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



Pomona Chamber of Commerce



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Hamilton Park revitalized for a new generation in the making

Last month's ribbon cutting at Pomona's Hamilton Park officially opened the newly revitalized one-acre park representing a transformation with \$2.7 million in improvements in the middle of one of Pomona's oldest barrios that very likely can benefit from the facility the most.

Area residents like Pomona Parks and Recreation Commissioners Vince Carpio and Donna Manzanares Otero, and commu-

nity organizer Martin Perez – who helped work on the original park 50 years ago and contributed to efforts this time around as well – were on hand to mark the reopening of the park in the 100-year-old neighborhood.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval told a crowd of several hundred that even his wife, Criselda, lived in the area and played there as a child.

And Perez, who grew up in the

area, worked with the city with the help of environmental design students from Cal Poly University Pomona on plans to develop the original Cherrieville Park, as it was called at the time.

His dad was born in 1932 in the neighborhood of about 300 people surrounding the park.

Sandoval told residents and friends at the re-opening that the project was the result of both the city government and numerous



A PARK MAKE-OVER FOR THE NEXT GENERATION -- Martin Perez, who was instrumental in working with the City of Pomona to revitalize Hamilton Park, helps the mayor cut the ribbon last month as neighborhood kids climb on state-of-the-art playground equipment at rear. Pictured, from left, are Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole, California Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Sedrick Mitchell, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Perez, Pomona City Councilmembers John Nolte, Nora Garcia and Victor Preciado, and Eva Thiel-Maiz, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis.



Drone aerial photo courtesy of Pomona Police Department

THOUSANDS ATTEND DOWNTOWN POMONA CONCERT -- Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval got the big finish he was looking for this month (there's actually one more performance in the summer concert series back in the Pomona Civic Center on Sept. 29) when perhaps 2,000 people (some estimates were far higher) attended a free three-hour concert by the San Jose-based Los Tigres del Norte on a stage in the street in front of the Fox Theater, presented by the City of Pomona. The historic Mexican group has been entertaining multiple generations for more than 50 years and has recorded more than 55 albums since its formation in 1968 in Sinaloa, Mexico. Police closed the streets (note chairs in the middle of Garey Avenue in photo), some folks brought lawn chairs and purchased hats and t-shirts, and no incidents were reported, according to city and police officials. See additional photo page 14.

stakeholders working together to make it happen.

"The main message that I want all of you to take away . . . this would not have happened without the community, would not have happened without the people who have used this park, who have made this park their home at times to just get away from the heat," Sandoval said.

"My wife grew up on Fourth and Hamilton . . . and this is where she played as a kid," he

said. "I think we can be incredibly proud of what we see here today at Hamilton Park. The architects did a great job of listening to the community."

"This might actually be the finest play area in the entire City of Pomona," he added.

Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte, whose district includes the park, pointed to a huge tree in the middle of the park.

"There are people standing here

Hamilton Park revitalized... pg. 8

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Tri-City Mental Health Authority is delivering youth services and resources through educational partnerships

With funding from the California Mental Health Services Oversight Committee, Tri-City Mental Health Authority (TCMHA) is increasing access to coordinated, culturally-relevant, community and school-based services for at-risk youth in Pomona, Claremont and La Verne. The Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) project launched in December 2022 and collaborative partners include Pomona Unified School District, Claremont Unified School District, Bonita Unified School District and The School of Arts and Enterprise. Staff utilize evidence-based mental health practices; provide mental health services on school campuses including early intervention, suicide prevention and drop-out prevention; develop and coordinate service plans for ongoing needs; and link to resources. They determine appropriate level of care; tailor services to an individual's identity, culture and lived experience; connect with providers; and complete referrals as necessary. As of July 31, TCMHA has received 292 referrals from school partners who identified students with mental health needs. Of those referrals, MHSSA staff have screened 162 youth and young adults for mental health, social-emotional behavioral disorder, substance use, suicide risk and trauma, and 62 received individual therapy, family therapy, collateral supports, initial assessments and rehabilitation services.

As part of the MHSSA project, TCMHA makes grant funds available for partners to support efforts that provide increased access to mental health services. In July 2023, the following organizations were selected for MHSSA sub-grant awards: Cal Poly Pomona, Claremont Unified School District, Just Us 4 Youth, Pomona Unified School District and The School of Arts and Enterprise. Through this endeavor, TCMHA continues to support recovery, to assist youth with obtaining mental health services and to create rapid access-to-care pipelines and linkages to resources.

TCMHA also provides training and outreach through the MHSSA project. The monthly "Let's Talk Student Wellness Series" for parents/guardians and adults who support youth has seen 41 participants since March 2023. Topics that have been discussed include: student and family wellness, anxiety, wellbeing, supporting LGBTQ+ youth, and knocking down barriers to mental health. The next two "Let's Talk" interactive workshops will cover youth substance use and family supports on September 21 and holiday blues and mindfulness on October 19.

TCMHA is calling for youth/young adults ages 18 to 25 to help guide the agency's approach to youth-focused mental health services. An online survey is available via QR code to provide their feedback. For more information, visit tricitymhs.org.



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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2023

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SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15



Police Lt. Brian Hagerty, Fire Capt. David Caballero honored by Pomona Optimists

Pomona Police Lt. Brian Hagerty and Los Angeles County Fire Capt. David Caballero were the recipients of this year's Pomona Optimist Club "2022-2023 Public Safety Award" at a dinner last month in Downtown Pomona.

Hagerty was honored for his dedication in applying for, securing and managing numerous state and federal grants throughout his career – grants that have played a pivotal role in funding various critical initiatives such as positions for personnel and direct enforcement efforts.

Key areas that have benefited from these grants include quality of life improvement, criminal street gang enforcement, human trafficking prevention and addressing juvenile related issues.

Caballero, a 29-year member

of the fire department, has served Pomona for 16 years and is currently assigned to Station 183 on San Antonio Avenue where he oversees a crew of four – an engineer and three firefighter paramedics.

He was honored for his strong commitment to patient care and a genuine interest in the well-being of Pomona residents. And he also was credited with being

a well-balanced leader with the ability to mentor new firefighters.

The Optimist International "Respect for Law Program" was created as an outgrowth of a discussion in 1965 between Past Optimist International President Carl Bowen and former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

More than 1,500 Optimist clubs participate in the program each year and more than a quarter of a

million law enforcement officers and firefighters have been honored by clubs around the world.

Both Hagerty and Caballero also were recognized at the Pacific Southeast District Convention as the firefighter and police officer of the year – awards covering 23 clubs from Los Angeles to Las Vegas.

The Pomona event was held at Fuego Cocina & Cantina.



Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles, at right, presents a certificate from school board members to Los Angeles County Fire Capt. David Caballero recognizing his selection as Pomona Optimist Club "Public Safety Award" honoree as Pomona Optimist President Lorraine Canales looks on.



Pomona Deputy Police Chief Christian Hsu, at right, introduces Lt. Brian Hagerty as a Pomona Optimist Club "Public Safety Award" honoree.

CLARIFICATION

STIIZY check story

A story and photo reporting on a check presentation by Pomona's cannabis retailer STIIZY appearing on page 22 of the Aug. 24, 2023, issue of La Nueva Voz, based on information and a photo provided by an external public relations team representing STIIZY, indicated that the photo included representatives of a variety of community organizations STIIZY had worked with, including Lopez Urban Farm.

After publication of that story, La Nueva Voz was contacted by a representative of Lopez Urban Farm clarifying that the farm in fact had not worked with STIIZY.

It turns out STIIZY apparently had provided their public relations team in New York with a list of organizations invited to the check presentation.

STIIZY officials have apologized to Lopez Urban Farm for the confusion and La Nueva Voz is apologizing to you, our readers, through this clarification.

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Pomona Unified ranks well in state on school funding to income ratio

Pomona Unified School District fared well in a study of most of California's school districts released this month, ranking 174 out of 915 districts in terms of how equitably school funding is distributed.

The study looked at numbers from 915 of California's 944 school districts.

To put this in perspective, Baldwin Park placed 240 and Beverly Hills, surprisingly, placed near the bottom of the list at 824.

Most equitable was North Mon-

terey County Unified School District and second place went to Alta Loma Elementary School District. Norwalk-La Mirada placed third, Rowland Unified fifth, and Glendora Unified placed number nine.

At the very bottom of the list were Big Sur Unified School District at 914 and Spenser Valley Elementary School District at 915.

"California has the third least equitable school districts in the U.S. overall, but some districts within the state are fairer than

others," according to a news release from WalletHub, which conducted the study.

Researchers scored the 915 districts based only on two metrics – average household income and expenditures for public elementary and secondary schools per pupil.

In the 1970s, of course, the landmark lawsuit *Serrano v. Priest*, actually three cases, helped determine how funding of school districts would become more equal. Almost daily reporting in

the news media at the time regularly compared funding of schools in Beverly Hills and Baldwin Park, with upscale Beverly Hills, of course, spending far more on students.

In the new study, Baldwin Park actually turned out far closer to the top of the list.

Of course, looking at the other side of the coin, based on the study's own numbers, the lower income school districts are still receiving less school funding – spending per student is \$15,803 in Pomona, \$15,026 in Baldwin Park, and \$23,639 in Beverly Hills.

Even so, based on these findings, some of the wealthier school districts just are not making education as much of a priority based solely on the spending per student ratio.

According to WalletHub, low-income school districts on average are underfunded by around

\$6,700 per pupil.

California ranked as the third least equitable state overall.

"If we make sure that every school district has equitable funding, students in less affluent communities will have a level playing field with students in wealthy districts," said Jill Gonzalez, a WalletHub analyst. "As a result, their graduation rates will increase, as will their likelihood to pursue higher education and earn larger incomes."

She added that college graduates have median weekly earnings \$154 to \$1,115 higher than those with a high school diploma and no college experience, depending on the degree.

Particularly in the post-pandemic period when students experienced a large amount of learning loss, she said all schools need to have resources to provide a robust education in the coming year, en-

School funding... pg. 8

Pomona Public Library goes "live" with La Nueva Voz archives

A new on-line La Nueva Voz archives feature brought to you by the Pomona Public Library is now completed, operational and available on the internet.

La Nueva Voz donated its archives – including hard copies published before the newspaper's web site was created – to the library late last year. Library staff members digitally scanned about a year and 10 months of the early issues and combined those on the library's system with past issues already available on www.lanuevavoz.net.

The library compilation will continue to be updated going forward as new issues are published. The La Nueva Voz archive, of course, will continue to be available under "past issues" on the newspaper's own web site.

Not only is the library version of the archives the only complete set – it is also completely searchable, making it easier to find past issues, stories and photos than using conventional search engines.

"We wanted to make the back issues even more accessible to students, researchers and the general public," said Renee Barbee, V.P. of marketing and operations for La Nueva Voz.

Just click on the "searchable" archives link on the La Nueva Voz web site.

