigration rules at the border, and La Nueva Voz asked Schiff if the country was prepared for the change.

“I don’t know if we’re ready fully, I think we need a lot more support for families that are fleeing violence elsewhere,” he said. “And I do think we need a change to our immigration policies, we desperately need a comprehensive approach to immigration.”

“And I think that Democrats when we controlled the House and Senate and the White House should have gotten that done, we should have gotten comprehensive immigration reform done, and the next time we have that opportunity we darn well need to do it and use the political capital necessary to solve this problem,” Schiff said.

“One thing that’s clear now is Republicans are never going to

## Schiff... from pg. 1

want to solve this problem,” he said. “I think the Republicans feel that the crisis at the border is the political gift that doesn’t stop giving.”

He said he does not agree with changes to the asylum laws that would make criminals out of people fleeing violence or “enact long bars to their ability to enter the country in the future.”

#### What he will bring to Pomona

Then what will he bring to Pomona, the seventh largest city in Los Angeles County and a community that is more than 80 percent Hispanic?

“The way I view the job of a U.S. Senator is much like I view the job in the House, and that is getting to know each and every community in each part of the state and bringing back resources to those communities to help address challenges, whether they are environmental injustices in the cleanup of Superfund sites or they are bringing back resources to help small businesses or build infrastructure for people to work,” he said.

“So I look forward to working with the leadership in Pomona to understand what the community needs and how I can deliver for the community in the Senate,” he added.

He said he believes parents in Pomona, for example, are like parents everywhere – “they want the best for their kids, they want their kids to enjoy a better quality of life than what their parents had and what they have.”

“And I want to work with the people of Pomona to make that happen,” he said, adding that he has also worked with small business owners in his district during the pandemic to ensure they could get the financial support they need and to help them interact with the federal government and compete for federal contracts.

“I’m working on legislation to raise teachers’ salaries, I’ve got a bill to strengthen nursing education so that we can invest more in our nursing workforce, and I think all of these measures will be of great value to people in Pomona,” he said.

#### Guns and gun violence

On gun control, Schiff referred to himself as a “forceful advocate” for gun safety legislation.

“I support assault weapons bans

and the ban on extended ammunition clips, I support universal background checks and for the last half decade I’ve been carrying a bill that the President of the United States believes may be the single most important gun safety measure in having a bill to repeal the gun industry’s immunity from liability,” he said.

And he added he’s been working on trafficking of weapons from the United States south of the border, “and that is a deadly problem for our neighbors in Mexico that American weapons have been smuggled into Mexico as part of an illicit trade and we need to crack down on that as well.”

#### Housing

On housing, Schiff said he supported legislation that would attack discrimination against military veterans by providing vouchers, but landlords are turning them away and not accepting that form of payment – something he said is a form of discrimination. He is working on legislation with his colleagues “to attack that very problem.”

“I have also introduced legis-

lation to establish an interagency council on housing affordability to find new ways to bring down the cost of housing, and I’ve introduced other legislation that would give favorable tax treatment to those who sell their property to housing agencies for use for low-income housing,” he said.

And, on the appropriations side, he said he has brought “millions and millions back to California to help house people.”

#### COVID

On COVID, he said the pandemic is not over as long as a thousand Americans continue to die every week of the disease.

“But that doesn’t mean we go back to the kind of COVID restrictions that we once had,” he added.

He said it is still important to get more of the American people vaccinated.

Plus, “I’ve worked on legislation to strengthen our efforts to essentially discover emerging viruses in other parts of the world so that we can protect our people here at home” using a strategy

Schiff... pg. 18

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V.P. of Marketing & Operations: Renee Barbee  
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**SOLAR PANEL COMPANY JOINS POMONA CHAMBER** -- Sun Capital Energy, which has expanded into a business park at 2300 S. Reservoir St., #402 in Pomona, held an official Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting this month to celebrate joining the chamber. Everything was included from tacos to mariachis. Pictured, at left, are Sun Capital administrative assistant Monica Gaxiola and Pomona Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, at center are Aldo Macias Arellano of the office of Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang, Sun Capital Vice President of Sales Steve Malteg and President Omar Ramirez, and at right Pomona Chamber volunteer Delores Alba and Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles.

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**Editor's Note:** This page is the eighth in a series of nine special "Stop-the-Hate" features made possible by a La Nueva Voz grant awarded by the Latino Media Collaborative, a non-profit news media organization, and funded by the California State Library. The "Stop-the-Hate" program itself is administered by the California Department of Social Services as a statewide effort to increase public consciousness about hate incidents and hate crimes, their harmful impacts on individuals and communities, their prevention, and support and resources available for healing.

## 'Stop-the-Hate' -- A special La Nueva Voz feature series

### Overcoming stigma: Mental health wellness is for everyone

By **Rimmi Hundal**, Executive Director, Tri-City Mental Health Authority

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. While one in five people will experience some type of mental health condition during their lifetime, everyone faces challenges in life that can impact their well-being. Mental illness affects everyone directly or indirectly through family, friends or co-workers.

Despite mental illnesses' reach and prevalence, stigma and misunderstanding and even stereotyping and hate from the community are also widespread and prevent many from seeking the treatment needed to be healthy and mentally well. People with mental health conditions often face rejection, bullying and discrimination and hate, which can make their journey to recovery longer and more difficult. Learning how to address the stigma surrounding mental health and to provide support are important for all of us, especially when you realize stigma's effects.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Mental health conditions are the leading cause of disability across the United States.
- Two in five adults in the U.S. report anxiety and depression, and two in five teens describe experiencing persistent sadness or hopelessness.
- Even though most people can successfully recover, less than half of the adults in the U.S. who need services and treatment get the help they need, with the rate being even less for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death of youth ages 15 to 24 and the tenth leading cause of death for all Americans. American Indians, Alaska Natives, Black youth, and LGBTQIA+ youth also face a disproportionate risk of suicide.

While mental health issues affect everyone, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI), BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and other historically marginalized and underserved communities have higher rates of mental health conditions and face greater disparities and barriers in accessing mental health care. Lack of awareness of available resources and the stigma that surrounds mental health are the largest deterrents in someone seeking professional help. Discrimination, hate, cultural stigma, shame, religion, racism, insurance coverage, language barriers and lack of culturally appropriate services are additional factors that prevent many individuals from talking freely about mental health and seeking the treatment needed to lead happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.

Every day, we have an opportunity to help create a broader understanding of mental health, overcome stereotypes and break down barriers. Breaking the stigma is essential to creating a community where people with mental health conditions are socially included, valued, and supported in their wellness and recovery and go on to achieve their desired goals and reach their full potential.

We can collectively work to eliminate stigma and replace it with hope, healing and wellness. Learn the signs of emotional distress and suicide. Engage your loved ones in supportive dialogue, and let them know they are not alone and it's okay to not be okay. Fight the prejudice and negative attitudes that discourage those in need from seeking mental health support. Most of all, let us ensure that anyone experiencing mental health challenges is treated with empathy, respect and understanding.