"This was a complex project for the library, but we are confident the hard work by staff will pay dividends going forward

as the public begins to utilize this important historical and informational tool," said Barbee, who also serves as a member of the Pomona Public Library Board of Trustees. "We appreciate the efforts and ongoing support of Deputy Director of Library Services Anita Torres, Allan Lagumbay of the library's special collections department,

and the city's IT department staffers who were heavily involved in getting the server data migration and upgrades running."

The new link will appear each month in the "hard copy" La Nueva Voz staff box, and a direct link will appear on the home page of the La Nueva Voz web site for easy reference.

Neighborhood Services Department
Development of the 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan

Todos los residentes están invitados a una reunión para compartir sus opiniones sobre las necesidades más importantes de la comunidad. Estas reuniones ayudarán a identificar las necesidades de la ciudad y las prioridades de financiamiento para los programas de CDBG, HOME y ESG.

Necesitamos su opinión!

¡REUNIONES COMUNITARIAS A PARTIR DE SEPTIEMBRE 2023!

9/28/23	Encuesta sobre la comunidad disponible en la página de la ciudad (www.pomonaca.gov)
10/4/23	Reunion de comunidad @ 6:30pm en salón comunitario del parque Garfield
10/10/23	Reunión de comunidad @ 6:30pm via Zoom (virtual)
11/15/23	Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30pm en el salón comunitario del parque John F. Kennedy
11/21/23	Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30 PM a través de Zoom.com (virtual)
12/6/23	Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30pm en el salón comunitario del parque Ralph Welch
12/12/23	Reunión de comunidad @ 6:30pm via Zoom (virtual)
1/16/24	Reunión de comunidad @ 6:30pm via Zoom (virtual)
1/17/24	Reunión de la comunidad @ 6:30 PM en el salón comunitario del parque Washington.
1/31/24	Fecha límite para entregar las encuestas

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Just Us 4 Youth, lifeline to young people in need of second chance, holds first annual gala

Peter Hidalgo, a Board member at Mt. San Antonio College and Board President of Just Us 4 Youth, kicked off the first annual Just Us 4 Youth fundraising gala this month, telling about 120 friends and supporters it is a “great honor to be associated with part of an organization whose purpose and mission is to lift not at risk but at promise youth from despair and hopelessness.”

“Just Us 4 Youth has become a critical lifeline not only here in Pomona but throughout the San Gabriel Valley and Southern California,” Hidalgo said, adding that the organization serves parents, guardians, foster youth and the unhoused and has impacted policy makers, business leaders and more.

Speaking at the event at Pomona’s Mountain Meadows Golf Course, he called founder Eric Vasquez “an amazing talented executive director.”

“Eric had a vision more than a decade ago,” Hidalgo said. “He was the one who said . . . an occupation is what a person is paid to do but a calling is what a per-

son is made to do.”

He said Vasquez had a calling “to lift up those youth in the area to provide them a second chance (and) give them hope.”

Hidalgo said the organization’s mission is mentoring “at promise” communities to develop as people, scholars and leaders.

Vasquez told the audience he arrived in Pomona in 2004 “as a young naïve leader” and today is working with more than 150 team members who he called “amazing, talented young leaders that could go anywhere and do anything.”

He said he originally went to work in parks and neighborhoods, listening to individual experiences.

“I began to see the loss of hope in so many young lives” along with stories of pain and trauma, he said, “and it’s happening in our back yard.”

“I began to look at the destruc-

tive power of poverty and the slow death that in some lives began to happen to those of us that live in the inner city,” Vasquez said. “And it became evident to me that this didn’t need to occur.”

He told the audience that the “treatment” was “accompaniment – having one person in your life who is committed to accompany you and walk with you through the seasons of suffering and the seasons of success.”



Eric Vasquez



Peter Hidalgo

we watched as their lives began to heal, blossom and flourish.”

Vasquez said the organization’s work is a “matter of compassion” and “restorative justice.”

“The reason why we named it Just Us 4 Youth is because if it is just for one, it’s worth it, and that mentality is what has built this organization,” he added.

The organization, based in Pomona and founded nine years ago, obtained its 501(c)3 non-profit status six years ago. It currently is in the process of converting an unused medical building in Pomona’s Phil and Nell Soto Park into offices and classrooms for the organization.

For more information, visit the web site at www.ju4y.org.



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Complete and searchable La Nueva Voz archives on Pomona Public Library web site.
Temporary link during construction:
<https://cdm17464.contentdm.oclc.org/>
and go to page 2 for La Nueva Voz.







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Editor's Note: This page is the fourth in a series of six in a second phase of our “Stop-the-Hate” series. The “phase two” series, like the original series, is made possible by a second La Nueva Voz grant awarded by the Latino Media Collaborative (www.latinomedia.org), a non-profit news media organization that creates and fosters transformative media as well as everyday news for the Latino community. The grant is 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. In both phase one and phase two, La Nueva Voz was one of only about 10 publications selected in California to receive the grants.

‘Stop-the-Hate’ Phase two – A follow-up La Nueva Voz feature series ‘Taking a closer look’

How hate and discrimination impact jobs, education, housing, income and slamming doors

By Joshua Swodeck

As we begin this next part of our journey in the conversation of hate, I’m reminded of the words of James Baldwin. He wrote, “I imagine one of the reasons people cling to their hates so stubbornly is because they sense, once hate is gone, they will be forced to deal with pain.”

To those of us who seek compassion within our community, we wrestle with the idea of people holding onto their hates. Holding on to bitterness, resentment, and victimization can feel justified and lead to actions or feelings that do not embody compassion or love. While these emotions are valid, they can continue to create division, hate, and even oppression.

In our survey, we asked a few questions directly related to employment in regard to race. We asked which ethnic groups are employers least likely to hire. The highest group stated, by those answering the question, was African American (about 38 percent), followed by Indigenous/Native (19 percent), Mexican/Latin American (9 percent), Asian/Pacific Islander (4 percent), and White/Caucasian (4 percent). We also asked, “Do you believe all workers in a company, regardless of their race, have the same opportunity to excel and prosper?” And 70 percent answered this question with a resounding “no.”

Recently, Los Angeles County’s Anti-Racism Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative released data within their State of Black Los Angeles County report. Within the report they have compiled data showing wage and housing disparity by ethnic makeup. The unemployment rate in Los Angeles County can be broken down to show Black individuals having the highest rate (10 percent), followed by American Indian (7.6 percent), Hispanic/Latino (6.5 percent), White (6.2 percent), Pacific Islander (5.8 percent), and Asian (4.8 percent). The median household income is broken down as well, with Black households being the lowest (\$51,000), followed by Hispanic/Latino (\$59,000), American Indian (\$63,000), Pacific Islanders (\$78,000), Asian (\$83,000), and White (\$91,000).

With the report showing that Black families earn approximately \$40,000 less on average than White families, we should ask why. The study also shows that Black high school graduates go on to college 13.5 percent less than White high school graduates. We see ethnic disparities with education, housing, and more. This data may help us understand some of the findings in our own survey. If certain ethnic groups have less access to education, employment, or promotions, it would make sense that those same groups would have a lower median income and higher unemployment rate.

I remember growing up around Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Onyika Brown Jackson (who is three years older than me) and her family. Her uncle, Calvin Ross, was my dad’s best friend, the Chief of the Miami Police Department, and also volunteered as my Sunday school teacher for a while. Her father was the chief attorney for the Miami-Dade County school board and her mother was school principal at the New World School of the Arts in Miami. They fought to ensure their daughter had every opportunity education could afford her. While the rest of us would play pool at the Ross home or run around outside during larger family gatherings, I remember her slipping away to continue her studying. Her family helped her understand she had to work harder, be more dedicated, and sacrifice more to succeed at the level she dreamed. She wasn’t going to become a judge one day if she merely accepted the status quo of what was being offered to people of color in the school and city systems.

When we discuss equity, we must understand this doesn’t mean everyone is given the same opportunity. This means we realize that certain groups may need more opportunity or may need to work even harder to be afforded similar opportunities as other groups. We need to have these discussions, not just so we can tell people to be nice, but so we can hold institutions, companies, and policy accountable to ensure every family has the opportunity

and support needed to thrive.

When my wife, Chara Swodeck, began working as an event designer, she was faced with an awkward dilemma. She was excited to have received a phone call to meet with a potential client who was looking to design a large event. She put her portfolio together, got dressed to impress, and drove over an hour to arrive a few minutes early for the meeting. She checked her hair and makeup and made sure she wasn’t forgetting anything so she could be properly prepared for the meeting. She was a phenomenal designer and even taught the wedding planning course for Cal Poly University Pomona’s Extended University programs. She approached the front door and when the door opened, the potential client was shocked to find out my wife was African American. The woman awkwardly stated that this was not going to work out and closed the door. Afterwards, we realized that none of her marketing had her face on it and focused more on her work. We chose to add her face to her business cards and website and ensure potential clients knew who she was. Having to come to terms with some people not just looking at the caliber of her work but at her ethnicity in making a decision to hire her was challenging, but she continued to move forward with stride and build a successful business.

In my first article in this series, I wrote, “Hate can come in various forms. It sometimes shows itself in blatant forms, such as derogatory verbiage or open exclusion. However, many times it shows up disguised with justifications, complex policies, and lack of funding or support.”

Ibram X. Kendi wrote in his book, “How to Be an Anti-Racist:”

“But there is no neutrality in the racism struggle . . . one either allows racial inequities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequities, as an antiracist. There is no safe space of ‘not racist.’ The claim of ‘not racist’ neutrality is a mask for racism.” This concept applies to the term “hate” as well. There is no safe space for saying you don’t hate – you must actively work against hateful systems and practices and actively promote and engage in compassionate practices.

We asked in the survey for some suggestions and one respondent wrote, “Leaders, elected (officials) and law enforcement should, on a regular basis, denounce hate and discrimination. Our city should outwardly celebrate our diversity with multicultural celebrations and acknowledgement of all ethnicities in the city.” Another individual wrote, “Continue to bring community together, educate folks in different forms, remain creative in everything we do to intrigue folks.” As we continue this conversation, my hope is that we, as a community, are taking a look at how we can work to address hate-centered systems, policy, and prejudices as individuals and within our community.

Join us on Oct. 14 for the Third Annual Kindness Carnival at Pomona’s Civic Center Plaza. This family event was brought to the community specifically to engage and learn more about kindness and compassion. Hope to see you there.



Joshua Swodeck

Hamilton Park revitalized... from pg. 1

whose roots go back at least as far as that tree right there,” he said. “And I think that you can imagine from now on that tree represents the history of this place, the history that is in the soil of this park.”

“I just want to thank all of you elders, all of you whose roots are in this park here,” Nolte said.

Peter Dalman, project manager for Architerra Design Group which designed the park revitalization, told La Nueva Voz after the event that the tree Nolte mentioned was a Shamel Ash that is approximately 40 to 50 years old, about 60 feet high and 40 feet wide.

Carpio thanked all of those at the ceremony who “saw the dream and went to the meetings,” adding that a lot of work happened before the park was even on paper.

“It’s a beautiful thing to see a dream on paper to reality,” he said, adding that he just hopes that “everybody can enjoy it and celebrate it.”

California Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Sedrick Mitchell, who told La Nueva Voz he drove down from Sacramento



California Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Sedrick Mitchell



Vince Carpio

to attend the event, told the audience that Hamilton Park competed against 500 other applicants for funding.

“One of the things that I was looking forward to was hearing the spirit of Pomona,” he said, “because this is a celebration. You need to know that this isn’t a gift from the state, you earned every dollar that you got.”

“And while we are looking at this beautiful park, it’s really about the spirit of the people, it’s the sounds of the children, it’s the families bonding, it’s the love that was put into this that will make this park exceptional,” he added.

“Your voice echoed louder than many others, we had to say ‘no’ nine out of 10 times,” Mitchell said. “So, when you look at this park, know that your spirit exists in it, know that you are the reason that it is happening today. Today marks the beginning of the tone of the spirit of this park.”

“What we want to leave as a legacy for our children to know (is) that when they step onto these grounds that they are stepping into your history, that they are stepping into your spirit,” he said.

“We want to thank you for being an example for the rest of our state,” Mitchell said.

Sandoval introduced Perez as a resident who was instrumental in getting the project started and “a person who has really been at the heart of this effort.”

Perez told the audience that the elders and the kids “are having fun and inspiring each other.”

“The whole bottom line was to inspire and motivate the youngsters so that they can become the best,” Perez said. “And the only way we can do that is by role modeling” and by building the environment “they can be proud of.”

“It’s a hundred-year-old neighborhood and now it’ll be here a

hundred more years . . . with this playground equipment,” Perez added. “Nobody would come here, nobody would play. Why? Because there was nothing to do. Now they’re back. Now we have to take care of it. Let’s keep it growing and take care of the park.”

The \$2.7 million project included \$1.7 million from the state, \$650,000 from Los Angeles County, and \$280,000 from the county’s Safe Clean Water funds (Measure W), according to San-



Pomona City Councilmember John Nolte, at left, presents a certificate of recognition from the city to community resident Martin Perez for his leadership and vision in helping to plan the revitalization of Hamilton Park.

School funding... from pg. 5

abling students to catch up.

“That’s especially true during this period of high inflation,” she said.

La Nueva Voz reached out to Pomona Unified School District on this story but Supt. Darren Knowles declined to comment because the WalletHub spreadsheet was not clear on exactly what rev-

doval.

It included new lighting, new restrooms, an upgraded basketball court, play areas with playground equipment, drought tolerant landscaping and more.

The park is located at 825 W. Monterey Ave. at Hamilton Boulevard.

enue packages were included in the calculation.

WalletHub is a personal finance company that empowers consumers to lead financially healthy lives, providing tools to compare products and services ranging from credit card offers and car insurance to plans for improving credit scores.

Chili cookoff set for Oct. 14 at Pomona Eagles

The 14th annual Pomona Eagles “Chili & Menudo” cook off, with proceeds to benefit the Eagles building fund, is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Eagles in Pomona.

The cook off, billed as “one of the hottest events of the year,” promises music, food and fun.

Cash prizes will be given to the winners, visitors will have an opportunity to vote on the “people’s choice” awards and the event will feature both a raffle and a 50/50

drawing.

Visitors can “taste all” for \$5 or buy a family pack for \$12.

Judging for menudo is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., followed by chili at 2:15 p.m.

The event is open to the public for both cooking and competing or just coming to eat.

The cook off will be held at 954 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona.

Cooks can sign up with Aidan Lozano at (562) 656-6841. For more information, call (909) 622-9160.

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U.S. Senate candidates ‘lock and load’ for gun control battle

Congressman Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) told participants in this month’s “Senate Youth Town Hall” in Monterey Park on the topic of gun violence that he has been carrying the “main bill” in Congress to repeal the gun industry’s “immunity to liability.”

“It was the NRA’s (National Rifle Association) top priority and as a result of this . . . the victims of gun violence can’t get a day in court,” Schiff said.

“As a result of this, the gun industry unlike the tobacco industry or the auto industry or any other industry doesn’t have to worry about being held accountable if it makes unsafe products or it markets them to children or it markets them to the kind of mayhem we see all too often,” he added.

Schiff and three other candidates vying for California’s Senate seat following Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s retirement appeared before a group of more than 100 people at East Los Angeles College in the forum presented by “March for our Lives,” a student-led organization which leads



Lexi Reese



Congresswoman Katie Porter



Congresswoman Barbara Lee



Congressman Adam Schiff

demonstrations in support of gun control legislation.

Congresswoman Katie Porter (D-Irvine) told the audience she’s been “thinking about what I can do,” adding that she receives many letters from young people.

“It needs to be very intentional about what is our strategy as a country to engage young people, what is our strategy to achieve that multi-jurisdictional leadership,” Porter said. “You have every right to expect your representatives to listen to your voice”

as they listen to the voices of lobbyists and other groups.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) said that “having a lot of more guns on campus is crazy, ludicrous.”

“So, I personally don’t support that . . . I think there are ways we can keep our young people safe without . . . it’s almost like an oxymoron – we’re going to stop gun violence by allowing more guns in schools,” she said. “We have to start with the root causes and start keeping

guns out of the hands of people and get rid of these guns and easy access to guns.”

“Until we do that, we have to make sure our young people are safe and there are ways to do that in terms of making sure that we identify what some of the issues are in the community,” she added.

And she said gun drills at schools are “traumatic in and of themselves.”

“So, it’s up to adults, it’s up to the public safety community to figure out ways to keep young people safe, whether by identifying people who could be coming into schools, red flag warnings with regard to gun legislation, whether it’s knowing who could be possibly wanting to come to a school to be enraged, to make sure those people don’t enter school now,” she said.

“There are ways to do it without

bringing more guns on campus,” she said.

Former Google executive Lexi Reese, a Democrat based in Silicon Valley, said that good paying jobs giving people financial security and peace of mind in the community will result in a “direct correlation to the reduction of gun violence.”

She was asked how she would address police violence and what role law enforcement plays in being able to address gun violence in the streets.

“This gun epidemic is uniquely American and so is gun violence by the police,” Reese said. “As I think Congresswoman Lee said brilliantly, police need to keep our communities safe but certain communities need to be safe from the police.”

“So three moves – right tool, Gun control battle... pg. 23

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Chicano art – part of world’s fifth largest collection – on display at dA

Pomona attorney Jaime Gutierrez, who claims to have the fifth largest collection of Chicano art in the world with about a third of his collection currently on display at Pomona’s dA Center for the Arts, collects out of “passion,” his love of art and his need to support the artists.

And with some 200 individual pieces on exhibit, Gutierrez said he and his fiancé Yasmin Cardona, a professor of art at Mt. SAC and curator of his exhibition, had to rent a truck to transport everything from the house and his office down the street from the dA.

Cardona also serves as manager of his law office.

While he laid everything out on the floor, he said it was actually dA executive director Margaret Aichele and her staff who arranged everything on the walls both on the main floor and downstairs where a black light exhibit was on display.

“Margaret’s the best,” Gutierrez

said. “It couldn’t have been possible without her. She has great vision.”

“I love art, my father was an artist, my fiancé is an artist,” he told La Nueva Voz in an interview at a “soft” opening a week before the show, “Revolucion Visual – The Jaime Gutierrez Collection,” opened to the public with several dozen friends and fellow collectors in attendance. “I used to write and direct plays and poetry. Art talks to me, it inspires me, it gives me power, it brings me great joy.”

The exhibit is billed by the dA as “a visual tale of creative, brilliant Chicano/a/x artistic resistance.”

And the exhibition catalog explains that Chicano art “was born from a cultural and political renaissance in the garages, bedrooms, classrooms and parks; from the hands of our present-

Chicano art... pg. 14



Pictured is Pomona attorney Jaime Gutierrez in front of one wall of the dA Center for the Arts where his exhibit “Revolucion Visual” is on display through Nov. 4. The show includes some 200 pieces, about a third of his personal collection -- the fifth largest collection of Chicano art in the world.

Third annual ‘Kindness Carnival’ set for Oct. 14

The third annual “Kindness Carnival,” a free family and pet-friendly event produced each year by Compassionate Pomona to bring the community together and promote kindness and compassion throughout the city, will be held in the Pomona Civic Center on Saturday, Oct. 14.

“This event has grown so much – from its beginnings in the parking lot at Unity Church of Pomona and last year on Second Street in Downtown Pomona during Second Saturday and now in the Civic Center,” said event chair Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz. “We’re just calling on organizations to call for information on how they can set up a booth and tell the community about what resources they have to offer, and, of course, we’re always looking for more sponsors with levels ranging from \$3,000 to \$100.”

Deadline for applications to exhibit is Oct. 6.

“But more significantly, we are inviting community leaders, residents, families with their kids and everyone to come on down to this year’s Halloween-themed event that even includes a costume contest, learn more about their community and just have a fun time,” Barbee said.

Hours this year are 2 to 5 p.m. Included will be everything from live music, Pomo-

na Kiwanis members cooking on their grill, games, give-aways, poetry readings by Pomona poet laureate Cesar Avelar, speakers sharing inspiring stories, raffle prizes, special activities for the kids, pet blessings, book readings in the children’s room of the Pomona Public Library and more.

This year’s theme is “Unity in the Community.”

“We are excited that returning sponsors include the City of Pomona, Lions and Kiwanis clubs of Pomona, and other organizations and individuals,” said Rev. Jan Chase, Compassionate Pomona convener. “It is proof that our City of Pomona is truly a ‘Compassionate City’ for our children and families.”

Musical acts this year include Jeff Schenkel and his guitar, Don Martens on the violin, Hollywood celebrity media host and singer Cerdan A. Smith, and singer Lady GG, a “living legend of the blues” known as “The Blonde Bombshell.”

Compassionate Pomona is a collaborative of non-profits and individuals working to focus on the heart and how local decisions impact the lives of residents.

For more information, call (909) 629-2292, e-mail reneebarbee7@gmail.com or visit the web site at www.compassionate-pomona.org.

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Photos by Stacy Schenkel
MAKESHIFT MEMORIAL IN NORTH CAROLINA -- Students and faculty at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill created a makeshift memorial at the landmark 172-foot-tall bell tower on campus after a gunman who school officials said was a graduate student at Chapel Hill allegedly shot and killed a professor there last month. Stacy Schenkel, who shot these photos for La Nueva Voz, works with the university's laboratory animals as "exotic species specialist" in the university building immediately next to the building where the shooting occurred and was "locked down" with the rest of the campus for several hours as a precaution. She told La Nueva Voz students held a vigil around the clock tower and observed a moment of silence at exactly 1:02 p.m., the time of the shooting, two days after the incident. Stacy is the daughter of La Nueva Voz publisher Jeff Schenkel and is a Cal Poly University Pomona graduate with a major in animal science.