At Tri-City Mental Health Authority (TCMHA), we are dedicated to advancing mental health equity to ensure that quality mental health services are accessible for all individuals and families in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne, regardless of a person's race, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, socioeconomic status, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Recovery is possible and treatment works. Support is available and there is no shame in reaching out. Your mental health does not define you.

Mental health wellness is for everyone, and there are practical resources and services that anyone can use to improve their well-being and to support the people they care about. Mental health services and supports are available to Pomona, Claremont

and La Verne residents including:

- **Tri-City Mental Health | Access to Care:** The Access to Care program serves as the main entry point to specialty mental health services for individuals residing in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne. Individuals interested in services can access care either by calling, walk-in, or referral. Call (909) 766-7340 for child, youth and family outpatient services or (909) 623-6131 for adult outpatient services.

- **Tri-City Supplemental Crisis Line:** Call (866) 623-9500, available 24/7. For individuals residing in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne, licensed mental health professionals can help provide emotional support, offer guidance and help connect callers with resources.

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:** Call or text 988 to access a 24/7 national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.

- If you or a loved one is in immediate danger, call 911 and ask the operator for an officer trained in crisis intervention for a psychiatric emergency.

- **The Tri-City Wellness Center** is a community hub that offers free specialized support groups, employment vocational support and programming for all ages. It is located at 1403 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA 91767.

- Contact our Community Navigators team at (888) 436-3246 for linkage and referral to local resources including food, medical, legal, mental health, senior information and more. For resources outside of our three cities, please call 211.

#### Building community wellness:

##### It takes us all

When we talk about mental health, it is impossible to understand and support someone's mental health without considering the impact of their racial, ethnic and cultural identity on how they see their world and their place in it. TCMHA is continuously working to remove barriers to mental health care and expanding services in a manner that is respectful of the culture, belief systems, and backgrounds of those we are trying to reach. This includes access to prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services for mental health and co-occurring substance use disorders. In support of this mission, TCMHA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) program organizes community engagement opportunities to enhance the mental health and well-being of everyone in our community, and does so in partnership with communities, advocates and residents that know how to best meet local needs.

Our key imperative is to help promote awareness by forging local partnerships with our community and bring to bear an environment that embraces the importance of mental health as part of one's overall well-being and health. For someone in need of help, raising mental health awareness can be a turning point for acceptance, improved understanding and access to support. Instrumental to this effort is the development of our Wellness Collaboratives to build bridges with diverse communities in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne. Members consist of local service providers, community groups, advocates, community members, consumers, families and TCMHA staff. Current Wellness Collaboratives support communities including AANHPI, Black and African Americans, Latino/a/x, LGBTQIA+, and transition age youth. Collaboratives serving Native American and Indigenous communities and older adults are also in development.



Rimmi Hundal





Photo by Renee Barbee

**VEJAR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH** -- Four students from Pomona's Vejar Elementary School were named "students of the month" last month by members of the Pomona Optimist Club at their meeting at Fuego Restaurant in Downtown Pomona. Pictured, from left, are Vejar Principal Dr. Calondra Jolly, Optimist President Lorraine Canales, March 2023 awardees Jessie De Jesus and Jazmin Epitacio, both eighth graders, February 2023 honorees Aysiah Willis, third grade, and Mia Figueroa, sixth grade, and Optimist member Pomona Police Detective Paul Harvey, Jr.

## Pomona – The bashful compassionate

By Linda Lowry, Member, Compassionate Pomona

In 2018 Pomona proclaimed itself a "compassionate city," joining an international network of cities espousing compassion as a value and declaring that this value was not just a wished for ideal, but a set of actions intentionally experienced every day. Compassion is now a stated value in the city's charter.

The proclamation was not debated by the city council but embraced as a no-brainer since Pomona has long been a center for compassion. That's why Po-

mona has Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions and other service clubs which have been serving the community for over 100 years. That's why Pomona has been a home to a YMCA, Boys Club, The Ebell, a Masonic Lodge, as well as dozens of worship houses representing a myriad of traditions. Safeguarding the common good has been part of Pomona's identity for many decades.

As a kind of eastern depot for Los Angeles County, Pomona has historically been a place where people are able to obtain social services. Health care and non-profits are an important sector of Pomona's economy, and their combined missions have built a framework of caring and compassionate services offered to all residents.

The fact that Pomona's forefathers located the county fair in Pomona exemplifies Pomona's role as gracious host to all of Los Angeles County and the Inland Empire. Pomona fairground was the very best place to create a safe space for unchaperoned immi-

**Bashful compassionate... pg. 15**



Photo by Renee Barbee

**GRADUATION CLASS PHOTO** -- Students in this year's graduation class at Just Us 4 Youth pose for a class photo last week during their second annual end of year senior graduation banquet at Pomona Valley Mining Company. The "at promise" (rather than "at risk") youth were recognized for completing their K-12 educational requirements. Just Us 4 Youth, a Pomona-based non-profit organization, serves all high schools in the Pomona Unified School District. The celebration included awarding of scholarships. The group provides long-term support and care to youth and families in urban inner cities, mentoring youth to be better students, better people and better leaders. A total of 35 students in a graduating class of 50 attended the event.