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PRAYERS FOR POMONA – Pomona’s Pilgrim Congregational Church held a “Prayers for Pomona day Saturday on the lawn in front of the church with all invited to pray for Pomona and several dozen residents and pastors from other churches turned out. Pictured, in the photo at left, is Pilgrim Congregational Rev. Dr. Patrick Horn leading the group in prayer as Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval and Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole look on. Pilgrim Congregational is located at 600 N. Garey Ave.

AFTER THE SERVICES – Posing for a photo after the services are, from left, Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona Valley Branch NAACP President Jeanette Royston and Pomona Unified School District Supt. Darren Knowles.



Photo by Renee Barbee

NAACP CELEBRATES 10 YEARS -- NAACP Pomona Valley Branch celebrated its 10th anniversary this month at its “Solidarity Center” in the Village at Indian Hill. Pictured, from left, are Bobbie Nix, member; Jerry Fenning, chair, voter engagement committee; James Shirley, treasurer; Shirley Smith, member; Lisha Lett, past secretary; Myron Hester, chaplain; and MaLynda Cooper, social media. Seated in front, from left, are Jeanette Royston, president, and Ted Burnett, second vice president.

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 of La Nueva Voz, past issues and more!

Chicano art... from pg. 11

day artists.”

“Jaime Gutierrez’s collection has expertly woven a tapestry of creativity, a testament to his keen eye for selecting pieces that not only showcase artistic skill but also reflect the essence of life itself,” said curator Cardona, with a resulting collection that contains

“a narrative of unity, resilience and cultural pride.”

“I just really enjoy the presence of the artists, the symbolisms in their paintings, and the techniques and styles and the colors,” he added. “It’s just beautiful. And I want to support the art because I feel that art is a great expression

that needs to be supported and inspired.”

Then how does he decide what to collect?

“I collect what I like,” Gutierrez said, explaining he doesn’t care what anybody is saying. “Whose art talks to me, who inspires me, that’s who I collect.”

His current exhibit in Downtown Pomona includes a combination of new artists and others who have been working for many years.

“I’ve had pieces in different rooms and in different buildings and it’s not until now that they’re all in one place that I’m able to re-

flect on what is my type, what is the style I like, and I love color and content,” he said, although he added that the actual styles may vary.

Then is this his largest show ever? Gutierrez said he has done other shows including one at the Jurupa Valley Regional Library, but he didn’t do it on as large a scale in “salon” style but with only about 20 pieces.

This time, he said, he didn’t want to limit the exhibit but he wanted to include everybody.

“I have such a large collection I wanted to put up as much as possible,” he said.

The month-long exhibit runs through Nov. 4 at the dA, at 252 S. Main St., Pomona.

Interested? Stop in to meet the collector and curator at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, creating theatre through community engagement at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7, a panel discussion on “Revolucion Visual – Visual Revolution” at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, a Dia de los Muertos program with an altar honoring artist Raul Pizarro on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 1 and 2, and a closing reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4.



Photo by Renee Barbee

LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE PERFORM IN THE MIDDLE OF THIRD STREET -- Los Tigres Del Norte is pictured performing on stage in the middle of Downtown Pomona’s Third Street this month with a high production value show including the band, dancers, video projection, lights and more that captured the attention of the audience and held on throughout the evening.

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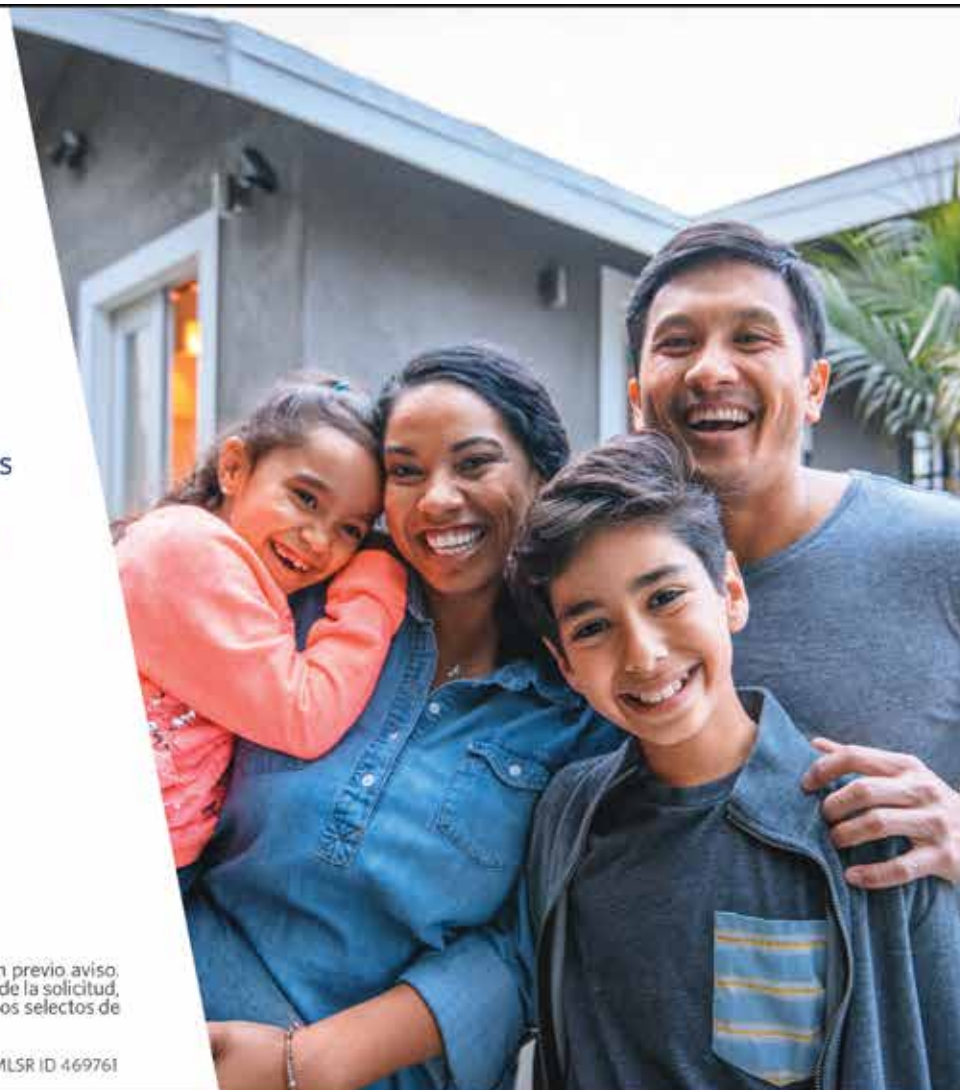
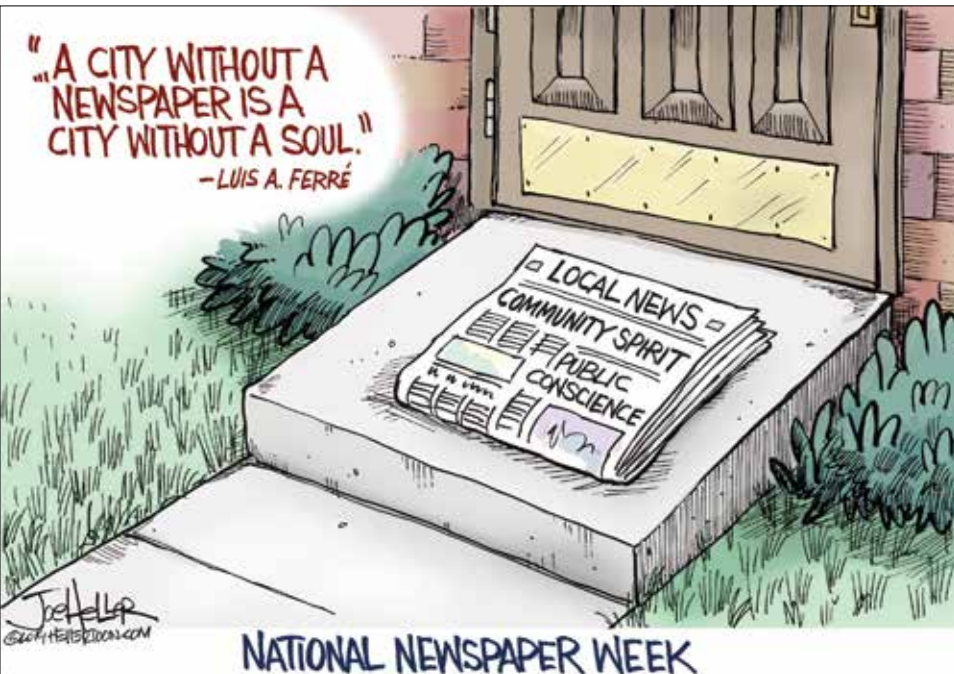




Photo by Renee Barbee

Pomona volunteer Patricia Lozano, at left, donates a bike to Virginia Villasenor, owner of Delicious Freedom USA ice cream, at the store's third anniversary last month. The bike was raffled off to Destiny Hidalgo, age 8, a very happy ice cream customer. Delicious Freedom is located at 310 S. Thomas St., Pomona. For information, visit the web site at <http://www.deliciousfreedomusa.com>.



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New \$27.3 million affordable housing apartments open in Downtown Pomona

Grand opening ceremonies were held this month for a new \$27.3 million 57-unit affordable housing community across the street from the Pomona Police Department that will offer “wrap-around” mental health, healthcare and job training services, all made possible by collaboration with a variety of agencies, funding from a variety of sources and a city contribution of a 1.43-acre vacant lot valued at \$3.4 million in exchange for a land note.

“I don’t recall any, a single protest about this project, not one, and that cannot be said for other communities who fight tooth and nail to keep out projects in their community,” Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval said at the opening, adding that in Pomona, “we’ve always been the city in the region that has provided relatively affordable housing.”

He added that the project “is built for some of the most vulnerable people in our community, and how beautiful is that, but there has to be a commitment . . . to be able to bring an amazing project like this to this community.”

Some 800 applicants participated in a lottery to qualify for one of the 57 units.

Villa Esperanza, formally known as West Mission Apartments, was developed by Jamboree Housing Corporation, in partnership with the City of Pomona Housing Authority, Tri City Mental Health Services, and the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust.

It was the first Regional Housing Trust project to be completed, according to Monrovia Mayor Becky Shevlin, vice chair for the trust which she said was created in February of 2020. State Sen. Susan Rubio was instrumental in the formation of the trust.

In addition to the city’s 3 percent per year land note, the city also provided a 3.5 percent per year \$250,000 impact fee note. Both will be repaid to the Pomona Housing Authority, according to city officials. Other financing included eight Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers, \$14.6



Villa Esperanza



Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval



MAKING IT OFFICIAL -- A ribbon-cutting this month at Pomona’s newest affordable housing community marks completion of the \$27.3 million 57-unit Villa Esperanza. Pictured, from left, are Tri City Mental Health Executive Director Rimmi Hundal, residents (at rear) Isaac Gonzalez, his sister Abigail Carianga, his mom, Johana Gonzalez, and sister Natalie Gonzalez (cutting the ribbon), Jamboree CEO Laura Archuleta, Monrovia Mayor Becky Shevlin, Vice Chair of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust, Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval, Pomona City Councilmembers Victor Preciado and John Nolte, Tim McCann of Wells Fargo, and Glendora Mayor Gary Boyer, representing Glendora on the Regional Housing Trust.

million in construction financing and \$13.1 million in tax credit equity, all from Wells Fargo, \$4.6 million in permanent financing from Barings LLC, a \$2.8 million California Mental Health Services Act loan from Tri City Mental Health, and a \$1.3 million construction loan from the Regional Housing Trust.

Tri City Executive Director Rimmi Hundal called it a “beautiful project.”

“Tri City understands how housing plays a critical role in the recovery of individuals with mental health challenges and how a lack of supportive housing can be a significant barrier to their mental well-being,” Hundal said.

“We know that not all homeless individuals have a serious mental illness,” she added. “However, about one-third of unsheltered individuals do suffer from some form of mental health challenge. We also know that these challenges can worsen under the conditions experienced by those with-

out safe and secure housing.”

She said studies have shown that affordable and supportive services can shorten the time people experience homelessness “and lead to better life outcomes.”

Hundal said Tri City will receive 10 units for individuals they serve in exchange for their financial participation in the project. And she added that Tri City has contributed nearly \$12 million for the development of permanent supportive housing and has created 73 units of permanent supportive housing in La Verne, Claremont and Pomona, the three cities it serves.

Shevlin, representing the Regional Housing Trust, said their “collective vision” has always

been rooted in sustainability and innovation.

“Villa Esperanza is a testament to that,” she said, through its architecture and its commitment to green living “but it also promises a habitat that champions health, comfort and opportunity.”

And she said the name itself is Spanish for “Village of Hope.”

“Villa Esperanza represents hope, growth and community,” she said. “It promises shelter and an environment that nurtures all who occupy it. We’re not just offering homes but opportunities, dreams and futures for its residents.”

Jamboree President and CEO Laura Archuleta said her company has built more than 100 communi-

ties similar to the Pomona project throughout California in 50 cities with more than 10,000 homes and 20,000 residents. Included are 1,300 affordable homes in Los Angeles County alone.

She said the Pomona project “really shows what Jamboree’s mission is about to have high quality equitable housing being built for those who are the most needy in the community.”

Johanna Gonzalez, who with her three children is a new resident of Villa Esperanza, said she has called Pomona her home for more than a decade.

But she said life threw “unexpected challenges” their way, they fell behind in their rent and they

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were evicted a year ago.

And, while she stayed with her sister and in hotel rooms as a temporary solution, she said she drove by Villa Esperanza every day “watching it rise from the ground and give us the hope to keep us going.”

She added that on the day she signed her lease, she had the keys in her hand “and I still couldn’t believe that it was real.”

Villa Esperanza, located at 508 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona, includes a combination of one-, two- and three-bedroom homes for families, veterans and formerly homeless households.

It will serve households with income eligibility between 20 and 60 percent of the area median income, with 10 homes set aside for families experiencing homelessness and eight homes specifically for formerly homeless veterans.

Jamboree, a 33-year-old company based in Irvine, will oversee asset management and third-party property management and will coordinate all onsite agencies and service providers. The company will operate and own the property long-term, according to a news release.

All units have Section 8 project-based vouchers. Residents will pay a portion of their rent based on 30 percent of their income, with rent amounts not to exceed \$1,419 to \$1,967, depending on unit size.

Included are 22 one-bedroom units with 635 square feet, 20



**Monrovia Mayor
Becky Shevlin**

two-bedroom units with 807 square feet and 15 three-bedroom units with 974 square feet.



**Jamboree President and CEO
Laura Archuleta**



**Tri City Mental Health
Executive Director Rimmi Hundal**

U.S. Latino GDP now fifth largest in the world

Latinos in the U.S. helped propel the overall economy forward with inflation-adjusted Latino gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 7.1 percent in 2021 – for the first time climbing past the \$3 trillion threshold, according to the 2023 U.S. Latino GDP Report from California Lutheran University’s Center for Economic Research and Forecasting.

This year’s sixth annual report indicates that Latinos are drivers of the nation’s economic recovery following the pandemic, according to a news release.

The numbers were released this month at a media event at the UCLA Faculty Club in Los Angeles.

Release of the report was accompanied by the launch of a year-long media campaign featuring Latino GDP video “capsules” each week for a year.

According to the report total economic output (GDP) of Latinos in the U.S. was \$3.2 trillion in 2021, up from \$2.1 trillion in 2015 and \$1.7 trillion in 2010.

If Latinos living in the U.S. were an independent country, the U.S. Latino GDP would be the fifth largest GDP in the world, the news release continued – larger than the GDPs of entire countries such as the United Kingdom, India or France.

In addition, among the world’s 10 largest... **Fifth largest... pg. 19**

Assistance League to hold ‘Taste of Pomona Valley’

The Assistance League of Pomona Valley will present “Taste of Pomona Valley” next month at the Padua Hills Theatre in Claremont.

Billed as “a culinary adventure,” the event will benefit programs of the Assistance League.

It is scheduled for 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22, at Padua Hills, located at 4467 Padua Ave., Claremont.

“VIP” admission is \$100 and regular admission is \$80. Guests must be 21 and over.

All tickets include a sampling of food from local restaurants and two beer or wine tickets, two “dollarmania” paddles to bid on auction items and access to the “wine pull” and live music.

VIP tickets will include wine tasting of four organic boutique wines not available in stores or restaurants.

For tickets, donations and sponsorships, visit www.alpv.org or mail checks to ALPV, 655 N. Palomares St., Pomona, CA 91767.

Sponsorships range from \$250 to \$2,500.

Tickets must be purchased by Oct. 8.

For information, call (909) 461-3370 or e-mail fundraisers@alpv.org.

The Assistance League is a non-profit 501(c)3 volunteer organization dedicated to improving the lives and well-being of children and families in the community.

It offers no-cost services for low-income families including comprehensive dental care for children and adults, and provides new school clothing for more than 1,300 students each year through “Operation School Bell.”

Deadline next month for 2024

MLK Youth Social Justice Awards

Deadline is Oct. 14 for applications for the 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr., Youth Social Justice Awards, this year on the theme Beloved community – “Let us live together in peace and love in a beloved community.”

Applicants must write essays on the topic and can win awards from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for their efforts to strive to promote social justice through their community service and their involvement in school and religious organizations.

Awards will be presented at the 42nd annual Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration on Sunday,

Jan. 14, at Pomona’s Pilgrim Congregational Church, presented by the non-profit Pomona Inland Valley Martin Luther King Jr. Project.

Applications must be submitted online at pivmlkproject@gmail.com, where information also is available. The web site is pivmlkproject.org.

Sponsors and vendors also are needed.

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Fourth Annual Pomona Children's Festival another big hit with kids, adults alike!



SHADES OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND? -- You don't really have to know how to play chess to have a little fun with this oversized chess set at the children's festival.



BIKE RODEO AT CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL -- Pomona police officers conducted their bike rodeo -- for fun rides through the cones and for safe cycling instruction -- at this month's Fourth Annual Pomona Children's Festival in the Pomona Civic Center. The event committee produces the festival each year as a fun event for kids, always on a "superhero" theme in memory of Jonah Hwang, 8, who was killed in 2017 in a drive-by shooting into a house. Jonah was a big fan of superheroes. Festival sponsors each year provide each kid with gifts and free food to the first 400 registered kids ages 2 to 17 and a variety of groups are on hand each year with free activities and even scholarships to youth programs. Pictured is Pomona Police Motorcycle Officer Ken Maiques, also a member of the department's SWAT team, giving a little push to his daughter, Rylan Maiques, age 2 1/2. Maiques' son also rode in the event.



FOLKLORIC DANCERS -- The Pomona-based Folklorico No Te Rajes Jalisco dance group dancers performed at the children's festival and, in case you missed them, they will perform for their 25th anniversary celebration "Mexico Fiesta Y Tradicion" on Saturday, Sept. 30. Admission is \$20 for the event with two shows planned -- one for 1 p.m. and another at 7 p.m., both in the Pomona Unified School District Auditorium, 800 S. Garey Ave., Pomona. Tickets are available at the Galan Cultural Center, 2445 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, or by calling (626) 483-0303 or (626) 222-2978. For more information, e-mail galanculturalc@gmail.com.



A huge bubble party was held on the lawn behind the Pomona City Council Chambers at this month's Pomona Children's Festival.



Representatives of Associated Pomona Teachers were on hand at the children's festival with books for, well, children of all ages.



Want to make a rag doll of your own? They had everything you needed at the children's festival for only five bucks.



A puppet show -- complete with live musical accompaniment -- was a popular stop at the children's festival where kids learned about everything from compassion and responsibility to kindness and respect. The puppet show was provided by Compassionate Pomona and was organized by Jo Ann Gaines and Dr. Diana Ketterman, both of Character Champions.



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Board Member, Pomona Chamber of Commerce

Casa Colina awarded advanced hip and knee replacement certification

Pomona's Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare has earned the Joint Commission's "Gold Seal of Approval" for advanced total hip and knee replacement certification by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards.

The gold seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a healthcare organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

Offered in collaboration with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the certification focuses on key areas of care including pre-surgical orthopedic consultation, hospital admission, rehabilitation activities and follow-up.

The findings were based on a rigorous, unannounced onsite review in June.

During the visit, Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with related cer-

tification standards, including program management and the delivery and facilitation of clinical care.

Joint Commission standards are developed in consultation with healthcare experts, healthcare providers, measurement experts, and patients. The reviewers also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

"We are proud to have once again earned the . . . Gold Seal for Advanced Total Hip and

Knee Replacement – two important surgical procedures that have the power to drastically improve a patient's quality of life," said Casa Colina President and CEO Kelly Lindon. "This certification is a recognition of the talented doctors, surgeons, nurses, and therapists who support those efforts within our award-winning joint replacement program."

Casa Colina was accredited with the gold seal for the first time in 2021. The accreditation

occurs every two years.

To learn more about Casa Colina's award-winning "Revive Joint Replacement Program," visit www.casacolina.org/move.

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

It has served the Southern California community and beyond for 85 years.

Fifth largest... from pg. 17

est GDPs, the U.S. Latino GDP is the third fastest-growing from 2010 to 2021, while the broader U.S. economy ranks fifth.

From 2010 to 2021, the growth of U.S. Latino GDP was nearly 2.5 times that of non-Latino GDP.

And in 2021, consumption by U.S. Latinos totaled \$2.14 trillion, representing a consumption market larger in size than the entire economy of countries like

Italy, Canada or Russia.

"Latinos have been economically active in what is now the United States since 1513 – that's over 500 years of economic activity," said David Hayes-Bautista, the report's chief demographer, adding that they helped create the world's first truly global economy. "These 11 years of data represent the continuation of a centuries-old tradition."