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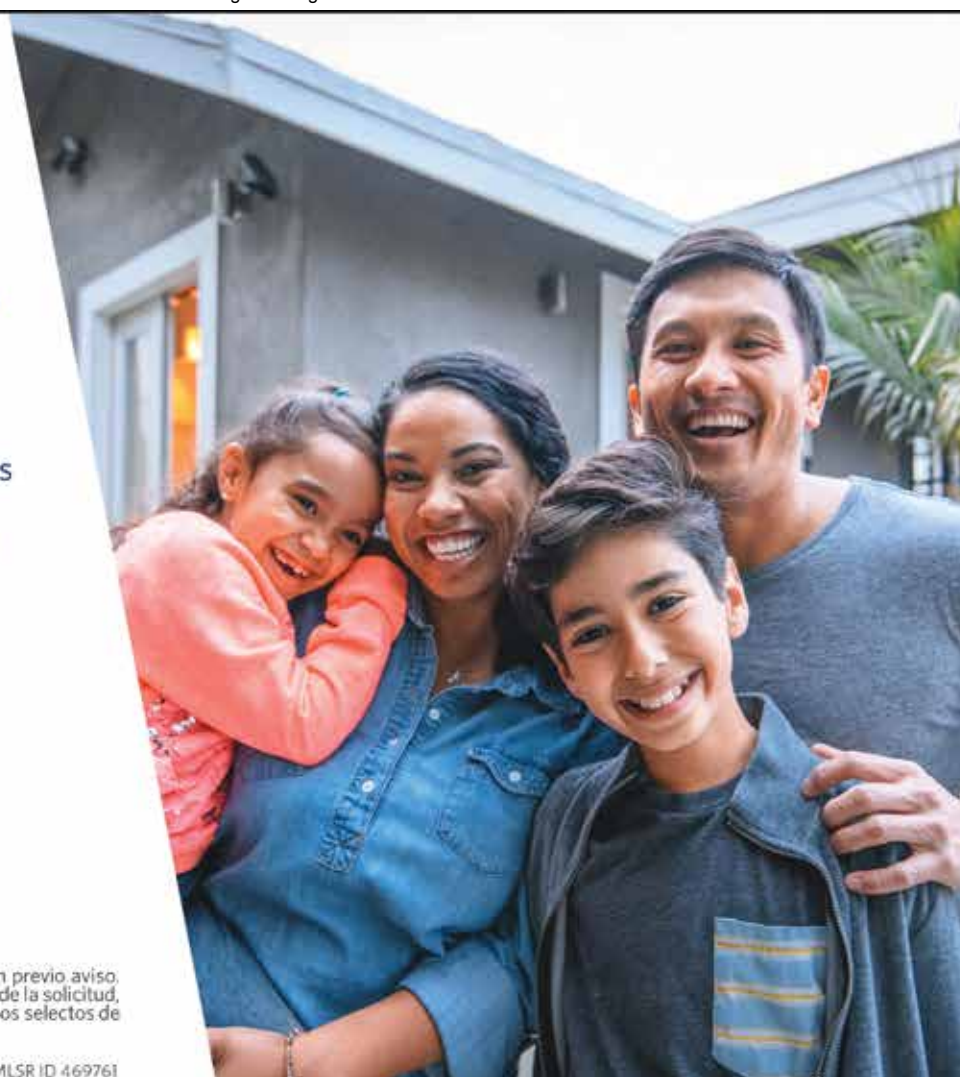
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## PUSD Board appoints Darren Knowles as superintendent after a year as 'interim'

Darren Knowles, Pomona Unified School District's interim superintendent for the past year and an employee of the district for the past 29 years, was selected last week by the school board to serve as superintendent.

The vote to develop a two-year contract beginning July 1 was unanimous.

School board members selected Knowles on an interim basis last year to replace Richard Martinez, who had served as superintendent for the past 13 years and served a total of 21 years with the district.

The motion by Pomona Unified School Board member Patty Tye to adopt a resolution awarding the position to Knowles was seconded by Board member Dr. Roberta Perlman.

As stated in the resolution, Knowles will



Darren Knowles

“decisively act on the priorities identified by stakeholders during successive outreach efforts and on Board-identified directives including, but not limited to, consistent equity for all students and across all schools, addressing declining enrollment, supporting and enhancing special education services, creating partnerships to identify local and state resources for enhanced student support, improving access to the arts, en-

hancing district facilities, supporting teachers and staff, and enhancing public knowledge of District and student successes.”

Pomona Unified serves about 22,000 students in a total of 41 schools and includes about 2,600 certificated and classified employees.



**HONORING RETIRING LIBRARY WORKERS** -- Pomona City Councilmember Nora Garcia stopped by last week's meeting of Pomona's Library Board of Trustees to present two veteran Pomona Public Library employees with certificates thanking them for their dedication and service. Pictured, seated, from left, are Pat Lambert, a library employee since 1994, and Martha Ramos, who joined the library as a page in 1982. Standing, from left, are Deputy Director of Library Services Anita Torres; John Clifford, president of Save Our Pomona Public Library; library board trustees Meg Johannsen and Lisa Snider; Councilmember Garcia, trustees Mike Suarez, Debra Martin (board chair), Tom Rodriguez and Renee Barbee, Assistant City Manager Mark Gluba, and Duane Smith, president of the Pomona Public Library Foundation board.



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## LA County Fair... from pg. 1

“And that’s something that we all ought to be proud of in the Fair that we’re delivering now building partnerships going back to the roots of how county fairs were built by partnerships with you all, partnerships with others, highlighting and supporting LA County Fair and showing the world really how to build a county fair,” he said.

The LA County Fair continues through Monday.



A live band stage was set up on the grass by the water at The Park at the Lagoon this year, attracting fair-goers as they walked from the rides and games back toward the Gate 1 area.

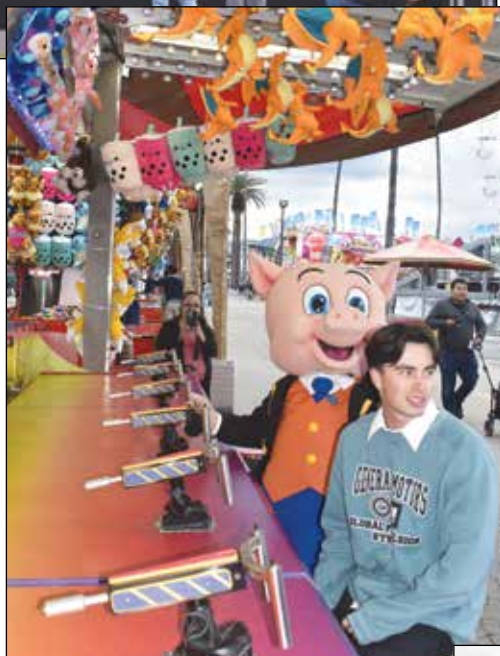
The midway vendors are back at the LA County Fair as always, selling everything from light sabres and some kind of a ball on a string to, well, whatever that thing is on his head.



You’ve got to have kids and kids’ rides at the LA County Fair.



Memo to readers: This ride is not for the faint of heart -- it is a bit on the twisty and turny end of the scale, and is one reason some people wear those wallets with a little chain attached to their belt.



Fair mascot Thummer the Pig (on the job at the Fair since 1948) was everywhere this year, and La Nueva Voz caught up with him getting ready for the water gun shooting game.



Games and prizes were all ready to go on opening day at the LA County Fair.



Who hasn’t tried Chicken Charlie’s corn on the cob, eating it while walking around the LA County Fair, raise your hand?



Folks were right back up on the Sky Ride at the LA County Fair this year.

What better time to hop on the Ferris wheel than right before sunset on opening day at the LA County Fair. We’re not 100 percent on this but we’re pretty sure there were three this year including a smaller wheel in the kids’ rides area. (Did you know the original Ferris wheel was designed and constructed by George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr., as a landmark for the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago?)





## Bashful compassionate... from pg. 12

grant children during the COVID epidemic; and Pomona Unified School District is the most perfect Guardian of bright futures for all of Pomona's youth.

Pomona embraces its beautiful people, and its people strive to bring its problems into the realm

of positive and compassionate outcomes every day. No need to be shy about it. Compassion has been an unnamed Pomona tradition which is now out of the closet.

The Compassionate Pomona movement holds Zoom meetings the first and third Thursday morn-

ings of each month. All are invited to attend by contacting Jan Chase at Janhoshin@aol.com or texting her at (909) 896-0991. Please join in the cooperative effort to recognize and grow even more compassion throughout Pomona.