'HEALED WOMEN HEAL' -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce help cut the ribbon in ceremonies last month at the Metro Event Center in Downtown Pomona to welcome new chamber member "Healed Women Heal," a domestic violence awareness, education and prevention non-profit organization. Pictured, from left, are Pomona Chamber ambassadors chair and board member Daniela Franco, of the Metro Event Center; Pomona Hope Executive Director Jeff Johannsen, chamber executive board member and ambassador; Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles; Chamber Past President Jill Dolan of Mt. SAC; Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz; founder and director of Healed Women Heal Tracy Evanson-Norwood (cutting the ribbon); and her daughters Essence Guss and Journey Rojas. For more information, contact tracy@healedwomenheal.org.



RIBBON-CUTTING AT LG LOYALTY -- Members of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting marking a "grand reopening" of a new chamber member, LG Loyalty Staffing and Payroll Services. Pictured, from left, are Ashley Delgado, senior recruiter for LG Loyalty; Pomona City Councilmember Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole; Maggie Martinez, LG Loyalty branch manager; Georgina Espinoza, LG Loyalty payroll services; and Chamber Executive Board member Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz. LG Loyalty is located at 637 Indian Hill Blvd., Pomona. Martinez has worked in the industry for more than 23 years and has been operating LG Loyalty, an "all women" company, for the past two years. For more information, e-mail mmartinez@lgloyaltycorp.com or call (909) 326-1126.

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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.

Hamilton Park revitalizado para una nueva generación

El corte de cinta del mes pasado en el Hamilton Park de Pomona inauguró oficialmente el recientemente revitalizado parque de un acre que representa una transformación con \$2.7 millones en mejoras en medio de uno de los barrios más antiguos de Pomona que muy probablemente pueda beneficiarse más de las instalaciones.

Residentes del área como los comisionados de Parques y Recreación de Pomona, Vince Carpio y Donna Manzanares Otero, y el organizador comunitario Martín Pérez, quien ayudó a trabajar en el parque original hace 50 años y contribuyó a los esfuerzos esta vez también, estuvieron presentes para marcar la reapertura del parque en

el vecindario de 100 años de antigüedad. El alcalde de Pomona, Tim Sandoval, dijo ante una multitud de varios cientos de personas que incluso su esposa, Criselda, vivía en la zona y jugaba allí cuando era niña.

Y Pérez, quien creció en el área, trabajó con la ciudad con la ayuda de estudiantes de diseño ambiental de la Universidad Cal Poly de Pomona en planes para desarrollar el Parque Cherrieville, originalmente como se llamaba en ese tiempo.

Su padre nació en 1932 en el vecindario de unas 300 personas que rodea el parque.

Sandoval dijo a los residentes y amigos en la reapertura que el

proyecto fue el resultado del trabajo en conjunto tanto del gobierno de la ciudad como de numerosas partes interesadas para hacerlo realidad.

“El mensaje principal que quiero que todos ustedes se lleven. . . Esto no habría sucedido sin la comunidad, no habría sucedido este parque, que a veces han hecho de este parque su hogar para simplemente alejarse del calor”, dijo Sandoval.

“Mi esposa creció en las calles Cuatro y Hamilton. . . y aquí es donde ella jugaba cuando era niña”, dijo. “Creo que podemos estar increíblemente orgullosos de lo que vemos hoy aquí en Hamil-

ton Park. Los arquitectos hicieron un gran trabajo al escuchar a la comunidad”.

“En realidad, esta podría ser la mejor zona de juegos de toda la ciudad de Pomona”, añadió.

El concejal de la ciudad de Pomona, John Nolte, cuyo distrito incluye el parque, señaló un enorme árbol en medio del parque.

“Hay personas aquí cuyas raíces se remontan al menos hasta ese árbol de allí”, dijo. “Y creo que se pueden imaginar a partir de ahora que ese árbol representa la historia de este lugar, la historia que está en el suelo de este parque”.

“Sólo quiero agradecerles a todos ustedes, los ancianos, a todos ustedes cuyas raíces están aquí en este parque”, dijo Nolte.

Peter Dalman, gerente de proyecto de Architerra Design Group que diseñó la revitalización del parque, dijo a La Nueva Voz después del evento que el árbol que Nolte mencionó era un Shamel Ash que tiene aproximadamente entre 40 y 50 años, unos 60 pies de alto y 40 pies de ancho.

Carpio agradeció a todos los presentes en la ceremonia que “vieron el sueño y asistieron a las reuniones”, y agregó que se trabajó mucho antes de que el parque estuviera siquiera diseñado en papel.

“Es hermoso convertir un sueño en realidad”, dijo, y agregó que sólo espera que “todos puedan disfrutarlo y celebrarlo”.

El subdirector de Parques y Recreación de California, Sedrick Mitchell, quien le dijo a La Nueva Voz que manejó desde Sacramento para asistir al evento, le dijo a la audiencia que Hamilton Park compitió contra otros 500 solicitantes por financiamiento.

“Una de las cosas que esperaba era escuchar el espíritu de Pomona”, dijo, “porque esto es una celebración. Debes saber que esto no es un regalo del estado, tú ganaste cada dólar que recibiste”.

“Y mientras miramos este hermoso parque, lo que realmente importa es el espíritu de la gente, los sonidos de los niños, los vínculos familiares, el amor que se puso

en esto lo que hará que este parque sea excepcional”, agregó.

“Tu voz resonó más fuerte que la de muchas otras, tuvimos que decir ‘no’ nueve de cada 10 veces”, dijo Mitchell. “Entonces, cuando mires este parque, debes saber que tu espíritu existe en él, saber que tú eres la razón por la que esto sucede hoy. Hoy marca el comienzo del tono del espíritu de este parque”.

“Lo que queremos dejar como legado para que nuestros hijos sepan, es que cuando pisan estos terrenos, están entrando en su historia, están entrando en su espíritu”, dijo. “Queremos agradecerles por ser un ejemplo para el resto de nuestro estado”, dijo Mitchell.

Sandoval presentó a Pérez como un residente que jugó un papel decisivo en el inicio del proyecto y “una persona que realmente ha estado en el centro de este esfuerzo”.

Pérez dijo a la audiencia que los ancianos y los niños “se están divirtiendo y inspirándose mutuamente”.

“El objetivo principal era inspirar y motivar a los jóvenes para que puedan convertirse en los mejores”, dijo Pérez. “Y la única manera de hacerlo es dando un ejemplo a seguir” y creando el entorno “del que puedan estar orgullosos”.

“Es una comunidad centenaria y ahora estará aquí cien años más. . . con este equipo de juegos”, agregó Pérez. “Nadie vendría aquí, nadie jugaría. ¿Por qué? Porque no había nada que hacer. Ahora han vuelto. Ahora tenemos que cuidarlo. Sigamos creciendo y cuidemos el parque”.

El proyecto de \$2.7 millones incluyó \$1.7 millones del estado, \$650,000 del condado de Los Ángeles y \$280,000 de los fondos de Agua Limpia Segura del condado (Medida W), según Sandoval.

Incluyó nueva iluminación, nuevos baños, una cancha de baloncesto mejorada, áreas de juego con juegos infantiles, jardines tolerantes a la sequía y más.

El parque está ubicado en 825 W. Monterey Ave. en Hamilton Boulevard.

El tercer ‘Carnaval de la bondad’ anual está programado para el 14 de octubre

El tercer “Carnaval de bondad” anual, un evento gratuito para familias y mascotas producido cada año por Compassionate Pomona para unir a la comunidad y promover la bondad y la compasión en toda la ciudad, se llevará a cabo en el Centro Cívico de Pomona el sábado 14 de octubre.

“Este evento ha crecido mucho, desde sus inicios en el estacionamiento de Unity Church de Pomona y el año pasado en Second Street en el centro de Pomona durante el segundo sábado y ahora en el Centro Cívico”, dijo la presidenta del evento Renee Barbee de La Nueva Voz. “Solo estamos pidiendo a las organizaciones que soliciten información sobre cómo pueden solicitar un puesto y contarle a la comunidad qué recursos tienen para ofrecer y, por supuesto, siempre estamos buscando más pa-

trocinadores con niveles que van desde \$3,000 a \$100”.

La fecha límite para presentar solicitudes para exhibir es el 6 de octubre.

“Pero lo más importante es que estamos invitando a líderes comunitarios, residentes, familias con sus hijos y a todos a asistir al evento temático de Halloween de este año que incluso incluye un concurso de disfraces, aprender más sobre su comunidad y simplemente pasar un rato divertido”, dijo Barbee.

El horario este año es de 2 a 5 p.m. Se incluirá de todo, desde música en vivo, miembros de Pomona Kiwanis cocinando en su parrilla, juegos, obsequios, lecturas de poesía del poeta laureado de Pomona Ceasar Avelar, oradores que compartirán historias inspiradoras, premios de rifas, actividades especiales para los niños, bendiciones

para mascotas y lecturas de libros en la sala de niños de la Biblioteca Pública de Pomona y más.

El tema de este año es “Unidad en la comunidad”.

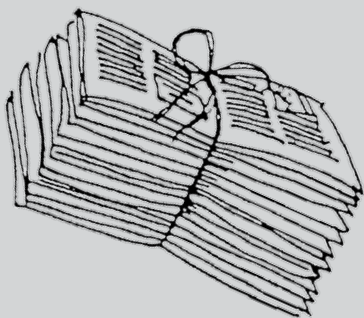
“Estamos entusiasmados de que los patrocinadores que regresan incluyan a la ciudad de Pomona, los clubes de Leones y Kiwanis de Pomona, y otras organizaciones e individuos”, dijo el Rev. Jan Chase, coordinador de Compassionate Pomona. “Es una prueba de que nuestra ciudad de Pomona es verdaderamente una ‘Ciudad compasiva’ para nuestros niños y familias”.

Los actos musicales de este año incluyen a Jeff Schenkel y su guitarra, Don Martens al violín, el famoso cantante y presentador de medios de Hollywood Cerdan A. Smith, y la cantante Lady GG, una “leyenda viviente del blues” conocida como “La bomba rubia”.

Compassionate Pomona es una colaboración de organizaciones sin fines de lucro e individuos que trabajan para enfocarse en el corazón y cómo las decisiones locales impactan las vidas de los residentes.

Para obtener más información, llame al (909) 629-2292, envíe un correo electrónico a reneebarbee7@gmail.com o visite el sitio web en www.compassionatepomona.org.

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The Stars Above Pomona

By **Gustavo R. Ramirez**
 Member, Compassionate Pomona

When I was young, my Mama taught me, “To be good is to forgive.”
 When you have love deep in your heart, this love is yours to give.
 I was taught about a savior who practiced love and peace.
 They led me by example. Told me, “Love contains the keys.”