Students from Decker Elementary received a Certificate of Membership at this year's All District Choir Pops Concert. Students from 6th to 8th grade were on hand to grace the audience with their musical talent with a performance this month which took place at the District Auditorium. Pictured from left to right are music teacher Michael Smith, Sebastian Mendoza, Vienna Sajinovic, Valeria De La Rocha, Dunia Saed, music teacher Ryan Robinson and Brandon Castelar.



**ATHENS HOLDS 'SUSTAINABLE STORYTIME'** -- Athens Services recently collaborated with the Pomona Public Library for a "Sustainable Storytime" including reading books teaching kids about the environment and playing a recycling game (pictured) in which kids selected which disposal bin to use for waste items. Rocky the Recycling Raccoon, the company's mascot, was available for photos.



**END OF AN ERA** -- A bulldozer smooths out the concrete after demolition last month took down four drive-in movie screens, the car window speakers and more, clearing the way for development last month of a 28-acre site which for the past 67 years has been the home of Montclair's Mission Tiki Drive-In Theatre and Swap Meet. As pictured, the projection booth that once housed four projectors, one pointing in each direction to one of the four screens, was still standing but even that was gone the next time La Nueva Voz drove by. Last we looked, the original sign was still standing on the northwest corner of Mission Boulevard and Ramona Avenue. Plans call for building a business park on the site that will include 513,295 square feet of flexible industrial space with new zoning from the present commercial to include both manufacturing and commercial.

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## Cal Poly Pomona Collins Hospitality College ranked No. 5 in world

The Collins College of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly University Pomona has been ranked No. 5 in the world on the “2023 Best Hospitality and Hotel Management Schools” list compiled by CEOWorld Magazine.

The school was ranked at No. 32 in its initial ranking five years ago and is the only California program to make the top 25.

Rankings are based on program quality, job placement rate and other factors in survey responses from 185,000 recruiters, employers and graduates.



**SPRING CONCERT AT GAREY** -- Band director Anthony Bonner conducts Pomona's Garey High School orchestra at last week's "Spring Music Extravaganza" concert in the gym celebrating the school's 60th anniversary. Selections included music from 60 years ago by artists like Barbra Streisand and songs like "Hooked on a Feeling" and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and even including the theme from the Mr. Rogers television show, all interspersed with songs from the soundtracks of Marvel Studios Productions action hero films like Spider-man and more. And there was even a special performance by the Garey High School Jazz Band. Needless to say, the students -- and Bonner -- were amazing as always.

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**Photo by Renee Barbee**  
**FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER** -- Pomona Valley Food Bank held a fundraiser Saturday at Pomona's Ganesha Park to raise funds to recover from a reported incident involving vandalism and theft of a truck. The group received pledges from Southern California Gas (\$10,000), Southern California Edison (\$5,000 per year for five years), a donation from Smart & Final and \$5,000 from an anonymous donor, among others. Pictured, left rear, is Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, at center is food bank executive director Allan Espinoza with his wife, Bell Lucas, seated. Out front, center, is actor Rodney Allen Rippey of Jack in the Box television fame in the 1970s. The 27-year-old non-profit food bank, at 284 E. Holt Ave., Pomona, is operated by "God Provides Ministry." For information, call (626) 200-0356.



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Building with blocks of wood was one of the highlights of this month's "Playing is Learning" event, a series of fun activities to promote child development and prepare kids up to age 5 for school, using activities their parents can replicate at home. The new program, organized by Pomona's Promise, was held at Pomona's Washington Park.



Yes, even playing with that purple silly putty can help Alexis, wearing the crown, learn something that might help her in school. The "Playing is Learning" program helps promote the well-being of children starting at a very young age, a time when experts say 90 percent of brain development takes place.



A little music started to play over the sound system and dancers started to dance as part of "Playing is Learning."



We're not 100 percent sure how face painting helps with learning but it sure looks good, right? And we're pretty sure that's how this customer felt about it, too.



"Playing is Learning" organizer Jo Ann Gaines of Compassionate Pomona was busy, well, organizing throughout the day at this month's "Playing is Learning" event at Pomona's Washington Park.



My, what you were able to do at Pomona's "Playing is Learning" event this month in Washington Park. For example, here's what happened when one young customer at the puppet table started working with a brown paper bag and, well, voila!



And there was music at "Playing is Learning," singing "De Colores" at the time the La Nueva Voz camera stopped by. Organizers said there were 25 booths total with 16 of them "activity" booths and the rest resource booths -- representing everything from Pomona Unified School District to Tri City Mental Health to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and more.



"Playing is Learning" organizer Lorraine Canales poses with Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz at this month's children's event presented by Pomona's Promise in Washington Park.



Yoga instruction at this month's "Playing is Learning" event at Pomona's Washington Park resulted in the kids, well, taking some interesting positions on the subject.

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

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

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- Claremont library
- Claremont City Hall lobby
- La Verne City Hall lobby
- La Verne Senior Citizens Center
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce, 101 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona
- DOWNTOWN Pomona Owners Association, 119 W. 2nd St., Pomona
- Western University of Health Sciences Patient Care Center
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center maternity, lobby, outpatient services, emergency room
- Gold Strike Market Carniceria, 412 N. Park Ave., Pomona
- Fairplex Chevron, Fairplex Drive and San Bernardino Freeway, Pomona
- Discount Market, Philadelphia Street and Towne Avenue, Pomona
- LaunderLand Coin Op Laundry, 744 E. Holt Ave., Pomona
- Pomona Eagles, 854 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona





called “pandemic surveillance.”

**Criminal justice**

Schiff, who was a federal prosecutor for six years in the U.S. Attorney’s office in Los Angeles in the late 1980s and early 1990s, said he has been working on an initiative for some time to support funding for police “but also to support funding for juvenile justice prevention efforts.”

He has been working to replicate at the federal level a program he helped create in California in 2000 that would continue to make an investment in prevention “but also make an investment in law enforcement and community-based policing” to combine prevention with police presence but also include a “strong approach to deal with any kind of police violence.”

“We need to find ways to address peoples’ continued concerns over their safety and I think these are things that we can do that all reinforce each other,” he said.

**Global warming**

He said that on the issue of global warming, he supports reducing reliance on fossil fuels and moving toward renewable energy.

“But I also feel in the area of the environment we need to attack problems of environmental justice, problems with Superfund sites that need to be cleaned up, often in poor communities,” Schiff said.

**Pomona in 89th percentile for student debt**

Pomona ranked in the 89th percentile nationwide in a recent study of 2023 cities with the most student debt.

Students in the first percentile were rated as the “most over leveraged.”

Median student debt for Pomona was listed at \$15,667 with holders of bachelor’s degrees earning \$58,167, according rankings by WalletHub, a personal finance web site launched in 2013 and owned by Evolution Finance, Inc.

Post-college debts represent one of the biggest financial burdens to Americans, and student loans make up the second highest form of household debt after mortgages, totaling a record \$1.63 trillion, or about \$37,600 per borrower.

The study included graduates

**Water quality and quantity**

La Nueva Voz asked Schiff how California is doing in the area of water quality and water quantity.

“We’re not doing very well at all,” he said. “When I was last in the Central Valley, I was meeting with constituents who can’t drink their own water, tens of thousands of families whose wells now are overrun with nitrates as a result of flooding of dairy farms and, as a result of the depletion of the aquifers, the chemicals leeching into the water supply.”

“And so we desperately need a clean water effort in not just the Central Valley but elsewhere,” he said. “And we also need a much more concerted effort and investment in water infrastructure so we can capture water when we have seasons like we did recently with very heavy rain.”

**Problems of “hate” and discrimination in society**

Schiff said there has been an explosion of hate over the last several years.

“I think some of it was driven by the former president and his rhetoric demonizing immigrants as murderers and rapists, putting bans on entire religious groups coming into the country,” he said. “The disparagement of the AAPI community during the pandemic caused a lot of hate.”

And he said social media has become “just a cesspool of hate.”

**Schiff... from pg. 8**

Schiff said he’s supporting legislation that would disarm hate by helping people get restraining orders or prohibit people from getting weapons if they have been convicted of hate crimes.”

“People go into where they know there are going to be migrants and mowing them down in their car or going to where there are going to be a large number of immigrants and shooting people at a Walmart,” he said, something that is motivated by hate.

“So we have so much work to do,” he said. “I’m really trying to crackdown on hate online, but also I’m calling out hate wherever I see it and sadly we’re seeing a lot.”

**Education**

Schiff was asked his position on how best to improve California’s ranking in the nation in the area of

quality of education.

“We have to support our schools and support our teachers,” he said, including increasing teacher salaries.

He added that teachers are leaving the profession because school districts are not paying them enough, and that school districts themselves lack the resources.

He said he supports increasing the investment in schools but also sees a need for increasing the length of the school day and school year and updating textbooks in the schools.

And he supports enhancing internet broadband access.

“Broadband access is very inequitable, it’s not available for a lot of people, particularly communities of color,” he said. “Sometimes parents have to drive their kids to a parking lot at a restaurant

to use the wi-fi.”

“I’m fighting to expand broadband access so that kids can do their homework and we don’t have this digital divide now separating people on the basis of race or wealth,” he said.

Schiff said the most historic divide is between people who have access to high-speed internet and those with no access.

“And then there’s the fast lane and the slow lane, and we need to make sure that communities of color aren’t put in the slow lane where they get inferior service, where they have poor online access or it takes young people twice as long to do their homework online because the speeds are so much less,” he said.

“And these are all I think important reforms to strengthen education,” he added.

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## Beautification.... from pg. 5



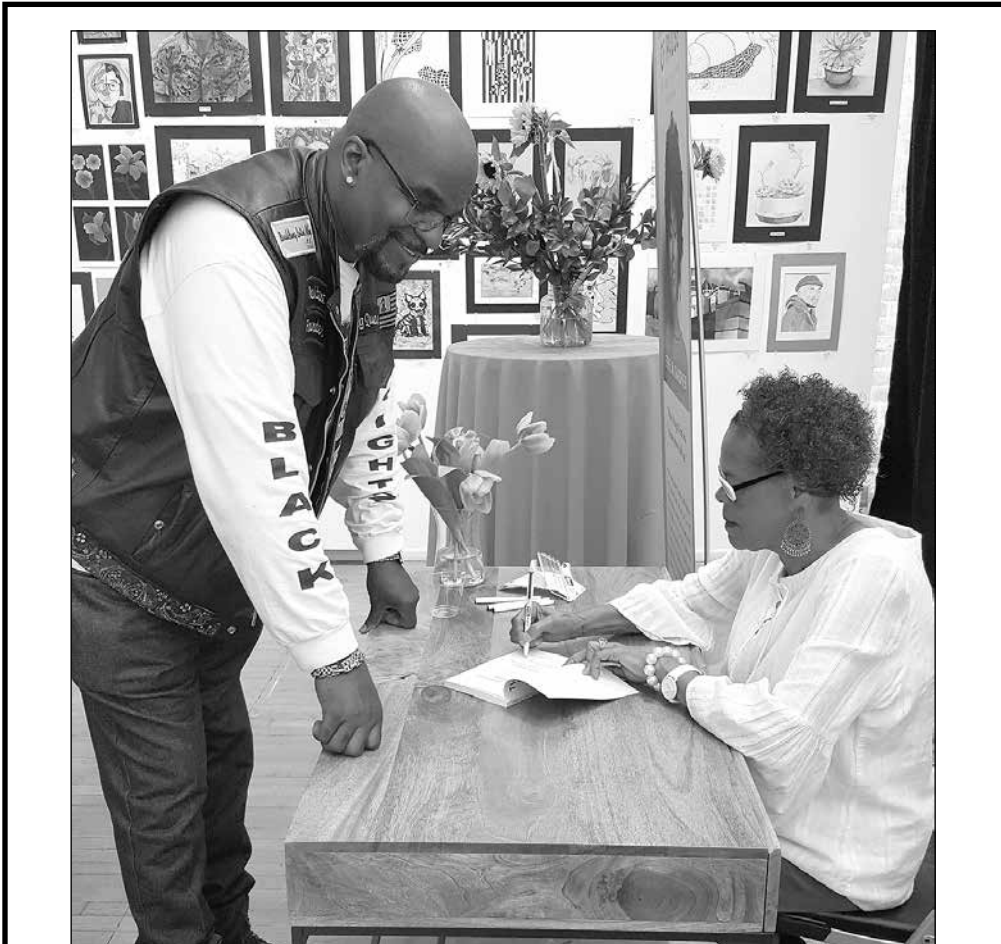
**WHAT A DIFFERENCE THREE HOURS MAKES!** -- A hard-working team worked all morning long to clean up the grounds, planter areas and sign at Pomona's Cesar Chavez Park. They did so much work it took two photos to tell the story at the planter boxes and the park sign! Pictured front and center at the planters and just to the left of the sign is Pomona Planning Commission Chair Yesenia Miranda Meza, project lead for the morning.



**RALPH WELCH GROUP PHOTO** -- Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and his wife Michelle Rodriguez pose for the La Nueva Voz camera in the group shot near the end of their planting and cleanup effort at Ralph Welch Park, located not far from their home. Interested in a little history? It was Freddie's concerns over that park that prompted him to begin working with the Pomona City Council back in the day to get the park fixed up. He ended up running for City Council, won, then ended up running for California Assembly and won that, too, and the rest is history. And yes, that's David Ybarra and Dee Dee Manzanara-Ybarra and James Otero and Donna Manzanara-Otero off to the left.



**PLANTING AT RALPH WELCH PARK** -- Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez and his wife Michelle got down and dirty for a little planting in a garden area at Pomona's Ralph Welch Park, working with a total of about two dozen volunteers.