Now I’m older and experienced, and I search for peace within.
 I must admit I can get angry with strangers as with kin.
 I traveled high and low, searching for Solutions.
 Trying to teach about forgiveness, as we hear vengeance and retribution.

Though I’m trying to practice love, I admit I’ve been a preacher.
 When it comes down to forgiveness, I’d like to be student and teacher.
 I met a man the other day. Azim Khamisa is his name.
 I met him in Pomona, and I’m so glad he came.

He traveled from across the seas searching for a better life.
 He set sail for America to leave violence and strife.
 He married Almas. Had a child. Tariq, their only son.
 But at the tender age of 20 he was the victim of a gun.

The family’s heart was broken. Justice seemed just right.
 “Lock the killer up for life. Prison all day and night.”
 The killer was a mere 14 years old. News traveled ’round the nation.
 Azim prayed to God and God is great. Tony’s also God’s creation.

Azim met the family of Tony Hicks, the killer of his son.
 Who’s gonna stop this violent cycle? Azim said, “I’ll be the one.”
 It’s children killing children. The gangs of the U.S.A.
 It’s gonna take more than preaching. It’s not enough to pray.

Prayer must be met with action to create a better way.
And We Shall Begin a MOVEMENT. Perhaps you’ll join today.
 Tariq Khamisa lives through us. His legacy will shine.
 For his father lives a simple rule: to forgive is divine.

We’ve seen violence from the start of time – since Abel was killed by Cain.
 But if we break this cycle, Tariq’s death won’t be in vain.
 And now there’s a foundation that bears the name Tariq.
 It gives hope to the hopeless. Gives the Earth to the meek.

I write this in Pomona, where we’re not immune to violence.
 Let our actions speak louder than our words. Let’s break all of the silence.
 For mightier than a bullet, more powerful than hatred’s wrath.
 Shalom, salam, paz, peace, ahimsa – I call it the Perfect Path.

See, Pomona’s Reawakening! There’s so much work to do.
 Creating Compassionate Communities. With compassion we’ll start anew.
 Tariq’s legacy of love lives on, from Pomona to afar.
 They say he died in San Diego, but Tariq’s now a shining star.

Above the desert is the Morning Star. *La Estrella del Amanecer.*
 Like the stars above Pomona. Just like Mama said.
 See, **it’s time to heal the World today**, for Tariq has touched our hearts.
 We thought we saw the end of a life, but what we see is **THE VERY START.**

HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra marks Hispanic Heritage Month with report that Hispanics are paying less in medical premiums

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, in a statement marking the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, made the announcement that Hispanics purchasing marketplace coverage are paying less in premiums, and that Hispanics with Medicare are benefiting from the \$35 cap on insulin and saving on free recommended vaccines.

“And the Hispanic community now has more resources at their disposal to receive mental health support,” he said, crediting President Biden for the added benefits.

“Every Hispanic Heritage Month, I am reminded of the profound ways America has shaped my life,” he said in a news release. “Reflecting on my parents’ journey from Mexico to the United States, I continue to be deeply touched by their tenacity.”

“They embraced this land’s principles

wholeheartedly, worked tirelessly, sought no favors, abided by its rules, and nurtured their four children with opportunities that they never had,” he added. “Thanks to them, as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, I now have the chance to give back knowing that countless families, like mine, are hopeful for a brighter future for their children.”

“This is what Hispanic Heritage Month means to me,” he said. “Like my parents, there are millions of Hispanics across the country who also seek no favors . . . (and) work tirelessly. Our mission at HHS is to help make those dreams a reality by extending access to good health and wellbeing.”

“This and every Hispanic Heritage Month, let’s work so that everyone is part of our collective journey towards a brighter tomorrow,” he said.

**Third annual
 ‘Kindness Carnival’
 set for Oct. 14 from 2 to 5 p.m.
 in the Pomona Civic Center!**

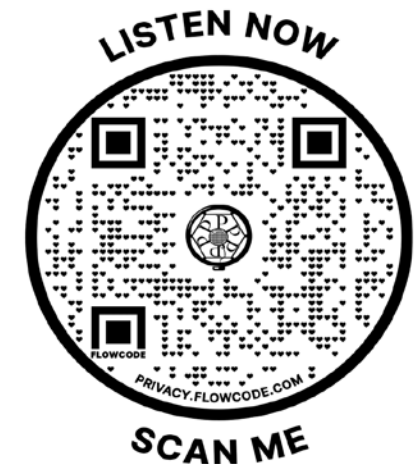
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Maaco Collision Repair offers free paint jobs based on stories of need

Maaco Collision Repair and Auto Painting in Pomona, Covina, Orange and Stanton has kicked off a new “share a story and help color a life for the better” competition with selected winners throughout the year receiving a free vehicle paint job valued at \$1,800.

The community “give-back” campaign will be based on shared stories of residents nominating themselves or someone they know who is in need of and deserving of a Maaco paint job.

“So many people are deserving, whether they are in need because of a personal loss or hardship, or because they are doing great things to make a difference,” said Joe Taormina, president of the four Maaco locations. “We want to do something special for these individuals to show our thanks for all the work our communities provide us.”

Stories submitted can involve

financial hardship, personal loss, giving to others, making an impact in the local community and more.

All residents and non-profit organizations who live or work within a 10-mile radius of the four Maaco locations are invited to enter. They must have lived or worked in the area for at least three years and be 18 years or older.

Maaco officials will select winners throughout the year based on their stories.

Individuals and non-profits living or working in these communities will have the option of upgrading and paying the difference beyond the \$1,800 level.

No prior purchase from Maaco is necessary to be selected.

House of Ruth announces upcoming domestic violence events

Pomona’s House of Ruth has announced three events taking place during “Domestic Violence Month” in October – from a walk and a survivors’ panel to an annual candlelight vigil.

A “Break the Silence – Stop Gun Violence” awareness walk will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. tonight, Sept. 28, from Pomona

City Hall to the House of Ruth outreach center at 599 N. Main St., Pomona, where various speakers will make presentations.

A “Survivors Panel” on the theme “Healing generations: Breaking the cycle of domestic violence” is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at

the outreach center in the courtyard where visitors will hear first-hand stories of survivors, their strength and their resilience.

And an annual candlelight vigil is scheduled for the front lawn of the outreach center from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 26.

For more information, contact aspencer@houseofruthinc.org.

L.A. County Assessor Jeff Prang receives national award for excellence

The International Association of Assessing Officers recognized Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang’s office with its prestigious “Certificate of Excellence in Assessment Administration” during its recent annual conference.

The group is the leading authority on assessment administration in North America and the award is the highest recognition

that can be bestowed upon a government property assessment agency in the U.S.

Los Angeles County is the only California county ever to receive this designation, and one of only 58 of more than 2,200 jurisdictions nationwide to receive the honor.

Prang and members of his staff were recognized on stage during the awards ceremony last month

in Salt Lake City.

Prang’s office first received the certification in 2017 following a year-long review. The initial certification extended for a five-year period.

“I want to congratulate each member of our office, whose service to the public and outstanding work in meeting the highest standards made this award possible,” Prang said.

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MS and exercise: Take control with aquatic therapy

By Kathy SanMartino, PT, NCS, MSCS, CLT, ATP and Kelsey Hackett, PT, DPT
Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare

For individuals living with a fatiguing disability like Multiple Sclerosis (MS), getting the recommended amount of exercise can seem daunting. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), almost 50 percent of adults with disabilities get no aerobic activity, placing them at increased risk for issues like heart disease and diabetes.

The CDC recommends at least 2.5 hours per week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity. But for those with physical disabilities from orthopedic or neurological issues, the barriers to exercise can be many: fear of falling, lack of companionship, inaccessible facilities, and general fatigue. If these reasons sound familiar, you should consider aquatic therapy.

Aquatic therapy uses the natural properties of water – buoyancy, hydrostatic pressure, viscosity, and resistance – to eliminate impact on weight-bearing joints during exercise. For those who find it difficult to walk or exercise on land, the pool provides



Kelsey Hackett

an ideal environment to practice stretching, range of motion (ROM) exercises, and strength and aerobic training.

Why? For one, aquatic therapy requires less strength to move, allowing for greater range of motion to practice correcting awkward gait patterns



Kathy SanMartino

brought on by pain or weakness. Water's natural buoyancy offers more support for balance and allows exercise in a vertical position without fear of falling.

The hydrostatic properties of water also can help decrease edema, making aquatic therapy an ideal option for those with lymphedema, a common mani-

festation in individuals with MS. Hydrostatic pressure also provides even tactile input, reducing hypersensitivity in some individuals and promoting body awareness in others.

Additionally, the viscosity of water produces resistance evenly along the limb, providing the opportunity for strength

training while minimizing pain. Resistance even can be adjusted by altering the speed of movement or adding equipment to your limbs, such as paddles or dumbbells.

For those lacking an exercise partner, the group nature of aquatic therapy provides encouragement and camaraderie. And if you're worried about accessibility, many facilities offer chair lifts for entering and exiting the pool. Some facilities even offer the choice of warm and cool-water pools for those with temperature sensitivities.

Exercise doesn't have to be intimidating. Aquatic therapy is an effective, accessible, and customizable option for those with orthopedic or neurological impairments of all degrees.

Editor's Note: The Multiple Sclerosis Program at Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare uses innovative treatments and therapies to help improve patients' quality of life while working with them to stabilize this disease. For more information, call 909/596-7733, ext. 3800.

Gun control battle... from pg. 9

right time," she said. "You don't need a weapon while you're monitoring traffic violations, you're interacting with homeless people. This just creates a sort of military mentality that helps no one."

"The second is an unlearning journey, Reese added. "When you are a police person, you need to take an extra licensing to be able to get access rights to override the limits that the rest of us face."

Part of that exam for police, she said, "is going to include the history of policing in America which started . . . (in) Charleston, South Carolina, in order to monitor enslaved people."

"Two things can be true," she said. "I can love this country and I can work really hard to acknowledge the genocide and enslavement that is part of our founding. In acknowledging that past, we are much more likely not

to repeat it."

The town hall forum was held in Monterey Park near where a mass shooting in January claimed the lives of 11 victims at a dance studio.

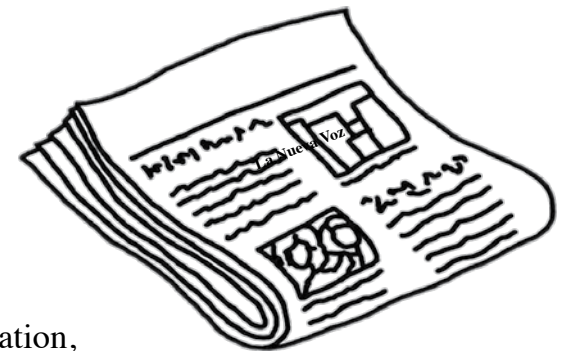
March for our Lives, founded in 2018, claims to be the largest youth movement in the nation and hopes to play a key role in the 2024 election where gun violence is expected to be the number one issue, along with police violence and protecting the schools.