**BOOK SIGNING IN POMONA** -- Three-time author Ethel Gardner autographs her latest book, "The Power of Pause -- Waiting to Live in a World Full of Possibilities," at a book signing Sunday at Pomona's dA Center for the Arts. Pictured, at left, after lining up to buy Gardner's book, is Black Knightz Motorcycle Club President and Founder Marques "Big Ques" Johnson. The Pomona-based non-profit motorcycle club is dedicated to "building better men" and supports a variety of local causes. Gardner founded the non-profit Kennedy Austin Foundation, a crisis intervention center serving families, youth and the homeless in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne.

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# Solamente una página

*Nota del editor: La Nueva Voz está agregando esta página con contenido en Español a petición e interés de los lectores. Un lector frecuente del Centro Comunitario del Parque Washington preguntó si este periódico pudiese incluir al menos “solamente una página” en Español. Entonces, buen amigo, aquí lo tienes. Esperamos que nuestros lectores nos den a saber lo que piensan.*

## La Feria del Condado de Los Ángeles durante el mes de mayo

La Feria del Condado de Los Ángeles, un nuevo concepto cuando se lanzó hace 101 años, estuvo en pleno apogeo durante todo este mes - solo la segunda vez que la Feria se llevó a cabo en mayo - con el tema de este año “Primavera en la feria”.

Los organizadores cambiaron la fecha de la feria de septiembre a mayo a petición de los comentarios de la comunidad que sugerían que la feria se llevara a cabo durante un mes más fresco.

Y desde el día de la inauguración, que fue el 5 de mayo hasta el 11 de mayo, el cual fue nombrado Día de Pomona, parece que este cambio ha funcionado muy bien.

El presidente y director ejecutivo de Fairplex, Walter Márquez, dijo a más de 100 invitados en el almuerzo anual del Día de Pomona que “es in-

creíble cuántas canciones se escriben sobre las ferias de condado”.

“Lo bueno de esto y lo que obtenemos de esto... es nuestra historia aquí, lo que pertenece aquí, lo que sucede aquí, la comunidad uniéndose para divertirse y disfrutar”, dijo. “Relaciones para desarrollar y celebrar quiénes somos como ciudad, como región, como organización colectivamente, todos nos unimos, sin importar la raza, el origen étnico, la generación, hay algo aquí para todos, y todo sucede aquí en Pomona Fairplex”.

La presidenta de la junta de la Asociación de la Feria del Condado de Los Ángeles, Heidi Hanson, agradeció a los invitados por unirse para celebrar la Feria del Condado de Los Ángeles.

“Nuestra organización se

inició hace 101 años con la intención de destacar lo mejor del sur de California”, dijo Hanson. “Continuamos manteniéndonos fieles a esta misión y brindando experiencias prácticas de aprendizaje a los millones de invitados que vienen a Fairplex durante todo el año”.

“Sabemos que nuestro éxito de servir a nuestras comunidades locales sería limitado sin el apoyo de la ciudad y los residentes de Pomona”, ella dijo. “Y les agradecemos por continuar ayudándonos a hacer de Fairplex un motor económico para la región”.

Hanson agregó que este año la feria estaba trayendo de vuelta muchas tradiciones, incluyendo varias competencias y el Programa de Excursiones FairKids (visitas a la feria para estudiantes durante dos horas antes de que abra para ver “La

Granja”, el “Gran Granero Rojo”, y una exhibición de agricultura y nutrición).

Nora García, miembro del concilio de la ciudad de Pomona, dio la bienvenida a los invitados.

“Cuando eres un niño que crece en Pomona, tienes memorables historias sobre la feria del condado de Los Ángeles”, dijo García, y agregó que recuerda caminar a la feria desde la escuela secundaria Emerson con su clase.

“Por favor disfruten la feria, hagan más recuerdos, para que en 10, 20 años alguien más esté parado aquí diciendo recuerdo cuando...”, dijo García.

Márquez agregó que “Pomona conoce bien la Feria del Condado de Los Ángeles” y dónde están ubicados las atracciones y los animales.

“Estos terrenos aquí en la

Ciudad de Pomona fueron construidos por muchos de los residentes de Pomona, y es importante saber... lo que realmente significa este espacio, no solo para Pomona, sino como el centro de atracción para condado de Los Ángeles llegar a Pomona durante la Feria del Condado de Los Ángeles”, dijo.

“Y eso es algo de lo que todos deberíamos estar orgullosos, que estamos ahora construyendo alianzas que se remontan a las raíces de cómo se construyeron las ferias del condado mediante relaciones con todos ustedes, relaciones con otros, destacando y apoyando la Feria del Condado de Los Ángeles. y mostrarle al mundo realmente cómo construir una feria del condado”, dijo García.

La Feria del Condado de Los Ángeles continúa hasta el lunes.

## El congresista Adam Schiff, quien busca tomar el lugar de Dianne Feinstein en el Senado de los EE. UU., se compromete a trabajar para satisfacer las necesidades de los residentes de Pomona

**Por Jeff Schenkel, Editor**

El congresista Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) le dijo a La Nueva Voz este mes que si él es elegido para el Senado de los EE. UU., los residentes de Pomona pueden estar seguros que él luchará por Pomona, abogará por traer recursos a Pomona para satisfacer las necesidades, “para ayudar a los padres con los recursos necesarios para criar a sus hijos, brindarles una educación de buena calidad y acceso a atención médica, y un buen futuro”.

“Pueden esperar que yo sea un defensor de sus pequeñas empresas, que vaya a luchar por ellos con las agencias federales, y pueden esperar que continúe con el historial que tengo de realizar asuntos para los californianos, abordar el tema de los desamparados y reducir el costo de las viviendas”, agregó Schiff.

“Tengo un largo historial de trabajar bien con personas de diferentes puntos de vista, lograr acuerdos y cumplir”, agregó. “Y

también pueden esperar que yo sea uno de los defensores más destacados de nuestra democracia en la nación y lucha contra cualquier opresor ahora o en el futuro”.

Schiff, quien ha representado a California en el Congreso desde 2001 y fue el principal dirigente del primer juicio de destitución político del presidente Trump y quien trabajó en el Comité Selecto de la Cámara de Representantes de “Enero 6”, anunció su candidatura para el Senado de los Estados Unidos. Dianne Feinstein, la senadora y miembro del Congreso de los Estados Unidos con mayor edad, anunció en febrero que no buscaría la reelección el próximo año.

Feinstein, de 89 años, ha servido en el Senado de los Estados Unidos desde 1992.

El equipo de campaña de Schiff se comunicó con La Nueva Voz para lo que resultó ser una amplia entrevista telefónica desde Washington, D.C.

### Los asuntos legales de Trump muestran que la democracia aún está en riesgo

En respuesta a la primera de una serie de preguntas de parte de La Nueva Voz, Schiff dijo que las personas deben cumplir con sus cargos y aceptar las verdades elementales.

“Nuestra última elección fue justa y clara”, dijo Schiff, agregando que Estados Unidos tiene la constitución mejor redactada del mundo. “Nada de esto es suficiente si la gente no cumple con su juramento de cargo. La crisis constitucional continúa”.

“Nuestra democracia todavía está muy en riesgo... estamos en riesgo de que un instigador vuelva a ocupar el cargo si tiene éxito”, dijo. “El punto de partida de otro mandato por Donald Trump comenzaría con la insurrección, comenzaría con un asalto a los principios de los derechos y luego iría cuesta abajo, por lo que es una perspectiva aterradora”.

“Me preocupa profundamente

que él siga siendo la fuerza dominante en el Partido Republicano porque necesitamos que ambos partidos políticos sean partidos de ideología e ideas, y uno de ellos sigue siendo una especie de secta alrededor del expresidente”, dijo.

### Aborto

La Nueva Voz preguntó por su posición sobre el aborto.

“Siento que la pérdida de los derechos de la libertad reproductiva no solo es, creo, peligrosa para millones de mujeres, sino que también indica una democracia que está en declive”, dijo Schiff, y agregó que un remedio “para restablecer el control de la mujer sobre su propio cuerpo” es aprobar la legislación que él apoyó en la Cámara de Representantes para codificar el derecho a la libertad reproductiva.

El otro remedio, dijo, sería ampliar la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos.

Schiff dijo que ese recurso es importante como un medio para revocar Roe v Wade debido a su

temor de que podría ser “solo el primer derecho en caer”, lo que significa que es importante tener una Corte Suprema que sea “más representativa de la mayoría de los puntos de vista de los estadounidenses” para proteger otros derechos.

### Inmigración

La entrevista con Schiff se programó el día después de la expiración del Título 42 lo cual cambió las reglas de inmigración de COVID en la frontera, y La Nueva Voz le preguntó a Schiff si el país estaba preparado para el cambio.

“No sé si estamos completamente preparados, creo que necesitamos mucho más apoyo para las familias que huyen de la violencia en otros lugares”, dijo. “Y sí creo que necesitamos un cambio en nuestras políticas de inmigración, necesitamos desesperadamente un enfoque integral de la inmigración”.

“Y creo que los demócratas, cuando controlábamos la Cámara

Schiff... pág. 21



de Representantes, el Senado y la Casa Blanca, deberíamos haberlo hecho, deberíamos haber hecho una reforma migratoria integral, y la próxima vez que tengamos esa oportunidad, tendremos que hacerlo y utilizar el capital político necesario para resolver este problema”, dijo Schiff.

“Una cosa que está clara ahora es que los republicanos nunca querrán resolver este problema”, dijo. “Creo que los republicanos sienten que la crisis en la frontera es el regalo político que no deja de dar”.

Dijo que no está de acuerdo con los cambios a las leyes de asilo que convertirían en criminales a las personas que huyen de la violencia o “promulgarían largas barreras a su capacidad de ingresar al país en el futuro.

#### Lo que traerá a Pomona

Entonces, ¿qué traerá a Pomona, la séptima ciudad más grande del condado de Los Ángeles y una comunidad que es más del 80 por ciento hispana?

“La forma en que veo el trabajo de un senador de los EE. UU. es muy similar a como veo el trabajo en la Cámara, y eso es conocer a todas y cada una de las comunidades en cada parte del estado y traer recursos a esas comunidades para ayudar a abordar los desafíos, ya sea que se trate de injusticias ambientales en la limpieza de los sitios Superfund o que estén recuperando recursos para ayudar a las pequeñas empresas o construir infraestructura para que la gente trabaje”, dijo.

“Así que espero trabajar con el liderazgo de Pomona para comprender qué necesita la comunidad y cómo puedo aportar con la comunidad en el Senado”, agregó.

Dijo que cree que los padres en Pomona, por ejemplo, son como los padres en todas partes: “quieren lo mejor para sus hijos, quieren que sus hijos disfruten de una mejor calidad de vida que la que tenían sus padres y la que tienen ellos”.

“Y quiero trabajar con la gente de Pomona para que eso suceda”, dijo, y agregó que también ha trabajado con propietarios de pequeñas empresas en su distrito durante la pandemia para garantizar que puedan obtener el apoyo financiero que necesitan y ayudarlos a interactuar con el gobierno federal y solicitar contratos federales.

“Estoy trabajando en una legislación para aumentar los salarios de los maestros, tengo un proyecto de ley para fortalecer la educación en enfermería para que podamos invertir más en nuestra fuerza laboral de enfermería y creo que todas estas medidas serán de gran valor para los residentes de Pomona,” él dijo.

#### Armas y violencia

Sobre el control de armas, Schiff se refirió a sí mismo como un “defensor enérgico” de la legislación de seguridad de armas.

“Apoyo las prohibiciones de armas de asalto y la prohibición de cartuchos de munición extendidos, apoyo la verificación universal de antecedentes y durante la última media década he estado presentando un proyecto de ley que el presidente de los Estados Unidos cree que puede ser la medida de seguridad de armas más importante para revocar la inmunidad de responsabilidad de la industria de armas”, dijo.

Y agregó que ha estado trabajando en el tráfico de armas de los Estados Unidos al sur de la frontera, “y ese es un problema mortal para nuestros vecinos en México que las armas estadounidenses han sido contrabandeadas a México como parte de un comercio ilícito y tenemos que acabar con eso también.”

#### Alojamiento

En cuanto a la vivienda, Schiff dijo que apoyaba la legislación que atacaría la discriminación contra los veteranos militares al proporcionar vales, pero los propietarios de viviendas los rechazan y no aceptan esa forma de pago, algo que, según él, es una forma de discriminación. Está trabajando en la legislación con sus colegas “para atacar ese mismo problema”.

“También presenté una legislación para establecer un consejo interinstitucional sobre la asequibilidad de vivienda para encontrar nuevas formas de reducir el costo de alojamiento, y presenté otra legislación que daría descuento de impuestos favorable a quienes vendan su propiedad a las agencias que se enfocan en proveer alojamiento a aquellos de bajos recursos”, dijo.

Y, por el lado de las asignaciones, dijo que ha traído “millones y millones de regreso a California para ayudar a la gente a conseguir casa”.

## Schiff... de la pág. 20

### COVID-19

Sobre el COVID, dijo que la pandemia no ha terminado mientras sigan muriendo mil estadounidenses cada semana a causa de la enfermedad.

“Pero eso no significa que volvamos al tipo de restricciones de COVID que alguna vez tuvimos”, agregó.

Dijo que todavía es importante vacunar a más estadounidenses.

Además, “he trabajado en la legislación para reforzar nuestros esfuerzos para hallar virus emergentes en otras partes del mundo para que podamos proteger a nuestra gente aquí en casa” utilizando una estrategia llamada “vigilancia pandémica”.