"Count us out at your own risk," said David Hogg, the group's co-founder and board member who closed the town hall. "Gun violence is the single greatest threat to young people's lives in America. The gun lobby and their merchants of death have bought far too many politicians in D.C. who are willing to do their bidding. We need a fighter who will stand up to them and fight vociferously for our lives."

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

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Services held for Al Alvarado in Ridgecrest

Memorial services were held last month in Ridgecrest for Al Alvarado, the last surviving uncle of Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, her brother Todd Barbee of Cameron Park and her sister, Suzanne Jones of Visalia. He was 84.

Alvarado was predeceased by his wife, Mary Alvarado, who died in 2018. She was the last surviving sister of Thelma Barbee Cossey, Renee's mom, who died in 2000.

Services were held at St. Ann Catholic Church in Ridgecrest with friends and family attending from throughout California and beyond.

A U.S. Naval Honor Guard from the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, also in Ridgecrest, performed military memorial honors.

Alvarado, who served in the Navy, was born in Pleasanton, Texas, to Alfred and Helen Alvarado and grew up in Fresno.

He died on Aug. 17 at Antelope Valley Hospital in Lancaster surrounded by his family.

He lived in Ridgecrest for more than half of his life and



Pictured is Al Alvarado with his niece Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz at his 80th birthday party in Ridgecrest.

served on the boards of the Cerro Coso Community College and the Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union. He was a past president of the Rotary Club of China Lake, where he received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" for his loyalty and leadership, and for his dedication to the ideals of Rotary.

He was also past president of the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce and the Rhinos, and held "Promise Keepers" at his home every Tuesday morning for years.

Alvarado loved the outdoors, played baseball for years as a child and softball later as an adult, loved to hunt with his sons and friends, and enjoyed water skiing with his family and boating on the lake. And he played tennis for decades.

He was married to his wife, Mary, for more than 40 years and they traveled the world together – including Hawaii and many countries, but one of their favorite trips was going on a safari in Africa.

He was an entrepreneur most of his life after learning the

trade of business while in the Navy and being taught by IBM and Remington. He opened Sand Sierra Business Machines in Bishop before moving the business to Ridgecrest in 1977.

In 1986, he and his wife opened another Ridgecrest business, Jewelry To Go, which today is operated by their daughter Angela Alvarado and son-in-law Ryan O'Connor.

He was a family man who loved being a husband, father and grandfather, and many birthday parties, holidays and poker games were hosted around the pool.

Alvarado and his wife were devout Catholics who spent many years serving at St. Ann Catholic Church and School, as well as the former All Faith Chapel at China Lake.

They sent their children and many of their grandchildren and great grandchildren to St. Ann's school.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his son Ryan Alvarado Dallaire, who died in 1994, and his parents.

Assemblymember Rodriguez presents Pomona with \$860,000 to fund surveillance cameras

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presented a check Monday to Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis in the amount of \$860,000 to fund a new network of 60 surveillance cameras throughout the city, as Rodriguez said, as "a preventive measure to prevent crimes and help solve some crimes that may occur in those areas of interest."

Rodriguez championed the funding allocation in the 2023-24 state budget.

The cameras will be added to the city's existing network of about 20 cameras.

"The city in the size of Pomona needs more cameras than that to help reduce crime and help solve some crimes as well," Rodriguez said in a brief ceremony in a Pomona Police Department conference room. "This funding is very important to the City of Pomona and the community in general."

The cameras are being provided by Flock Safety, a \$24 million per year company based in Atlanta that provides an "all-in-one" technology solution to

eliminate crime and keep communities safe. It is used in more than 3,000 communities across the country providing automated license plate recognition technology and other services.

Ellis thanked Rodriguez for his continuous support of the department, previously providing funding for homeless issues and now the camera program.

He added that just last year in the case of three homicides, cameras like these "significantly helped the investigations."

"In Pomona, we have issues of human trafficking, we still have issues of violent crime, retail theft, these cameras will be able to allow our officers to collect information that we hope will have a big impact on those issues," Ellis said.

La Nueva Voz asked exactly how the expanded camera network would impact what's happening on the streets of Pomona.

"Some of our corridors, there is violent crime, there is also very visible human trafficking occurring," Ellis said, "so our

Surveillance cameras... pg. 26



CHECK PRESENTATION TO THE CHIEF -- Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez presented an \$860,000 check from the state to Pomona Police Chief Mike Ellis Monday to fund a new network of 60 surveillance cameras to be installed throughout the city to help both prevent and solve crimes. Pictured, from left, are Deputy Chief Christian Hsu, Chief Ellis, Assemblymember Rodriguez, Capt. Ryan Rodriguez who oversees the patrol division, and Capt. Todd Samuels, who oversees investigative services.

Inland Empire's KVCR radio expands newsroom under journalism grant

The Inland Empire's National Public Radio affiliated radio station KVCR (91.9 FM) is expanding its newsroom with new personnel made possible by a 2023-2025 California Local News Fellowship program spearheaded by the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.

"We are so excited to have a fully functioning newsroom that will cover the happenings of the Inland Empire and provide accurate and factual information to the community," said KVCR Executive Director Connie Leyva, formerly Pomona's state senator.

"At a time when the journalism industry is facing a variety of existential threats, from polarization and lack of trust in news to profound business model failures, our aim is to be a bright spot, filling critical gaps in reporting and creating a viable career path for the next generation of journalists," said Christa Scharfenberg, program director of the fellowship.

Historically, KVCR has been a training ground for young reporters, according to a news release, and will continue to facilitate its internship program, giving more students the opportunity to develop and fine tune their skills in broadcast journalism and reporting.

"KVCR continues to be a news source for our local community," Leyva said. "KVCR has a vision to educate and inspire the people in the community and will continue to expand its vision by providing quality programming that informs, educates and entertains."

The UC Berkeley news fellowship program was made possible thanks to a \$25 million state appropriation.

The non-profit KVCR was founded in 1953 and is the Inland Empire's only dual license public radio and television station. It is an entity of the San Bernardino Community College District.

For more information, visit the web site at kvcrrnews.org.



NEW CHAMBER MEMBER -- Pomona Chamber of Commerce officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week at Pomona's Old Stump Brewing Co. welcoming representatives of Brapga Security Systems, Inc., as a new chamber member. Pictured, from left, are Chamber Board member Daniela Franco, Chamber Board Chair Nef Cortez, Brapga representatives Office Administrator Monica Casarez, CEO Santos Parinas, General Manager Angel Cumi and Account Executive Sterling Luna, Chamber Executive Board members Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, Jeff Johanssen and Past President Annette Limon, and Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles. The security company, based in San Bernardino with offices in West Covina, offers 24-hour guard and patrol services for businesses, homes, events and more. For more information, call (909) 677-2255 or e-mail quote@brapgasecurity.com.



ATHENS OPENS NEW POMONA OFFICE -- Athens Services, Pomona's new trash hauler for residential and commercial solid waste, recyclable materials and organic waste, held a grand opening and Pomona Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony this month at its new Pomona office at 472 E. Holt Ave. The company last year was awarded an exclusive 10-year franchise agreement by the city. The contract is expected to be worth an estimated \$29.3 million per year and went into effect July 1. Pictured, from left, are Iso Nakasato, Director of Government Affairs for Athens; Joe Perez of the Credit Union of Southern California; Damian A. Martin, co-founder of Catalyst Cannabis Co.; Doug Alvey and Sharon Alvey (at rear), owners of Catalyst Pomona and AJ's Super Pawn; Yvonne Velazco of Athens; Pomona City Councilmember Steve Lustro; Athens Executive Vice President Gary Clifford; Pomona City Councilmembers Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole and John Nolte; David Collins and Matt Niklas of Athens; Pomona Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Nef Cortez of Re/Max Galaxy in Diamond Bar; Pomona Chamber President and CEO Monique Robles; and Pomona Chamber Ambassador Joel Rosales of Modern Woodmen of America.



Pomona volunteers Melissa Ayala and her mom Maura Ayala dance in the circle dance at the vigil for Manuel Castillejos as Renee Barbee of La Nueva Voz, at rear, records the dance on video.



Aztec dancers led mourners in a circle dance at the memorial. Pictured, at right, are former Pomona City Councilwoman Cristina Carrizosa and Latino/Latina Roundtable President Jose Calderon.



AZTEC DANCERS -- Dancers, drummers and a flutist from the Danza Azteca Grupo Toyaacan based in La Puente performed at a memorial vigil celebrating the life of Professor Manuel Castillejos last month in Shaun Diamond Plaza in Downtown Pomona -- just the way Professor Castillejos would have wanted it. The group walked through Downtown Pomona in a candlelight procession and assembled in the plaza. About 100 people participated in the event and more than half of them walked in the procession. The Aztec dance group offers dance classes in Pomona and parks in surrounding cities.



Dancers perform around a memorial of flowers and photos of Manuel Castillejos against the stage at Shaun Diamond Plaza. Castillejos, a staunch supporter in Pomona of knowledge of history, art, music and culture, died in July at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He was 72. (See complete obituary in August 2023 La Nueva Voz, page 23, at <http://www.lanuevavoz.net> and click on past issues.)

Surveillance cameras... from pg. 24

philosophy is to change some of the environment out there through environmental design such as these cameras and making sure they are very visible.”

“Hopefully, that will act as a deterrent and change some of the activity that is occurring out there,” he added, “and allow us to make arrests for larger crimes.”

“Like for human trafficking, there’s pimping cases you can make with these types of cam-

eras and things like that,” Ellis said.

“When you think about it, 60 cameras, to me, it’s like maybe 60 additional officers out there,” Rodriguez said, “because these cameras have got the ability to record and maybe listen as well, but just think about having these cameras out placed throughout the city is an additional resource for the department.”

The funding will enable the Pomona Police Department to

rapidly expand its traffic camera network which is expected to immediately become instrumental in solving crimes currently plaguing the Inland Empire.

According to a news release from Rodriguez, neighboring cities of Chino and Montclair already have similar systems in place that are helping to reduce crime rates in those cities and improve the safety of working conditions for law enforcement



Photo by Renee Barbee

BANDS, LINE DANCING AND MORE -- Six contemporary rock bands were lining up to perform in a music festival on the patio at the Pomona Fairplex Millard Sheets Art Center this month as Partnership for a Positive Pomona (P3) and "prevention" partners, with the support of Fairplex, hosted the 2nd annual Pomona Youth Fest 2023. P3, a community drug-free coalition, focuses on securing spaces and policies that promote substance-free lifestyles for youth. The event was aimed at bringing youth ages 13 to 18 an event with live music, food, games and art activities, all at no charge.

Surveillance cameras... from pg. 26

officers.

Two years ago, Rodriguez – in a similar check presentation at the Pomona Police Department – presented Ellis with a check for \$4 million to support the department's "Officers Assisting the Homeless" (OATH) program.

That funding really was second round funding following on the heels of a similar \$4 million allocation just three years before that.

Rodriguez is chair of the Assembly Committee on Emergency Management.

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