### Justicia penal

Schiff, quien fue fiscal federal durante seis años en la oficina del fiscal estadounidense en Los Ángeles a fines de la década de 1980 y principios de 1990, dijo que ha estado trabajando en una iniciativa durante algún tiempo para apoyar el financiamiento de la policía “pero también para respaldar el financiamiento de prevención de crimen de menores”.

Ha estado trabajando para repro-

ducir a nivel federal un programa que ayudó a crear en California en 2000 que continuaría invirtiendo en la prevención “pero también invirtiendo en la aplicación de la ley y vigilancia comunitaria” para combinar la prevención con la presencia policial pero también incluir un “enfoque fuerte para hacer frente a cualquier tipo de violencia policial”.

“Necesitamos encontrar formas de abordar las preocupaciones continuas de las personas sobre su seguridad y creo que estas son

cosas que podemos hacer para reforzarnos mutuamente”, dijo.

### Calentamiento global

Dijo que en el tema del calentamiento global, apoya reducir la dependencia de los combustibles fósiles y avanzar hacia las energías renovables.

“Pero también siento que en el área del medio ambiente necesitamos atacar los problemas de justicia ambiental, problemas con los sitios Superfund que deben limpiarse, a menudo en comunidades pobres”, dijo Schiff.



Are you in the mood for an evening sugary snack? Well you're in luck! Señor Churro is out on most nights offering delicious churros, funnel cakes, crepes and fried oreos. Customers do not mind lining up for these tasty treats! You can also book them for a party. Look them up on instagram at [senor\\_churro909](https://www.instagram.com/senor_churro909).



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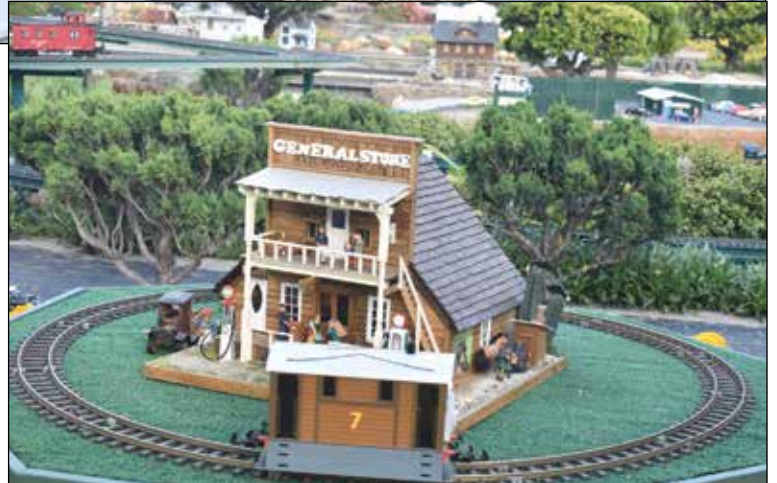




### LA County Fair ... from pg. 14



Want something to snack on while walking the midway at the LA County Fair? Grab a turkey leg hot off the grill and you've got enough for the whole family!



So much of the LA County Fair is always BIG but the outdoor model trains display, always popular with trains circling around on the tracks, brings it all down to scale.



Speaking at annual Pomona Day ceremonies are, from left, Walter Marquez, Nora Garcia and Heidi Hanson.

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

## Save Water this Summer!

Three Valleys reminds you to use water wisely during these upcoming warmer months!

For more great tips on how to save water and rebate information please visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)

Only use the washing machine when it's fully loaded

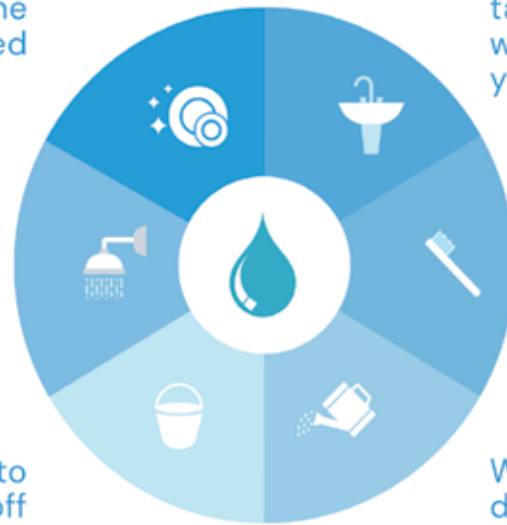
Take a 5 minute shower

Use a bucket to collect shower run off to water your plants

Turn off the tap while washing your hands

Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth

Water plants during the coolest part of the day





## Overcoming stigma... from pg. 11

Representation matters. That is why we encourage and invite our partners, community members, and local service providers to help support local efforts to ensure everyone in our community has the capacity to thrive. There are any number of ways to get involved, partner with us, and shape your local mental health authority:

- Support and advocate for

wellness in your community by becoming a member of the Tri-City Wellness Collaboratives. All are welcome. For more information about how to get involved, please contact [dei@tricitymhs.org](mailto:dei@tricitymhs.org).

- Attend monthly Tri-City Governing Board and Mental Health Commission meetings to share and learn about issues related to the communities' mental health

needs and TCMHA services.

- Become a Tri-City MHSA Stakeholder and attend meetings and workgroups to review, plan and improve TCMHA services funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA, Proposition 63).

- Schedule a free Community Mental Health Training for your group or organization. We provide free evidence-based and

trauma-informed trainings on mental health support, self-care and resiliency.

Taking on the challenges, stigma and barriers to mental health care requires a commitment from all of us. Together, we can help create a thriving community where anyone – no matter their background, ethnicity or identity – can receive quality support to live healthy, fulfilling lives. We

welcome and deeply appreciate your participation in helping to shape and support a mental health system of care that emphasizes community and whole-person healing.

To learn how to get involved, access services or for more information, visit our website at [www.tricitymhs.org](http://www.tricitymhs.org) or follow TCMHA on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.



Photo by Renee Barbee

**NATIVE AMERICAN DANCING** -- Native American dancers were center stage on the lawn in the Bronco Commons area at a Cal Poly University Pomona "Honoring Mother Earth Pow Wow" -- held this month for the first time since 2016. In addition to the dancers, drummers and "bird singers" were on hand along with numerous vendors of specialty foods, clothing and jewelry. The event was presented by the Native American Pipeline to College Program and Native American Studies student programs at Cal Poly, with participants including David Ybarra, Dee Dee Manzanares-Ybarra, James Otero and Donna Manzanares-Otero and of the Rumsen Am: a Tur:ataj Ohlone, Pomona's Native American tribe.



**AT THE POW WOW** -- Pictured at this month's "Honoring Mother Earth Pow Wow" at Cal Poly Pomona are, from left, Native American Pamela James, a California Community College counselor at Victor Valley College, and Dr. Sandy Kewanhappewa-Gibson, who teaches American Indian Native American courses at Cal Poly. "It's really important that people come back from the community to visit us and join in our community and we're really looking forward to doing this every year from here on out," Gibson said.









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